

Policy Committee Meeting
Duluth Public Schools, ISD 709
Agenda
Tuesday, December 6, 2022
United Health Group (UHG)
4316 Rice Lake Rd
Suite 108
Duluth, MN 55811
3:30 PM

1. **AGENDA ITEMS**
2. **POLICIES FOR FIRST READING**
 - A. Policy 408 - Subpoena of a School District Employee 2
 - B. Policy 410 - Family and Medical Leave Policy to replace Policy 4111 4
3. **POLICIES FOR SECOND READING**
 - A. Policy 722 Public Data and Data Subject Requests 16
 - B. Policy 534 School Meals Policy 39
4. **REGULATIONS - Informational - None**
5. **OTHER**

Adopted: _____

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 408

Orig. 1995

Revised: _____

Rev. 2022

408 SUBPOENA OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT EMPLOYEE

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to protect the privacy rights of school district employees and students under both state and federal law when requested to testify or provide educational records for a judicial or administrative proceeding.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

This policy is to provide guidance and direction for school district employees who may be subpoenaed to testify and/or provide educational records for a judicial or administrative proceeding.

III. DATA CLASSIFICATION

A. Educational Data

1. State Law

The Minnesota Government Data Practices Act (MGDPA), Minnesota Statutes chapter 13, classifies all educational data, except for directory information as designated by the school district, as private data on individuals. The state statute provides that **private data on individuals may not be released, except pursuant to a valid court order or informed consent by the subject of the data or a parent if the subject of the data is a minor.**

2. Federal Law

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 United States Code section 1232g, provides that educational data may not be released, except pursuant to informed consent by the individual subject of the data or any lawfully issued subpoena. Regulations promulgated under the federal law require that the school district must first make a reasonable effort to notify the parent of the student, or the student if the student is 18 years of age or older, of the subpoena in advance of releasing the information pursuant to the subpoena.

B. Personnel Data

The MGDPA, also classifies all personnel data, except for certain data specifically classified as public, as private data on individuals. The state statute provides that **private data on individuals may not be released, except pursuant to a valid court order or informed consent by the subject of the data.**

IV. APPLICATION AND PROCEDURES

- A. Any employee who receives a subpoena for any purpose related to employment is to inform the building administrator or designated supervisor when the employee receives

the subpoena. The building administrator or designated supervisor shall immediately inform the superintendent that the employee has received a subpoena.

- B. No employee may release educational data, personnel data, or any other data of any kind without consultation in advance with the school district official who is designated as the authority responsible for the collection, use and dissemination of data.
- C. Payment for attendance at judicial or administrative proceedings and the retention of witness and mileage fees is to be determined in accordance with the applicable school board policies and collective bargaining agreements.
- D. The administration shall not release any information except in strict compliance with state and federal law and this policy. Recognizing that an unauthorized release may expose the school district or its employees to civil or criminal penalties or loss of employment, the administration shall confer with school district legal counsel prior to release of such data.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. Ch. 13 (Minnesota Government Data Practices Act)
 Minn. Rules 1205.0100, Subp. 5 (How These Rules Apply)
 20 U.S.C. § 1232g (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act)

Cross References: MSBA/MASA Model Policy 211 (Criminal or Civil Action Against School District, School Board Member, Employee, or Student)
 MSBA/MASA Model Policy 515 (Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records)
 MSBA Law Bulletin "I" (School Records – Privacy – Access to Data)

Adopted: _____

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 410

Orig. 1995

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Rev. 2022

410 FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE POLICY

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide for family and medical leave to school district employees in accordance with the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA) and also with parenting leave under state law.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The following procedures and policies regarding family and medical leave are adopted by the school district, pursuant to the requirements of the FMLA and consistent with the requirements of the Minnesota parenting leave laws.

III. DEFINITIONS

A. "Covered active duty" means:

1. in the case of a member of a regular component of the Armed Forces, duty during the deployment of the member with the Armed Forces to a foreign country; and
2. in the case of a member of a reserve component of the Armed Forces, duty during the deployment of the member with the Armed Forces to a foreign country under a call or order to active duty under a provision of law referred to in 10 United States Code section 101(a)(13)(B).

B. "Covered servicemember" means:

1. a member of the Armed Forces, including a member of the National Guard or Reserves, who is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy, is otherwise in outpatient status, or is otherwise on the temporary disability retired list, for a serious injury or illness; or
2. a covered veteran who is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy for a serious injury or illness and who was a member of the Armed Forces, including a member of the National Guard or Reserves, and was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable, at any time during the period of five years preceding the first date the eligible employee takes FMLA leave to care for the covered veteran.

- #### **C. "Eligible employee" means an employee who has been employed by the school district for a total of at least 12 months and who has been employed for at least 1,250 hours of service during the 12-month period immediately preceding the commencement of the leave. An employee returning from fulfilling his or her Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA)-covered service obligation shall be credited with the hours of service that would have been performed but for the period of absence from work due to or necessitated by USERRA-covered service. In determining whether the employee met the hours of service requirement, and to determine the hours that**

would have been worked during the period of absence from work due to or necessitated by USERRA-covered service, the employee's pre-service work schedule can generally be used for calculations. While the 12 months of employment need not be consecutive, employment periods prior to a break in service of seven years or more may not be counted unless: (1) the break is occasioned by the employee's fulfillment of his or her USERRA-covered service obligation; or (2) a written agreement, including a collective bargaining agreement, exists concerning the school district's intention to rehire the employee after the break in service.

- D. "Military caregiver leave" means leave taken to care for a covered servicemember with a serious injury or illness.
- E. "Next of kin of a covered servicemember" means the nearest blood relative other than the covered servicemember's spouse, parent, son, or daughter, in the following order of priority: blood relatives who have been granted legal custody of the covered servicemember by court decree or statutory provisions, brothers and sisters, grandparents, aunts and uncles, and first cousins, unless the covered servicemember has specifically designated in writing another blood relative as his or her nearest blood relative for purposes of military caregiver leave under the FMLA. When no such designation is made and there are multiple family members with the same level of relationship to the covered servicemember, all such family members shall be considered the covered servicemember's next of kin, and the employee may take FMLA leave to provide care to the covered servicemember, either consecutively or simultaneously. When such designation has been made, the designated individual shall be deemed to be the covered servicemember's only next of kin.
- F. "Outpatient status" means, with respect to a covered servicemember who is a current member of the Armed Forces, the status of a member of the Armed Forces assigned to:
1. a military medical treatment facility as an outpatient; or
 2. a unit established for the purpose of providing command and control of members of the Armed Forces receiving care as outpatients.
- G. "Qualifying exigency" means a situation where the eligible employee seeks leave for one or more of the following reasons:
1. to address any issues that arise from a short-notice deployment (seven calendar days or less) of a covered military member;
 2. to attend military events and related activities of a covered military member;
 3. to address issues related to childcare and school activities of a covered military member's child;
 4. to address financial and legal arrangements for a covered military member;
 5. to attend counseling provided by someone other than a health care provider for oneself, a covered military member, or his/her child;
 6. to spend up to 15 calendar days with a covered military member who is on short-term, temporary rest and recuperation leave during a period of deployment;
 7. to attend post-deployment activities related to a covered military member;

8. to address care needs of a covered military member's parent who is incapable of self-care; and
 9. to address other events related to a covered military member that both the employee and school district agree is a qualifying exigency.
- H. "Serious health condition" means an illness, injury, impairment, or physical or mental condition that involves:
1. inpatient care in a hospital, hospice, or residential medical care facility; or
 2. continuing treatment by a health care provider.
- I. "Spouse" means a husband or wife. For purposes of this definition, husband or wife refers to the other person with whom an individual entered into marriage as defined or recognized under state law for purposes of marriage in the state in which the marriage was entered into or, in the case of a marriage entered into outside of any state, if the marriage is valid in the place where entered into and could have been entered into in at least one state. This definition includes an individual in a same-sex or common law marriage that either: (1) was entered into in a state that recognizes such marriages; or (2) if entered into outside of any state, is valid in the place where entered into and could have been entered into in at least one state.
- J. "Veteran" has the meaning given in 38 United States Code section 101.

IV. LEAVE ENTITLEMENT

- A. Twelve-week Leave under Federal Law
1. Eligible employees are entitled to a total of 12 work weeks of unpaid family or medical leave during the applicable 12-month period as defined below, plus any additional leave as required by law. Leave may be taken for one or more of the following reasons in accordance with applicable law:
 - a. birth of the employee's child and to care for such child;
 - b. placement of an adopted or foster child with the employee;
 - c. to care for the employee's spouse, son, daughter, or parent with a serious health condition;
 - d. the employee's serious health condition makes the employee unable to perform the functions of the employee's job; and/or
 - e. any qualifying exigency arising from the employee's spouse, son, daughter, or parent being on covered active duty, or notified of an impending call or order to covered active duty in the Armed Forces.
 2. For the purposes of this policy, "year" is defined as a rolling 12-month period measured backward from the date an employee's leave is to commence.
 3. An employee's entitlement to FMLA leave for the birth, adoption, or foster care of a child expires at the end of the 12-month period beginning on the date of

the birth or placement.

