

## Regular School Board Meeting

Monday, August 18, 2025 5:15 PM

FHS Library and YouTube Live Stream, 1515 11th Street, International Falls,  
Minnesota 56649

**This School Board Meeting is available to watch via Live Stream by selecting the following link or by going to the "Falls High Journalism" youtube page.**

### Call to Order

#### 1. Roll Call:

- \_\_\_ Jessica Crosby, Vice Board Chair
- \_\_\_ Dale Johnson, Director
- \_\_\_ Toni Korpi, Clerk
- \_\_\_ Bruce Raboin, Director
- \_\_\_ Tina Sather, Treasurer
- \_\_\_ Roxanne Skogstad-Ditsch, Director
- \_\_\_ JoAnn Smith, Board Chair

#### Non-Voting Members:

- \_\_\_ Beth Shermoen, Superintendent
- \_\_\_ Joe Sullivan & Max Youso, Student Representatives

#### 2. Pledge of Allegiance

### Approval of Agenda

#### 1. Approve agenda as presented.

Motion by \_\_\_\_\_, second by \_\_\_\_\_. Motion carried / failed.

### Open Forum

#### 1. Public Open Forum

### Committee and Administrative Reports

1. Lisa West, Elementary Principal:
2. Melissa Tate, Secondary Principal:
3. Molly Larson, Community Education Director
4. Timm Ringhofer, Activities Director:
5. Beth Shermoen, Superintendent:
6. Policy Committee
7. Athletic Committee
8. Legislative

### Consent Agenda

**Approve the Consent Agenda as presented.**

**Motion by \_\_\_\_\_, second by \_\_\_\_\_. Motion**

**carried / failed.**

1. Approve payroll in the amount of \$127,554.79 for pay periods 7/25/25 and 8/8/25.
2. Approve current accounts payable due in the amount of \$350,634.15.
3. Approve past meeting minutes for the regular school board meeting on 7/21/2025.
4. Approve Beth Shermoen, Superintendent of ISD 361, to be the designated 25/26 School Year Identified Official with Authority (IOwA) for each Local Educational Agency (LEA) that uses the Education Identity and Access Management (EDIAM) system.
5. Approve the hire of Casey Stenberg as the Technology Director.
6. Approve the hire of Chris Simpson as Special Education and Intervention Teacher at Falls High School for the 2025-26 school year.
7. Approve the hire of Jenesa Balaski as the PreSchool/ECFE teacher for the 2025-26 school year.
8. Approve the hire of Angela Scholler as the Administrative Assistant to the Early Childhood Wing effective August 25, 2025.
9. Approve the addition of the Technology Director Position to the At-Will Position Employment Schedule - Section D.
10. Accept the resignation of Assistant to the Superintendent and district grant writer, Ashley Hall, effective August 8, 2025.
11. Accept the resignation of Assistant Cross Country Coach Jen Erickson for the 2025-26 season.
12. Accept the resignation of Justin Carney as paraprofessional.
13. Approve the hire of Justin Carney as Technology Assistant for ISD 361.
14. Approve the hire of Hailey Auran as fifth grade teacher for the 2025-26 school year.
15. Approve the hire of Bryan Kershaw as the Girls Head Hockey Coach for the 2025-26 season.
16. Approve the hire of Bryan Kershaw as the Girls Assistant Softball Coach for the 2025-26 season.
17. Approve the hire of Lexi Erickson as Assistant Cross Country Coach for the 2025-26 season.
18. Approve the hire of Lexi Erickson as Girls Track and Field Coach for the 2025-26 season.
19. Approve the hire of Assistant Boys Basketball Coach Richard DeBenedet for the 2025-26 season.
20. Approve the hire of Assistant Boys Swimming and Diving Coach Nathan Moseman for the 2025-26 season.
21. Approve the hire of Assistant Boys Hockey Coach David Eddy for the 2025-26 season.
22. Approve the hire of Assistant Boys Hockey Coach Adam Mathews for the 2025-26 season.

23. Approve Volunteer (booster paid) Assistant Boys Hockey Coach Tucker Hell for the 2025-26 season.
24. Approve the hire of Baseball Head Coach Blaine Humbert for the 2025-26 season.
25. Approve the hire of Haley Linder as Intervention, grades kindergarten through sixth for the 2025-26 school year.
26. Approve the hire of Shelly Koenig a Prom Advisor for the 2025-26 school year.
27. Approve Volunteer Elementary Volleyball Coaches: Adyson Wallender, Janet Humbert, Sarah Peterson, Julia Anderson, Emily Nicholson, Kimberly O'Loughlin and Kristie LaVigne for the 2025-26 season.
28. Approve Volunteer Elementary Football Coaches: Troy Freeberg, Brad Kokesh, Ross Hamers, Leif Larsen, Joe Achtermann, Brady Bowles, Shawn Bowles and Auggie Schmitt for the 2025-26 season.
29. Approve Volunteer Elementary Girls Swimming Coaches: Hailey Silvers and Ashley Mitchell for the 2025-26 season.
30. Approve Volunteer (booster paid) High School Girls Swimming Coach: Hailey Silvers for the 2025-26 season.
31. Approve Volunteer High School Football Coaches: Christian DeVerney (not paid), Norm Nelson (not paid), Denis Sidkey (booster paid) for the 2025-26 season.
32. Approve Volunteer High School Cross Country Coach: Angela Scholler (not paid) for the 2025-26 season.
33. Approve Volunteer Junior High Football Coaches: Dylan Holt (booster paid) and Shane Donner (booster paid) for the 2025-26 season.
34. Approve Volunteer Junior High Volleyball Coaches: Paetyn Zahn (booster paid), Emily Nicholson (booster paid) and Cyndi Heibel (booster paid) for the 2025-26 season.
35. Accept the Local Producer Promotion Program Grant through the Minnesota Beef Council.
36. Accept the resignation of Kari Benedix-Obermaier as the FES Assistant Cook effective 8/5/2025.
37. Approve the hire of Kari Benedix-Obermaier as Custodian/Bus Driver for the 25/26 School Year effective 9/2/2025.
38. Second Reading of School Board Policy 401: Equal Employment Opportunity
39. First Reading of School Board Policy 402: Disability Nondiscrimination Policy.
40. Second Reading of School Board Policy 403: Discipline, Suspension, and Dismissal of School District Employees.
41. Second Reading of School Board Policy 405: Veteran's Preference.
42. Second Reading of School Board Policy 406: Public and Private Personal Data.

43. Second Reading of School Board Policy 407:  
Employee Right to Know - Exposure to Hazardous Substances.
44. Second Reading of School Board Policy 408:  
Subpoena of a School District Employee.
45. Second Reading of School Board Policy 409:  
Employee Publications, Instructional Materials, Inventions, and Creations.
46. Second Reading of School Board Policy 410:  
Family and Medical Leave Policy.
47. Second Reading of School Board Policy 412:  
Expense Reimbursement.
48. Second Reading of School Board Policy 413:  
Harassment and Violence.
49. Second Reading of School Board Policy 414:  
Mandated Reporting of Child Neglect or Physical or Sexual Abuse.
50. Second Reading of School Board Policy 415:  
Mandated Reporting of Maltreatment of Vulnerable Adults.
51. Second Reading of School Board Policy 416:  
Drug, Alcohol, and Cannabis Testing.
52. Second Reading of School Board Policy 417:  
Chemical Use and Abuse.
53. Second Reading of School Board Policy 418:  
Drug-Free Workplace/Drug-Free School.
54. Second Reading of School Board Policy 419:  
Tobacco-Free Environment; Possession and Use of Tobacco, Tobacco-Related Devices, and Electronic Delivery Devices; Vaping Awareness and Prevention Instruction.
55. Second Reading of School Board Policy 420:  
Students and Employees with Sexually Transmitted Infections and Diseases and Certain Other Communicable Diseases and Infectious Conditions.
56. Second Reading of School Board Policy 421:  
Gifts to Employees.
57. Second Reading of School Board Policy 422:  
Policies Incorporated By Reference.
58. Second Reading of School Board Policy 424:  
License Status.
59. Second Reading of School Board Policy 425:  
Staff Development.
60. Second Reading of School Board Policy 427:  
Workload Limits for Certain Special Education Teachers.

#### **Action Items**

1. Improving systems and structures to create a culture where all are welcome and supported.
- 1.a. Resolution Acceptance of Gifts and Donations.  
Motion by \_\_\_\_\_, second by \_\_\_\_\_. Motion carried / failed.
- 1.b. Approve Expanding Care & Learning Opportunities for ISD 361 Youth Award Grant for \$25,000.  
Motion by \_\_\_\_\_, second by \_\_\_\_\_. Motion

carried / failed.

2. Maintain our facilities to be welcoming, safe and efficient for use by students and the community.

2.a. Review and approval of bid proposals & selected alternate awards for the August 2025 referendum work.

Motion by \_\_\_\_\_, second by \_\_\_\_\_. Motion carried / failed.

2.b. Adopt the resolution stating the intention of the school board to issue general obligation facilities maintenance bonds, series 2026A, in the maximum aggregate principal amount of \$2,700,000 and taking other actions with respect thereto.

Motion by \_\_\_\_\_, second by \_\_\_\_\_. Motion carried / failed.

2.c. Approve the Resolution Declaring a Part of ISD 361 School Property Not Needed For School Purposes.

Motion by \_\_\_\_\_, second by \_\_\_\_\_. Motion carried / failed.

#### **Adjournment**

1. Motion by \_\_\_\_\_, second by \_\_\_\_\_ to adjourn meeting at \_\_\_\_\_ p.m.  
Motion carried / failed.

Payables Summary  
August 18, 2025

Check No	Vendor	Check Date	Invoice No	Invoice Description	PO Number	Check Amount
	DELTA DENTAL	7/31/2025	CNS0001899310	retirees		\$ 1,910.46
	DELTA DENTAL	7/31/2025	CNS0001899310	employees		\$ 5,323.38
	Marco Technologies LLC	7/31/2025	070825	Marco copiers		\$ 69.98
	Marco Technologies LLC	7/31/2025	070825	Marco copiers		\$ 720.19
	MN PEIP	7/31/2025	1534855	employees		\$ 111,678.22
	MN PEIP	7/31/2025	1534855	food service		\$ 765.76
	MN PEIP	7/31/2025	1534855	com ed		\$ 1,994.58
	MN PEIP	7/31/2025	1528751	employees		\$ 110,681.02
	MN PEIP	7/31/2025	1528751	food service		\$ 765.76
	WEX	7/31/2025	0002191818	FY25 WEX - Flex Account		\$ 213.75
	BMO	8/5/2025	6/28/25-7/27/25	Menards		\$ 749.07
	BMO	8/5/2025	6/28/25-7/27/25	Menards		\$ 191.89
	BMO	8/5/2025	6/28/25-7/27/25	Menards		\$ 318.57
	BMO	8/5/2025	6/28/25-7/27/25	Menards		\$ 70.15
	BMO	8/5/2025	6/28/25-7/27/25	Menards		\$ 277.52
	BMO	8/5/2025	6/28/25-7/27/25	Menards		\$ 50.15
	BMO	8/5/2025	6/28/25-7/27/25	Huskey Springs		\$ (83.28)
	BMO	8/5/2025	6/28/25-7/27/25	Americinn		\$ 162.34
	BMO	8/5/2025	6/28/25-7/27/25	O'Reilly		\$ 106.40
	BMO	8/5/2025	6/28/25-7/27/25	O'Reilly		\$ 18.99
	BMO	8/5/2025	6/28/25-7/27/25	MINNESOTA HOIST		\$ 392.05
	BMO	8/5/2025	6/28/25-7/27/25	Menards		\$ 87.33
	BMO	8/5/2025	6/28/25-7/27/25	MASMS		\$ 150.00
	BMO	8/5/2025	6/28/25-7/27/25	AMAZON		\$ 92.48
	BMO	8/5/2025	6/28/25-7/27/25	NORTHERN LUMBER YARD		\$ 157.02
	BMO	8/5/2025	6/28/25-7/27/25	MASMS		\$ 520.00
	BMO	8/5/2025	6/28/25-7/27/25	Menards		\$ 240.02
	BMO	8/5/2025	6/28/25-7/27/25	Menards		\$ 170.98
	BMO	8/5/2025	6/28/25-7/27/25	AMAZON		\$ 275.94
	BMO	8/5/2025	6/28/25-7/27/25	Menards		\$ 38.88
	BMO	8/5/2025	6/28/25-7/27/25	AMAZON		\$ 13.20
	BMO	8/5/2025	6/28/25-7/27/25	AMAZON		\$ 1,895.00
	BMO	8/5/2025	6/28/25-7/27/25	Menards		\$ 176.56
	BMO	8/5/2025	6/28/25-7/27/25	NAPA		\$ 30.43
	BMO	8/5/2025	6/28/25-7/27/25	Menards		\$ 91.14
	BMO	8/5/2025	6/28/25-7/27/25	Menards		\$ 162.92
	BMO	8/5/2025	6/28/25-7/27/25	Menards		\$ (176.56)
	BMO	8/5/2025	6/28/25-7/27/25	AMAZON		\$ 72.71

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Check No	Vendor	Check Date	Invoice No	Invoice Description	PO Number	Check Amount
	BMO	8/5/2025	6/28/25-7/27/25	Auto Value		\$ 491.97
	BMO	8/5/2025	6/28/25-7/27/25	AMAZON		\$ 47.00
	BMO	8/5/2025	6/28/25-7/27/25	AMAZON		\$ 76.46
	BMO	8/5/2025	6/28/25-7/27/25	Menards		\$ 130.80
	BMO	8/5/2025	6/28/25-7/27/25	INYO Pool		\$ 149.03
	BMO	8/5/2025	6/28/25-7/27/25	AMAZON		\$ 18.38
	BMO	8/5/2025	6/28/25-7/27/25	MANNCO TRUCKING		\$ 32.26
	BMO	8/5/2025	6/28/25-7/27/25	AMAZON		\$ 12.99
	BMO	8/5/2025	6/28/25-7/27/25	InterContinental Saint Paul Riverfront		\$ 395.04
	BMO	8/5/2025	6/28/25-7/27/25	InterContinental Saint Paul Riverfront		\$ 395.04
	BMO	8/5/2025	6/28/25-7/27/25	InterContinental Saint Paul Riverfront		\$ 395.04
	BMO	8/5/2025	6/28/25-7/27/25	InterContinental Saint Paul Riverfront		\$ 395.04
	BMO	8/5/2025	6/28/25-7/27/25	Bombas		\$ 62.95
	BMO	8/5/2025	6/28/25-7/27/25	Bombas		\$ (62.95)
	BMO	8/5/2025	6/28/25-7/27/25	AMAZON		\$ 63.60
	BMO	8/5/2025	6/28/25-7/27/25	AMAZON		\$ 28.29
	BMO	8/5/2025	6/28/25-7/27/25	AMAZON		\$ 109.22
	BMO	8/5/2025	6/28/25-7/27/25	AMAZON		\$ 46.02
	BMO	8/5/2025	6/28/25-7/27/25	MSHSL		\$ 126.58
	BMO	8/5/2025	6/28/25-7/27/25	MIDCO		\$ 108.40
	BMO	8/5/2025	6/28/25-7/27/25	MIDCO		\$ 131.26
	BMO	8/5/2025	6/28/25-7/27/25	Tech Check		\$ 292.44
	BMO	8/5/2025	6/28/25-7/27/25	Tara's Wharf		\$ 150.00
	BMO	8/5/2025	6/28/25-7/27/25	Super One		\$ 218.85
	BMO	8/5/2025	6/28/25-7/27/25	Goalie Monkey		\$ 438.98
	BMO	8/5/2025	6/28/25-7/27/25	Border Boxes		\$ 74.36
	BMO	8/5/2025	6/28/25-7/27/25	AMAZON		\$ 140.33
100037	Align Chiropractic & Wellness Cen	7/24/2025	11142-C01	DOT physical		\$ 100.00
100037	Align Chiropractic & Wellness Cen	7/24/2025	10275-C01	DOT physical		\$ 100.00
100037	Align Chiropractic & Wellness Cen	7/24/2025	11083-C01	DOT physical		\$ 100.00
100038	Essentia Health	7/24/2025	152117634 890003570	DOT drug test		\$ 88.00
100039	MN ENERGY RESOURCES	7/24/2025	071425	Stadium		\$ 19.33
100040	MN POWER	7/24/2025	070925	FHS/pool		\$ 2,203.34
100040	MN POWER	7/24/2025	070925	FHS/pool		\$ 6,610.02
100040	MN POWER	7/24/2025	070925	FES		\$ 6,230.88
100040	MN POWER	7/24/2025	070925	Arena		\$ 2,529.10
100040	MN POWER	7/24/2025	070925	Garage		\$ 506.64
100040	MN POWER	7/24/2025	070925	Fields & Stadiums		\$ 695.21

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Check No	Vendor	Check Date	Invoice No	Invoice Description	PO Number	Check Amount
100041	RATWIK ROSZAK & MALONEY F	7/24/2025	80011	FY25 Attorney services for FY25		\$ 99.52
100042	SHANNONS INC	7/24/2025	28816	labor		\$ 345.00
100042	SHANNONS INC	7/24/2025	28816	grundfos circ pump		\$ 670.88
100042	SHANNONS INC	7/24/2025	28801	labor		\$ 130.00
100042	SHANNONS INC	7/24/2025	28801	solenoid		\$ 316.28
100043	US Cellular	7/24/2025	0742274562	Elevator POTS lines		\$ 91.54
100043	US Cellular	7/24/2025	0742274562	Elevator POTS lines		\$ 53.54
100044	Align Chiropractic & Wellness Cen	7/24/2025	10256-C01	DOT physical		\$ 100.00
100045	Bond Trust Services Corporation	7/24/2025	96199 / 341491	Series 2025A Bond Interest		\$ 454,159.17
100045	Bond Trust Services Corporation	7/24/2025	97444-PA	Bond Paying Agent Fee		\$ 475.00
100045	Bond Trust Services Corporation	7/24/2025	97445-PA	Bond Paying Agent Fee		\$ 475.00
100045	Bond Trust Services Corporation	7/24/2025	96198 / 336541	Series 2020A Bond Interest		\$ 16,250.00
100045	Bond Trust Services Corporation	7/24/2025	96197 / 329850	Series 2018A Bond Interest		\$ 15,300.00
100046	AFSCME Council 65	7/28/2025	B2026020	ASCME Employee Ded Dues		\$ 754.44
100047	AFSCME People	7/28/2025	B2026020	ASCME Employee Ded Dues		\$ 4.25
100047	AFSCME People	7/28/2025	B2026010	ASCME Employee Ded Dues		\$ 4.25
100048	California State Disbursement Unit	7/28/2025	B2026010	Employee Deduct Child Support		\$ 173.07
100048	California State Disbursement Unit	7/28/2025	B2026020	Employee Deduct Child Support		\$ 173.07
100049	CINE 5	7/29/2025	39	snack packs		\$ 212.52
100049	CINE 5	7/29/2025	39	movie admission		\$ 247.00
100050	ADs on Boards	7/31/2025	1487	complete boards cleaning and seal		\$ 750.00
100051	Amherst H Wilder Foundation	7/31/2025	6416	DFC evaluation services		\$ 3,125.00
100052	AT & T Mobility First Net	7/31/2025	287297713167X070320	2 Bus WIFI's		\$ 76.46
100052	AT & T Mobility First Net	7/31/2025	287297713167X070320	IT Cell Phones		\$ 94.81
100052	AT & T Mobility First Net	7/31/2025	287297713167X070320	ACL Hotspot		\$ 38.23
100052	AT & T Mobility First Net	7/31/2025	287297713167X070320	3 Moveable Hotspots		\$ 114.69
100052	AT & T Mobility First Net	7/31/2025	287297713167X080320	2 Bus WIFI's		\$ 76.46
100052	AT & T Mobility First Net	7/31/2025	287297713167X080320	IT Cell Phones		\$ 67.56
100052	AT & T Mobility First Net	7/31/2025	287297713167X080320	ACL Hotspot		\$ 38.23
100052	AT & T Mobility First Net	7/31/2025	287297713167X080320	3 Moveable Hotspots		\$ 114.69
100053	Jorson & Carlson	7/31/2025	0754107	Sharpen 3 Zamboni Blades		\$ 170.94
100053	Jorson & Carlson	7/31/2025	0754107	shipping		\$ 25.00
100054	KANTOR ELECTRIC INC	7/31/2025	18699	FY25 removed light		\$ 112.00
100054	KANTOR ELECTRIC INC	7/31/2025	18781	Labor to check and advise Emergency Exits Signs/Li		\$ 920.00
100055	LAMAR COMPANIES	7/31/2025	117267275	US HWY 53 billboard for prevention education		\$ 550.00
100056	LVC Companies Inc	7/31/2025	174581	Annual Arena fire extinguisher service and mainten		\$ 168.00
100057	MIDCONTINENT COMMUNICATI	7/31/2025	12486140114843	Stadium and Fields Internet (Seasonal)		\$ 161.26
100057	MIDCONTINENT COMMUNICATI	7/31/2025	12486140114843	Arena Elevator 218-373-0250		\$ 49.01

