



## Board of Education

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### ACTION

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

**DATE:** February 23, 2026

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

#### **BACKGROUND/CONSIDERATIONS:**

The administration desires to update section four (4): Students - of Fort Smith Public Schools Board Policies based upon the following recommendations made by the Arkansas School Board Association (ASBA). Mr. Marshall Ney has subsequently reviewed and approved these recommendations from ASBA.

**4.4—STUDENT TRANSFERS** - The policy is being updated to ensure that a student who transfers to another district is placed in the grade and courses based on their actual academic record rather than solely based on where their previous school had the student placed; this is to prevent both school shopping for students to avoid the third grade retention requirement as well as social promotion, which is prohibited by statute.

[Red Line](#)

[Clean Line](#)

**4.47— POSSESSION AND USE OF PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES** - Language was added to authorize students to possess and use their device (the “use” component of the policy was added upon recommendation from the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) in November 2025) when enrolled in a concurrent credit course when necessary for multi-factor authentication. The definition from the Rules for a special event was inserted into the policy. In addition, the Legal References were updated to note the change in the title of the DESE Rules Governing Student Discipline.

[Red Line](#)

[Clean Line](#)

A clean and redline version is being provided to enable the Board to see the specific changes that are being proposed. If approved, revisions to Policy 4.4 and 4.47 will become effective immediately.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The administration recommends the Board approve the changes to Board Policy 4.4 and 4.47 as presented to be effective upon board approval. If the Board agrees, the motion would read:

**Move to approve Board Policy 4.4 and 4.47 as presented to be effective upon Board approval.**