4. A "serious health condition" typically requires either inpatient care or continuing treatment by or under the supervision of a health care provider, as defined by applicable law. Family and medical leave generally is not intended to cover short-term conditions for which treatment and recovery are very brief.
5. A "serious injury or illness," in the case of a member of the Armed Forces, including a member of the National Guard or Reserves, means:
 - a. injury or illness that was incurred by the member in the line of duty on active duty in the Armed Forces or that existed before the beginning of the member's active duty and was aggravated by service in the line of duty on active duty in the Armed Forces and that may render the member medically unfit to perform the duties of the member's office, grade, rank, or rating; and
 - b. in the case of a covered veteran who was a member of the Armed Forces, including a member of the National Guard or Reserves, at any time, during the period of five years preceding the date on which the veteran undergoes the medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy, means a qualifying injury or illness that was incurred by the member in the line of duty on active duty in the Armed Forces or that existed before the beginning of the member's active duty and was aggravated by service in the line of duty in the Armed Forces and that manifested itself before or after the member became a veteran, and is:
 - (1) a continuation of a serious injury or illness that was incurred or aggravated when the covered veteran was a member of the Armed Forces and rendered the servicemember unable to perform the duties of the servicemember's office, grade, rank, or rating; or
 - (2) a physical or mental condition for which the covered veteran has received a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Service-Related Disability (VASRD) rating of 50 percent or greater and such VASRD rating is based, in whole or in part, on the condition precipitating the need for military caregiver leave; or
 - (3) a physical or mental condition that substantially impairs the covered veteran's ability to secure or follow a substantially gainful occupation by reason of a disability or disabilities related to military service, or would do so absent treatment; or
 - (4) an injury, including a psychological injury, on the basis of which the covered veteran has been enrolled in the Department of Veterans Affairs Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers.
6. Eligible spouses employed by the school district are limited to an aggregate of 12 weeks of leave during any 12-month period for the birth and care of a newborn child or adoption of a child, the placement of a child for foster care, or to care for a parent. This limitation for spouses employed by the school district

does not apply to leave taken: by one spouse to care for the other spouse who is seriously ill; to care for a child with a serious health condition; because of the employee's own serious health condition; or pursuant to Paragraph IV.A.1.e. above.

7. Depending on the type of leave, intermittent or reduced schedule leave may be granted in the discretion of the school district or when medically necessary. However, part-time employees are only eligible for a pro-rata portion of leave to be used on an intermittent or reduced schedule basis, based on their average hours worked per week. Where an intermittent or reduced schedule leave is foreseeable based on planned medical treatment, the school district may transfer the employee temporarily to an available alternative position for which the employee is qualified and which better accommodates recurring periods of leave than does the employee's regular position, and which has equivalent pay and benefits.
8. If an employee requests a leave for the serious health condition of the employee or the employee's spouse, child, or parent, the employee will be required to submit sufficient medical certification. In such a case, the employee must submit the medical certification within 15 days from the date of the request or as soon as practicable under the circumstances.
9. If the school district has reason to doubt the validity of a health care provider's certification, it may require a second opinion at the school district's expense. If the opinions of the first and second health care providers differ, the school district may require certification from a third health care provider at the school district's expense. An employee may also be required to present a certification from a health care provider indicating that the employee is able to return to work.
10. Requests for leave shall be made to the school district. When leave relates to an employee's spouse, son, daughter, parent, or covered servicemember being on covered active duty, or notified of an impending call or order to covered active duty pursuant to Paragraph IV.A.1.e. above, and such leave is foreseeable, the employee shall provide reasonable and practical notice to the school district of the need for leave. For all other leaves, employees must give 30 days' written notice of a leave of absence where practicable. The failure to provide the required notice may result in a delay of the requested leave. Employees are expected to make a reasonable effort to schedule leaves resulting from planned medical treatment so as not to disrupt unduly the operations of the school district, subject to and in coordination with the health care provider.
11. The school district may require that a request for leave under Paragraph IV.A.1.e. above be supported by a copy of the covered military member's active duty orders or other documentation issued by the military indicating active duty or a call to active duty status and the dates of active duty service. In addition, the school district may require the employee to provide sufficient certification supporting the qualifying exigency for which leave is requested.
12. During the period of a leave permitted under this policy, the school district will provide health insurance under its group health plan under the same conditions coverage would have been provided had the employee not taken the leave. The employee will be responsible for payment of the employee contribution to continue group health insurance coverage during the leave. An employee's failure to make necessary and timely contributions may result in termination of

coverage. An employee who does not return to work after the leave may be required, in some situations, to reimburse the school district for the cost of the health plan premiums paid by it.

13. The school district may request or require the employee to substitute accrued paid leave for any part of the 12-week period. Employees may be allowed to substitute paid leave for unpaid leave by meeting the requirements set out in the administrative directives and guidelines established for the implementation of this policy, if any. Employees eligible for leave must comply with the family and medical leave directives and guidelines prior to starting leave. The superintendent shall be responsible to develop directives and guidelines as necessary to implement this policy. Such directives and guidelines shall be submitted to the school board for annual review.

The school district shall comply with written notice requirements as set forth in federal regulations.

14. Employees returning from a leave permitted under this policy are eligible for reinstatement in the same or an equivalent position as provided by law. However, the employee has no greater right to reinstatement or to other benefits and conditions of employment than if the employee had been continuously employed during the leave.

B. Twelve-week Leave under State Law

An employee who does not qualify for parenting leave under Paragraphs IV.A.1.a. or IV.A.1.b. above may qualify for a 12-week unpaid leave which is available to a biological or adoptive parent in conjunction with the birth or adoption of a child, or to a female employee for prenatal care or incapacity due to pregnancy, childbirth, or related health conditions. The length of the leave shall be determined by the employee but must not exceed 12 weeks unless agreed to by the school district. The employee may qualify if he or she has worked for the school district for at least 12 months and has worked an average number of hours per week equal to one-half of the full time equivalent during the 12-month period immediately preceding the leave. This leave is separate and exclusive of the family and medical leave described in the preceding paragraphs but may be reduced by any period of paid parental, disability, personal, or medical, or sick leave, or accrued vacation provided by the school district so that the total leave does not exceed 12 weeks, unless agreed to by the school district, or leave taken for the same purpose under the FMLA. The leave taken under this section shall begin at a time requested by the employee. An employee who plans to take leave under this section must give the school district reasonable notice of the date the leave shall commence and the estimated duration of the leave. For leave taken by a biological or adoptive parent in conjunction with the birth or adoption of a child, the leave must begin within 12 months of the birth or adoption; except that, in the case where the child must remain in the hospital longer than the mother, the leave must begin within 12 months after the child leaves the hospital.

C. Twenty-six-week Servicemember Family Military Leave

1. An eligible employee who is the spouse, son, daughter, parent, or next of kin of a covered servicemember shall be entitled to a total of 26 work weeks of leave during a 12-month period to care for the servicemember. The leave described in this paragraph shall be available only during a single 12-month period. For purposes of this leave, the need to care for a servicemember includes both physical and psychological care.

2. During a single 12-month period, an employee shall be entitled to a combined total of 26 work weeks of leave under Paragraphs IV.A. and IV.C. above.
3. The 12-month period referred to in this section begins on the first day the eligible employee takes leave to care for a covered servicemember and ends 12 months after that date.
4. Eligible spouses employed by the school district are limited to an aggregate of 26 weeks of leave during any 12-month period if leave is taken for birth of the employee's child or to care for the child after birth; for placement of a child with the employee for adoption or foster care or to care for the child after placement; to care for the employee's parent with a serious health condition; or to care for a covered servicemember with a serious injury or illness.
5. The school district may request or require the employee to substitute accrued paid leave for any part of the 26-week period. Employees may be allowed to substitute paid leave for unpaid leave by meeting the requirements set out in the administrative directives and guidelines established for the implementation of this policy, if any. Employees eligible for leave must comply with the family and medical leave directives and guidelines prior to starting leave.
6. An employee will be required to submit sufficient medical certification issued by the health care provider of the covered servicemember and other information in support of requested leave and eligibility for such leave under this section within 15 days from the date of the request or as soon as practicable under the circumstances.
7. The provisions of Paragraphs IV.A.7., IV.A.10., IV.A.12., IV.A.13., and IV.A.14. above shall apply to leaves under this section.

V. SPECIAL RULES FOR INSTRUCTIONAL EMPLOYEES

- A. An instructional employee is one whose principal function is to teach and instruct students in a class, a small group, or an individual setting. This includes, but is not limited to, teachers, coaches, driver's education instructors, and special education assistants.
- B. Instructional employees who request foreseeable medically necessary intermittent or reduced work schedule leave greater than 20 percent of the workdays in the leave period may be required to:
 1. take leave for the entire period or periods of the planned medical treatment; or
 2. move to an available alternative position for which the employee is qualified, and which provides equivalent pay and benefits, but not necessarily equivalent duties.
- C. Instructional employees who request continuous leave near the end of a semester may be required to extend the leave through the end of the semester. The number of weeks remaining before the end of a semester does not include scheduled school breaks, such as summer, winter, or spring break.
 1. If an instructional employee begins leave for any purpose more than five weeks before the end of a semester and it is likely the leave will last at least three

weeks, the school district may require that the leave be continued until the end of the semester.

2. If the instructional employee begins leave for a purpose other than the employee's own serious health condition during the last five weeks of a semester, the school district may require that the leave be continued until the end of the semester if the leave will last more than two weeks or if the employee's return from leave would occur during the last two weeks of the semester.
3. If the instructional employee begins leave for a purpose other than the employee's own serious health condition during the last three weeks of the semester and the leave will last more than five working days, the school district may require the employee to continue taking leave until the end of the semester.
4. If the school district requires an instructional employee to extend leave through the end of a semester as set forth in this paragraph, only the period of leave until the employee is ready and able to return to work shall be charged against the employee's FMLA leave entitlement. Any additional leave required by the school district to the end of the school term is not counted as FMLA leave but as an unpaid or paid leave, to the extent the instructional employee has accrued paid leave available and the school district shall maintain the employee's group health insurance and restore the employee to the same or equivalent job, including other benefits, at the conclusion of the leave.

VI. OTHER

- A. The provisions of this policy are intended to comply with applicable law, including the FMLA and applicable regulations. Any terms used from the FMLA will have the same meaning as defined by the FMLA and/or applicable regulations. To the extent that this policy is ambiguous or contradicts applicable law, the language of the applicable law will prevail.
- B. The requirements stated in the collective bargaining agreement between employees in a certified collective bargaining unit and the school district regarding family and medical leaves (if any) shall be followed.