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Check No	Vendor	Check Date	Invoice No	Invoice Description	PO Number	Check Amount
100059	NCPERS Group Life Ins.	7/31/2025	164913082025	Employee Share PERA LIFE		\$ 32.00
100059	NCPERS Group Life Ins.	7/31/2025	164913082025	Employee Share PERA Life		\$ 32.00
100060	POMP'S TIRE SERVICE	7/31/2025	650062201	counteract balance		\$ 41.60
100061	Rainy Lake Oil, Inc.	7/31/2025	044901	propane bulk arena		\$ 80.00
100062	TechCheck	7/31/2025	62479	Ruckus Wireless AP License, 3 year		\$ 500.00
100063	Teen Truth, LLC	7/31/2025	4648	Hired Services		\$ 2,750.00
100064	UHL	7/31/2025	75037A	Labor for inspections		\$ 2,719.00
100065	WATER DEPT	7/31/2025	072025	bus garage 74-006700-00		\$ 64.82
100065	WATER DEPT	7/31/2025	072025	FHS 13-014700-00		\$ 631.79
100065	WATER DEPT	7/31/2025	072025	FES 13-014800-00		\$ 140.64
100065	WATER DEPT	7/31/2025	072025	Scheela Field 13-014701-00		\$ 33.47
100065	WATER DEPT	7/31/2025	072025	Arena 13-014900-00		\$ 4,713.89
100065	WATER DEPT	7/31/2025	072025	Stadium 30-007100-02		\$ 65.22
100066	Madison National Life	7/31/2025	1707833A	Retiree Share Life Insurance		\$ 72.58
100066	Madison National Life	7/31/2025	1707833A	Com Ed Life Benefit & Deduction		\$ (5.70)
100066	Madison National Life	7/31/2025	1707833A	Food Service Life Benefit & Deduction		\$ 39.90
100066	Madison National Life	7/31/2025	1707833A	Life Benefit & Deduction		\$ 1,152.02
100066	Madison National Life	7/31/2025	1707832A	LTD Benefit		\$ 179.05
100067	SOUND NORTH	7/31/2025	7695A	350 Academic Calendars - KAPE		\$ 1,995.00
100068	AFSCME People	8/12/2025	B2026030	ASCME Employee Ded Dues		\$ 4.25
100069	California State Disbursement Unit	8/12/2025	B2026030	Employee Deduct Child Support		\$ 173.07
100070	AGILE SPORTS TECHNOLOGIES	8/13/2025	H00146834	Yearly Dues 25-26 Hudl	1004	\$ 991.53
100070	AGILE SPORTS TECHNOLOGIES	8/13/2025	H00146834	Yearly Dues 25-26 Hudl	1004	\$ 991.53
100070	AGILE SPORTS TECHNOLOGIES	8/13/2025	H00146834	Yearly Dues 25-26 Hudl	1004	\$ 1,274.82
100070	AGILE SPORTS TECHNOLOGIES	8/13/2025	H00146834	Yearly Dues 25-26 Hudl	1004	\$ 1,628.93
100070	AGILE SPORTS TECHNOLOGIES	8/13/2025	H00146834	Yearly Dues 25-26 Hudl	1004	\$ 4,391.04
100070	AGILE SPORTS TECHNOLOGIES	8/13/2025	H00146834	Yearly Dues 25-26 Hudl	1004	\$ 4,886.80
100071	Anderson, Jeremy, Falls Driving S	8/13/2025	1002	Reimbursement for ePayments Falls Driving	1005	\$ 690.00
100072	Anderson, Randy	8/13/2025	072125	Official : Com Ed Summer Softball on 7.21.25 doubl	1006	\$ 150.00
100073	Bennett, Kendra A	8/13/2025	070725	mileage reimbursement to and from ARCC	1008	\$ 172.22
100074	BSN SPORTS	8/13/2025	930306321	pre-wrap	1010	\$ 79.99
100074	BSN SPORTS	8/13/2025	930306321	athletic tape	1010	\$ 295.96
100074	BSN SPORTS	8/13/2025	930306321	Antiseptic Wipes	1010	\$ 52.99
100074	BSN SPORTS	8/13/2025	930306321	shipping	1010	\$ 42.90
100075	CESO Finance, LLC	8/13/2025	1943	Business Manager Services	1012	\$ 8,240.00
100076	D ERVASTI SALES CO, LLC, Dan	8/13/2025	17656	Hilltopper mound and home plate clay	1046	\$ 203.40
100077	Erickson, Jennifer L	8/13/2025	072925	Mile to and from Hermantown, MN, 7/29/25 for train	1014	\$ 168.95
100078	Frontline Education	8/13/2025	229113	Employee Evaluation Management		\$ 8,984.27

Payables Summary  
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Check No	Vendor	Check Date	Invoice No	Invoice Description	PO Number	Check Amount
100079	Heritage Embroidery & Design	8/13/2025	101727	Wilson Footballs	1017	\$ 854.00
100079	Heritage Embroidery & Design	8/13/2025	101727	shipping	1017	\$ 34.00
100080	LVC Companies Inc	8/13/2025	174588	Replace 3 Fire Alarms	1019	\$ 795.00
100080	LVC Companies Inc	8/13/2025	174570	Annual Fire Equipment Inspections-FES	1020	\$ 242.35
100080	LVC Companies Inc	8/13/2025	174584	Annual Kitchen Fire Suppression Inspection	1018	\$ 686.00
100081	M-F ATHLETIC CO INC	8/13/2025	348854	Track and Field equipment		\$ 360.00
100081	M-F ATHLETIC CO INC	8/13/2025	348854	Track and Field equipment		\$ 1,100.00
100081	M-F ATHLETIC CO INC	8/13/2025	348854	Track and Field equipment		\$ 1,100.00
100081	M-F ATHLETIC CO INC	8/13/2025	348854	Track and Field equipment		\$ 4,149.95
100082	NORTHEAST SERVICE COOPEF	8/13/2025	4862	Asbestos inspection FES	1054	\$ 3,958.00
100082	NORTHEAST SERVICE COOPEF	8/13/2025	4862	Asbestos inspection Bronco Arena	1054	\$ 3,958.00
100083	Rainy Lake Gazette, CherryRoad	8/13/2025	269862	Advertising Local Paper	1053	\$ 1,890.00
100084	TEAMLEADER	8/13/2025	136758	Metallic Gold Poms with handle	1039	\$ 233.82
100084	TEAMLEADER	8/13/2025	136758	Freight	1039	\$ 16.50
100085	UHL	8/13/2025	74728A	FES		\$ 3,998.00
100085	UHL	8/13/2025	74728A	FHS		\$ 4,546.00
100002	Bond Trust Services Corporation	8/11/2025	97444	pymnt not rcvd, reissued		\$ (475.00)
100002	Bond Trust Services Corporation	8/11/2025	96198	pymnt not rcvd, reissued		\$ (16,250.00)
100002	Bond Trust Services Corporation	8/11/2025	97445	pymnt not rcvd, reissued		\$ (475.00)
100002	Bond Trust Services Corporation	8/11/2025	96197	pymnt not rcvd, reissued		\$ (15,300.00)
100002	Bond Trust Services Corporation	8/11/2025	96199	pymnt not rcvd, reissued		\$ (454,159.17)
100058	MN DEPT OF LABOR & INDUSTF	7/31/2025	ALR0175810X	FY25 Elevator Annual License		\$ 100.00
100058	MN DEPT OF LABOR & INDUSTF	8/11/2025	ALR0175810X	duplicate payment		\$ (100.00)
<b>Total</b>						<b>\$ 350,634.15</b>

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF THE  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 361  
Monday, July 21, 2025, at 5:15 p.m.  
FHS Library**

**Call to Order**

Present with voting rights: Jessica Crosby, Tina Sather, JoAnne Smith, Roxanne Skogstad-Ditsch, Dale Johnson and Toni Korpi.

Absent: Bruce Raboin

Present: 6, Absent: 1.

Non-Voting Members Present: Beth Shermoen, Superintendent

2. Pledge of Allegiance

**Approval of Agenda**

Approve agenda as presented.

6-0. Motion by Roxanne Skogstad-Ditsch, then second by Tina Sather. Motion Carried.

Bruce Raboin: Absent, Jessica Crosby: Yea, Dale Johnson: Yea, Toni Korpi: Yea, Tina Sather: Yea, Roxanne Skogstad-Ditsch: Yea, Joann Smith: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

**Open Forum**

1. Public Open Forum

**Reports**

1. Melissa Tate, Falls High School Principal: Update on FHS

2. Timm Ringhofer, Activities Director:

3. Beth Shermoen, Superintendent: update on ISD 361

4. Policy Committee JoAnne Smith

5. Athletic Committee Tina Sather

**Consent Agenda**

6-0. Motion by Tina Sather, then second by Jessica Crosby. Motion Carried.

Bruce Raboin: Absent, Jessica Crosby: Yea, Dale Johnson: Yea, Toni Korpi: Yea, Tina Sather: Yea, Roxanne Skogstad-Ditsch: Yea, Joann Smith: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

1. Approve payroll in the amount of \$713,146.98 for pay periods 6/27/25 and 7/11/2025 and special payroll on 7/15/2025 in the amount of \$1,072.33.

2. Approve current accounts payable due in the amount of \$1,761,269.84.

3. Approve past meeting minutes for the regular school board meeting on June 16, 2025.

4. Maintain our facilities to be welcoming, safe and efficient for use by students and the community.

5. Approve the District's fiscal year 2026-27 Long-Term Facilities Maintenance Plan.

6. Approve the adoption of the ISD 361 Athletics, Activities, Community Education & Facilities Fees for the 2025/26 School Year effective August 1, 2025.
7. Approve the food service Milk Bid for the 2025-2026 school year with the recommendation to accept Sandstrom's bid.
8. Approve the food service Bread Bids for the 2025-2026 school year. Recommendation to accept Pan O Gold bid.
9. Approve the addition of the Community Education, Early Education & Child Care Coordinator position to the At-Will Employment Schedule, Section D - Full Time - Full Time Positions
10. Approve the addition of the ISD 361 Grant Writer to the at-will contract and position list.
11. Accept the resignation of Mike Blesi, Technology Director,
12. Approve the hire of Ariana Zahradka as Knowledge Bowl Coach for 2025-26 school year.
13. Approve the hire of Casey Stenberg as the Interim Technology Director.
14. Approve the hire of Chad Baldwin as Boys Varsity Hockey Head Coach for the 2025-26 season.
15. Approve a one-year contract and the hire of Emily Groom as Secondary English Teacher for the 2025-26 School Year.
16. Approve the hire of Jeff Kerry as the Girls Head Varsity Softball Coach for the 2025-26 season.
17. Approve the hire of Jeremy Anderson as Transportation/Facilities Manager.
18. Approve the hire of Joe Anselmo as Boys Varsity Head Basketball coach for the 2025-26 season.
19. Approve the hire of Lori Potter as Boys Basketball Cheer Advisor for the 2025-26 season
20. Approve the hire of Paetyn Zahn as Boys Hockey Cheer Advisor for the 2025-26 season.
21. Approve the hire of Sheryl Hendrickson as the head Girls Track and Field Coach for the 2025-26 season.
22. Approve the hire of Steve Joslyn as Boys Swimming Head Coach for the 2025-26 season.
23. Second Reading of School Board Policy 207: Public Hearings.
24. Second reading of School Board Policy 209: Code of Ethics
25. Second reading of School Board Policy 212: School Board Member Development.
26. Second reading of School Board Policy 213: School Board Committees
27. Second Reading of School Board Policy 214: Out-of-State Travel by School Board Members.
28. Second reading of School Board Policy 301: School District Administration.
29. Second reading of School Board Policy 302: Superintendent.
30. Second Reading of School Board Policy 303: Selection of Superintendent.
31. Second Reading of School Board Policy 304: Superintendent Contract, Duties, and Evaluation.
32. Second Reading of Policy 305: Policy Implementation.
33. Second Reading of Policy 306: Administrator Code of Ethics.
34. Second Reading of School Board Policy 404: Background Checks: Extracurricular Activities, Athletic Coaches/Personnel, Volunteers, Chaperones and other Persons in Direct Contact with Students.
35. First Reading of School Board Policy 401: Equal Employment Opportunity.

36. First Reading of School Board Policy 402: Disability Nondiscrimination Policy.
37. First Reading of School Board Policy 403: Discipline, Suspension, and Dismissal of School District Employees.
38. First Reading of School Board Policy 405: Veteran's Preference.
39. First Reading of School Board Policy 406: Public and Private Personal Data.
40. First Reading of School Board Policy 407: Employee Right to Know - Exposure to Hazardous Substances.
41. First Reading of School Board Policy 408: Subpoena of a School District Employee.
42. First Reading of School Board Policy 409: Employee Publications, Instructional Materials, Inventions, and Creations.
43. First Reading of School Board Policy 410: Family and Medical Leave Policy.
44. First Reading of School Board Policy 412: Expense Reimbursement.
45. First Reading of School Board Policy 413: Harassment and Violence.
46. First Reading of School Board Policy 414: Mandated Reporting of Child Neglect or Physical or Sexual Abuse.
47. First Reading of School Board Policy 415: Mandated Reporting of Maltreatment of Vulnerable Adults.
48. First Reading of School Board Policy 416: Drug, Alcohol, and Cannabis Testing.
49. First Reading of School Board Policy 417: Chemical Use and Abuse.
50. First Reading of School Board Policy 418: Drug-Free Workplace/Drug-Free School.
51. First Reading of School Board Policy 419: Tobacco-Free Environment; Possession and Use of Tobacco, Tobacco-Related Devices, and Electronic Delivery Devices; Vaping Awareness and Prevention Instruction.
52. First Reading of School Board Policy 420: Students and Employees with Sexually Transmitted Infections and Diseases and Certain Other Communicable Diseases and Infectious Conditions.
53. First Reading of School Board Policy 421: Gifts to Employees.
54. First Reading of School Board Policy 422: Policies Incorporated By Reference.
55. First Reading of School Board Policy 424: License Status.
56. First Reading of School Board Policy 425: Staff Development.
57. First Reading of School Board Policy 427: Workload Limits for Certain Special Education Teachers.

### **Action Items**

1. Resolution Acceptance of Gifts and Donations.

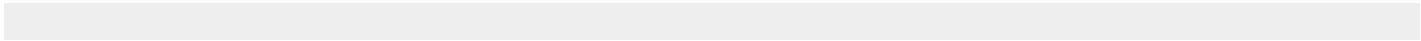
6-0. Motion by Jessica Crosby, then second by Tina Sather. Motion Carried.

Bruce Raboin: Absent, Jessica Crosby: Yea, Dale Johnson: Yea, Toni Korpi: Yea, Tina Sather: Yea, Roxanne Skogstad-Ditsch: Yea, Joann Smith: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

**Adjournment**

1. 6-0 Motion by Roxanne Skogstad-Ditsch, then second by Tina Sather. Motion Carried to adjourn meeting at 5:42pm.  
Bruce Raboin: Absent, Jessica Crosby: Yea, Dale Johnson: Yea, Toni Korpi: Yea, Tina Sather: Yea, Roxanne Skogstad-Ditsch: Yea, Joann Smith: Yea  
Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1



**Approved Minutes:**

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District Clerk	Date	Board Chair	Date
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**Formstack Submission For: MNBC Beef Classroom Promotion Program**

Submitted at 08/15/25 9:45 PM

**Name of organization/school:** ISD 361

**Contact name:** Karla Olson-Line

**Email:** [kline@isd361.org](mailto:kline@isd361.org)

**Address:** [1515 11th Street International Falls, MN 56649](#)

**Phone:** (218) 260-9614

**Date(s) of promotion/event/education:** September- January 2025

**Total amount requested (up to \$100 per fiscal year):** 100

**Provide a description of proposed event/program:**

A \$100 beef grant will go a long way in my classroom because, as a Family and Consumer Science teacher focusing on nutrition, I regularly teach students about the different cuts of meat, how they are processed, and how to prepare them in healthy, delicious ways. This funding will allow me to purchase quality beef products for hands-on lessons, giving students valuable, real-world experience while deepening their understanding of nutrition, cooking techniques, and the food industry. It will directly enhance our ability to make learning engaging, relevant, and skill-based.

**In order to receive reimbursement, receipts must be submitted within 3 months of completion of the event via email to Heather DeLong, Business Manager, at [heather@mnbeef.org](mailto:heather@mnbeef.org).**  
:

I understand & agree to these terms.



Kendra Bennett <kbennett@isd361.org>

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## FES Custodian position offer / Assistant Cook resignation

1 message

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**Kari Benedix** <kbenedix@isd361.org>

Tue, Aug 5, 2025 at 4:26 PM

To: Jen Erickson <jerickson@isd361.org>, Kendra Bennett <kbennett@isd361.org>

Jeremy offered me the position as FES Custodian-Boilerman / Bus Driver & I accepted.  
As a result, I will be resigning from the Assistant Cook at the Elementary School.  
Please let me know the next steps in this process.

Thank you,  
Kari Benedix-Obermaier

*This email message is intended only for the use of the individual, individuals, or entity to which it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged, confidential and exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient or an employee or agent responsible for delivering the message to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please delete it immediately. Thank you.*

**INTERNATIONAL FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
#361**

**BOARD POLICY 401  
Equal Employment Opportunity**

Adopted \_\_\_\_\_ By Reference \_\_\_\_\_

Revised \_\_\_\_\_ February 2022 \_\_\_\_\_

**401 EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

**[NOTE: School districts are not required by statute to have a policy addressing these issues. However, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission strongly encourages the adoption of a policy and will look for such a policy during accreditation visits, audits, or investigations.]**

**I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to provide equal employment opportunity for all applicants for school district employment and for all school district employees.

**II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

- A. The policy of the school district is to provide equal employment opportunity for all applicants and employees. The school district does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, disability, sexual orientation, including gender identity or expression, age, family care leave status, or veteran status. The school district also makes reasonable accommodations for disabled employees.

**[NOTE: The Minnesota Human Rights Act defines "sexual orientation" to include "having or being perceived as having a self-image or identity not traditionally associated with one's biological maleness or femaleness." Minnesota Statutes, section 363A.03, subdivision 44.]**

- B. The school district prohibits the harassment of any individual for any of the categories listed above. For information about the types of conduct that constitute impermissible harassment and the school district's internal procedures for addressing complaints of harassment, please refer to the school district's policy on harassment and violence.
- C. This policy applies to all areas of employment, including hiring, discharge, promotion, compensation, facilities, or privileges of employment.
- D. Every school district employee shall be responsible for following this policy.
- E. Any person having a question regarding this policy should discuss it with \_\_\_\_\_ (specify, e.g., the Personnel Manager).

Tim Everson, Falls High School Principal (alternate) at 218-283-2571 ext. 1104.

**Human Rights** –Tim Everson, Falls High School Principal at 218-283-2571 ext. 1104 **OR** Melissa Tate, Falls Elementary Principal (alternate) at 218-283-2571 ext. 1232.