VII. DISSEMINATION OF POLICY

- A. A poster prepared by the U.S. Department of Labor summarizing the major provisions of the Family and Medical Leave Act and informing employees how to file a complaint shall be conspicuously posted in each school district building in areas accessible to employees and applicants for employment.
- B. This policy will be reviewed at least annually for compliance with state and federal law.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. §§ 181.940-181.944 (Parenting Leave and Accommodations)
 10 U.S.C. § 101 *et seq.* (Armed Forces General Military Law)
 29 U.S.C. § 2601 *et seq.* (Family and Medical Leave Act)
 38 U.S.C. § 101 (Definitions)
 29 C.F.R. Part 825 (Family and Medical Leave Act)

Cross References: MSBA School Law Bulletin "M" (Licensed and Non-Licensed School District Employee Leave)

~~4111 — FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE ACT POLICY~~

~~The Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA) provides for up to 12 weeks of job-protected leave to eligible employees for certain family and medical reasons. The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for implementation of the FMLA. Terms used in this policy are intended to have the meaning set forth in the FMLA and accompanying U.S. Department of Labor regulations. Any aspect of FMLA leave not specifically addressed in this policy shall be handled in accordance with the FMLA and accompanying U.S. Department of Labor regulations and applicable policies of the Employer.~~

~~An employee must meet the following requirements to be eligible for FMLA leave:~~

- ~~1. The employee must have worked for the Employer for at least 12 months; and~~
- ~~2. The employee must have worked at least 1,250 hours during the 12 months immediately preceding the request.~~

~~FMLA leave may be requested for the following reasons:~~

- ~~1. For the birth of a child, and to care for the newborn child;~~
- ~~2. For the placement with the employee of a child for adoption or foster care;~~
- ~~3. To care for the employee's spouse, son or daughter, or parent, who has a serious health condition; or~~
- ~~4. For a serious health condition that makes the employee unable to perform the essential functions of the employee's job.~~

~~Eligibility for FMLA leave for birth or placement of a child expires 12 months after the birth or placement of the child. Circumstances may require that leave for the birth of a child, or for placement for adoption or foster care, commence prior to actual birth or placement.~~

~~An eligible employee may qualify for up to 12 weeks of FMLA leave in any 12 month period. From the 12 week maximum, any FMLA leave which the employee has taken during the 12 months preceding commencement of the requested leave will be subtracted to determine the maximum leave for which the employee may be eligible presently.~~

~~In accordance with the FMLA, the Employer may require that an instructional employee's FMLA leave continue until the end of the academic semester under circumstances where the employee would otherwise be returning from leave near the end of the academic semester.~~

~~When FMLA leave is taken to care for a spouse, son or daughter, or parent, with a serious health condition, or for an employee's own serious health condition, leave may be taken intermittently or on a reduced schedule if shown to be "medically necessary". Where leave is taken for the birth or placement of a child for adoption or foster care, leave may be taken on an intermittent or reduced leave schedule only if the Employer agrees.~~

~~If an eligible instructional employee requests intermittent leave or leave on a reduced leave schedule to care for a family member, or for the employee's own serious health condition, which is foreseeable based on planned medical treatment, and the employee would be on leave for more than 20 percent of the total number of working days over the period the~~

~~leave would extend, the employer may require the employee to choose either to:~~

- ~~1. Take leave for a period or periods of a fixed duration, not greater than the duration of the planned treatment; or~~
- ~~2. Transfer temporarily to an available alternate position for which the employee is qualified, which has equivalent pay and benefits and which better accommodates recurring periods of leave than does the employee's regular position.~~

~~"Periods of a particular duration" means a block, or blocks, of time beginning no earlier than the first day for which leave is needed and ending no later than the last day on which leave is needed, and may include an uninterrupted period of leave.~~

Unpaid Leave

~~Generally FMLA leave is unpaid. However, an employee shall substitute accumulated paid sick leave for a portion of the FMLA leave in any situation where the employee would normally be allowed to use sick leave. An employee shall also substitute accumulated personal leave for a portion of the FMLA leave.~~

~~Minnesota law allows for unpaid parental leave and for use of paid sick leave to care for dependent family members under certain circumstances. These leaves remain available under FMLA but do not extend the maximum FMLA leave for which an employee is eligible.~~

Authorization

~~An eligible employee must ordinarily provide the Employer with 30 days advance notice when the FMLA leave is foreseeable. If 30 days advance notice is not possible, the employee will be required to give the Employer notice as soon as practical which shall normally be within two business days after the employee learns of the need for the leave. The Employer reserves the right to deny a leave request absent timely advance notice. The employee must attempt to schedule foreseeable FMLA leave so as not to unduly disrupt the Employer's operations.~~

~~An employee requesting leave shall provide to the Employer, in writing, the proposed date the leave is to commence, the approximate duration of the leave, and the qualifying reason (s) for the leave. The Employer will normally require medical certification to support a FMLA leave request either to care for an employee's seriously ill family member or because of the employee's serious health condition. The medical certification shall be provided to the Employer as soon as possible, and not more than 15 days later. The Employer reserves the right to require a second medical opinion at the Employer's expense, as allowed by the FMLA.~~

~~The Employer reserves the right to require the employee to provide recertification of the need for the leave every 30 days. Recertification may also be required sooner than every 30 days if (1) the employee requests an extension of the leave; (2) there are changed circumstances regarding the nature of the medical condition; (3) the Employer receives information casting doubt on the continued validity of the most recent certification. The Employer may request a medical fitness-for-duty report upon the employee's return to work.~~

Benefit Continuation

~~During an approved FMLA leave, the employee and dependent health and dental insurance coverage (if any) shall be maintained on the same basis as coverage would have been provided if employee had been continuously employed during the entire leave period. Employees who receive partial employer contribution must continue to pay their portion of the premium in order to retain this coverage. If an employee fails to make their premium payment, the employee will lose coverage and will not be covered for any claims which may have occurred while on FMLA leave. However, an employee may voluntarily choose not to pay the premium and thus not retain these coverages. The coverages will be reinstated upon the employee's return to work.~~

~~An employee on FMLA leave may also continue other insurance coverages which the employee had in effect through the Employer prior to going on FMLA leave. The employee will be required to pay the full cost of the premium.~~

~~The Employer's obligation to maintain health and dental insurance benefits ceases if and when the employee informs the Employer of the employee's intent not to return from leave; if the employee fails to return from leave, thereby terminating employment; or if the employee exhausts the employee's FMLA leave entitlement. In some of these situations, employees may be entitled by law to continue their health care coverage at their own expense.~~

Return to Work

~~An employee returning from FMLA leave of longer than one month must notify the Employer at least two weeks prior to return from leave.~~

~~An employee returning from FMLA leave shall be entitled to be restored to the same position and shift that the employee held when the FMLA leave began, or to an equivalent position and shift with equivalent benefits, pay and other terms and conditions of employment. Benefits of employment and seniority will be resumed at the same level and in the same manner as were provided at the time the leave began. Any increases in pay or changes in benefits that are not dependent upon seniority or accrual during the leave period also must be made effective upon the employee's return to work. However, an employee on FMLA leave shall not be entitled to benefit or seniority accrual during the leave except as may be required by the employee's collective bargaining agreement.~~

Failure to Return to Work

~~If an employee on FMLA leave decides not to return to work, the employee shall notify the Employer as soon as it is foreseeable that the employee will not be returning to work.~~

~~If an employee does not return to work for reasons beyond the employee's control or because the employee has a serious health condition which prevents the employee from returning to work, then the employee will not be required to repay health insurance~~

~~premiums paid by the Employer during the FMLA leave. If the employee does not return to work for any other reason, then the employee will be required to repay the Employer for those premiums.~~

~~An employee who chooses not to return to work or is unable to return to work shall be considered to have voluntarily resigned.~~

~~Adopted: 01-23-1996 ISD 709~~

722 PUBLIC DATA AND DATA SUBJECT REQUESTS

I. PURPOSE

The school district recognizes its responsibility relative to the collection, maintenance, and dissemination of public data as provided in state statutes.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The school district will comply with the requirements of the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Minnesota Statutes chapter 13 (MGDPA), and Minnesota Rules parts 1205.0100-1205.2000 in responding to requests for public data.

III. DEFINITIONS

A. Confidential Data on Individuals

Data made not public by statute or federal law applicable to the data and are inaccessible to the individual subject of those data.

B. Data on Individuals

All government data in which any individual is or can be identified as the subject of that data, unless the appearance of the name or other identifying data can be clearly demonstrated to be only incidental to the data and the data are not accessed by the name or other identifying data of any individual.

C. Data Practices Compliance Officer

The data practices compliance official is the designated employee of the school district to whom persons may direct questions or concerns regarding problems in obtaining access to data or other data practices problems. The responsible authority may be the data practices compliance official.

D. Government Data

All data collected, created, received, maintained or disseminated by any government entity regardless of its physical form, storage media or conditions of use.

E. Individual

"Individual" means a natural person. In the case of a minor or an incapacitated person as defined in Minnesota Statutes section 524.5-102, subdivision 6, "individual" includes a parent or guardian or an individual acting as a parent or guardian in the absence of a parent or guardian, except that the responsible authority shall withhold data from parents or guardians, or individuals acting as parents or guardians in the absence of parents or guardians, upon request by the minor if the responsible authority determines that withholding the data would be in the best interest of the minor.

F. Inspection

"Inspection" means the visual inspection of paper and similar types of government data. Inspection does not include printing copies by the school district, unless printing a copy is the only method to provide for inspection of the data. For data stored in electronic form and made available in electronic form on a remote access basis to the public by the school district, typically through an online portal or the government entity's website, inspection includes remote access to the data by the public and the

ability to print copies of or download the data on the public's own computer equipment.

G. Not Public Data

Any government data classified by statute, federal law, or temporary classification as confidential, private, nonpublic, or protected nonpublic.

H. Nonpublic Data

Data not on individuals made by statute or federal law applicable to the data: (a) not accessible to the public; and (b) accessible to the subject, if any, of the data.

I. Private Data on Individuals

Data made by statute or federal law applicable to the data: (a) not public; and (b) accessible to the individual subject of those data.

J. Protected Nonpublic Data

Data not on individuals made by statute or federal law applicable to the data (a) not public and (b) not accessible to the subject of the data.

K. Public Data

All government data collected, created, received, maintained, or disseminated by the school district, unless classified by statute, temporary classification pursuant to statute, or federal law, as nonpublic or protected nonpublic; or, with respect to data on individuals, as private or confidential.

L. Public Data Not on Individuals

Data accessible to the public pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 13.03.

M. Public Data on Individuals

Data accessible to the public in accordance with the provisions of section 13.03.

N. Responsible Authority

The individual designated by the school board as the individual responsible for the collection, use, and dissemination of any set of data on individuals, government data, or summary data, unless otherwise provided by state law. Until an individual is designated by the school board, the responsible authority is the superintendent.

O. Summary Data

Statistical records and reports derived from data on individuals but in which individuals are not identified and from which neither their identities nor any other characteristic that could uniquely identify an individual is ascertainable. Unless classified pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 13.06, another statute, or federal law, summary data is public.

IV. REQUESTS FOR PUBLIC DATA

A. All requests for public data must be made in writing using the data practices form and directed to the responsible authority.

1. A request for public data must include the following information:

- a. Date the request is made;
 - b. A clear description of the data requested;
 - c. Identification of the form in which the data is to be provided (e.g., inspection, copying, both inspection and copying, etc.); and
 - d. Method to contact the requestor (such as phone number, address, or email address).
2. Unless specifically authorized by statute, the school district may not require persons to identify themselves, state a reason for, or justify a request to gain access to public government data. A person may be asked to provide certain identifying or clarifying information for the sole purpose of facilitating access to the data.
 3. The identity of the requestor is public, if provided, but cannot be required by the government entity.
 4. The responsible authority may seek clarification from the requestor if the request is not clear before providing a response to the data request.
- B. The responsible authority will respond to a data request at reasonable times and places as follows:
1. The responsible authority will notify the requestor in writing as follows:
 - a. The requested data does not exist; or
 - b. The requested data does exist but either all or a portion of the data is not accessible to the requestor; or
 - (1) If the responsible authority determines that the requested data is classified so that access to the requestor is denied, the responsible authority will inform the requestor of the determination in writing, as soon thereafter as possible, and shall cite the specific statutory section, temporary classification, or specific provision of federal law on which the determination is based.
 - (2) Upon the request of a requestor who is denied access to data, the responsible authority shall certify in writing that the request has been denied and cite the specific statutory section, temporary classification, or specific provision of federal law upon which the denial was based.
 - c. The requested data does exist and provide arrangements for inspection of the data, identify when the data will be available for pick-up, or indicate that the data will be sent by mail. If the requestor does not appear at the time and place established for inspection of the data or the data is not picked up within ten (10) business days after the requestor is notified, the school district will conclude that the data is no longer wanted and will consider the request closed.
 2. The school district's response time may be affected by the size and complexity of the particular request, including necessary redactions of the data, and also by the number of requests made within a particular period of time.

3. The school district will provide an explanation of technical terminology, abbreviations, or acronyms contained in the responsive data on request.
4. The school district is not required by the MGDPA to create or collect new data in response to a data request, or to provide responsive data in a specific form or arrangement if the school district does not keep the data in that form or arrangement.
5. The school district is not required to respond to questions that are not about a particular data request or requests for data in general.

V. REQUEST FOR SUMMARY DATA

- A. A request for the preparation of summary data shall be made in writing directed to the responsible authority.
 1. A request for the preparation of summary data must include the following information:
 - a. Date the request is made;
 - b. A clear description of the data requested;
 - c. Identify the form in which the data is to be provided (e.g., inspection, copying, both inspection and copying, etc.); and
 - d. Method to contact requestor (phone number, address, or email address).
- B. The responsible authority will respond within ten (10) business days of the receipt of a request to prepare summary data and inform the requestor of the following:
 1. The estimated costs of preparing the summary data, if any; and
 2. The summary data requested; or
 3. A written statement describing a time schedule for preparing the requested summary data, including reasons for any time delays; or
 4. A written statement describing the reasons why the responsible authority has determined that the requestor's access would compromise the private or confidential data.
- C. The school district may require the requestor to pre-pay all or a portion of the cost of creating the summary data before the school district begins to prepare the summary data.

VI. DATA BY AN INDIVIDUAL DATA SUBJECT

- A. Collection and storage of all data on individuals and the use and dissemination of private and confidential data on individuals shall be limited to that necessary for the administration and management of programs specifically authorized by the legislature or local governing body or mandated by the federal government.
- B. Private or confidential data on an individual shall not be collected, stored, used, or disseminated by the school district for any purposes other than those stated to the individual at the time of collection in accordance with Minnesota Statutes section 13.04, except as provided in Minnesota Statutes section 13.05, subdivision 4.

- C. Upon request to the responsible authority or designee, an individual shall be informed whether the individual is the subject of stored data on individuals, and whether it is classified as public, private or confidential. Upon further request, an individual who is the subject of stored private or public data on individuals shall be shown the data without any charge and, if desired, shall be informed of the content and meaning of that data.
- D. After an individual has been shown the private data and informed of its meaning, the data need not be disclosed to that individual for six months thereafter unless a dispute or action pursuant to this section is pending or additional data on the individual has been collected or created.
- E. The responsible authority or designee shall provide copies of the private or public data upon request by the individual subject of the data. The responsible authority or designee may require the requesting person to pay the actual costs of making and certifying the copies.
- F. The responsible authority or designee shall comply immediately, if possible, with any request made pursuant to this subdivision, or within ten days of the date of the request, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays, if immediate compliance is not possible.
- G. An individual subject of the data may contest the accuracy or completeness of public or private data. To exercise this right, an individual shall notify in writing the responsible authority describing the nature of the disagreement. The responsible authority shall within 30 days either: (1) correct the data found to be inaccurate or incomplete and attempt to notify past recipients of inaccurate or incomplete data, including recipients named by the individual; or (2) notify the individual that the authority believes the data to be correct. Data in dispute shall be disclosed only if the individual's statement of disagreement is included with the disclosed data.
- H. The determination of the responsible authority may be appealed pursuant to the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act relating to contested cases. Upon receipt of an appeal by an individual, the commissioner shall, before issuing the order and notice of a contested case hearing required by Minnesota Statutes chapter 14, try to resolve the dispute through education, conference, conciliation, or persuasion. If the parties consent, the commissioner may refer the matter to mediation. Following these efforts, the commissioner shall dismiss the appeal or issue the order and notice of hearing.
- I. Data on individuals that have been successfully challenged by an individual must be completed, corrected, or destroyed by a government entity without regard to the requirements of Minnesota Statutes section 138.17.
- J. After completing, correcting, or destroying successfully challenged data, the school district may retain a copy of the commissioner of administration's order issued under Minnesota Statutes chapter 14 or, if no order were issued, a summary of the dispute between the parties that does not contain any particulars of the successfully challenged data.

VII. REQUESTS FOR DATA BY AN INDIVIDUAL SUBJECT OF THE DATA

- A. All requests for individual subject data must be made in writing directed to the responsible authority.
- B. A request for individual subject data must include the following information:
 - 1. Statement that one is making a request as a data subject for data about the individual or about a student for whom the individual is the parent or guardian;

2. Date the request is made;
 3. A clear description of the data requested;
 4. Proof that the individual is the data subject or the data subject's parent or guardian;
 5. Identification of the form in which the data is to be provided (e.g., inspection, copying, both inspection and copying, etc.); and
 6. Method to contact the requestor (such as phone number, address, or email address).
- C. The identity of the requestor of private data is private.
- D. The responsible authority may seek clarification from the requestor if the request is not clear before providing a response to the data request.
- E. Policy 515 (Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records) addresses requests of students or their parents for educational records and data.

VIII. COSTS

A. Public Data

1. The school district will charge for copies provided as follows:
 - a. 100 or fewer pages of black and white, letter or legal sized paper copies will be charged at 25 cents for a one-sided copy or 50 cents for a two-sided copy.
 - b. More than 100 pages or copies of other materials are charged based upon the actual cost of searching for and retrieving the data and making the copies or electronically sending the data, unless the cost is specifically set by statute or rule.
 - (1) The actual cost of making copies includes employee time, the cost of the materials onto which the data is copied (paper, CD, DVD, etc.), and mailing costs (if any).
 - (2) Also, if the school district does not have the capacity to make the copies, e.g., photographs, the actual cost paid by the school district to an outside vendor will be charged.
2. All charges must be paid for [in cash or by check] in advance of receiving the copies.

[Note: the district should identify the payment methods that it will accept.]

B. Summary Data

1. Any costs incurred in the preparation of summary data shall be paid by the requestor prior to preparing or supplying the summary data.

2. The school district may assess costs associated with the preparation of summary data as follows:
 - a. The cost of materials, including paper, the cost of the labor required to prepare the copies, any schedule of standard copying charges established by the school district, any special costs necessary to produce such copies from a machine-based record-keeping system, including computers and microfilm systems;
 - b. The school district may consider the reasonable value of the summary data prepared and, where appropriate, reduce the costs assessed to the requestor.

C. Data Belonging to an Individual Subject

1. The responsible authority or designee may require the requesting person to pay the actual costs of making and certifying the copies.

The responsible authority shall not charge the data subject any fee in those instances where the data subject only desires to view private data.

The responsible authority or designee may require the requesting person to pay the actual costs of making and certifying the copies. Based on the factors set forth in Minnesota Rule 1205.0300, subpart 4, the school district determines that a reasonable fee would be the charges set forth in section VIII.A of this policy that apply to requests for data by the public.

2. The school district may not charge a fee to search for or to retrieve educational records of a child with a disability by the child's parent or guardian or by the child upon the child reaching the age of majority.