**Section 504 Officer (Gr. 6-12)** – Marc Glowack, Dean of Students Falls High School; 1515 11<sup>th</sup> Street; International

Falls, MN 56649  
218-283-2571 ext. 1110 or Melissa Tate, Elementary Principal (alternate)  
at 218- 283-2571 ext. 1232.

**Section 504 Officer (Gr. K-5)** – Melissa Tate, Elementary Principal  
Falls Elementary School; 1414 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue; International Falls, MN  
56649 218-283-2571 ext. 1232 **OR** Marc Glowack, Dean of  
Students Falls High

School; 1515 11<sup>th</sup> Street; International Falls, MN 56649; 218-283-2571 ext. 1110A **grievance procedure for complaints of discrimination may be found in the District Office and on the District website at [www.isd361.k12.mn.us](http://www.isd361.k12.mn.us) under “School Board”; policies; Policy #401 Procedure.**

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. Ch. 363A (Minnesota Human Rights Act)  
29 U.S.C. § 621 *et seq.* (Age Discrimination in Employment Act)  
29 U.S.C. § 2615 (Family and Medical Leave Act)  
38 U.S.C. § 4211 *et seq.* (Employment and Training of Veterans)  
38 U.S.C. § 4301 *et seq.* (Employment and Reemployment Rights of Members of the Uniformed Services)  
42 U.S.C. § 2000e *et seq.* (Equal Employment Opportunities; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act)  
42 U.S.C. § 12101 *et seq.* (Equal Opportunity for Individuals with Disabilities)

**Cross References:** MSBA/MASA Model Policy 402 (Disability Nondiscrimination)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 405 (Veteran’s Preference)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 413 (Harassment and Violence)

**INTERNATIONAL FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
#361**

**BOARD POLICY            402  
Disability Nondiscrimination Policy**

Adopted \_\_\_\_\_ By Reference \_\_\_\_

Revised **March 2024**

**402    DISABILITY NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY**

**[NOTE: School districts are required by statute to have a policy addressing these issues.]**

**I.        PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to provide a fair employment setting for all persons and to comply with state and federal law.

**II.      GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

- A.      The school district shall not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities because of the disabilities of such individuals in regard to job application procedures, hiring, advancement, discharge, compensation, job training, and other terms, conditions, and privileges of employment.
- B.      The school district shall not engage in contractual or other arrangements that have the effect of subjecting its qualified applicants or employees with disabilities to discrimination on the basis of disability. The school district shall not exclude or otherwise deny equal jobs or job benefits to a qualified individual because of the known disability of an individual with whom the qualified individual is known to have a relationship or association.
- C.      The school district shall make reasonable accommodations for the known physical or mental limitations of an otherwise qualified individual with a disability who is an applicant or employee unless the accommodation would impose undue hardship on the operation of the business of the school district.
- D.      Any job applicant or employee wishing to discuss the need for a reasonable accommodation, or other matters related to a disability or the enforcement and application of this policy, should contact \_\_\_\_\_ (*list the name, title, office address, telephone number, and e-mail address*). This individual is the school district's appointed ADA/Section 504 coordinator. Contact information is as follows:

Elementary Section 504 Officer  
Melissa Tate, Elementary Principal  
1414 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
International Falls, MN 56649  
218-283-2571 ext 1232  
Alternate: Don Rolando

Secondary Section 504 Officer  
Don Rolando, Dean of Students  
1515 11<sup>th</sup> Street  
International Falls, MN 56649  
218-283-2571 ext 1126  
Alternate: Melissa Tate

**Legal References:**    Minn. Stat. Ch. 363A (Minnesota Human Rights Act)  
                                 29 U.S.C. § 794 *et seq.* (Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973)  
                                 42 U.S.C. § 12101 (Americans with Disabilities Act)  
                                 29 C.F.R. Part 32 (Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Handicap in Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance)

34 C.F.R. Part 104 (Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Handicap in Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance)

***Cross References:***

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 413 (Harassment and Violence)

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 521 (Student Disability Nondiscrimination)

**INTERNATIONAL FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT #361**

**BOARD POLICY 403  
Discipline, Suspension, and Dismissal of School District Employees**

Adopted \_\_\_\_ By Reference \_\_\_\_\_

Revised \_\_\_\_ September 2023 \_\_\_\_\_

**I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to achieve effective operation of the school district's programs through the cooperation of all employees under a system of policies and rules applied fairly and uniformly.

**II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

The disciplinary process described herein is designed to utilize progressive steps, where appropriate, to produce positive corrective action. While the school district intends that in most cases progressive discipline will be administered, the specific form of discipline chosen in a particular case and/or the decision to impose discipline in a manner otherwise, is solely within the discretion of the school district.

**III. DISCIPLINE**

A. Violation of School Laws and Rules

The form of discipline imposed for violations of school laws and rules may vary from an oral reprimand to termination of employment or discharge depending upon factors such as the nature of the violation, whether the violation was intentional, knowing and/or willful and whether the employee has been the subject of prior disciplinary action of the same or a different nature. School laws and rules to which this provision applies include:

1. policies of the school district;
2. directives and/or job requirements imposed by administration and/or the employee's supervisor; and
3. federal, state, and local laws, rules and regulations, including, but not limited to, the rules and regulations adopted by federal and state agencies.

B. Substandard Performance

An employee's substandard performance may result in the imposition of discipline ranging from an oral reprimand to termination of employment or discharge. In most instances, discipline imposed for the reason of substandard performance will follow a progressive format and will be accompanied by guidance, help and encouragement to improve from the employee's supervisor and reasonable time for correction of the employee's deficiency.

C. Misconduct

Misconduct of an employee will result in the imposition of discipline consistent with the seriousness of the misconduct. Conduct which falls into this category includes, but is not limited to:

1. unprofessional conduct;

2. failure to observe rules, regulations, policies and standards of the school district and/or directives and orders of supervisors and any other act of an insubordinate nature;
3. continuing neglect of duties in spite of oral warnings, written warnings and/or other forms of discipline;
4. personal and/or immoral misconduct;
5. use of illegal drugs, alcohol or any other chemical substance on the job or any use off the job which impacts on the employee's performance;
6. deliberate and serious violation of the rights and freedoms of other employees, students, parents or other persons in the school community;
7. activities of a criminal nature relating to the fitness or effectiveness of the employee to perform the duties of the position;
8. failure to follow the canons of professional and personal ethics;
9. falsification of credentials and experience;
10. unauthorized destruction of school district property;
11. other good and sufficient grounds relating to any other act constituting inappropriate conduct;
12. neglect of duty;
13. violation of the rights of others as provided by federal and state laws related to human rights.

#### **IV. FORMS OF DISCIPLINE**

- A. The forms of discipline that may be imposed by the school district include, but are not limited to:
  1. oral warning;
  2. written warning or reprimand;
  3. probation;
  4. disciplinary suspension, demotion or leave of absence with pay;
  5. disciplinary suspension, demotion or leave of absence without pay; and
  6. dismissal/termination or discharge from employment.
- B. Other forms of discipline, including any combination of the forms described in Paragraph A., above, may be imposed if, in the judgment of the administration, another form of discipline will better accomplish the school district's objective of stopping or correcting the offending conduct and improving the employee's performance.

#### **V. PROCEDURES FOR ADMINISTERING POLICY**

- A. When any form of discipline is imposed, the employee's supervisor will:
  1. Advise the employee of any inadequacy, deficiency or conduct which is the

cause of the discipline, either orally or in writing. If given orally, the supervisor will document the fact that an oral warning was given to the employee specifying the date, time, and nature of the oral warning.

2. Provide directives to the employee to correct the conduct or performance.
  3. Forward copies of all writings to the administrator in charge of personnel for filing in the employee's personnel file.
  4. Allow a reasonable period of time, when appropriate, for the employee to correct or remediate the performance or conduct.
  5. Specify the expected level of performance or modification of conduct to be required from the employee.
- B. The school district retains the right to immediately discipline, terminate, or discharge an employee as appropriate, subject to relevant governing law and collective bargaining agreements when applicable.

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. § 122A.40 (Employment; Contracts; Termination)  
Minn. Stat. § 122A.41 (Teacher Tenure Act; Cities of the First Class)  
Minn. Stat. § 122A.44 (Contracting with Teachers; Substitute Teachers)  
Minn. Stat. § 122A.58 (Coaches; Termination of Duties)  
Minn. Stat. § 123B.02, Subd. 14 (General Powers of Independent School Districts)  
Minn. Stat. § 123B.143 (Superintendent)  
Minn. Stat. § 123B.147 (Principals)  
Minn. Stat. § 197.46 *et seq.* (Veterans Preference Act)

**Cross References:** None

**INTERNATIONAL FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL  
DISTRICT #361**

**BOARD POLICY      405  
Veteran's Preference**

*Adopted* \_\_\_\_\_ *By Reference* \_\_\_\_\_

*Revised* \_\_\_\_\_ **September 2023** \_\_\_\_\_

**405 VETERAN'S PREFERENCE**

**[NOTE: The provisions of this policy substantially reflect legal requirements.]**

**I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to comply with the Minnesota Veterans Preference Act (VPA) which provides preference points for veterans applying for employment with political subdivisions, including school districts, as well as additional rights for veterans in the discharge process.

**II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

- A. The school district's policy is to comply with the VPA regarding veteran's preference rights and mandated preference points to veterans and spouses of deceased veterans or disabled veterans.
- B. The school district's policy is also to comply with the VPA requirement that no covered veteran may be removed from public employment except for incompetency or misconduct shown after a hearing upon due notice, upon stated charges, and in writing. This paragraph does not apply to the position of teacher.
- C. Veteran's preference points will be applied pursuant to applicable law as follows:
  - 1. A credit of ten points shall be added to the competitive open examination rating of a non-disabled veteran, who so elects, provided that the veteran obtained a passing rating on the examination without the addition of the credit points.
  - 2. A credit of fifteen points shall be added to the competitive open examination rating of a disabled veteran, who so elects, provided that the veteran obtained a passing rating on the examination without the addition of the credit points.
  - 3. A credit of five points shall be added to the competitive promotional examination rating of a disabled veteran, who so elects, provided that (a) the veteran obtained a passing rating on the examination without the addition of the credit points and (b) the veteran is applying for a first promotion after securing public employment.
  - 4. A preference may be used by the surviving spouse of a deceased veteran and by the spouse of a disabled veteran who, because of the disability, is unable to qualify.
- D. Eligibility for and application of veteran's preference, the definition of a veteran, and the definition of a disabled veteran for purposes of this policy will be pursuant to the VPA.
- E. When notifying applicants that they have been accepted into the selection process, the

school district shall notify applicants that they may elect to use veteran's preference.

- F. The school district's policy is to use a 100-point hiring system to enable allocation of veteran's preference points. The school district may or may not use a 100-point hiring system for filling teaching positions. If a 100-point hiring system is not used for filling a teaching position, preference points will not be added, but all veteran applicants who have proper licensure for the teaching position will be granted an interview for the position.
- G. If the school district rejects a member of the finalist pool who has claimed veteran's preference, the school district shall notify the finalist in writing of the reasons for the rejection and file the notice with the school district's personnel officer.  
**[NOTE: A school district may require a veteran to complete an initial hiring probationary period as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 43A.16.]**
- H. In accordance with the VPA, no honorably discharged veteran shall be removed from a position of employment except for incompetency, misconduct, or good faith abolishment of position.
  - 1. Incompetency or misconduct must be shown after a hearing, upon due notice, upon stated charges, in writing.
  - 2. A veteran must irrevocably elect to be governed either by the VPA or by arbitration provisions set forth in a collective bargaining agreement in the event of a discharge.
- I. The VPA and the provisions of this policy do not apply to the position of private secretary, superintendent, head of a department, or any person holding a strictly confidential relation to the school board or school district. The VPA and the provisions of this policy apply to teachers only with respect to the hiring process, as set forth in Paragraph F., above.

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. § 43A.11 (Veteran's Preference)  
Minn. Stat. § 197.455 (Veteran's Preference Applied) Minn. Stat. § 197.46 (Veterans Preference Act)  
*Hall v. City of Champlin*, 463 N.W.2d 502 (Minn. 1990)  
*Young v. City of Duluth*, 410 N.W.2d 27 (Minn. Ct. App. 1987)

**Cross References:** MSBA/MASA Model Policy 401 (Equal Employment Opportunity)

**INTERNATIONAL FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL  
DISTRICT #361  
BOARD POLICY 406  
Public and Private Personnel Data**

*Adopted* \_\_\_\_\_ *By Reference* \_\_\_\_\_

**Revised** \_\_\_\_\_ **February 2024** \_\_\_\_\_

**406 PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PERSONNEL DATA**

**[NOTE: The provisions of this policy accurately reflect the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act and are not discretionary in nature.]**

**I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to school district employees as to the data the school district collects and maintains regarding its employees, volunteers, independent contractors, and applicants ("personnel").

**II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

- A. All data on individuals collected, created, received, maintained, or disseminated by the school district, which is classified by statute or federal law as public, shall be accessible to the public pursuant to the procedures established by the school district.
- B. All other data on individuals is private or confidential.

**III. DEFINITIONS**

- A. "Confidential" means the data are not public and are not accessible to the subject.
- B. "Finalist" means an individual who is selected to be interviewed by the school board for a position.
- C. "Parking space leasing data" means the following government data on an applicant for, or lessee of, a parking space: residence address, home telephone number, beginning and ending work hours, place of employment, location of parking space, and work telephone number.
- D. "Personnel data" means government data on individuals maintained because they are or were employees, applicants for employment, volunteers or independent contractors for the school district. Personnel data include data submitted by an employee to the school district as part of an organized self-evaluation effort by the school district to request suggestions from all employees on ways to cut costs, make the school district more efficient, or to improve school district operations.
- E. "Private" means the data is not public and is accessible only to the following: the subject of the data, as limited by any applicable state or federal law; individuals within the school district whose work assignments reasonably require access; entities and agencies as determined by the responsible authority who are authorized by law to gain access to that specific data; and entities or individuals given access by the express written direction of the data subject.
- F. "Protected health information" means individually identifiable health information as defined in 45 Code of Federal Regulations, section 160.103, that is transmitted by electronic media, maintained in electronic media, or transmitted or maintained in

any other form or medium by a health care provider, in connection with a transaction covered by 45 Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 160, 162 and 164. "Protected health information" excludes individually identifiable health information in education records covered by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, employment records held by a school district in its role as employer; and records regarding a person who has been deceased for more than fifty (50) years.

- G. "Public" means that the data is available to anyone who requests it.
- H. "Public officials" means business managers; human resource directors; athletic directors whose duties include at least fifty (50) percent of their time spent in administration, personnel, supervision, and evaluation; chief financial officers; directors; and individuals defined as superintendents and principals and in a charter school, individuals employed in comparable positions.

#### **IV. PUBLIC PERSONNEL DATA**

- A. The following information on current and former employees, volunteers and independent contractors of the school district, is public:
  - 1. name;
  - 2. employee identification number, which may not be the employee's Social Security number;
  - 3. actual gross salary;
  - 4. salary range;
  - 5. terms and conditions of employment relationship;
  - 6. contract fees;
  - 7. actual gross pension;
  - 8. the value and nature of employer-paid fringe benefits;
  - 9. the basis for and the amount of any added remuneration, including expense reimbursement, in addition to salary;
  - 10. job title;
  - 11. bargaining unit;
  - 12. job description;
  - 13. education and training background;
  - 14. previous work experience;
  - 15. date of first and last employment;
  - 16. the existence and status of any complaints or charges against the employee, regardless of whether the complaint or charge resulted in a disciplinary action;
  - 17. the final disposition of any disciplinary action, as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 13.43, subdivision 2(b), together with the specific reasons for the action and data documenting the basis of the action, excluding data that would identify confidential sources who are employees of the school district;

18. the complete terms of any agreement settling any dispute arising out of the employment relationship, including superintendent buyout agreements, except that the agreement must include specific reasons for the agreement if it involves the payment of more than \$10,000 of public money, and such agreement may not have the purpose or effect of limiting access to or disclosure of personnel data or limiting the discussion of information or opinions related to personnel data;
  19. work location;
  20. work telephone number;
  21. badge number;
  22. work-related continuing education;
  23. honors and awards received; and
  24. payroll time sheets or other comparable data that are used only to account for employee's work time for payroll purposes, except to the extent that release of time sheet data would reveal the employee's reasons for the use of sick or other medical leave or other not public data.
- B. The following information on current and former applicants for employment by the school district is public:
1. veteran status;
  2. relevant test scores;
  3. rank on eligible list;
  4. job history;
  5. education and training; and
  6. work availability.
- C. Names of applicants are private data except when certified as eligible for appointment to a vacancy or when applicants are considered by the school board to be finalists for public employment.
- D. Applicants for appointment to a public body.
1. Data about applicants for appointment to a public body collected by the school district as a result of the applicant's application for employment are private data on individuals except that the following are public:
    - a. name;
    - b. city of residence, except when the appointment has a residency requirement that requires the entire address to be public;
    - c. education and training;
    - d. employment history;
    - e. volunteer work;

- f. awards and honors;
  - g. prior government service;
  - h. any data required to be provided or that are voluntarily provided in an application for appointment to a multimember agency pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 15.0597; and
  - i. veteran status.
2. Once an individual is appointed to a public body, the following additional items of data are public:
    - a. residential address;
    - b. either a telephone number or electronic mail address where the appointee can be reached, or both at the request of the appointee;
    - c. first and last dates of service on the public body;
    - d. the existence and status of any complaints or charges against an appointee; and
    - e. upon completion of an investigation of a complaint or charge against an appointee, the final investigative report is public, unless access to the data would jeopardize an active investigation.
  3. Notwithstanding paragraph 2., any electronic mail address or telephone number provided by a public body for use by an appointee shall be public. An appointee may use an electronic mail address or telephone number provided by the public body as the designated electronic mail address or telephone number at which the appointee can be reached.
- E. Regardless of whether there has been a final disposition as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 13.43, subdivision 2(b), upon completion of an investigation of a complaint or charge against a public official, as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 13.43, subdivision 2(e), or if a public official resigns or is terminated from employment while the complaint or charge is pending, all data relating to the complaint or charge are public, unless access to the data would jeopardize an active investigation or reveal confidential sources. Data relating to a complaint or charge against a public official is public only if:
1. the complaint or charge results in disciplinary action or the employee resigns or is terminated from employment while the complaint or charge is pending; or
  2. potential legal claims arising out of the conduct that is the subject of the complaint or charge are released as part of a settlement agreement

Data that is classified as private under another law is not made public by this provision.

**V. PRIVATE PERSONNEL DATA**

- A. All other personnel data not listed in Section IV are private data will not be otherwise released unless authorized by law.
- B. Data pertaining to an employee's dependents are private data on individuals.
- C. Data created, collected, or maintained by the school district to administer employee

assistance programs are private.

- D. Parking space leasing data with regard to data on individuals are private.
- E. An individual's checking account number is private when submitted to a government entity.
- F. Personnel data must be disseminated to labor organizations to the extent necessary to conduct elections, investigate and process grievances, and implement the provisions of Minnesota Statutes, chapters 179 and 179A. Personnel data shall be disseminated to labor organizations and the Bureau of Mediation Services ("BMS") to the extent the dissemination is ordered or authorized by the Commissioner of the BMS. Employee Social Security numbers are not necessary to implement the provisions of chapters 179 and 179A.

The home addresses, nonemployer issued phone numbers and email addresses, dates of birth, and emails or other communications between exclusive representatives and their members, prospective members, and nonmembers are private data on individuals.

Dissemination of personnel data to a labor organization pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 13.43, subdivision 6, shall not subject the school district to liability under Minnesota Statutes, section 13.08.

Personnel data described under Minnesota Statutes, section 179A.07, subdivision 8, must be disseminated to an exclusive representative under the terms of that subdivision.