IX. Annual Review and Posting

- A. The responsible authority shall prepare a written data access policy and a written policy for the rights of data subjects (including specific procedures the school district uses for access by the data subject to public or private data on individuals). The responsible authority shall update the policies no later than August 1 of each year, and at any other time as necessary to reflect changes in personnel, procedures, or other circumstances that impact the public's ability to access data.
- B. Copies of the policies shall be easily available to the public by distributing free copies to the public or by posting the policies in a conspicuous place within the school district that is easily accessible to the public or by posting them on the school district's website.

Data Practices Contacts

Responsible Authority:

Superintendent
4316 Rice Lake Rd., Suite 108
Duluth, MN 55811
data.request@isd709.org

Data Practices Compliance Official:

Executive Director of Business Services and Finance
4316 Rice Lake Rd., Suite 108
Duluth, MN 55811
data.request@isd709.org

Data Practices Designee(s):

Business Services Coordinator
 4316 Rice Lake Rd., Suite 108
 Duluth, MN 55811
data.request@isd709.org

Legal References:

Minn. Stat. Ch. 13 (Minnesota Government Data Practices Act)
 Minn. Stat. § 13.01 (Government Data)
 Minn. Stat. § 13.02 (Definitions)
 Minn. Stat. § 13.025 (Government Entity Obligation)
 Minn. Stat. § 13.03 (Access to Government Data)
 Minn. Stat. § 13.04 (Rights of Subjects to Data)
 Minn. Stat. § 13.05 (Duties of Responsible Authority)
 Minn. Stat. § 13.32 (Educational Data)
 Minn. Rules Part 1205.0300 (Access to Public Data)
 Minn. Rules Part 1205.0400 (Access to Private Data)

Cross References:

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 406 (Public and Private Personnel Data)
 MSBA/MASA Model Policy 515 (Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records)

New Policy

Replacing: Policy 108
 First Reading: 09-18-2018
 Adopted: 10-16-2018
 Reviewed: 10-15-2019
 Reviewed: 07-21-2020
 First Reading: 11-15-2022

Duluth Public Schools
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 709
PUBLIC DATA REQUEST FORM



TO BE COMPLETED BY THE REQUESTOR

REQUESTOR NAME (NOT REQUIRED):	PHONE NUMBER:*
ADDRESS:*	EMAIL ADDRESS:*
DATE OF REQUEST:	
DESCRIPTION OF THE INFORMATION REQUESTED: (attach additional page if necessary)	
MANNER IN WHICH RESPONSIVE DATA IS TO BE PROVIDED:	
INSPECTION ONLY _____ COPIES ONLY** _____ BOTH INSPECTION AND COPIES _____ **	
**Inspection is free, but there is a charge for copies. Payment must be received before copies will be provided.	

Written requests for data can be returned several ways:

Email: data.request@isd709.org
 Fax: 218-336-8773
 Mail: ISD 709 – Attn: Business Services
 4316 Rice Lake Rd, Ste 108
 Duluth, MN 55811
 In Person: See mail address above

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

DATE REQUEST RECEIVED:	REQUEST RECEIVED BY:
DATE OF RESPONSE:	RESPONSE PROVIDED BY:

* Requestor’s name is optional. However, contact information is necessary to mail/email the data. Also, contact information is needed if the school district does not understand the request. We will not work on such a request until clarified.

Adopted: _____

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 722

Orig. 2017

Revised: _____

Rev. 2022

722 PUBLIC DATA AND DATA SUBJECT REQUESTS

[Note: School districts are required by statute to establish procedures consistent with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act for public data requests and data subject requests.]

I. PURPOSE

The school district recognizes its responsibility relative to the collection, maintenance, and dissemination of public data as provided in state statutes.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The school district will comply with the requirements of the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Minnesota Statutes chapter 13 (MGDPA), and Minnesota Rules parts 1205.0100-1205.2000 in responding to requests for public data.

III. DEFINITIONS**A. Confidential Data on Individuals**

Data made not public by statute or federal law applicable to the data and are inaccessible to the individual subject of those data.

B. Data on Individuals

All government data in which any individual is or can be identified as the subject of that data, unless the appearance of the name or other identifying data can be clearly demonstrated to be only incidental to the data and the data are not accessed by the name or other identifying data of any individual.

C. Data Practices Compliance Officer

The data practices compliance official is the designated employee of the school district to whom persons may direct questions or concerns regarding problems in obtaining access to data or other data practices problems. The responsible authority may be the data practices compliance official.

D. Government Data

All data collected, created, received, maintained or disseminated by any government entity regardless of its physical form, storage media or conditions of use.

E. Individual

"Individual" means a natural person. In the case of a minor or an incapacitated person as defined in Minnesota Statutes section 524.5-102, subdivision 6, "individual" includes a parent or guardian or an individual acting as a parent or guardian in the absence of a parent or guardian, except that the responsible authority shall withhold data from parents or guardians, or individuals acting as parents or guardians in the absence of parents or guardians, upon request by the minor if the responsible authority determines that withholding the data would be in the best interest of the minor.

F. Inspection

“Inspection” means the visual inspection of paper and similar types of government data. Inspection does not include printing copies by the school district, unless printing a copy is the only method to provide for inspection of the data. For data stored in electronic form and made available in electronic form on a remote access basis to the public by the school district, typically through an online portal or the government entity’s website, inspection includes remote access to the data by the public and the ability to print copies of or download the data on the public’s own computer equipment.

G. Not Public Data

Any government data classified by statute, federal law, or temporary classification as confidential, private, nonpublic, or protected nonpublic.

H. Nonpublic Data

Data not on individuals made by statute or federal law applicable to the data: (a) not accessible to the public; and (b) accessible to the subject, if any, of the data.

I. Private Data on Individuals

Data made by statute or federal law applicable to the data: (a) not public; and (b) accessible to the individual subject of those data.

J. Protected Nonpublic Data

Data not on individuals made by statute or federal law applicable to the data (a) not public and (b) not accessible to the subject of the data.

K. Public Data

All government data collected, created, received, maintained, or disseminated by the school district, unless classified by statute, temporary classification pursuant to statute, or federal law, as nonpublic or protected nonpublic; or, with respect to data on individuals, as private or confidential.

L. Public Data Not on Individuals

Data accessible to the public pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 13.03.

M. Public Data on Individuals

Data accessible to the public in accordance with the provisions of section 13.03.

N. Responsible Authority

The individual designated by the school board as the individual responsible for the collection, use, and dissemination of any set of data on individuals, government data, or summary data, unless otherwise provided by state law. Until an individual is designated by the school board, the responsible authority is the superintendent.

O. Summary Data

Statistical records and reports derived from data on individuals but in which individuals are not identified and from which neither their identities nor any other characteristic that could uniquely identify an individual is ascertainable. Unless classified pursuant to

Minnesota Statutes section 13.06, another statute, or federal law, summary data is public.

IV. REQUESTS FOR PUBLIC DATA

- A. All requests for public data must be made in writing using the data practices form and directed to the responsible authority.
1. A request for public data must include the following information:
 - a. Date the request is made;
 - b. A clear description of the data requested;
 - c. Identification of the form in which the data is to be provided (e.g., inspection, copying, both inspection and copying, etc.); and
 - d. Method to contact the requestor (such as phone number, address, or email address).
 2. Unless specifically authorized by statute, the school district may not require persons to identify themselves, state a reason for, or justify a request to gain access to public government data. A person may be asked to provide certain identifying or clarifying information for the sole purpose of facilitating access to the data. ~~A requestor is not required to explain the reason for the data request.~~
 3. The identity of the requestor is public, if provided, but cannot be required by the government entity.
 4. The responsible authority may seek clarification from the requestor if the request is not clear before providing a response to the data request.
- B. The responsible authority will respond to a data request at reasonable times and places as follows:
1. The responsible authority will notify the requestor in writing as follows:
 - a. The requested data does not exist; or
 - b. The requested data does exist but either all or a portion of the data is not accessible to the requestor; or
 - (1) If the responsible authority determines that the requested data is classified so that access to the requestor is denied, the responsible authority will inform the requestor of the determination in writing, as soon thereafter as possible, and shall cite the specific statutory section, temporary classification, or specific provision of federal law on which the determination is based.
 - (2) Upon the request of a requestor who is denied access to data, the responsible authority shall certify in writing that the request has been denied and cite the specific statutory section, temporary classification, or specific provision of federal law upon which the denial was based.

- c. The requested data does exist and provide arrangements for inspection of the data, identify when the data will be available for pick-up, or indicate that the data will be sent by mail. If the requestor does not appear at the time and place established for inspection of the data or the data is not picked up within ten (10) business days after the requestor is notified, the school district will conclude that the data is no longer wanted and will consider the request closed.
2. The school district's response time may be affected by the size and complexity of the particular request, including necessary redactions of the data, and also by the number of requests made within a particular period of time.
3. The school district will provide an explanation of technical terminology, abbreviations, or acronyms contained in the responsive data on request.
4. The school district is not required by the MGDPA to create or collect new data in response to a data request, or to provide responsive data in a specific form or arrangement if the school district does not keep the data in that form or arrangement.
5. The school district is not required to respond to questions that are not about a particular data request or requests for data in general.

V. REQUEST FOR SUMMARY DATA

- A. A request for the preparation of summary data shall be made in writing directed to the responsible authority.
 1. A request for the preparation of summary data must include the following information:
 - a. Date the request is made;
 - b. A clear description of the data requested;
 - c. Identify the form in which the data is to be provided (e.g., inspection, copying, both inspection and copying, etc.); and
 - d. Method to contact requestor (phone number, address, or email address).
- B. The responsible authority will respond within ten (10) business days of the receipt of a request to prepare summary data and inform the requestor of the following:
 1. The estimated costs of preparing the summary data, if any; and
 2. The summary data requested; or
 3. A written statement describing a time schedule for preparing the requested summary data, including reasons for any time delays; or
 4. A written statement describing the reasons why the responsible authority has determined that the requestor's access would compromise the private or confidential data.
- C. The school district may require the requestor to pre-pay all or a portion of the cost of creating the summary data before the school district begins to prepare the summary data.