- G. The school district may display a photograph of a current or former employee to prospective witnesses as part of the school district's investigation of any complaint or charge against the employee.
- H. The school district may, if its responsible authority or designee reasonably determines that the release of personnel data is necessary to protect an employee from harm to self or to protect another person who may be harmed by the employee, release data that are relevant to the concerns for safety to:
  - 1. the person who may be harmed and to the attorney representing the person when the data are relevant to obtaining a restraining order;
  - 2. a prepetition screening team conducting an investigation of the employee under Minnesota Statutes, section 253B.07, subdivision 1; or
  - 3. a court, law enforcement agency, or prosecuting authority.
- I. Private personnel data or confidential investigative data on employees may be disseminated to a law enforcement agency for the purpose of reporting a crime or alleged crime committed by an employee, or for the purpose of assisting law enforcement in the investigation of a crime or alleged crime committed by an employee.
- J. A complainant has access to a statement provided by the complainant to the school district in connection with a complaint or charge against an employee.
- K. When allegations of sexual or other types of harassment are made against an employee, the employee does not have access to data that would identify the complainant or other witnesses if the responsible authority determines that the employee's access to that data would:
  - 1. threaten the personal safety of the complainant or a witness; or

2. subject the complainant or witness to harassment.

If a disciplinary proceeding is initiated against the employee, data on the complainant or witness shall be available to the employee as may be necessary for the employee to prepare for the proceeding.

- L. The school district must report to the Minnesota Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board ("PELSB") or the Board of School Administrators ("BOSA"), whichever has jurisdiction over the teacher's or administrator's license, as required by Minnesota Statutes, section 122A.20, subdivision. 2, and shall, upon written request from the licensing board having jurisdiction over the license, provide the licensing board with information about the teacher or administrator from the school district's files, any termination or disciplinary proceeding, and settlement or compromise, or any investigative file in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section 122A.20, subdivision 2.
- M. Private personnel data shall be disclosed to the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development for the purpose of administration of the unemployment insurance program under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 268.
- N. When a report of alleged maltreatment of a student in an elementary, middle school, high school or charter school is made to the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Education ("MDE") under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 260E, data that are relevant and collected by the school facility about the person alleged to have committed maltreatment must be provided to the Commissioner on request for purposes of an assessment or investigation of the maltreatment report. Additionally, personnel data may be released for purposes of providing information to a parent, legal guardian, or custodian of a child in accordance with MDE Screening Guidelines.
- O. The school district shall release to a requesting school district or charter school private personnel data on a current or former employee related to acts of violence toward or sexual contact with a student, if
  1. an investigation conducted by or on behalf of the school district or law enforcement affirmed the allegations in writing prior to release and the investigation resulted in the resignation of the subject of the data; or
  2. the employee resigned while a complaint or charge involving the allegations was pending, the allegations involved acts of sexual contact with a student, and the employer informed the employee in writing, before the employee resigned, that if the employee resigns while the complaint or charge is still pending, the employer must release private personnel data about the employee's alleged sexual contact with a student to a school district or charter school requesting the data after the employee applies for employment with that school district or charter school and the data remain classified as provided in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 13.

Data that are released under this paragraph must not include data on the student.
- P. Data submitted by an employee to the school district as part of an organized self-evaluation effort by the school district to request suggestions from all employees on ways to cut costs, make the school district more efficient, or improve the school district operations is private data. An employee who is identified in a suggestion, however, shall have access to all data in the suggestion except the identity of the employee making the suggestion.
- Q. Protected health information, as defined in 45 Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 160 and 164, on employees is private and will not be disclosed except as permitted or

required by law.

R. Personal home contact information for employees may be used by the school district to ensure that an employee can be reached in the event of an emergency or other disruption affecting continuity of school district operations and may be shared with another government entity in the event of an emergency or other disruption to ensure continuity of operation for the school district or government entity.

S. The personal telephone number, home address, and electronic mail address of a current or former employee of a contractor or subcontractor maintained as a result of a contractual relationship between the school district and a contractor or subcontractor entered on or after August 1, 2012, are private data. These data must be shared with another government entity to perform a function authorized by law. The data also must be disclosed to a government entity or any person for prevailing wage purposes.

T. When a continuing contract teacher is discharged immediately because the teacher's license has been revoked due to a conviction for child abuse or sexual offenses involving a child as set forth in Minnesota Statutes, section 122A.40, subdivision 13(b), or when the Commissioner of the MDE makes a final determination of child maltreatment involving a teacher under Minnesota Statutes, section 260E.21, subdivision 4, or 260E.35, the school principal or other person having administrative control of the school must include in the teacher's employment record the information contained in the record of the disciplinary action or the final maltreatment determination, consistent with the definition of public data under Minnesota Statutes, section 13.41, subdivision. 5, and must provide PELSB and the licensing division at MDE with the necessary and relevant information to enable PELSB and MDE's licensing division to fulfill their statutory and administrative duties related to issuing, renewing, suspending, or revoking a teacher's license. In addition to the background check required under Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.03, a school board or other school hiring authority must contact PELSB and MDE to determine whether the teacher's license has been suspended or revoked, consistent with the discharge and final maltreatment determinations. Unless restricted by federal or state data practices law or by the terms of a collective bargaining agreement, the responsible authority for a school district must disseminate to another school district private personnel data on a current or former teacher (employee or contractor) of the district, including the results of background investigations, if the requesting school district seeks the information because the subject of the data has applied for employment with the requesting school district.

## **VI. MULTIPLE CLASSIFICATIONS**

If data on individuals are classified as both private and confidential by Minnesota Statutes, chapter 13, or any other state or federal law, the data are private.

## **VII. CHANGE IN CLASSIFICATIONS**

The school district shall change the classification of data in its possession if it is required to do so to comply with either judicial or administrative rules pertaining to the conduct of legal actions or with a specific statute applicable to the data in the possession of the disseminating or receiving agency.

## **VIII. RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY**

The school district has designated [*name and title, telephone*] as the authority responsible for personnel data.

The responsible authority, or a school district employee if so designated, shall serve as the school district's data practices compliance official and, as such, shall be the employee to whom persons may direct questions or concerns regarding problems in obtaining access to data or other data practices problems.

## **IX. EMPLOYEE AUTHORIZATION/RELEASE FORM**

An employee authorization form is included as an addendum to this policy.

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. Ch. 13 (Minnesota Government Data Practices Act)  
Minn. Stat. § 13.02 (Definitions)  
Minn. Stat. § 13.03 (Access to Government Data)  
Minn. Stat. § 13.05 (Duties of Responsible Authority)  
Minn. Stat. § 13.37 (General Nonpublic Data)  
Minn. Stat. § 13.39 (Civil Investigation)  
Minn. Stat. § 13.41 (Licensing Data)  
Minn. Stat. § 13.43 (Personnel Data)  
Minn. Stat. § 13.601, subd. 3 (Elected and Appointed Officials)  
Minn. Stat. § 15.0597 (Appointment to Multimember Agencies)  
Minn. Stat. § 122A.20, Subd. 2 (Mandatory Reporting)  
Minn. Stat. § 122A.40, Subds. 13 and 16 (Employment; Contracts; Termination)  
Minn. Stat. § 123B.03 (Background Check)  
Minn. Stat. § 123B.143, subd. 2 (Disclose Past Buyouts)  
Minn. Stat. Ch. 179 (Minnesota Labor Relations Act)  
Minn. Stat. Ch. 179A (Minnesota Public Labor Relations Act)  
Minn. Stat. § 253B.07 (Judicial Commitment: Preliminary Procedures)  
Minn. Stat. Ch. 260E (Reporting of Maltreatment of Minors)  
Minn. Stat. Ch. 268 (Unemployment Insurance)  
Minn. R. Pt. 1205 (Data Practices)  
P.L. 104-191 (HIPAA)  
45 C.F.R. Parts 160, 162, and 164 (HIPAA Regulations)

**Cross References:** MSBA/MASA Model Policy 206 (Public Participation in School Board Meetings/Complaints about Persons at School Board Meetings and Data Privacy Considerations)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 515 (Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 722 (Public Data Requests)  
MSBA Law Bulletin "I" (School Records – Privacy – Access to Data)

**INTERNATIONAL FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL  
DISTRICT #361**

**BOARD POLICY      407  
Employee Right to Know – Exposure to Hazardous Substances**

*Adopted \_\_\_\_\_ By Reference \_\_\_\_*

*Revised\_***October 2023**

**407    EMPLOYEE RIGHT TO KNOW – EXPOSURE TO HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES**

**[NOTE: School districts are not required by statute to have a policy addressing these issues. However, the provisions of this policy accurately reflect the requirements of Minnesota Statutes, section 182.653.]**

**I.      PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to provide school district employees a place of employment and conditions of employment free from recognized hazards that are likely to cause death or serious injury or harm.

**II.     GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

The policy of this school district is to provide information and training to employees who may be “routinely exposed” to a hazardous substance, harmful physical agent, infectious agent, or blood borne pathogen.

**III.    DEFINITIONS**

- A.      “Blood borne pathogen” means a pathogenic microorganism that is present in human blood and can cause disease in humans. This definition includes, but is not limited to, hepatitis B virus (HBV) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).
- B.      “Commissioner” means the Minnesota Commissioner of Labor and Industry.
- C.      “Harmful physical agent” means a physical agent determined by the commissioner as a part of the standard for that agent to present a significant risk to worker health or safety or imminent danger of death or serious physical harm to an employee. This definition includes, but is not limited to, radiation, whether ionizing or nonionizing.
- D.      “Hazardous substance” means a chemical or substance, or mixture of chemicals and substances, which:
  - 1.      is regulated by the Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration under the Code of Federal Regulations; or
  - 2.      is either toxic or highly toxic; an irritant; corrosive; a strong oxidizer; a strong sensitizer; combustible; either flammable or extremely flammable; dangerously reactive; pyrophoric; pressure-generating; compressed gas; carcinogen; teratogen; mutagen; reproductive toxic agent; or that otherwise, according to generally accepted documented medical or scientific evidence, may cause substantial acute or chronic personal injury or illness during or as a direct result of any customary or reasonably foreseeable accidental or intentional exposure to the chemical or substance; or

3. is determined by the commissioner as a part of the standard for the chemical or substance or mixture of chemicals and substances to present a significant risk to worker health and safety or imminent danger of death or serious physical harm to an employee as a result of foreseeable use, handling, accidental spill, exposure, or contamination.
- E. "Infectious agent" means a communicable bacterium, rickettsia, parasites, virus, or fungus determined by the commissioner by rule, with approval of the commissioner of health, which, according to documented medical or scientific evidence, causes substantial acute or chronic illness or permanent disability as a foreseeable and direct result of any routine exposure to the infectious agent. Infectious agent does not include an agent in or on the body of a patient before diagnosis.
- F. "Routinely exposed" means that there is a reasonable potential for exposure during the normal course of assigned work or when an employee is assigned to work in an area where a hazardous substance has been spilled.

#### **IV. TARGET JOB CATEGORIES**

Annual training will be provided to all full- and part-time employees who are "routinely exposed" to a hazardous substance, harmful physical agent, infectious agent, or blood borne pathogen as set forth above.

#### **V. TRAINING SCHEDULE**

Training will be provided to employees before beginning a job assignment as follows:

- A. Any newly hired employee assigned to a work area where he or she is determined to be "routinely exposed" under the guidelines above.
- B. Any employee reassigned to a work area where he or she is determined to be "routinely exposed" under the above guidelines.

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. Ch. 182 (Occupational Safety and Health)  
Minn. Rules Ch. 5205 (Occupational Safety and Health Standards)  
Minn. Rules Ch. 5206 (Hazardous Substances; Employee Right to Know Standards)  
29 C.F.R. § 1910.1050, App. B (Substance Technical Guidelines)

**Cross References:** MSBA/MASA Model Policy 420 (Students and Employees with Sexually Transmitted Infections and Diseases and Certain Other Communicable Diseases and Infectious Conditions)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 807 (Health and Safety Policy)



**INTERNATIONAL FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT #361**  
**BOARD POLICY 408**  
**Subpoena of a School District Employee**

Adopted \_\_\_\_\_ By Reference\_

Revised \_\_\_\_\_ October 2023\_

**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)

**INTERNATIONAL FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL  
DISTRICT #361**

**BOARD POLICY      409  
Employee Publications, Instructional Materials, Inventions, and Creations**

**Adopted** \_\_\_\_ **By Reference** \_

**Revised** \_\_\_\_\_ **September 2023** \_\_\_\_\_

**409    EMPLOYEE PUBLICATIONS, INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS, INVENTIONS, AND CREATIONS**

**I.      PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to identify and reserve the proprietary rights of the school district to certain publications, instructional materials, inventions, and creations which employees may develop or create, or assist in developing or creating, while employed by the school district.

**II.     GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

Unless the employee develops, creates or assists in developing or creating a publication, instructional material, computer program, invention or creation entirely on the employee's own time and without the use of any school district facilities or equipment, the employee shall immediately disclose and, on demand of the school district, assign any rights to publications, instructional materials, computer programs, materials posted on websites, inventions or creations which the employee develops or creates or assists in developing or creating during the term of employee's employment and for **five years** thereafter. In addition, employees shall sign such documents and perform such other acts as may be necessary to secure the rights of the school district relating to such publications, instructional materials, computer programs, materials posted on websites, inventions and/or creations, including domestic and foreign patents and copyrights.

**III.    NOTICE OF POLICY**

The school district shall give employees notice of this policy by such means as are reasonably likely to inform them of this policy.

**Legal References:**      Minn. Stat. § 181.78 (Agreements; Terms Relating to Inventions)  
                                 17 U.S.C. § 101 *et seq.* (Copyrights)

**Cross References:**      None

**INTERNATIONAL FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL  
DISTRICT #361**

**BOARD POLICY      410  
Family and Medical Leave Policy**

*Adopted \_\_\_\_\_ By Reference \_\_\_\_*

*Revised February 2024*

**410 FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE POLICY**

**[NOTE: School districts are required by statute to have a policy addressing these issues.]**

**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)

**INTERNATIONAL FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL  
DISTRICT #361**

**BOARD POLICY      412  
Expense Reimbursement**

*Adopted \_\_\_\_\_By Reference\_\_\_\_*

*Revised: **September 2023***

**412    EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT**

**[NOTE: School districts are required by statute to have a policy addressing these issues.]**

**I.      PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to identify school district business expenses that involve initial payment by an employee and qualify for reimbursement from the school district, and to specify the manner by which the employee seeks reimbursement.

**II.     AUTHORIZATION**

All school district business expenses to be reimbursed must be approved by the supervising administrator. Such expenses to be reimbursed may include transportation, meals, lodging, registration fees, required materials, parking fees, tips, and other reasonable and necessary school district business-related expenses.

**III.    REIMBURSEMENT**

- A.      Requests for reimbursement must be itemized on the official school district form and are to be submitted to the designated administrator. Receipts for lodging, commercial transportation, registration, and other reasonable and necessary expenses must be attached to the reimbursement form.
  
- B.      Automobile travel shall be reimbursed at the mileage rate set by the school board. Commercial transportation shall reflect economy fares and shall be reimbursed only for the actual cost of the trip.

**IV.    AIRLINE TRAVEL CREDIT**

- A.      Employees utilizing school district funds to pay for airline travel are required to ensure that any credits or other benefits issued by any airline accrue to the benefit of the school district rather than the employee.
  - 1.      To the extent an airline will not honor a transfer or assignment of credit or benefit from the employee to the school district, the employee shall report receipt of the credit or benefit to the designated administrator within 90 days of receipt of the credit or benefit.
  
  - 2.      Reports of the receipt of an airline credit or benefit shall be made in writing and shall include verification from the airline as to the credit or benefit received. Reimbursement for airline travel expenses will not be made until such documentation is provided.

- B. Employees who have existing credits or benefits issued by an airline based upon previously reimbursed airline travel for school district purposes will be required to utilize those credits or benefits toward any subsequent airline travel related to school district purposes, prior to reimbursement for such travel, to the extent permitted and/or feasible.
- C. The requirements of this section apply to all airline travel, regardless of where or how the tickets are purchased.

**V. ESTABLISHMENT OF DIRECTIVES AND GUIDELINES**

The superintendent shall develop a schedule of reimbursement rates for school district business expenses, including those expenses requiring advance approval and specific rates of reimbursement. The superintendent shall also develop directives and guidelines to address methods and times for submission of requests for reimbursement.

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. § 15.435 (Airline Travel Credit)  
Minn. Stat. § 471.665 (Mileage Allowances)  
Minn. Op. Atty. Gen. 1035 (Aug. 23, 1999) (Retreat Expenses)  
Minn. Op. Atty. Gen. 161b-12 (Aug. 4, 1997) (Transportation Expenses)  
Minn. Op. Atty. Gen. 161B-12 (Jan. 24, 1989) (Operating Expenses of Car)

**Cross References:** MSBA/MASA Model Policy 214 (Out-of-State Travel by School Board Members)

**INTERNATIONAL FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL  
DISTRICT #361  
BOARD POLICY 413  
Harassment and Violence**

Adopted\_\_\_\_\_By Reference\_

Revised\_December 2022

**413 HARASSMENT AND VIOLENCE**

**[NOTE: State law (Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.03) requires that school districts adopt a sexual, religious, and racial harassment and violence policy that conforms with the Minnesota Human Rights Act, Minnesota Statutes, chapter 363A (MHRA). This policy complies with that statutory requirement and addresses the other classifications protected by the MHRA and/or federal law. While the recommendation is that school districts incorporate the other protected classifications, in addition to sex, religion, and race, into this policy, they are not specifically required to do so by Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.03. The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) is required to maintain and make available a model sexual, religious, and racial harassment policy in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.03. MDE's policy differs from that of MSBA and imposes greater requirements upon school districts than required by law. For that reason, MSBA recommends the adoption of its model policy by school districts. Each school board must submit a copy of the policy the board has adopted to the Commissioner of MDE.]**

**I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to maintain a learning and working environment free from harassment and violence on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, familial status, status with regard to public assistance, sexual orientation, or disability (Protected Class).

**II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

- A. The policy of the school district is to maintain a learning and working environment free from harassment and violence on the basis of Protected Class. The school district prohibits any form of harassment or violence on the basis of Protected Class.
- B. A violation of this policy occurs when any student, teacher, administrator, or other school district personnel harasses a student, teacher, administrator, or other school district personnel or group of students, teachers, administrators, or other school district personnel through conduct or communication based on a person's Protected Class, as defined by this policy. (For purposes of this policy, school district personnel include school board members, school employees, agents, volunteers, contractors, or persons subject to the supervision and control of the district.)
- C. A violation of this policy occurs when any student, teacher, administrator, or other school district personnel inflicts, threatens to inflict, or attempts to inflict violence upon any student, teacher, administrator, or other school district personnel or group of students, teachers, administrators, or other school district personnel based on a person's Protected Class.
- D. The school district will act to investigate all complaints, either formal or informal, verbal or written, of harassment or violence based on a person's Protected Class, and to discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, or other school district personnel found to have violated this policy.

**III. DEFINITIONS**

- A. "Assault" is:
1. an act done with intent to cause fear in another of immediate bodily harm or death;
  2. the intentional infliction of or attempt to inflict bodily harm upon another; or
  3. the threat to do bodily harm to another with present ability to carry out the threat.
- B. "Harassment" prohibited by this policy consists of physical or verbal conduct, including, but not limited to, electronic communications, relating to an individual's or group of individuals' race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, familial status, status with regard to public assistance, sexual orientation, including gender identity or expression, or disability, when the conduct:
1. has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working or academic environment;
  2. has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or academic performance; or
  3. otherwise adversely affects an individual's employment or academic opportunities.

**[NOTE: In 2023, the Minnesota legislature amended the definition of "sexual orientation" in the Minnesota Human Rights Act as reflected in subpart 6 below.]**

- C. "Immediately" means as soon as possible but in no event longer than 24 hours.
- D. Protected Classifications
1. "Disability" means, with respect to an individual who
    - a. has a physical sensory or mental impairment that materially limits one or more major life activities of such individual;
    - b. has a record of such an impairment;
    - c. is regarded as having such an impairment; or
    - d. has an impairment that is episodic or in remission and would materially limit a major life activity when active.
  2. "Familial status" means the condition of one or more minors having legal status or custody with:
    - a. the minor's parent or parents or the minor's legal guardian or guardians; or
    - b. the designee of the parent or parents or guardian or guardians with the written permission of the parent or parents or guardian or guardians. Familial status also means residing with and caring for one or more individuals who lack the ability to meet essential requirements for physical health, safety, or self-care because the individual or individuals are unable to receive and evaluate information or make or communicate decisions. The protections afforded against harassment or discrimination on the basis of family status apply to any person who is pregnant or is in the process of securing legal custody of an

individual who has not attained the age of majority.

**[NOTE: The 2024 Minnesota legislature revised the definition of "familial status."]**

3. "Marital status" means whether a person is single, married, remarried, divorced, separated, or a surviving spouse and, in employment cases, includes protection against harassment or discrimination on the basis of the identity, situation, actions, or beliefs of a spouse or former spouse.
4. "National origin" means the place of birth of an individual or of any of the individual's lineal ancestors.
5. "Sex" includes, but is not limited to, pregnancy, childbirth, and disabilities related to pregnancy or childbirth.
6. "Sexual orientation" means to whom someone is, or is perceived of as being, emotionally, physically, or sexually attracted to based on sex or gender identity. A person may be attracted to men, women, both, neither, or to people who are genderqueer, androgynous, or have other gender identities.

**[NOTE: The 2023 Minnesota legislature redefined 'sexual orientation' in the Minnesota Human Rights Act.]**

7. "Status with regard to public assistance" means the condition of being a recipient of federal, state, or local assistance, including medical assistance, or of being a tenant receiving federal, state, or local subsidies, including rental assistance or rent supplements.
- E. "Remedial response" means a measure to stop and correct acts of harassment or violence, prevent acts of harassment or violence from recurring, and protect, support, and intervene on behalf of a student who is the target or victim of acts of harassment or violence.

F. Sexual Harassment

1. Sexual harassment includes unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, sexually motivated physical conduct, or other verbal or physical conduct or communication of a sexual nature when:
  - a. submission to that conduct or communication is made a term or condition, either explicitly or implicitly, of obtaining employment or an education; or
  - b. submission to or rejection of that conduct or communication by an individual is used as a factor in decisions affecting that individual's employment or education; or
  - c. that conduct or communication has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual's employment or education, or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive employment or educational environment.
2. Sexual harassment may include, but is not limited to:
  - a. unwelcome verbal harassment or abuse;
  - b. unwelcome pressure for sexual activity;
  - c. unwelcome, sexually motivated, or inappropriate patting, pinching, or

physical contact, other than necessary restraint of student(s) by teachers, administrators, or other school district personnel to avoid physical harm to persons or property;

- d. unwelcome sexual behavior or words, including demands for sexual favors, accompanied by implied or overt threats concerning an individual's employment or educational status;
- e. unwelcome sexual behavior or words, including demands for sexual favors, accompanied by implied or overt promises of preferential treatment with regard to an individual's employment or educational status; or
- f. unwelcome behavior or words directed at an individual because of sexual orientation, including gender identity or expression.

G. Sexual Violence

- 1. Sexual violence is a physical act of aggression or force or the threat thereof that involves the touching of another's intimate parts or forcing a person to touch any person's intimate parts. Intimate parts, as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 609.341, includes the primary genital area, groin, inner thigh, buttocks, or breast, as well as the clothing covering these areas.
- 2. Sexual violence may include, but is not limited to:
  - a. touching, patting, grabbing, or pinching another person's intimate parts
  - b. coercing, forcing, or attempting to coerce or force the touching of anyone's intimate parts;
  - c. coercing, forcing, or attempting to coerce or force sexual intercourse or a sexual act on another; or
  - d. threatening to force or coerce sexual acts, including the touching of intimate parts or intercourse, on another.

H. Violence

Violence prohibited by this policy is a physical act of aggression or assault upon another or group of individuals because of, or in a manner reasonably related to an individual's Protected Class.

**IV. REPORTING PROCEDURES**

- A. Any person who believes he or she has been the target or victim of harassment or violence on the basis of Protected Class by a student, teacher, administrator, or other school district personnel, or any person with knowledge or belief of conduct which may constitute harassment or violence prohibited by this policy toward a student, teacher, administrator, or other school district personnel or group of students, teachers, administrators, or other school district personnel should report the alleged acts immediately to an appropriate school district official designated by this policy. A person may report conduct that may constitute harassment or violence anonymously. However, the school district may not rely solely on an anonymous report to determine discipline or other remedial responses.
- B. The school district encourages the reporting party or complainant to use the report form available from the principal or building supervisor of each building or available from the school district office, but oral reports shall be considered complaints as well.

- C. Nothing in this policy shall prevent any person from reporting harassment or violence directly to a school district human rights officer or to the superintendent. If the complaint involves the building report taker, the complaint shall be made or filed directly with the superintendent or the school district human rights officer by the reporting party or complainant.

- D. In Each School Building

The building principal, the principal's designee, or the building supervisor (hereinafter the "building report taker") is the person responsible for receiving oral or written reports of harassment or violence prohibited by this policy at the building level. Any adult school district personnel who receives a report of harassment or violence prohibited by this policy shall inform the building report taker immediately. If the complaint involves the building report taker, the complaint shall be made or filed directly with the superintendent or the school district human rights officer by the reporting party or complainant. The building report taker shall ensure that this policy and its procedures, practices, consequences, and sanctions are fairly and fully implemented and shall serve as a primary contact on policy and procedural matters.

- E. A teacher, school administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other school employee shall be particularly alert to possible situations, circumstances, or events that might include acts of harassment or violence. Any such person who witnesses, observes, receives a report of, or has other knowledge or belief of conduct that may constitute harassment or violence shall make reasonable efforts to address and resolve the harassment or violence and shall inform the building report taker immediately. School district personnel who fail to inform the building report taker of conduct that may constitute harassment or violence or who fail to make reasonable efforts to address and resolve the harassment or violence in a timely manner may be subject to disciplinary action.

- F. Upon receipt of a report, the building report taker must notify the school district human rights officer immediately, without screening or investigating the report. The building report taker may request, but may not insist upon, a written complaint. A written statement of the facts alleged will be forwarded as soon as practicable by the building report taker to the human rights officer. If the report was given verbally, the building report taker shall personally reduce it to written form within 24 hours and forward it to the human rights officer. Failure to forward any harassment or violence report or complaint as provided herein may result in disciplinary action against the building report taker.

- G. In the District

The school board hereby designates Tim Everson, High School Principal, as the school district human rights officer(s) to receive reports or complaints of harassment or violence prohibited by this policy. If the complaint involves a human rights officer, the complaint shall be filed directly with the Alternate, Melissa Tate, Falls Elementary School Principal superintendent.<sup>1</sup>

Contact information is as follows:

- 1. Human Rights Officer: Tim Everson, Falls High School Principal  
Falls High School; 1515 11<sup>th</sup> Street; International Falls, MN 56649  
218-283-2571 ext. 1104 **or** Melissa Tate, Falls Elementary  
Principal (alternate) at 218-283-2571 ext. 1232.
- H. The school district shall conspicuously post the name of the human rights officer(s), including mailing addresses and telephone numbers.
- I. Submission of a good faith complaint or report of harassment or violence prohibited by

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<sup>1</sup> In some school districts the superintendent may be the human rights officer. If so, an alternative individual should be designated by the school board.

this policy will not affect the complainant or reporter's future employment, grades, work assignments, or educational or work environment.

- J. Use of formal reporting forms is not mandatory.
- K. Reports of harassment or violence prohibited by this policy are classified as private educational and/or personnel data and/or confidential investigative data and will not be disclosed except as permitted by law.
- L. The school district will respect the privacy of the complainant(s), the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with the school district's legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to comply with any discovery or disclosure obligations.
- M. Retaliation against a victim, good faith reporter, or a witness of violence or harassment is prohibited.
- N. False accusations or reports of violence or harassment against another person are prohibited.
- O. A person who engages in an act of violence or harassment, reprisal, retaliation, or false reporting of violence or harassment, or permits, condones, or tolerates violence or harassment shall be subject to discipline or other remedial responses for that act in accordance with the school district's policies and procedures.

Consequences for students who commit, or are a party to, prohibited acts of violence or harassment or who engage in reprisal or intentional false reporting may range from remedial responses or positive behavioral interventions up to and including suspension and/or expulsion.

Consequences for employees who permit, condone, or tolerate violence or harassment or engage in an act of reprisal or intentional false reporting of violence or harassment may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination or discharge.

Consequences for other individuals engaging in prohibited acts of violence or harassment may include, but not be limited to, exclusion from school district property and events and/or termination of services and/or contracts.

## **V. INVESTIGATION**

- A. By authority of the school district, the human rights officer, within three (3) days of the receipt of a report or complaint alleging harassment or violence prohibited by this policy, shall undertake or authorize an investigation. The investigation may be conducted by school district officials or by a third party designated by the school district.
- B. The investigation may consist of personal interviews with the complainant, the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and others who may have knowledge of the alleged incident(s) or circumstances giving rise to the complaint. The investigation may also consist of any other methods and documents deemed pertinent by the investigator.
- C. In determining whether alleged conduct constitutes a violation of this policy, the school district should consider the surrounding circumstances, the nature of the behavior, past incidents or past or continuing patterns of behavior, the relationships between the parties involved, and the context in which the alleged incidents occurred. Whether a particular action or incident constitutes a violation of this policy requires a determination based on all the facts and surrounding circumstances.
- D. In addition, the school district may take immediate steps, at its discretion, to protect

the target or victim, the complainant, and students, teachers, administrators, or other school district personnel pending completion of an investigation of alleged harassment or violence prohibited by this policy.

- E. The alleged perpetrator of the act(s) of harassment or violence shall be allowed the opportunity to present a defense during the investigation or prior to the imposition of discipline or other remedial responses.
- F. The investigation will be completed as soon as practicable. The school district human rights officer shall make a written report to the superintendent upon completion of the investigation. If the complaint involves the superintendent, the report may be filed directly with the school board. The report shall include a determination of whether the allegations have been substantiated as factual and whether they appear to be violations of this policy.

## **VI. SCHOOL DISTRICT ACTION**

- A. Upon completion of an investigation that determines a violation of this policy has occurred, the school district will take appropriate action. Such action may include, but is not limited to, warning, suspension, exclusion, expulsion, transfer, remediation, termination, or discharge. Disciplinary consequences will be sufficiently severe to try to deter violations and to appropriately discipline prohibited behavior. School district action taken for violation of this policy will be consistent with requirements of applicable collective bargaining agreements, Minnesota and federal law, and applicable school district policies and regulations.
- B. The school district is not authorized to disclose to a victim private educational or personnel data regarding an alleged perpetrator who is a student or employee of the school district. School officials will notify the targets or victims and alleged perpetrators of harassment or violence, the parent(s) or guardian(s) of targets or victims of harassment or violence and the parent(s) or guardian(s) of alleged perpetrators of harassment or violence who have been involved in a reported and confirmed harassment or violence incident of the remedial or disciplinary action taken, to the extent permitted by law.
- C. In order to prevent or respond to acts of harassment or violence committed by or directed against a child with a disability, the school district shall, where determined appropriate by the child's individualized education program (IEP) or Section 504 team, allow the child's IEP or Section 504 plan to be drafted to address the skills and proficiencies the child needs as a result of the child's disability to allow the child to respond to or not to engage in acts of harassment or violence.

## **VII. RETALIATION OR REPRISAL**

The school district will discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, or other school district personnel who commits an act of reprisal or who retaliates against any person who asserts, alleges, or makes a good faith report of alleged harassment or violence prohibited by this policy, who testifies, assists, or participates in an investigation of retaliation or alleged harassment or violence, or who testifies, assists, or participates in a proceeding or hearing relating to such harassment or violence. Retaliation includes, but is not limited to, any form of intimidation, reprisal, harassment, or intentional disparate treatment. Disciplinary consequences will be sufficiently severe to deter violations and to appropriately discipline the individual(s) who engaged in the harassment or violence. Remedial responses to the harassment or violence shall be tailored to the particular incident and nature of the conduct.

## **VIII. RIGHT TO ALTERNATIVE COMPLAINT PROCEDURES**

These procedures do not deny the right of any individual to pursue other avenues of recourse which may include filing charges with the Minnesota Department of Human Rights or another

state or federal agency, initiating civil action, or seeking redress under state criminal statutes and/or federal law.

#### **IX. HARASSMENT OR VIOLENCE AS ABUSE**

- A. Under certain circumstances, alleged harassment or violence may also be possible abuse under Minnesota law. If so, the duties of mandatory reporting under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 260E may be applicable.
- B. Nothing in this policy will prohibit the school district from taking immediate action to protect victims of alleged harassment, violence, or abuse.

#### **X. DISSEMINATION OF POLICY AND TRAINING**

- A. This policy shall be conspicuously posted throughout each school building in areas accessible to students and staff members.
- B. This policy shall be given to each school district employee and independent contractor who regularly interacts with students at the time of initial employment with the school district.
- C. This policy shall appear in the student handbook.
- D. The school district will develop a method of discussing this policy with students and employees.
- E. The school district may implement violence prevention and character development education programs to prevent and reduce policy violations. Such programs may offer instruction on character education including, but not limited to, character qualities such as attentiveness, truthfulness, respect for authority, diligence, gratefulness, self-discipline, patience, forgiveness, respect for others, peacemaking, resourcefulness, and/or sexual abuse prevention.
- F. This policy shall be reviewed at least annually for compliance with state and federal law.

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. § 120B.232 (Character Development Education)  
Minn. Stat. § 120B.234 (Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Education)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.03, Subd. 2 (Sexual, Religious, and Racial Harassment and Violence Policy)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.031 (School Student Bullying Policy)  
Minn. Stat. Ch. 363A (Minnesota Human Rights Act)  
Minn. Stat. § 609.341 (Definitions)  
Minn. Stat. Ch. 260E (Reporting of Maltreatment of Minors)  
20 U.S.C. §§ 1681-1688 (Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972)  
29 U.S.C. § 621 *et seq.* (Age Discrimination in Employment Act)  
29 U.S.C. § 794 (Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973)  
42 U.S.C. § 1983 (Civil Action for Deprivation of Rights)  
42 U.S.C. § 2000d *et seq.* (Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964)  
42 U.S.C. § 2000e *et seq.* (Title VII of the Civil Rights Act)  
42 U.S.C. § 12101 *et seq.* (Americans with Disabilities Act)

**Cross References:** MSBA/MASA Model Policy 102 (Equal Educational Opportunity)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 401 (Equal Employment Opportunity)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 402 (Disability Nondiscrimination Policy)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 403 (Discipline, Suspension, and Dismissal of School District Employees)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 406 (Public and Private Personnel Data)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 414 (Mandated Reporting of Child Neglect or Physical or Sexual Abuse)

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 415 (Mandated Reporting of Maltreatment of Vulnerable Adults)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 506 (Student Discipline)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 514 (Bullying Prohibition Policy)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 515 (Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 521 (Student Disability Nondiscrimination)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 522 (Title IX Sex Nondiscrimination, Grievance Procedures and Process)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 524 (Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Policy)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 525 (Violence Prevention)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 526 (Hazing Prohibition)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 528 (Student Parental, Family, and Marital Status Nondiscrimination)

**INTERNATIONAL FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL  
DISTRICT #361**

**BOARD POLICY      414  
Mandated Reporting of Child Neglect or Physical or Sexual Abuse**

*Adopted\_\_\_\_\_By Reference\_\_\_*

*Revised\_October 2023*

**414    MANDATED REPORTING OF CHILD NEGLECT OR PHYSICAL OR SEXUAL ABUSE**

**[NOTE: This policy reflects the mandatory law regarding reporting of maltreatment of minors and is not discretionary in nature.]**

**I.      PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to make clear the statutory requirements of school personnel to report suspected child neglect or physical or sexual abuse.

**II.     GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

- A.      The policy of the school district is to fully comply with Minnesota Statutes chapter 260E requiring school personnel to report suspected child neglect or physical or sexual abuse.
- B.      A violation of this policy occurs when any school personnel fails to immediately report instances of child neglect or physical or sexual abuse when the school personnel knows or has reason to believe a child is being neglected or physically or sexually abused or has been neglected or physically or sexually abused within the preceding three years.

**III.    DEFINITIONS**

- A.      "Accidental" means a sudden, not reasonably foreseeable, and unexpected occurrence or event that:
  - 1.      is not likely to occur and could not have been prevented by exercise of due care; and
  - 2.      if occurring while a child is receiving services from a facility, happens when the facility and the employee or person providing services in the facility are in compliance with the laws and rules relevant to the occurrence of event.
- B.      "Child" means one under age 18 and, for purposes of Minnesota Statutes, chapter 260C (Juvenile Safety and Placement) and Minnesota Statutes, chapter 260D (Child in Voluntary Foster Care for Treatment), includes an individual under age 21 who is in foster care pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, chapter 260C.451 (Foster Care Benefits Past Age 18).
- C.      "Immediately" means as soon as possible but in no event longer than 24 hours.
- D.      "Mandated reporter" means any school personnel who knows or has reason to believe a child is being maltreated or has been maltreated within the preceding three years.
- E.      "Mental injury" means an injury to the psychological capacity or emotional stability of

a child as evidenced by an observable or substantial impairment in the child's ability to function within a normal range of performance and behavior with due regard to the child's culture.

F. "Neglect" means the commission or omission of any of the acts specified below, other than by accidental means:

1. failure by a person responsible for a child's care to supply a child with necessary food, clothing, shelter, health care, medical, or other care required for the child's physical or mental health when reasonably able to do so;
2. failure to protect a child from conditions or actions that seriously endanger the child's physical or mental health when reasonably able to do so, including a growth delay, which may be referred to as a failure to thrive, that has been diagnosed by a physician and is due to parental neglect;
3. failure to provide for necessary supervision or child care arrangements appropriate for a child after considering factors as the child's age, mental ability, physical condition, length of absence, or environment, when the child is unable to care for the child's own basic needs or safety, or the basic needs or safety of another child in his or her care;
4. failure to ensure that a child is educated in accordance with state law, which does not include a parent's refusal to provide his or her child with sympathomimetic medications;
5. prenatal exposure to a controlled substance as defined in state law used by the mother for a nonmedical purpose, as evidenced by withdrawal symptoms in the child at birth, results of a toxicology test performed on the mother at delivery or the child's birth, medical effects or developmental delays during the child's first year of life that medically indicate prenatal exposure to a controlled substance, or the presence of a fetal alcohol spectrum disorder;
6. medical neglect as defined by Minnesota Statutes, section 260C.007, subdivision 6, clause (5);
7. chronic and severe use of alcohol or a controlled substance by a person responsible for the care of the child that adversely affects the child's basic needs and safety; or
8. emotional harm from a pattern of behavior that contributes to impaired emotional functioning of the child, which may be demonstrated by a substantial and observable effect in the child's behavior, emotional response, or cognition that is not within the normal range for the child's age and stage of development, with due regard to the child's culture.

Neglect does not occur solely because the child's parent, guardian, or other person responsible for the child's care in good faith selects and depends upon spiritual means or prayer for treatment or care of disease or remedial care of the child in lieu of medical care.

G. "Nonmaltreatment mistake" occurs when: (1) at the time of the incident, the individual was performing duties identified in the center's child care program plan required under Minnesota Rules, part 9503.0045; (2) the individual has not been determined responsible for a similar incident that resulted in a finding of maltreatment for at least seven years; (3) the individual has not been determined to have committed a similar nonmaltreatment mistake under this paragraph for at least four years; (4) any injury to a child resulting from the incident, if treated, is treated only with remedies that are available over the counter, whether ordered by a medical professional or not; and (5) except for the period when the incident occurred, the facility and the individual

providing services were both in compliance with all licensing requirements relevant to the incident. This definition only applies to child care centers licensed under Minnesota Rules, chapter 9503.

- H. "Person responsible for the child's care" means (1) an individual functioning within the family unit and having responsibilities for the care of the child such as a parent, guardian, or other person having similar care responsibilities, or (2) an individual functioning outside the family unit and having responsibilities for the care of the child such as a teacher, school administrator, other school employee or agent, or other lawful custodian of a child having either full-time or short-term care responsibilities including, but not limited to, day care, babysitting whether paid or unpaid, counseling, teaching, and coaching.
- I. "Physical abuse" means any physical injury, mental injury (under subdivision 13), or threatened injury (under subdivision 23), inflicted by a person responsible for the child's care on a child other than by accidental means; or any physical or mental injury that cannot reasonably be explained by the child's history of injuries, or any aversive or deprivation procedures, or regulated interventions, that have not been authorized by Minnesota Statutes, section 125A.0942 or 245.825.