VI. DATA BY AN INDIVIDUAL DATA SUBJECT

- A. Collection and storage of all data on individuals and the use and dissemination of private and confidential data on individuals shall be limited to that necessary for the administration and management of programs specifically authorized by the legislature or local governing body or mandated by the federal government.
- B. Private or confidential data on an individual shall not be collected, stored, used, or disseminated by the school district for any purposes other than those stated to the individual at the time of collection in accordance with Minnesota Statutes section 13.04, except as provided in Minnesota Statutes section 13.05, subdivision 4.
- C. Upon request to the responsible authority or designee, an individual shall be informed whether the individual is the subject of stored data on individuals, and whether it is classified as public, private or confidential. Upon further request, an individual who is the subject of stored private or public data on individuals shall be shown the data without any charge and, if desired, shall be informed of the content and meaning of that data.
- D. After an individual has been shown the private data and informed of its meaning, the data need not be disclosed to that individual for six months thereafter unless a dispute or action pursuant to this section is pending or additional data on the individual has been collected or created.
- E. The responsible authority or designee shall provide copies of the private or public data upon request by the individual subject of the data. The responsible authority or designee may require the requesting person to pay the actual costs of making and certifying the copies.
- F. The responsible authority or designee shall comply immediately, if possible, with any request made pursuant to this subdivision, or within ten days of the date of the request, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays, if immediate compliance is not possible.
- G. An individual subject of the data may contest the accuracy or completeness of public or private data. To exercise this right, an individual shall notify in writing the responsible authority describing the nature of the disagreement. The responsible authority shall within 30 days either: (1) correct the data found to be inaccurate or incomplete and attempt to notify past recipients of inaccurate or incomplete data, including recipients named by the individual; or (2) notify the individual that the authority believes the data to be correct. Data in dispute shall be disclosed only if the individual's statement of disagreement is included with the disclosed data.
- H. The determination of the responsible authority may be appealed pursuant to the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act relating to contested cases. Upon receipt of an appeal by an individual, the commissioner shall, before issuing the order and notice of a contested case hearing required by Minnesota Statutes chapter 14, try to resolve the dispute through education, conference, conciliation, or persuasion. If the parties consent, the commissioner may refer the matter to mediation. Following these efforts, the commissioner shall dismiss the appeal or issue the order and notice of hearing.

- I. Data on individuals that have been successfully challenged by an individual must be completed, corrected, or destroyed by a government entity without regard to the requirements of Minnesota Statutes section 138.17.
- J. After completing, correcting, or destroying successfully challenged data, the school district may retain a copy of the commissioner of administration's order issued under Minnesota Statutes chapter 14 or, if no order were issued, a summary of the dispute between the parties that does not contain any particulars of the successfully challenged data.

VII. REQUESTS FOR DATA BY AN INDIVIDUAL SUBJECT OF THE DATA

- A. All requests for individual subject data must be made in writing directed to the responsible authority.
- B. A request for individual subject data must include the following information:
 - 1. Statement that one is making a request as a data subject for data about the individual or about a student for whom the individual is the parent or guardian;
 - 2. Date the request is made;
 - 3. A clear description of the data requested;
 - 4. Proof that the individual is the data subject or the data subject's parent or guardian;
 - 5. Identification of the form in which the data is to be provided (e.g., inspection, copying, both inspection and copying, etc.); and
 - 6. Method to contact the requestor (such as phone number, address, or email address).
- C. The identity of the requestor of private data is private.
- D. The responsible authority may seek clarification from the requestor if the request is not clear before providing a response to the data request.
- E. Policy 515 (Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records) addresses requests of students or their parents for educational records and data.

VIII. COSTS

- A. Public Data
 - 1. The school district will charge for copies provided as follows:
 - a. 100 or fewer pages of black and white, letter or legal sized paper copies will be charged at 25 cents for a one-sided copy or 50 cents for a two-sided copy.
 - b. More than 100 pages or copies on other materials are charged based upon the actual cost of searching for and retrieving the data and making the copies or electronically sending the data, unless the cost is specifically set by statute or rule.

- (1) The actual cost of making copies includes employee time, the cost of the materials onto which the data is copied (paper, CD, DVD, etc.), and mailing costs (if any).
 - (2) Also, if the school district does not have the capacity to make the copies, e.g., photographs, the actual cost paid by the school district to an outside vendor will be charged.
2. All charges must be paid for **in cash or by check** in advance of receiving the copies.

B. Summary Data

1. Any costs incurred in the preparation of summary data shall be paid by the requestor prior to preparing or supplying the summary data.
2. The school district may assess costs associated with the preparation of summary data as follows:
 - a. The cost of materials, including paper, the cost of the labor required to prepare the copies, any schedule of standard copying charges established by the school district, any special costs necessary to produce such copies from a machine-based record-keeping system, including computers and microfilm systems;
 - b. The school district may consider the reasonable value of the summary data prepared and, where appropriate, reduce the costs assessed to the requestor.

C. Data Belonging to an Individual Subject

1. The responsible authority or designee may require the requesting person to pay the actual costs of making and certifying the copies.

The responsible authority shall not charge the data subject any fee in those instances where the data subject only desires to view private data.

The responsible authority or designee may require the requesting person to pay the actual costs of making and certifying the copies. Based on the factors set forth in Minnesota Rule 1205.0300, subpart 4, the school district determines that a reasonable fee would be the charges set forth in section VIII.A of this policy that apply to requests for data by the public.

2. The school district may not charge a fee to search for or to retrieve educational records of a child with a disability by the child's parent or guardian or by the child upon the child reaching the age of majority.

IX. **Annual Review and Posting**

- A. The responsible authority shall prepare a written data access policy and a written policy for the rights of data subjects (including specific procedures the school district uses for access by the data subject to public or private data on individuals). The responsible authority shall update the policies no later than August 1 of each year, and at any other time as necessary to reflect changes in personnel, procedures, or other circumstances that impact the public's ability to access data.

- B. Copies of the policies shall be easily available to the public by distributing free copies to the public or by posting the policies in a conspicuous place within the school district that is easily accessible to the public or by posting them on the school district's website.

Data Practices Contacts

Responsible Authority:

Superintendent
4316 Rice Lake Rd., Suite 108
Duluth, MN 55811
Data.Request@isd709.org

Data Practices Compliance Official:

Executive Director of Business Services and Finance
4316 Rice Lake Rd., Suite 108
Duluth, MN 55811
Data.Request@isd709.org

Data Practices Designee(s):

Business Services Coordinator
4316 Rice Lake Rd., Suite 108
Duluth, MN 55811
Data.Request@isd709.org

Legal References:

Minn. Stat. Ch. 13 (Minnesota Government Data Practices Act)
[Minn. Stat. § 13.01 \(Government Data\)](#)
[Minn. Stat. § 13.02 \(Definitions\)](#)
[Minn. Stat. § 13.025 \(Government Entity Obligation\)](#)
[Minn. Stat. § 13.03 \(Access to Government Data\)](#)
[Minn. Stat. § 13.04 \(Rights of Subjects to Data\)](#)
[Minn. Stat. § 13.05 \(Duties of Responsible Authority\)](#)
[Minn. Stat. § 13.32 \(Educational Data\)](#)
[Minn. Rules Part 1205.0300 \(Access to Public Data\)](#)
[Minn. Rules Part 1205.0400 \(Access to Private Data\)](#)

Cross References:

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 406 (Public and Private Personnel Data)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 515 (Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records)

722 PUBLIC DATA REQUESTS

I. PURPOSE

The school district recognizes its responsibility relative to the collection, maintenance, and dissemination of public data as provided in state statutes.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The school district will comply with the requirements of the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Minn. Stat. Ch. 13 (MGDPA), and Minn. Rules Parts 1205.0100-1205.2000 in responding to requests for public data.

III. DEFINITIONS

A. Government Data

“Government data” means all recorded information that the school district has, including paper, email, flash drives, CDs, DVDs, photographs, etc.

B. Inspection

“Inspection” means the visual inspection of paper and similar types of government data. Inspection does not include printing copies by the school district, unless printing a copy is the only method to provide for inspection of the data. For data stored in electronic form and made available in electronic form on a remote access basis to the public by the school district, inspection includes remote access to the data by the public and the ability to print copies of or download the data on the public’s own computer equipment.

C. Public Data

“Public data” means all government data collected, created, received, maintained, or disseminated by the school district, unless classified by statute, temporary classification pursuant to statute, or federal law, as nonpublic or protected nonpublic; or, with respect to data on individuals, as private or confidential.

D. Responsible Authority

“Responsible authority” means the individual designated by the school board as the individual responsible for the collection, use, and dissemination of any set of data on individuals, government data, or summary data, unless otherwise provided by state law. Until an individual is designated by the school board, the responsible authority is the superintendent.

E. Summary Data

“Summary data” means statistical records and reports derived from data on individuals but in which individuals are not identified and from which neither their identities nor any other characteristic that could uniquely identify an individual is

ascertainable.

IV. REQUESTS FOR PUBLIC DATA

A. All requests for public data must be made in writing directed to the responsible authority. A member of the public may use the Data Request Form (which appears at the end of this policy), or submit a written request which must include the following information:

- Date the request is made;
- A clear description of the data requested, including date spans if applicable;
- Identification of the form in which the data is to be provided (e.g., inspection, copying, both inspection and copying, etc.); and
- Method to contact the requestor (such as phone number, address, or email address).