Abuse does not include reasonable and moderate physical discipline of a child administered by a parent or legal guardian that does not result in an injury. Abuse does not include the use of reasonable force by a teacher, principal, or school employee as allowed by Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.582.

Actions that are not reasonable and moderate include, but are not limited to, any of the following: (1) throwing, kicking, burning, biting, or cutting a child; (2) striking a child with a closed fist; (3) shaking a child under age three; (4) striking or other actions that result in any nonaccidental injury to a child under 18 months of age; (5) unreasonable interference with a child's breathing; (6) threatening a child with a weapon, as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 609.02, subdivision 6; (7) striking a child under age one on the face or head; (8) striking a child who is at least age one but under age four on the face or head, which results in an injury; (9) purposely giving a child poison, alcohol, or dangerous, harmful, or controlled substances that were not prescribed for the child by a practitioner, in order to control or punish the child, or other substances that substantially affect the child's behavior, motor coordination, or judgment, or that result in sickness or internal injury, or that subject the child to medical procedures that would be unnecessary if the child were not exposed to the substances; (10) unreasonable physical confinement or restraint not permitted under Minnesota Statutes, section 609.379, including, but not limited to, tying, caging, or chaining; or (11) in a school facility or school zone, an act by a person responsible for the child's care that is a violation under Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.58.

- J. "Report" means any communication received by the local welfare agency, police department, county sheriff, or agency responsible for child protection pursuant to this section that describes maltreatment of a child and contains sufficient content to identify the child and any person believed to be responsible for the maltreatment, if known.
- K. "School personnel" means professional employee or professional's delegate of the school district who provides health, educational, social, psychological, law enforcement, or child care services.
- L. "Sexual abuse" means the subjection of a child by a person responsible for the child's care, by a person who has a significant relationship to the child (as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 609.341, subdivision 15), or by a person in a current or recent position of authority (as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 609.341, subdivision 10) to any act which constitutes a violation of Minnesota statutes prohibiting criminal sexual conduct. Such acts include sexual penetration, sexual

contact, solicitation of children to engage in sexual conduct, and communication of sexually explicit materials to children. Sexual abuse also includes any act involving a minor that constitutes a violation of Minnesota statutes prohibiting prostitution or use of a minor in a sexual performance. Sexual abuse includes all reports of known or suspected child sex trafficking involving a child who is identified as a victim of sex trafficking. Sexual abuse includes threatened sexual abuse which includes the status of a parent or household member who has committed a violation that requires registration under Minnesota Statutes, section 243.166, subdivision 1b(a) or (b).

- M. "Threatened injury" means a statement, overt act, condition, or status that represents a substantial risk of physical or sexual abuse or mental injury. Threatened injury includes, but is not limited to, exposing a child to a person responsible for the child's care who has (1) subjected the child to, or failed to protect a child from, an overt act or condition that constitutes egregious harm; (2) been found to be palpably unfit; (3) committed an act that resulted in an involuntary termination of parental rights; or (4) or committed an act that resulted in the involuntary transfer of permanent legal and physical custody of a child to a relative.

#### **IV. REPORTING PROCEDURES**

- A. A mandated reporter shall immediately report the information to the local welfare agency, agency responsible for assessing or investigating the report, police department, county sheriff, tribal social services agency, or tribal police department. The reporter will include his or her name and address in the report.
- B. An oral report shall be made immediately by telephone or otherwise. The oral report shall be followed by a written report within 72 hours (exclusive of weekends and holidays) to the appropriate police department, the county sheriff, local welfare agency, or agency responsible for assessing or investigating the report. Any report shall be of sufficient content to identify the child, any person believed to be responsible for the maltreatment of the child if the person is known, the nature and extent of the maltreatment, and the name and address of the reporter.
- C. Regardless of whether a report is made, as soon as practicable after a school receives information regarding an incident that may constitute maltreatment of a child in a school facility, the school shall inform the parent, legal guardian, or custodian of the child that an incident has occurred that may constitute maltreatment of the child, when the incident occurred, and the nature of the conduct that may constitute maltreatment.
- D. A mandated reporter who knows or has reason to know of the deprivation of custodial or parental rights or the kidnapping of a child shall report the information to the local police department or the county sheriff.
- E. With the exception of a health care professional or a social service professional who is providing the woman with prenatal care or other health care services, a mandated reporter shall immediately report to the local welfare agency if the person knows or has reason to believe that a woman is pregnant and has used a controlled substance for a nonmedical purpose during the pregnancy, including, but not limited to, tetrahydrocannabinol, or has consumed alcoholic beverages during the pregnancy in any way that is habitual or excessive.
- F. A person mandated by Minnesota law and this policy to report who fails to report may be subject to criminal penalties and/or discipline, up to and including termination of employment.
- G. An employer of a mandated reporter shall not retaliate against the person for reporting in good faith maltreatment against a child with respect to whom a report is made, because of the report.

- H. Any person who knowingly or recklessly makes a false report under the provisions of applicable Minnesota law or this policy shall be liable in a civil suit for any actual damages suffered by the person or persons so reported and for any punitive damages set by the court or jury, plus costs and reasonable attorney fees. Knowingly or recklessly making a false report also may result in discipline.

**[NOTE: The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) is responsible for assessing or investigating allegations of child maltreatment in schools. Although a report may be made to any of the agencies listed in Section IV. A., above, and there is no requirement to file more than one report, if the initial report is not made to MDE, it would be helpful to MDE if schools also report to MDE.]**

## **V. INVESTIGATION**

- A. The responsibility for assessing or investigating reports of suspected maltreatment rests with the appropriate state, county, or local agency or agencies. The agency responsible for assessing or investigating reports of maltreatment has the authority to interview the child, the person or persons responsible for the child's care, the alleged offender, and any other person with knowledge of the maltreatment for the purpose of gathering facts, assessing safety and risk to the child, and formulating a plan. The investigating agency may interview the child at school. The interview may take place outside the presence of the alleged offender or parent, legal guardian, or school official. The investigating agency, not the school, is responsible for either notifying or withholding notification of the interview to the parent, guardian, or person responsible for the child's care. School officials may not disclose to the parent, legal custodian, or guardian the contents of the notification or any other related information regarding the interview until notified in writing by the local welfare or law enforcement agency that the investigation or assessment has been concluded.
- B. When the investigating agency determines that an interview should take place on school property, written notification of intent to interview the child on school property must be received by school officials prior to the interview. The notification shall include the name of the child to be interviewed, the purpose of the interview, and a reference to the statutory authority to conduct an interview on school property.
- C. Except where the alleged offender is believed to be a school official or employee, the time and place, and manner of the interview on school premises shall be within the discretion of school officials, but the local welfare or law enforcement agency shall have the exclusive authority to determine who may attend the interview. The conditions as to time, place, and manner of the interview set by the school officials shall be reasonable, and the interview shall be conducted not more than 24 hours after the receipt of the notification unless another time is considered necessary by agreement between the school officials and the local welfare or law enforcement agency. Every effort must be made to reduce the disruption of the educational program of the child, other students, or school employees when an interview is conducted on school premises.
- D. Where the alleged offender is believed to be a school official or employee, the school district shall conduct its own investigation independent of MDE and, if involved, the local welfare or law enforcement agency.
- E. Upon request by MDE, the school district shall provide all requested data that are relevant to a report of maltreatment and are in the possession of a school facility, pursuant to an assessment or investigation of a maltreatment report of a student in school. The school district shall provide the requested data in accordance with the requirements of the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Minnesota Statutes, chapter 13, and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 United States Code, section 1232g.

## **VI. MAINTENANCE OF SCHOOL RECORDS CONCERNING ABUSE OR POTENTIAL ABUSE**

- A. When a local welfare or local law enforcement agency determines that a potentially abused or abused child should be interviewed on school property, written notification of the agency's intent to interview on school property must be received by school officials prior to the interview. The notification shall include the name of the child to be interviewed, the purpose of the interview, and a reference to the statutory authority to conduct the interview. The notification shall be private data. School officials may not disclose to the parent, legal custodian, or guardian the contents of the notice or any other related information regarding the interview until notified in writing by the local welfare or law enforcement agency that the investigation has been concluded.
- B. All records regarding a report of maltreatment, including any notification of intent to interview which was received by the school as described above in Paragraph A., shall be destroyed by the school only when ordered by the agency conducting the investigation or by a court of competent jurisdiction.

## **VII. PHYSICAL OR SEXUAL ABUSE AS SEXUAL HARASSMENT OR VIOLENCE**

Under certain circumstances, alleged physical or sexual abuse may also be sexual harassment or violence under Minnesota law. If so, the duties relating to the reporting and investigation of such harassment or violence may be applicable.

## **VIII. DISSEMINATION OF POLICY AND TRAINING**

- A. This policy shall appear in school personnel handbooks.
- B. The school district will develop a method of discussing this policy with school personnel.
- C. This policy shall be reviewed at least annually for compliance with state law.

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. Ch. 13 (Minnesota Government Data Practices Act)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.58 (Corporal Punishment)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.582 (Student Discipline; Reasonable Force)  
Minn. Stat. § 125A.0942 (Standards for Restrictive Procedures)  
Minn. Stat. § 243.166, Subd. 1b(a)(b) (Registration of Predatory Offenders)  
Minn. Stat. § 245.825 (Use of Aversive or Deprivation Procedures)  
Minn. Stat. § 260C.007, Subd. 6, Clause (5) (Child in Need of Protection)  
Minn. Stat. § 260C.451 (Foster Care Benefits Past Age 18)  
Minn. Stat. Ch. 260D (Child in Voluntary Foster Care for Treatment)  
Minn. Stat. Ch. 260E (Reporting of Maltreatment of Minors)  
Minn. Stat. § 609.02, Subd. 6 (Definitions – Dangerous Weapon)  
Minn. Stat. § 609.341, Subd. 10 (Definitions – Position of Authority)  
Minn. Stat. § 609.341, Subd. 15 (Definitions – Significant Relationship)  
Minn. Stat. § 609.379 (Reasonable Force)  
20 U.S.C. § 1232g (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act)

**Cross References:** MSBA/MASA Model Policy 415 (Mandated Reporting of Maltreatment of Vulnerable Adults)

**INTERNATIONAL FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL  
DISTRICT #361**

**BOARD POLICY      415  
Mandated Reporting of Maltreatment of Vulnerable Adults**

*Adopted \_\_\_\_\_ By Reference \_\_\_\_\_*

*Revised **January 2024***

**[NOTE: This policy reflects the mandatory law regarding reporting maltreatment of vulnerable adults and is not discretionary in nature.]**

**I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to make clear the statutory requirements of school personnel to report suspected maltreatment of vulnerable adults.

**II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

- A. The policy of the school district is to comply fully with Minnesota Statutes, section 626.557 requiring school personnel to report suspected maltreatment of vulnerable adults.
- B. A violation of this policy occurs when any school personnel fails to report suspected maltreatment of vulnerable adults when the school personnel has reason to believe that a vulnerable adult is being or has been maltreated, or has knowledge that a vulnerable adult has sustained a physical injury which is not reasonably explained.

**III. DEFINITIONS**

- A. "Abuse" means:
  - 1. An act against a vulnerable adult that constitutes a violation of, an attempt to violate, or aiding and abetting a violation of: (1) assault in the first through fifth degrees as defined in Minnesota Statutes, sections 609.221 to 609.224; (2) the use of drugs to injure or facilitate crime as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 609.235; (3) the solicitation, inducement, and promotion of prostitution as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 609.322; and (4) criminal sexual conduct in the first through fifth degrees as defined in Minnesota Statutes, sections 609.342 to 609.3451. A violation includes any action that meets the elements of the crime, regardless of whether there is a criminal proceeding or conviction.
  - 2. Conduct which is not an accident or therapeutic conduct as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 626.5572 which produces or could reasonably be expected to produce physical pain or injury or emotional distress including, but not limited to, the following: (1) hitting, slapping, kicking, pinching, biting, or corporal punishment of a vulnerable adult; (2) use of repeated or malicious oral, written, or gestured language toward a vulnerable adult or the treatment of a vulnerable adult which would be considered by a reasonable person to be disparaging, derogatory, humiliating, harassing, or threatening; (3) use of any aversive or deprivation procedure, unreasonable confinement, or involuntary seclusion, including the forced separation of the vulnerable adult from other persons against the will of the vulnerable adult or the legal representative of the vulnerable adult; and (4) use of any aversive or deprivation procedures for persons with developmental disabilities or related conditions not authorized under Minnesota Statutes, section 245.825.
  - 3. Any sexual contact or penetration as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 415-1

609.341 between a facility staff person or a person providing services in the facility and a resident, patient, or client of that facility.

4. The act of forcing, compelling, coercing, or enticing a vulnerable adult against the vulnerable adult's will to perform services for the advantage of another.

Abuse does not include actions specifically excluded by Minnesota Statutes, section 626.5572, subdivision 2.

- B. "Caregiver" means an individual or facility who has responsibility for the care of a vulnerable adult as a result of a family relationship, or who has assumed responsibility for all or a portion of the care of a vulnerable adult voluntarily, by contract, or by agreement.
- C. "Common entry point" means the entity responsible for receiving reports of alleged or suspected maltreatment of a vulnerable adult and designated by the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Human Services as the MN Adult Abuse Reporting Center (MAARC).
- D. "Financial Exploitation" means a breach of a fiduciary duty by an actor's unauthorized expenditure of funds entrusted to the actor for the benefit of the vulnerable adult or by an actor's failure to provide food, clothing, shelter, health care, therapeutic conduct or supervision, the failure of which results or is likely to result in detriment to the vulnerable adult. Financial exploitation also includes: the willful use, withholding or disposal of funds or property of a vulnerable adult; the obtaining of services for wrongful profit or advantage which results in detriment to the vulnerable adult; the acquisition of a vulnerable adult's funds or property through undue influence, harassment, duress, deception or fraud; and the use of force, coercion, or enticement to cause a vulnerable adult to perform services against the vulnerable adult's will for the profit or advantage of another.
- E. "Immediately" means as soon as possible, but no longer than 24 hours from the time initial knowledge that the incident occurred has been received.
- F. "Mandated reporter" means a professional or professional's delegate while engaged in education.
- G. "Maltreatment" means the neglect, abuse, or financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult.
- H. "Neglect" means the failure or omission by a caregiver to supply a vulnerable adult with care or services, including but not limited to, food, clothing, shelter, health care, or supervision which is: (1) reasonable and necessary to obtain or maintain the vulnerable adult's physical or mental health or safety, considering the physical and mental capacity or dysfunction of the vulnerable adult; and (2) which is not the result of an accident or therapeutic conduct.
- I. Neglect also means the absence or likelihood of absence of care or services, including but not limited to, food, clothing, shelter, health care, or supervision necessary to maintain the physical and mental health of the vulnerable adult which a reasonable person would deem essential to obtain or maintain the vulnerable adult's health, safety, or comfort considering the physical or mental capacity or dysfunction of the vulnerable adult. Neglect does not include actions specifically excluded by Minnesota Statutes, section 626.5572, subdivision 17.
- J. "School personnel" means professional employees or their delegates of the school district engaged in providing health, educational, social, psychological, law enforcement, or other caretaking services of vulnerable adults.
- K. "Vulnerable adult" means any person 18 years of age or older who: (1) is a resident or

inpatient of a facility; (2) receives services required to be licensed under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 245A, except as excluded under Minnesota Statutes, section 626.5572, subdivision 21(a)(2); (3) receives services from a licensed home care provider or person or organization that offers, provides, or arranges for personal care assistance services under the medical assistance program; or (4) regardless of residence or whether any type of service is received, possesses a physical or mental infirmity or other physical, mental, or emotional dysfunction that impairs the individual's ability to provide adequately for the individual's own care without assistance or supervision and, because of the dysfunction or infirmity and need for care or services, has an impaired ability to protect the individual's self from maltreatment.

#### **IV. REPORTING PROCEDURES**

- A. A mandated reporter as defined herein shall immediately report the suspected maltreatment to the common entry point responsible for receiving reports.
- B. Whenever a mandated reporter, as defined herein, knows or has reason to believe that an individual made an error in the provision of therapeutic conduct to a vulnerable adult which results in injury or harm, which reasonably requires the care of a physician, such information shall be reported immediately to the designated county agency. The mandated reporter also may report a belief that the error did not constitute neglect and why the error does not constitute neglect.
- C. The report shall, to the extent possible, identify the vulnerable adult, the caregiver, the nature and extent of the suspected maltreatment, any evidence of previous maltreatment, the name and address of the reporter, the time, date, and location of the incident, and any other information that the reporter believes might be helpful in investigating the suspected abuse or neglect. A mandated reporter may disclose not public data, as defined under Minnesota Statutes, section 13.02, to the extent necessary to comply with the above reporting requirements.
- D. A person mandated to report suspected maltreatment of a vulnerable adult who negligently or intentionally fails to report is liable for damages caused by the failure. A negligent or intentional failure to report may result in discipline. A mandatory reporter who intentionally fails to make a report, who knowingly provides false or misleading information in reporting, or who intentionally fails to provide all the material circumstances surrounding the reported incident may be guilty of a misdemeanor.
- E. Retaliation against a person who makes a good faith report under Minnesota law and this policy, or against vulnerable adult who is named in a report is prohibited.
- F. Any person who intentionally makes a false report under the provisions of applicable Minnesota law or this policy shall be liable in a civil suit for any actual damages suffered by the person or persons so reported and for any punitive damages set by the court or jury. The intentional making of a false report may result in discipline.

#### **V. INVESTIGATION**

The responsibility for investigating reports of suspected maltreatment of a vulnerable adult rests with the entity designated by the county for receiving reports.

#### **VI. DISSEMINATION OF POLICY AND TRAINING**

- A. This policy should appear in school personnel handbooks as appropriate.
- B. The school district will develop a method of discussing this policy with employees as appropriate.

C. This policy should be reviewed at least annually for compliance with state law.

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. § 13.02 (Government Data Practices; Definitions)  
Minn. Stat. Ch. 245A (Human Services Licensing)  
Minn. Stat. § 245.825 (Aversive and Deprivation Procedures; Licensed Facilities and Services)  
Minn. Stat. §§ 609.221-609.224 (Assault)  
Minn. Stat. § 609.232 (Crimes Against Vulnerable Adults; Definitions)  
Minn. Stat. § 609.235 (Use of Drugs to Injure or Facilitate Crime)  
Minn. Stat. § 609.322 (Solicitation, Inducement, and Promotion of Prostitution; Sex Trafficking)  
Minn. Stat. § 609.341 (Definitions)  
Minn. Stat. §§ 609.342-609.3451 (Criminal Sexual Conduct)  
Minn. Stat. § 626.557 (Reporting of Maltreatment of Vulnerable Adults)  
Minn. Stat. § 626.5572 (Definitions)  
*In re Kleven*, 736 N.W.2d 707 (Minn. App. 2007)

**Cross References:** MSBA/MASA Model Policy 103 (Complaints – Students, Employees, Parents, Other Persons)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 211 (Criminal or Civil Action Against School District, School Board Member, Employee, or Student)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 403 (Discipline, Suspension, and Dismissal of School District Employees)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 406 (Public and Private Personnel Data)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 414 (Mandated Reporting of Child Neglect or Physical or Sexual Abuse)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 515 (Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records)

**INTERNATIONAL FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL  
DISTRICT #361**

**BOARD POLICY      416  
Drug, Alcohol, and Cannabis Testing**

**Adopted\_\_\_\_\_By Reference\_**

*Revised\_February 2024*

**416    DRUG, ALCOHOL, AND CANNABIS TESTING**

**[NOTE: Drug, alcohol, and cannabis testing of school bus drivers and driver applicants is mandatory under federal law. The mandatory testing is described under Part III. of the policy. Drug and alcohol testing of other employees or drug and alcohol testing of school bus drivers beyond that mandated by federal law is optional and can be done under state law only if a policy containing provisions, such as the provisions of Part IV. of this policy, is adopted. Cannabis testing of school employees and school bus drivers shall conform to federal and Minnesota law. To preserve the right to request or require school district employees who are not bus drivers and applicants to undergo cannabis testing or drug and/or alcohol testing or to require bus drivers to submit to testing that is not federally mandated, a school district should adopt Part IV. as part of its drug and alcohol testing policy.]**

**I.      PURPOSE**

- A.      The school board recognizes the significant problems created by drug, alcohol, and cannabis use in society in general, and the public schools in particular. The school board further recognizes the important contribution that the public schools have in shaping the youth of today into the adults of tomorrow.
- B.      The school board believes that a work environment free of drug, alcohol, and cannabis use will be not only safer, healthier, and more productive but also more conducive to effective learning. To provide such an environment, the purpose of this policy is to provide authority so that the school board may require all employees and/or job applicants to submit to drug, alcohol, and cannabis testing in accordance with the provisions of this policy and as provided in federal law and Minnesota Statutes, sections 181.950-181.957.

**II.     GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

- A.      All school district employees and job applicants whose positions require a commercial driver's license will be required to undergo drug and alcohol testing and cannabis testing in accordance with federal law and the applicable provisions of this policy. The school district also may request or require that drivers submit to drug and alcohol testing and cannabis testing in accordance with the provisions of this policy and as provided in Minnesota Statutes, sections 181.950-181.957.
- B.      The school district may request or require that any school district employee or job applicant, other than an employee or applicant whose position requires a commercial driver's license, submit to drug and alcohol testing and cannabis testing in accordance with the provisions of this policy and as provided in Minnesota Statutes, sections 181.950-181.957.
- C.      The use, possession, sale, purchase, transfer, or dispensing of any drugs not medically prescribed, including medical cannabis, whether or not it has been prescribed for the

employee, is prohibited on school district property (which includes school district vehicles), while operating school district vehicles or equipment, and at any school-sponsored program or event. Use of drugs that are not medically prescribed, including medical cannabis, whether or not it has been prescribed for the employee, is also prohibited throughout the school or work day, including lunch or other breaks, whether or not the employee is on or off school district property. Employees under the influence of drugs that are not medically prescribed are prohibited from entering or remaining on school district property.

- D. The use, possession, sale, purchase, transfer, or dispensing of alcohol or cannabis is prohibited on school district property (which includes school district vehicles), while operating school district vehicles or equipment, and at any school-sponsored program or event. Use of alcohol or cannabis is also prohibited throughout the school or work day, including lunch or other breaks, whether or not the employee is on or off school district property. Employees under the influence of alcohol or cannabis are prohibited from entering or remaining on school district property.
- E. Any employee who violates this section shall be subject to discipline that includes, but is not limited to, immediate suspension without pay and immediate discharge.
- F. The school district may discipline, discharge, or take other adverse personnel action against an employee for cannabis flower, cannabis product, lower-potency hemp edible, or hemp-derived consumer product use, possession, impairment, sale, or transfer while an employee is working, on school district premises, or operating a school district vehicle, machinery, or equipment as follows:
  - 1. if, as the result of consuming cannabis flower, a cannabis product, a lower-potency hemp edible, or a hemp-derived consumer product, the employee does not possess that clearness of intellect and control of self that the employee otherwise would have;
  - 2. if cannabis testing verifies the presence of cannabis flower, a cannabis product, a lower-potency hemp edible, or a hemp-derived consumer product following a confirmatory test;
  - 3. as provided in the school district's written work rules for cannabis flower, cannabis products, lower-potency hemp edibles, or hemp-derived consumer products and cannabis testing, provided that the rules are in writing and in a written policy that contains the minimum information required by Minnesota Statutes, section 181.952; or
  - 4. as otherwise authorized or required under state or federal law or regulations, or if a failure to do so would cause the school district to lose a monetary or licensing-related benefit under federal law or regulations.

### **III. FEDERALLY MANDATED DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING FOR SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS**

#### **A. General Statement of Policy**

All persons subject to commercial driver's license requirements shall be tested for alcohol, cannabis (including medical cannabis), cocaine, amphetamines, opiates (including heroin), and phencyclidine (PCP), pursuant to federal law. Drivers who test positive for alcohol or drugs shall be subject to disciplinary action, which may include termination of employment.

#### **B. Definitions**

- 1. "Actual Knowledge" means actual knowledge by the school district that a driver has used alcohol or controlled substances based on: (a) direct observation of the employee's use (not observation of behavior sufficient to warrant

reasonable suspicion testing); (b) information provided by a previous employer; (c) a traffic citation; or (d) an employee's admission, except when made in connection with a qualified employee self-admission program.

2. "Alcohol Screening Device" (ASD) means a breath or saliva device, other than an Evidential Breath Testing Device (EBT), that is approved by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and placed on its Conforming Products List for such devices.
3. "Breath Alcohol Technician" (BAT) means an individual who instructs and assists individuals in the alcohol testing process and who operates the EBT.
4. "Commercial Motor Vehicle" (CMV) includes a vehicle that is designed to transport 16 or more passengers, including the driver.
5. "Designated Employer Representative" (DER) means an employee authorized by the school district to take immediate action to remove employees from safety-sensitive duties, or cause employees to be removed from these covered duties, and to make required decisions in the testing and evaluation process. The DER receives test results and other communications for the school district.
6. "Department of Transportation" (DOT) means United States Department of Transportation.
7. "Direct Observation" means observation of alcohol or controlled substances use and does not include observation of employee behavior or physical characteristics sufficient to warrant reasonable suspicion testing.
8. "Driver" is any person who operates a CMV, including full-time, regularly employed drivers, casual, intermittent, or occasional drivers, leased drivers, and independent owner-operator contractors.
9. "Evidential Breath Testing Device" (EBT) means a device approved by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration for the evidentiary testing of breath for alcohol concentration and placed on its Conforming Products List for such devices.
10. "Licensed Medical Practitioner" means a person who is licensed, certified, and/or registered, in accordance with applicable Federal, State, local, or foreign laws and regulations, to prescribe controlled substances and other drugs.
11. "Medical Review Officer" (MRO) means a licensed physician responsible for receiving and reviewing laboratory results generated by the school district's drug testing program and for evaluating medical explanations for certain drug tests.
12. "Refusal to Submit" (to an alcohol or controlled substances test) means that a driver: (a) fails to appear for any test within a reasonable time, as determined by the school district, consistent with applicable DOT regulations, after being directed to do so; (b) fails to remain at the testing site until the testing process is complete; (c) fails to provide a urine specimen or an adequate amount of saliva or breath for any DOT drug or alcohol test; (d) fails to permit the observation or monitoring of the driver's provision of a specimen in the case of a directly observed or monitored collection in a drug test; (e) fails to provide a sufficient breath specimen or sufficient amount of urine when directed and a determination has been made that no adequate medical explanation for the failure exists; (f) fails or declines to take an additional test as directed by the school district or the collector; (g) fails to

undergo a medical examination or evaluation, as directed by the MRO or the DER; (h) fails to cooperate with any part of the testing process (e.g., refuses to empty pockets when so directed by the collector, behaves in a confrontational way that disrupts the collection process, fails to wash hands after being directed to do so by the collector, fails to sign the certification on the forms); (i) fails to follow the observer's instructions, in an observed collection, to raise the driver's clothing above the waist, lower clothing and underpants, and to turn around to permit the observer to determine if the driver has any type of prosthetic or other device that could be used to interfere with the collection process; (j) possesses or wears a prosthetic or other device that could be used to interfere with the collection process; (k) admits to the collector or MRO that the driver adulterated or substituted the specimen; or (l) is reported by the MRO as having a verified adulterated or substituted test result. An applicant who fails to appear for a pre-employment test, who leaves the testing site before the pre-employment testing process commences, or who does not provide a urine specimen because he or she has left before it commences is not deemed to have refused to submit to testing.

13. "Safety-Sensitive Functions" are on-duty functions from the time the driver begins work or is required to be in readiness to work until relieved from work and all responsibility for performing work, and include such functions as driving, loading and unloading vehicles, or supervising or assisting in the loading or unloading of vehicles, servicing, repairing, obtaining assistance to repair, or remaining in attendance during the repair of a disabled vehicle.
14. "Screening Test Technician" (STT) means anyone who instructs and assists individuals in the alcohol testing process and operates an ASD.
15. "Stand Down" means the practice of temporarily removing an employee from performing safety-sensitive functions based only upon a laboratory report to the MRO of a confirmed positive test for a drug or drug metabolite, an adulterated test, or a substituted test before the MRO completes the verification process.
16. "Substance Abuse Professional" (SAP) means a qualified person who evaluates employees who have violated a DOT drug and alcohol regulation and makes recommendations concerning education, treatment, follow-up testing, and aftercare.

C. Policy and Educational Materials

**[NOTE: Federal regulations require that school districts provide materials to bus drivers explaining the school district's policies and procedures and the federal requirements with respect to the mandatory drug and alcohol testing of bus drivers (49 Code of Federal Regulations, section 382.601). Most of the required information is contained within this model policy. Additional materials to be provided to employees are described in Paragraph 2. of Section C.]**

1. The school district shall provide a copy of this policy and procedures to each driver prior to the start of its alcohol and drug testing program and to each driver subsequently hired or transferred into a position requiring driving of a CMV.
2. The school district shall provide to each driver information required under Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, including information concerning the effects of alcohol and controlled substances use on an individual's health, work, and personal life; signs and symptoms of an alcohol or controlled substance

problem (the driver's or a coworker's); and available methods of intervening when an alcohol or controlled substance problem is suspected, including confrontation, referral to an employee assistance program, and/or referral to management.

3. The school district shall provide written notice to representatives of employee organizations that the information described above is available.
4. The school district shall require each driver to sign a statement certifying that the driver received a copy of the policy and materials. This statement should be in the form of Attachment A to this policy. The school district will maintain the original signed certificate and will provide a copy to the driver if the driver so requests.

**[NOTE: The federal regulations require a school district to obtain a signed statement from each driver certifying that he or she received a copy of these materials (49 Code of Federal Regulations, section 382.601(d)). The original signed certificate must be maintained by the school district and a copy may be provided to the driver.]**

D. Alcohol and Controlled Substances Testing Program Manager

**[NOTE: School districts are required by federal regulations to designate a person to answer driver questions about the policy and the education materials described in Section C. above and to notify the drivers of the designation (49 Code of Federal Regulations, section 382.601(b)(1)).]**

1. The program manager will coordinate the implementation, direction, and administration of the alcohol and controlled substances testing policy for bus drivers. The program manager is the principal contact for the collection site, the testing laboratory, the MRO, the BAT, the SAP, and the person submitting to the test. Employee questions concerning this policy shall be directed to the program manager.
2. The school district shall designate a program manager and provide written notice of the designation to each driver along with this policy.

E. Specific Prohibitions for Drivers

**[NOTE: The specific prohibitions for drivers are contained, in large part, in 49 Code of Federal Regulations, sections 382.201-382.215.]**

1. Alcohol Concentration

No driver shall report for duty or remain on duty requiring the performance of safety-sensitive functions while having an alcohol concentration of 0.04 or greater. Drivers who test greater than 0.04 will be taken out of service and will be subject to evaluation by a professional and retesting at the driver's expense.

2. Alcohol Possession

No driver shall be on duty or operate a CMV while the driver possesses alcohol.

3. On-Duty Use

No driver shall use alcohol while performing safety-sensitive functions.

4. Pre-Duty Use

No driver shall perform safety-sensitive functions within four (4) hours after using alcohol.

5. Use Following an Accident

No driver required to take a post-accident test shall use alcohol for eight (8) hours following the accident, or until the driver undergoes a post-accident alcohol test, whichever occurs first.

6. Refusal to Submit to a Required Test

No driver shall refuse to submit to an alcohol or controlled substances test required by post-accident, random, reasonable suspicion, return-to-duty, or follow-up testing requirements. A verified adulterated or substituted drug test shall be considered a refusal to test.

7. Use of Controlled Substances

No driver shall report for duty or remain on duty requiring the performance of safety-sensitive functions when the driver uses any controlled substance, except when the use is pursuant to instructions (which have been presented to the school district) from a licensed medical practitioner who is familiar with the driver's medical history and has advised the driver that the substance does not adversely affect the driver's ability to safely operate a CMV. Controlled substance includes medical cannabis, regardless of whether the driver is enrolled in the state registry program.

8. Positive, Adulterated, or Substituted Test for Controlled Substance

No driver shall report for duty, remain on duty, or perform a safety-sensitive function if the driver tests positive for controlled substances, including medical cannabis, or has adulterated or substituted a test specimen for controlled substances.

9. General Prohibition

Drivers are also subject to the general policies and procedures of the school district that prohibit possession, transfer, sale, exchange, reporting to work under the influence of drugs or alcohol, and consumption of drugs or alcohol while at work or while on school district premises or operating any school district vehicle, machinery, or equipment.

F. Other Alcohol-Related Conduct

**[NOTE: Consequences for drivers engaging in alcohol-related conduct are described in the federal regulations (49 Code of Federal Regulations, section 382.505).]**

No driver found to have an alcohol concentration of 0.02 or greater but less than 0.04 shall perform safety-sensitive functions for at least twenty-four (24) hours following administration of the test. The school district will not take any action under this policy other than removal from safety-sensitive functions based solely on test results showing an alcohol concentration of less than 0.04 but may take action otherwise consistent with law and the policies of the school district.

G. Prescription Drugs/Cannabinoid Products

A driver shall inform the driver's supervisor if at any time the driver is using a controlled substance pursuant to a physician's prescription. The physician's

instructions shall be presented to the school district upon request. Use of a prescription drug shall be allowed if the physician has advised the driver that the prescribed drug will not adversely affect the driver's ability to safely operate a CMV. Use of medical cannabis is prohibited notwithstanding the driver's enrollment in the patient registry. Use of nonintoxicating cannabinoids or edible cannabinoid products is not a legitimate medical explanation for a confirmed positive test result for cannabis. MROs will verify a drug test confirmed as positive, even if a driver claims to have only used nonintoxicating cannabinoids or edible cannabinoid product.

H. Testing Requirements

**[NOTE: School districts must utilize the U.S. DOT Drug & Alcohol Clearinghouse ("Clearinghouse") to conduct pre-employment queries, annual queries, and reports regarding CDL holders who operate CMVs on public roads (including school bus drivers) and who are covered by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) Drug and Alcohol Testing Program. In addition to utilizing the Clearinghouse, school districts must continue to comply with the alcohol and controlled substance testing required under Title 49 of the Federal Regulations.]**

1. Pre-Employment Testing

**[NOTE: 49 Code of Federal Regulations, section 382.301 details the requirements for pre-employment testing.]**

- a. A driver applicant shall undergo testing for [alcohol and] controlled substances, including medical cannabis, before the first time the driver performs safety-sensitive functions for the school district.

**[NOTE: A school district is permitted, but not required, to conduct pre-employment testing for the use of alcohol. If a school district elects to require pre-employment testing for alcohol, it should include the bracketed text in Subparagraph a., above, and test all applicants uniformly.]**

- b. Tests shall be conducted only after the applicant has received a conditional offer of employment.
- c. To be hired, the applicant must test negative and must sign an agreement in the form of Attachment B to this policy, authorizing former employers to release to the school district all information on the applicant's alcohol tests with results of blood alcohol concentration of 0.04 or higher, or verified positive results for controlled substances, including medical cannabis, or refusals to be tested (including verified adulterated or substituted drug test results), or any other violations of DOT agency drug and alcohol testing regulations, or, if the applicant violated the testing regulations, documentation of the applicant's successful completion of DOT return-to-duty requirements (including follow-up tests), within the preceding two (2) years.

**[NOTE: Federal regulations require school districts to inquire about, obtain, and review alcohol and controlled substances information from prior employers pursuant to a driver's written authorization, prior to the time a driver performs safety-sensitive functions, if feasible (49 Code of Federal Regulations, section 382.413, and 49 Code of Federal Regulations, section 40.25). If not feasible, school districts must not permit the employee to perform safety-sensitive functions for more than thirty (30) days from the date a safety-sensitive function was performed unless the school districts make good faith efforts to obtain the information and to make a record of those efforts to be retained in**

**the driver's qualification file.]**

- d. The applicant also must be asked whether he or she has tested positive, or refused to test, on any pre-employment drug or alcohol test administered by an employer to which the employee, during the last two (2) years, applied for, but did not obtain, safety-sensitive transportation work covered by DOT testing rules.
- e. Before employing a driver subject to controlled substances and alcohol testing, the school district must conduct a full pre-employment query of the federal Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse ("Clearinghouse") to obtain information about whether the driver (1) has a verified positive, adulterated, or substituted controlled substances test result; (2) has an alcohol confirmation test with a concentration of 0.04 or higher; (3) has refused to submit to a test in violation of federal law; or (4) that an employer has reported actual knowledge that the driver used alcohol on duty, before duty, or following an accident in violation of federal law or used a controlled substance in violation of federal law. The applicant must give specific written or electronic consent for the school district to conduct the Clearinghouse full query (see Attachment C to this policy). The school district shall retain the consent for three (3) years from the date of the query.

2. Post-Accident Testing

**[NOTE: 49 Code of Federal Regulations, section 382.303, governs post-accident testing of drivers.]**

- a. As soon as practicable following an accident involving a CMV, the school district shall test the driver for alcohol and controlled substances, including medical cannabis, if the accident involved the loss of human life or if the driver receives a citation for a moving traffic violation arising from an accident which results in bodily injury or disabling damage to a motor vehicle.
- b. Drivers should be tested for alcohol use within two (2) hours and no later than eight (8) hours after the accident.
- c. Drivers should be tested for controlled substances, including medical cannabis, no later than thirty-two (32) hours after the accident.
- d. A driver subject to post-accident testing must remain available for testing, or shall be considered to have refused to submit to the test.
- e. If a post-accident alcohol test is not administered within two (2) hours following the accident, the school district shall prepare and maintain on file a record stating the reasons the test was not promptly administered and continue to attempt to administer the alcohol test within eight (8) hours.
- f. If a post-accident alcohol test is not administered within eight (8) hours following the accident or a post-accident controlled substances test is not administered within thirty-two (32) hours following the accident, the school district shall cease attempts to administer the test, and prepare and maintain on file a record stating the reasons for not administering the test.
- g. The school district shall report drug and alcohol program violations to the Clearinghouse as required under federal law.

3. Random Testing

**[NOTE: 49 Code of Federal Regulations, section 382.305 governs random testing of drivers.]**

- a. The school district shall conduct tests on a random basis at unannounced times throughout the year, as required by the federal regulations.

**[NOTE: The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) set the random alcohol selection and testing rate at 10% of the average number of driver positions and evaluates this minimum percentage each year. School districts can elect to stay at the 1998 level of 25% (or a higher percentage) if they do not want to monitor the minimum annual percentage rate set by the FHWA. The random controlled substances selection and testing rate has remained at 50% each year and has not been lowered to 25% as is possible under the regulations.]**

- b. The school district shall test for alcohol at a minimum annual percentage rate of 10% of the average number of driver positions, and for controlled substances, including medical cannabis, at a minimum annual percentage of 50%.
- c. The school district shall adopt a scientifically valid method for selecting drivers for testing, such as random number table or a computer-based random number generator that is matched with identifying numbers of the drivers. Each driver shall have an equal chance of being tested each time selections are made. Each driver selected for testing shall be tested during the selection period.
- d. Random tests shall be unannounced. Dates for administering random tests shall be spread reasonably throughout the calendar year.
- e. Drivers shall proceed immediately to the collection site upon notification of selection; provided, however, that if the driver is performing a safety-sensitive function, other than driving, at the time of notification, the driver shall cease to perform the function and proceed to the collection site as soon as possible.