1. A requestor is not required to explain the reason for the data request.
2. The identity of the requestor is public, if provided, but cannot be required by the government entity.
3. The responsible authority may seek clarification from the requestor if the request is not clear before providing a response to the data request.
4. Written requests for data can be returned several ways:

Email: data.request@isd709.org
 Fax: 218-336-8773
 Mail: ISD 709 – Attn: Business Services
 215 N 1st Ave E, Room 215
 Duluth, MN 55802
 In Person: see mail address above

B. The responsible authority will respond to a data request at reasonable times and places as follows:

1. The responsible authority will notify the requestor in writing as follows:
 - a. The requested data does not exist; or
 - b. The requested data does exist but either all or a portion of the data is not accessible to the requestor; or

(1) If the responsible authority determines that the requested data is classified so that access to the requestor is denied, the responsible authority will inform the requestor of the

determination in writing, as soon thereafter as possible, and shall cite the specific statutory section, temporary classification, or specific provision of federal law on which the determination is based.

- (2) Upon the request of a requestor who is denied access to data, the responsible authority shall certify in writing that the request has been denied and cite the specific statutory section, temporary classification, or specific provision of federal law upon which the denial was based.
- c. The requested data does exist and provide arrangements for inspection of the data, identify when the data will be available for pick-up, or indicate that the data will be sent by mail. If the requestor does not appear at the time and place established for inspection of the data or the data is not picked up within ten (10) business days after the requestor is notified, the school district will conclude that the data is no longer wanted and will consider the request closed.
2. The school district's response time may be affected by the size and complexity of the particular request, including necessary redactions of the data, and also by the number of requests made within a particular period of time.
3. The school district will provide an explanation of technical terminology, abbreviations, or acronyms contained in the responsive data on request.
4. The school district is not required by the MGDPA to create or collect new data in response to a data request, or to provide responsive data in a specific form or arrangement if the school district does not keep the data in that form or arrangement.
5. The school district is not required to respond to questions that are not about a particular data request or requests for data in general.

V. REQUEST FOR SUMMARY DATA

- A. A request for the preparation of summary data shall be made in writing directed to the responsible authority.
 1. A request for the preparation of summary data must include the following information:
 - a. Date the request is made;
 - b. A clear description of the data requested;
 - c. Identify the form in which the data is to be provided (e.g., inspection, copying, both inspection and copying, etc.); and
 - d. Method to contact requestor (phone number, address, or email

address).

- B. The responsible authority will respond within ten (10) business days of the receipt of a request to prepare summary data and inform the requestor of the following:
1. The estimated costs of preparing the summary data, if any; and
 2. The summary data requested; or
 3. A written statement describing a time schedule for preparing the requested summary data, including reasons for any time delays; or
 4. A written statement describing the reasons why the responsible authority has determined that the requestor's access would compromise the private or confidential data.
- C. The school district may require the requestor to pre-pay all or a portion of the cost of creating the summary data before the school district begins to prepare the summary data.

VI. COSTS

A. Public Data

1. The school district will charge for copies provided as follows:
 - a. 100 or fewer pages of black and white, letter or legal sized paper copies will be charged at 25 cents for a one-sided copy or 50 cents for a two-sided copy.
 - b. More than 100 pages or copies on other materials are charged based upon the actual cost of searching for and retrieving the data and making the copies or electronically sending the data, unless the cost is specifically set by statute or rule.
 - (1) The actual cost of making copies includes employee time, the cost of the materials onto which the data is copied (paper, CD, DVD, etc.), and mailing costs (if any).
 - (2) Also, if the school district does not have the capacity to make the copies, e.g., photographs, the actual cost paid by the school district to an outside vendor will be charged.
2. All charges must be paid for in cash in advance of receiving the copies.

B. Summary Data

1. Any costs incurred in the preparation of summary data shall be paid by the requestor prior to preparing or supplying the summary data.
2. The school district may assess costs associated with the preparation of summary data as follows:
 - a. The cost of materials, including paper, the cost of the labor required to prepare the copies, any schedule of standard copying charges established by the school district, any special costs necessary to produce such copies from a machine-based record-keeping system, including computers and microfilm systems;
 - b. The school district may consider the reasonable value of the summary data prepared and, where appropriate, reduce the costs assessed to the requestor.

Data Practices Contacts

Responsible Authority:

Superintendent
 215 North First Avenue East, Room 213
 Duluth, MN 55802
 Data.Request@isd709.org

Data Practices Compliance Official:

Chief Financial Officer
 215 North First Avenue East, Room 215
 Duluth, MN 55802
 Data.Request@isd709.org

Legal References: Minn. Stat. Ch. 13 (Minnesota Government Data Practices Act)

Cross References: MSBA/MASA Model Policy 406 (Public and Private Personnel Data)
 MSBA/MASA Model Policy 515 (Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records)

New Policy
 Replacing: Policy 108
 First Reading: 09-18-2018
 Adopted: 10-16-2018
 Reviewed: 10-15-2019
 Reviewed: 07-21-2020

DULUTH PUBLIC SCHOOLS - DATA REQUEST FORM



Date of Request: _____

Description of requested data (please be specific, include date spans):

Requested method to access data:

Inspection Only: _____ Copies Only: * _____ Both Inspection and Copies: * _____

* **Note:** There will be a cost charged to provide copies of public data

Contact Information (optional) **

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email address: _____

Address: _____

** **Note:** You do not have to provide any contact information. However, if you want Duluth Public Schools to mail/email copies of data to you, some type of contact information must be provided. Duluth Public Schools would also need contact information from you if it is necessary to clarify your request. We will not work on such a request until clarified.

Duluth Public Schools will respond to your request as soon as possible.

Written requests for data can be returned several ways:

Email: data.request@isd709.org

Fax: 218-336-8773

Mail: ISD 709 – Attn: Business Services
215 N 1st Ave E, Room 215
Duluth, MN 55802

In Person: see mail address above

534 SCHOOL MEALS POLICY

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that students receive healthy and nutritious meals through the school district's nutrition program and that school district employees, families, and students have a shared understanding of expectations regarding meal charges. The policy of the school district is to provide meals to students in a respectful manner and to maintain the dignity of students by prohibiting lunch shaming or otherwise ostracizing the student. The policy seeks to allow students to receive the nutrition they need to stay focused during the school day and minimize identification of students with insufficient funds to pay for school meals as well as to maintain the financial integrity of the school nutrition program.

II. PAYMENT OF MEALS

- A. Payment for lunch is expected at the time the meal is served. Parents have three options to put money in their child's lunch account:
 - 1. Online payments
 - 2. Check sent to the child's school or Administrative offices
 - 3. Cash sent to the child's school or Administrative offices
- B. Families may apply for free/reduced-price meal benefits anytime during the school year. Meal applications are distributed to all families in the district prior to the student's first day of classes. In addition, applications are available on the school district website or available to be mailed via USPS if requested.
- C. If the school district receives school lunch aid under Minnesota Statutes section 124D.111, it must make lunch available without charge to all participating students who qualify for free or reduced-price meals regardless of account balance.
- D. A student with an outstanding meal charge debt will be allowed to purchase a meal if the student pays for the meal when it is received.
- E. A student who has been determined to be eligible for free and reduced-price lunch always must be served a reimbursable meal even if the student has an outstanding debt.
- F. Once a meal has been placed on a student's tray or otherwise served to a student, the meal may not be subsequently withdrawn from the student by the cashier or other school official, whether or not the student has an outstanding meals balance.
- G. If a parent or guardian chooses to send in one payment that is to be divided between sibling accounts, the parent or guardian must specify how the funds are to be distributed to the students' accounts. Funds may not be transferred between sibling accounts unless written permission is received from the parent or guardian.

III. LOW OR NEGATIVE ACCOUNT BALANCES – NOTIFICATION

- A. The school district will make reasonable efforts to notify families when meal account balances are low or fall below zero.
- B. Reminders for payment of outstanding student meal balances will not demean or stigmatize any student participating in the school lunch program, including, but not limited to, dumping meals, withdrawing a meal that has been served, announcing or listing students' names publicly, or affixing stickers, stamps, or pins.

IV. UNPAID MEAL CHARGES

- A. The school district will make reasonable efforts to communicate with families to resolve the matter of unpaid charges. Where appropriate, families may be encouraged to apply for free and reduced-price meals for their children.
- B. The school district will make reasonable efforts to collect unpaid meal charges classified as delinquent debt. Unpaid meal charges are designated as delinquent debt when payment is overdue, the debt is considered collectable, and efforts are being made to collect it.
- C. The school district may not enlist the assistance of non-school district employees, such as volunteers, to engage in debt collection efforts.
- D. The school district will not impose any other restriction prohibited under Minnesota Statutes section 123B.37 due to unpaid student meal balances. The school district will not limit a student's participation in any school activities, graduation ceremonies, field trips, athletics, activity clubs, or other extracurricular activities or access to materials, technology, or other items provided to students due to an unpaid student meal balance.

V. COMMUNICATION OF POLICY

- A. This policy and any pertinent supporting information shall be provided in writing (i.e., mail, email, back-to-school packet, student handbook, etc.) to:
 - 1. all households at or before the start of each school year;
 - 2. students and families who transfer into the school district, at the time of enrollment; and
 - 3. all school district personnel who are responsible for enforcing this policy.
- B. The school district will post this policy on the school district's website, or the website of the organization where the meal is served, in addition to providing the required written notification described above.
- C. If the school district contracts with a third party for its meal services, it will provide the vendor with its school meals policy. The school district will ensure that any third-party provider with whom the school district enters into either an original or modified contract after July 1, 2021, adheres to the school district's school meals policy.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 123B.37 (Prohibited Fees)
 Minn. Stat. § 124D.111 (School Meals Policies; Lunch Aid; Food Service Accounting)
 42 U.S.C. § 1751 *et seq.* (Healthy and Hunger-Free Kids Act)
 7 C.F.R. § 210 *et seq.* (School Lunch Program Regulations)
 7 C.F.R. § 220.8 (School Breakfast Program Regulations)
 USDA Policy Memorandum SP 46-2016, Unpaid Meal Charges: Local Meal Charge Policies (2016)
 USDA Policy Memorandum SP 47-2016, Unpaid Meal Charges: Clarification on Collection of Delinquent Meal Payments (2016)
 USDA Policy Memorandum SP 23-2017, Unpaid Meal Charges: Guidance and Q&A

Cross References: None

New Policy: 534
First Reading: July 18, 2017
Adopted: August 22, 2017 ISD 709
First Reading: November 15, 2022
Adopted:

Adopted: _____

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 534

Orig. 2017

Revised: _____

Rev. 2021

534 SCHOOL MEALS POLICY

[Note: In 2021, the Minnesota legislature amended Minnesota Statutes section 124D.111, that now states that Minnesota school districts that participate in the national school lunch program must adopt a school meals policy].

[Note: This MSBA/MASA model policy is drafted to be consistent for all grade levels. However, local school districts may vary the meal charge policy for elementary, middle, and high schools.]

[Note: School districts must follow appropriate debt collection practices when attempting to recover unpaid meal charges.]

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that students receive healthy and nutritious meals through the school district's nutrition program and that school district employees, families, and students have a shared understanding of expectations regarding meal charges. The policy of the school district is to provide meals to students in a respectful manner and to maintain the dignity of students by prohibiting lunch shaming or otherwise ostracizing the student. The policy seeks to allow students to receive the nutrition they need to stay focused during the school day and minimize identification of students with insufficient funds to pay for school meals as well as to maintain the financial integrity of the school nutrition program.

II. PAYMENT OF MEALS

A. Payment for lunch is expected at the time the meal is served. Parents have three options to put money in their child's lunch account:

1. Online payments
2. Check sent to the child's school or Administrative offices
3. Cash sent to the child's school or Administrative offices

B. Families may apply for free/reduced-price meal benefits anytime during the school year. Meal applications are distributed to all families in the district prior to the student's first day of classes. In addition, applications are available on the school district website or available to be mailed via USPS if requested.

C. If the school district receives school lunch aid under Minnesota Statutes section 124D.111, it must make lunch available without charge to all participating students who qualify for free or reduced-price meals regardless of account balance.

D. A student with an outstanding meal charge debt will be allowed to purchase a meal if the student pays for the meal when it is received.

E. A student who has been determined to be eligible for free and reduced-price lunch always must be served a reimbursable meal even if the student has an outstanding debt.

- F. Once a meal has been placed on a student's tray or otherwise served to a student, the meal may not be subsequently withdrawn from the student by the cashier or other school official, whether or not the student has an outstanding meals balance.

~~F. The school district may provide an alternate meal that meets federal and state requirements to a student who does not have sufficient funds in the student's account or cannot pay cash for a meal. The school district will accommodate special dietary needs with respect to alternate meals. The cost of the alternative meal (*insert amount*) will be charged to the student's account or otherwise charged to the student.~~

~~G. When a student has a negative account balance, the student will not be allowed to charge a snack item.~~

- G. If a parent or guardian chooses to send in one payment that is to be divided between sibling accounts, the parent or guardian must specify how the funds are to be distributed to the students' accounts. Funds may not be transferred between sibling accounts unless written permission is received from the parent or guardian.

III. LOW OR NEGATIVE ACCOUNT BALANCES – NOTIFICATION

- A. The school district will make reasonable efforts to notify families when meal account balances are low or fall below zero.

~~B. Families will be notified of an outstanding negative balance once the negative balance reaches *insert amount* or *insert number of meals*. Families will be notified by *insert the method used to notify families (e.g., automated calling system, email, letters sent home)*.~~

- C. Reminders for payment of outstanding student meal balances will not demean or stigmatize any student participating in the school lunch program, including, but not limited to, dumping meals, withdrawing a meal that has been served, announcing or listing students' names publicly, or affixing stickers, stamps, or pins.

IV. UNPAID MEAL CHARGES

- A. The school district will make reasonable efforts to communicate with families to resolve the matter of unpaid charges. Where appropriate, families may be encouraged to apply for free and reduced-price meals for their children.

- B. The school district will make reasonable efforts to collect unpaid meal charges classified as delinquent debt. Unpaid meal charges are designated as delinquent debt when payment is overdue, the debt is considered collectable, and efforts are being made to collect it.

~~C. Negative balances of more than *insert amount*, not paid prior to *enter time period (e.g., end of the month, end of the semester, end of the school year)*, will be turned over to the superintendent or superintendent's designee for collection. In some instances, the school district does use a collection agency to collect unpaid school meal debts after reasonable efforts first have been made by the school district to collect the debt. Collection options may include, but are not limited to, use of collection agencies, claims in the conciliation court, or any other legal method permitted by law.~~

- D. The school district may not enlist the assistance of non-school district employees, such as volunteers, to engage in debt collection efforts.

- E. The school district will not impose any other restriction prohibited under Minnesota Statutes section 123B.37 due to unpaid student meal balances. The school district will

not limit a student's participation in any school activities, graduation ceremonies, field trips, athletics, activity clubs, or other extracurricular activities or access to materials, technology, or other items provided to students due to an unpaid student meal balance.

V. COMMUNICATION OF POLICY

- A. This policy and any pertinent supporting information shall be provided in writing (i.e., mail, email, back-to-school packet, student handbook, etc.) to:
1. all households at or before the start of each school year;
 2. students and families who transfer into the school district, at the time of enrollment; and
 3. all school district personnel who are responsible for enforcing this policy.
- B. The school district will post this policy on the school district's website, or the website of the organization where the meal is served, in addition to providing the required written notification described above.
- C. If the school district contracts with a third party for its meal services, it will provide the vendor with its school meals policy. The school district will ensure that any third-party provider with whom the school district enters into either an original or modified contract after July 1, 2021, adheres to the school district's school meals policy.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 123B.37 (Prohibited Fees)
 Minn. Stat. § 124D.111 (School Meals Policies; Lunch Aid; Food Service Accounting)
 42 U.S.C. § 1751 *et seq.* (Healthy and Hunger-Free Kids Act)
 7 C.F.R. § 210 *et seq.* (School Lunch Program Regulations)
 7 C.F.R. § 220.8 (School Breakfast Program Regulations)
 USDA Policy Memorandum SP 46-2016, Unpaid Meal Charges: Local Meal Charge Policies (2016)
 USDA Policy Memorandum SP 47-2016, Unpaid Meal Charges: Clarification on Collection of Delinquent Meal Payments (2016)
 USDA Policy Memorandum SP 23-2017, Unpaid Meal Charges: Guidance and Q&A

Cross References: None

New Policy: 534
 First Reading: July 18, 2017
Adopted: August 22, 2017 ISD 709
 First Reading:

534 UNPAID MEAL CHARGES

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that students receive healthy and nutritious meals through the school district's nutrition program and that school district employees, families, and students have a shared understanding of expectations regarding meal charges. The policy seeks to allow students to receive the nutrition they need to stay focused during the school day and minimize identification of students with insufficient funds to pay for school meals as well as to maintain the financial integrity of the school nutrition program.

II. PAYMENT OF MEALS

A. Payment for lunch is expected at the time the meal is served. Parents have three options to put money in their child's lunch account:

1. Online payment
2. Check
3. Cash

When a student lunch balance reaches zero or becomes negative: All students, elementary, middle and high school will be allowed to charge lunch meals regardless of a zero or negative balance but not allowed to make a la carte purchases

B. If the school district receives school lunch aid under Minn. Stat. § 124D.111, it must make lunch available without charge to all participating students who qualify for free or reduced-price meals regardless of account balance.

C. In the instance of a student who has an outstanding meal charge debt, the student will be allowed to pay for a full price meal without applying the student's money toward the meal debt balance.

E. When a student has a negative account balance, the student will not be allowed to charge a la carte items.

D. If a parent or guardian chooses to send in one payment that is to be divided between sibling accounts, the parent or guardian must specify how the funds are to be distributed to the students' accounts. Funds may not be transferred between sibling accounts unless verbal or written permission is received from the parent or guardian.

III. LOW OR NEGATIVE ACCOUNT BALANCES – NOTIFICATION

A. The school district will make reasonable efforts to notify families when meal account balance are low.

B. Reminders for payment of outstanding student meal balances will not demean or stigmatize any student participating in the school lunch program.

IV. UNPAID MEAL CHARGES

- A. The school district will make reasonable efforts to communicate with families to resolve the matter of unpaid charges. Where appropriate, families may be encouraged to apply for free and reduced-price meals for their children.
- B. The school district will make reasonable efforts to collect unpaid meal charges classified as delinquent debt. Unpaid meal charges are designated as delinquent debt when payment is overdue, the debt is considered collectable, and efforts are being made to collect it.
- C. Consistent with the treatment of other debts owed to the district, negative balances of \$50.00 or more, incurred by families and not paid prior to end of the school year, will be subject to handling by a collection agency. Collection options may include, but are not limited to, use of collection agencies, claims in the conciliation court, or any other legal method permitted by law. Student lunch debt of \$49.99 or less is transferred with the student to the next school year by the Child Nutrition Department. Positive lunch balances/monies in the student's account advance with the student as well. Parents' may request a refund of a positive lunch balance/monies.

V. COMMUNICATION OF POLICY

- A. This policy and any pertinent supporting information shall be provided in writing (i.e., mail, email, back-to-school packet, student handbook, etc.) to:
 1. all households at or before the start of each school year;
 2. students and families who transfer into the school district, at the time of enrollment; and
 3. all school district personnel who are responsible for enforcing this policy.
- B. The school district may post the policy on the school district's website, in addition to providing the required written notification described above.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 124D.111, Subd. 4
 42 U.S.C. § 1751 et seq. (Healthy and Hunger-Free Kids Act)
 7 C.F.R. § 210 et seq. (School Lunch Program Regulations)
 7 C.F.R. § 220.8 (School Breakfast Program Regulations)
 USDA Policy Memorandum SP 46-2016, Unpaid Meal Charges: Local Meal Charge Policies (2016)
 USDA Policy Memorandum SP 47-2016, Unpaid Meal Charges: Clarification on Collection of Delinquent Meal Payments (2016)
 USDA Policy Memorandum SP 23-2017, Unpaid Meal Charges: Guidance and Q&A

New Policy: 534
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