4. Reasonable Suspicion Testing

**[NOTE: 49 Code of Federal Regulations, section 382.307 governs reasonable suspicion testing of drivers.]**

- a. The school district shall require a driver to submit to an alcohol test and/or controlled substances, including medical cannabis, test when a supervisor or school district official, who has been trained in accordance with the regulations, has reasonable suspicion to believe that the driver has used alcohol and/or controlled substances, including medical cannabis, on duty, within four (4) hours before coming on duty, or just after the period of the work day. The test shall be done as soon as practicable following the observation of the behavior indicative of the use of controlled substances or alcohol.
- b. The reasonable suspicion determination must be based on specific, contemporaneous, articulable observations concerning the driver's appearance, behavior, speech, or body odors. The required observations for reasonable suspicion of a controlled substances

violation may include indications of the chronic and withdrawal effects of controlled substances.

- c. Alcohol testing shall be administered within two (2) hours following a determination of reasonable suspicion. If it is not done within two (2) hours, the school district shall prepare and maintain a record explaining why it was not promptly administered and continue to attempt to administer the alcohol test within eight (8) hours. If an alcohol test is not administered within eight (8) hours following the determination of reasonable suspicion, the school district shall cease attempts to administer the test and state in the record the reasons for not administering the test.
- d. The supervisor or school district official who makes observations leading to a controlled substances reasonable suspicion test shall make and sign a written record of the observations within twenty-four (24) hours of the observed behavior or before the results of the drug test are released, whichever is earlier.

**[NOTE: 49 Code of Federal Regulations, sections 382.309, 40.23(d), and 40.305 govern return-to-duty testing.]**

5. Return-To-Duty Testing

A driver found to have violated this policy shall not return to work until an SAP has determined the employee has successfully complied with prescribed education and/or treatment and until undergoing return-to-duty tests indicating an alcohol concentration of less than 0.02 and a confirmed negative result for the use of controlled substances. The school district is not required to return a driver to safety-sensitive duties because the driver has met these conditions; this is a personnel decision subject to collective bargaining agreements or other legal requirements.

**[NOTE: 49 Code of Federal Regulations, sections 382.311, 40.307, and 40.309 govern follow-up testing.]**

6. Follow-Up Testing

When an SAP has determined that a driver is in need of assistance in resolving problems with alcohol and/or controlled substances, the driver shall be subject to unannounced follow-up testing as directed by the SAP for up to sixty (60) months after completing a treatment program.

7. Refusal to Submit and Attendant Consequences

**[NOTE: Consequences for refusals to submit to required drug and alcohol tests are addressed generally in 49 Code of Federal Regulations, sections 40.191, 40.261, and 382.211. They are more specifically addressed in 49 Code of Federal Regulations, sections 382.501-382.507 and in 49 United States Code, section 521(b).]**

- a. A driver or driver applicant may refuse to submit to drug and alcohol testing.
- b. Refusal to submit to a required drug or alcohol test subjects the driver or driver applicant to the consequences specified in federal regulations as well as the civil and/or criminal penalty provisions of 49 United States Code, section 521(b). In addition, a refusal to submit to testing establishes a presumption that the driver or driver applicant would test

positive if a test were conducted and makes the driver or driver applicant subject to discipline or disqualification under this policy.

- c. A driver applicant who refuses to submit to testing shall be disqualified from further consideration for the conditionally offered position.
- d. An employee who refuses to submit to testing shall not be permitted to perform safety-sensitive functions and will be considered insubordinate and subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal. If an employee is offered an opportunity to return to a DOT safety-sensitive duty, the employee will be evaluated by an SAP and must submit to a return-to-duty test prior to being considered for reassignment to safety-sensitive functions.
- e. Drivers or driver applicants who refuse to submit to required testing will be required to sign Attachment D to this policy.

I. Testing Procedures

1. Drug Testing

**[NOTE: The Federal Drug Testing Custody and Control Form (CCF) must be used to document every urine collection required by the DOT drug testing program (49 Code of Federal Regulations, section 40.45).]**

- a. Drug testing is conducted by analyzing a donor's urine specimen. Split urine samples will be collected in accordance with federal regulations. The donor will provide a urine sample at a designated collection site. The collection site personnel will then pour the sample into two sample bottles, labeled "primary" and "split," seal the specimen bottles, complete the chain of custody form, and prepare the specimen bottles for shipment to the testing laboratory for analysis. The specimen preparation shall be conducted in sight of the donor.
- b. If the donor is unable to provide the appropriate quantity of urine, the collection site person shall instruct the individual to drink up to forty (40) ounces of fluid distributed reasonably through a period of up to three (3) hours to attempt to provide a sample. If the individual is still unable to provide a complete sample, the test shall be discontinued and the school district notified. The DER shall refer the donor for a medical evaluation to determine if the donor's inability to provide a specimen is genuine or constitutes a refusal to test. For pre-employment testing, the school district may elect to not have a referral made, and revoke the employment offer.
- c. Drug test results are reported directly to the MRO by the testing laboratory. The MRO reports the results to the DER. If the results are negative, the school district is informed and no further action is necessary. If the test result is confirmed positive, adulterated, substituted, or invalid, the MRO shall give the donor an opportunity to discuss the test result. The MRO will contact the donor directly, on a confidential basis, to determine whether the donor wishes to discuss the test result. The MRO shall notify each donor that the donor has seventy-two (72) hours from the time of notification in which to request a test of the split specimen at the donor's expense. No split specimen testing is done for an invalid result.
- d. If the donor requests an analysis of the split specimen within

seventy-two (72) hours of having been informed of a confirmed positive test, the MRO shall direct, in writing, the laboratory to provide the split specimen to another Department of Health and Human Services – SAMHSA certified laboratory for analysis. If the donor has not contacted the MRO within seventy-two (72) hours, the donor may present the MRO information documenting that serious illness, injury, inability to contact the MRO, lack of actual notice of the confirmed positive test, or other circumstances unavoidably prevented the donor from timely making contact. If the MRO concludes that a legitimate explanation for the donor’s failure to contact him/her within seventy-two (72) hours exists, the MRO shall direct the analysis of the split specimen. The MRO will review the confirmed positive test result to determine whether an acceptable medical reason for the positive result exists. The MRO shall confirm and report a positive test result to the DER and the employee when no legitimate medical reason for a positive test result as received from the testing laboratory exists.

- e. If, after making reasonable efforts and documenting those efforts, the MRO is unable to reach the donor directly, the MRO must contact the DER who will direct the donor to contact the MRO. If the DER is unable to contact the donor, the donor will be suspended from performing safety-sensitive functions.
- f. The MRO may confirm the test as a positive without having communicated directly with the donor about the test results under the following circumstances:
  - (1) The donor expressly declines the opportunity to discuss the test results;
  - (2) The donor has not contacted the MRO within seventy-two (72) hours of being instructed to do so by the DER; or
  - (3) The MRO and the DER, after making and documenting all reasonable efforts, have not been able to contact the donor within ten (10) days of the date the confirmed test result was received from the laboratory.

2. Alcohol Testing

**[NOTE: The DOT Alcohol Testing Form (ATF) must be used for every DOT alcohol test. 49 Code of Federal Regulations, section 40.225.]**

- a. The federal alcohol testing regulations require testing to be administered by a BAT using an EBT or an STT using an ASD. EBTs and ASDs can be used for screening tests but only EBTs can be used for confirmation tests.
- b. Any test result less than 0.02 alcohol concentration is considered a “negative” test.
- c. If the donor is unable to provide sufficient saliva for an ASD, the DER will immediately arrange to use an EBT. If the donor attempts and fails to provide an adequate amount of breath, the school district will direct the donor to obtain a written evaluation from a licensed physician to determine if the donor’s inability to provide a breath sample is genuine or constitutes a refusal to test.
- d. If the screening test results show alcohol concentration of 0.02 or

higher, a confirmatory test conducted on an EBT will be required to be performed between fifteen (15) and thirty (30) minutes after the completion of the screening test.

- e. Alcohol tests are reported directly to the DER.

J. Driver/Driver Applicant Rights

- 1. All drivers and driver applicants subject to the controlled substances testing provisions of this policy who receive a confirmed positive test result for the use of controlled substances have the right to request, at the driver's or driver applicant's expense, a confirming retest of the split urine sample. If the confirming retest is negative, no adverse action will be taken against the driver, and a driver applicant will be considered for employment.

**[NOTE: The limitation on discharge in Paragraph 2., below, is contained solely in Minnesota law. State law is preempted by federal laws and regulations as it relates to drivers of commercial motor vehicles (such as bus drivers). See Minnesota Statutes, section 221.031, subdivision 10. Nevertheless, school districts may decide to comply with the state law requirements for various reasons (such as to treat all school district employees equally since employees subject to testing only under state law are accorded these additional rights). Consultation with the school district's legal counsel is recommended.]**

- 2. The school district will not discharge a driver who, for the first time, receives a confirmed positive drug or alcohol test UNLESS:
  - a. The school district has first given the employee an opportunity to participate in, at the employee's own expense or pursuant to coverage under an employee benefit plan, either a drug or alcohol counseling or rehabilitation program, whichever is more appropriate, as determined by the school district after consultation with the SAP; and
  - b. The employee refuses to participate in the recommended program, or fails to successfully complete the program as evidenced by withdrawal before its completion or by a positive test result on a confirmatory test after completion of the program.
  - c. This limitation on employee discharge does not bar discharge of an employee for reasons independent of the first confirmed positive test result.

K. Testing Laboratory

The testing laboratory for controlled substances will be Align Chiropractic & Wellness, 1322 Third St., Int'l Falls, MN., 218-283-2243, which is a laboratory certified by the Department of Health and Human Services - SAMHSA to perform controlled substances testing pursuant to federal regulations.

L. Confidentiality of Test Results

All alcohol and controlled substances test results and required records of the drug and alcohol testing program are considered confidential information under federal law and private data on individuals as that phrase is defined in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 13. Any information concerning the individual's test results and records shall not be released without written permission of the individual, except as provided for by regulation or law.

M. Recordkeeping Requirements and Retention of Records

1. The school district shall keep and maintain records in accordance with the federal regulations in a secure location with controlled access.

**[NOTE: The federal recordkeeping requirements for school districts are detailed in the federal regulations, 49 Code of Federal Regulations, sections 382.401 et seq. and 40.331. The DOT publishes a guide to the recordkeeping requirements of mandatory drug and alcohol testing for persons with a commercial driver's license as part of its Alcohol & Drugs: DOT Compliance Manual.]**

2. The required records shall be retained for the following minimum periods:

Basic records	5 years
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"Basic records" includes records of: (a) alcohol test results with concentration of 0.02 or greater; (b) verified positive drug test results; (c) refusals to submit to required tests (including substituted or adulterated drug test results); (d) SAP reports; (e) all follow-up tests and schedules for follow-up tests; (f) calibration documentation; (g) administration of the testing programs; and (h) each annual calendar year summary.

Information obtained from previous employers	3 years
Alcohol and controlled substance collection procedures	2 years
Negative and cancelled controlled substance tests	1 year
Alcohol tests with less than 0.02 concentration	1 year
Education and training records	indefinite

"Education and training records" must be maintained while the individuals perform the functions which require training and for the two (2) years after ceasing to perform those functions.

3. Personal Information

Personal information about all individuals who undergo any required testing under this policy will be shared with the U.S. DOT Drug & Alcohol Clearinghouse ("Clearinghouse") as required under federal law, including:

- a. The name of the person tested;
- b. Any verified positive, adulterated, or substituted drug test result;
- c. Any alcohol confirmation test with a BAC concentration of 0.04 or higher;
- d. Any refusal to submit to any test required hereunder;
- e. Any report by a supervisor of actual knowledge of use as follows
  - (1) Any on-duty alcohol use;
  - (2) Any pre-duty alcohol use;
  - (3) Any alcohol use following an accident; and
  - (4) Any controlled substance use.
- f. Any report from a substance abuse professional certifying successful completion of the return-to-work process;

- g. Any negative return-to-duty test; and
- h. Any employer's report of completion of follow-up testing.

N. Training

The school district shall ensure all persons designated to supervise drivers receive training. The designated employees shall receive at least sixty (60) minutes of training on alcohol misuse and at least sixty (60) minutes of training on controlled substances use. The training shall include physical, behavioral, speech, and performance indicators of probable misuse of alcohol and use of controlled substances. The training will be used by the supervisors to make determinations of reasonable suspicion.

O. Consequences of Prohibited Conduct and Enforcement

1. Removal

The school district shall remove a driver who has engaged in prohibited conduct from safety-sensitive functions. A driver shall not be permitted to return to safety-sensitive functions until and unless the return-to-duty requirements of federal DOT regulations have been completed.

2. Referral, Evaluation, and Treatment

- a. A driver or driver applicant who has engaged in prohibited conduct shall be provided a listing of SAPs readily available to the driver or applicant and acceptable to the school district.

**[NOTE: Subparagraphs b. and c., below, are based on the provisions of 49 Code of Federal Regulations, section 40.289.]**

- b. If the school district offers a driver an opportunity to return to a DOT safety-sensitive duty following a violation, the driver must be evaluated by an SAP and the driver is required to successfully comply with the SAP's evaluation recommendations (education, treatment, follow-up evaluation(s), and/or ongoing services). The school district is not required to provide an SAP evaluation or any subsequent recommended education or treatment.

**[NOTE: School districts are not required to comply with state law governing drug and alcohol testing when the individuals are subject to the federal laws and regulations (i.e., bus drivers). If a school district, after consultation with legal counsel, chooses to comply voluntarily with these requirements, Subparagraph b., above, can be modified as follows:**

- b. The school district will offer a driver an opportunity to return to a DOT safety-sensitive duty following an employee's first positive test result on a confirmatory test if no reasons independent of the first test result for discharge exist. Otherwise, the school district may choose, but is not required, to provide an SAP evaluation or any subsequent recommended education or treatment.]**

- c. Drivers are responsible for payment for SAP evaluations and services

unless a collective bargaining agreement or employee benefit plan provides otherwise.

- d. Drivers who engage in prohibited conduct also are required to comply with follow-up testing requirements.

3. Disciplinary Action

- a. Any driver who refuses to submit to post-accident, random, reasonable suspicion, or follow-up testing not only shall not perform or continue to perform safety-sensitive functions, but also may be subject to disciplinary action, which may include immediate suspension without pay and/or immediate discharge.
- b. Drivers who test positive with verification of a confirmatory test or are otherwise found to be in violation of this policy or the federal regulations shall be subject to disciplinary action, which may include immediate suspension without pay and/or immediate discharge.
- c. Nothing in this policy limits or restricts the right of the school district to discipline or discharge a driver for conduct which not only constitutes prohibited conduct under this policy but also violates the school district's other rules or policies.

P. Other Testing

The school district may request or require that drivers submit to cannabis testing or drug and alcohol testing other than that required by federal law. For example, drivers may be requested or required to undergo cannabis testing or drug and alcohol testing on an annual basis as part of a routine physical examination. Such additional testing of drivers will be conducted only in accordance with the provisions of this policy and as provided in Minnesota Statutes, sections 181.950-181.957. For purposes of such additional, non-mandatory testing, drivers fall within the definition of "other employees" covered by Section IV. of this policy.

**[NOTE: When the testing of drivers complies with federal testing requirements and procedures, school districts clearly are exempt from the state drug and alcohol testing requirements in Minnesota Statutes, sections 181.950-181.957. See Minnesota Statutes, section 221.031, subdivision 10. When testing beyond the federally mandated requirements, however, school districts still must comply with state law.]**

Q. Report to Clearinghouse

The school district shall promptly submit to the Clearinghouse any record generated of an individual who refuses to take an alcohol or controlled substance test required under Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, tests positive for alcohol or a controlled substance in violation of federal regulations, or violates subpart B of Part 382 of Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations (or any subsequent corresponding regulations).

R. Annual Clearinghouse Query

1. The school district must conduct a query of the Clearinghouse record at least once per year for information for all employees subject to controlled substance and alcohol testing related to CMV operation to determine whether information exists in the Clearinghouse about those employees. In lieu of a full query, the school district may obtain the individual driver's consent to conduct a limited query to satisfy the annual query requirement. The limited query will tell the employer whether there is information about the driver in the Clearinghouse

but will not release that information to the employer. If the limited query shows that information exists in the Clearinghouse about the driver, the school district must conduct a full query within twenty-four (24) hours or must not allow the driver to continue to perform any safety-sensitive function until the employee conducts the full query and the results confirm the driver's Clearinghouse record contains no prohibitions showing the driver has a verified positive, adulterated or substitute controlled substance test, no alcohol confirmation test with a concentration of 0.04 or higher, refuses to submit to a test, or was reported to have used alcohol on duty, before duty, following an accident or otherwise used a controlled substance in violation of the regulations except where the driver completed the SAP evaluation, referral and education/treatment process as required by the regulations. The school district shall comply with the query requirements set forth in 49 Code of Federal Regulations, section 382.701.

2. The school district may not access an individual's Clearinghouse record unless the school district (1) obtains the individual's prior written or electronic consent for access to the record; and (2) submits proof of the individual's consent to the Clearinghouse. The school district must retain the consent for three (3) years from the date of the last query. The school district shall retain for three (3) years a record of each request for records from the Clearinghouse and the information received pursuant to the request.
3. The school district shall protect the individual's privacy and confidentiality of each Clearinghouse record it receives. The school district shall ensure that information contained in a Clearinghouse record is not divulged to a person or entity not directly involved in assessing and evaluating whether a prohibition applies with respect to the individual to operate a CMV for the school district.
4. The school district may use an individual's Clearinghouse record only to assess and evaluate whether a prohibition applies with respect to the individual to operate a CMV for the school district.

#### **IV. CANNABIS TESTING OR DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING FOR OTHER EMPLOYEES**

The school district may request or require drug and alcohol testing or cannabis testing for other school district personnel, i.e., employees who are not school bus drivers, or job applicants for such positions. The school district does not have a legal duty to request or require any employee or job applicant to undergo drug and alcohol testing or cannabis testing as authorized in this policy, except for school bus drivers and other drivers of CMVs who are subject to federally mandated testing (See Section III. of this policy.) If a school bus driver is requested or required to submit to drug or alcohol testing beyond that mandated by federal law, the provisions of Section IV. of this policy will be applicable to such testing.

##### **A. Definitions**

1. "Cannabis testing" means the analysis of a body component sample according to the standards established under one of the programs listed in Minnesota Statutes, section 181.953, subdivision 1, for the purpose of measuring the presence or absence of cannabis flower, as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 342.01, subdivision 16, cannabis products, as defined in section 342.01, subdivision 20, lower-potency hemp edibles as defined in section 342.01, subdivision 50, hemp-derived consumer products as defined in section 342.01, subdivision 37, or cannabis metabolites in the sample tested. The definitions in this section apply to cannabis testing unless stated otherwise.
2. "Confirmatory test" and "confirmatory retest" mean a drug or alcohol test that uses a method of analysis allowed under one of the programs listed in Minnesota Statutes, section 181.953, subdivision 1.

3. "Drug" means a controlled substance as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 152.01, subdivision 4, but does not include marijuana, tetrahydrocannabinols, cannabis flower as defined in section 342.01, subdivision 16, cannabis products as defined in section 342.01, subdivision 20, lower-potency hemp edibles as defined in section 342.01, subdivision 50, and hemp-derived consumer products as defined in section 342.01, subdivision 37.
4. "Drug and Alcohol Testing," "Drug or Alcohol Testing," and "Drug or Alcohol Test" mean analysis of a body component sample by a testing laboratory that meets one of the criteria listed in Minnesota Statutes, section 181.953, subdivision 1, for the purpose of measuring the presence or absence of drugs, alcohol, or their metabolites in the sample tested. "Drug and alcohol testing," "drug or alcohol testing," and "drug or alcohol test" do not include cannabis or cannabis testing, unless stated otherwise.
5. "Employee" means a person, independent contractor, or person working for an independent contractor who performs services for compensation, in whatever form, for an employer.
6. "Initial screening test" means a drug or alcohol test or cannabis test which uses a method of analysis under one of the programs listed in Minnesota Statutes, section 181.953, subdivision 1.
7. "Job Applicant" means a person, independent contractor, or person working for an independent contractor who applies to become an employee of the school district in a position that does not require a commercial driver's license, and includes a person who has received a job offer made contingent on the person's passing drug or alcohol testing. Job applicants for positions requiring a commercial driver's license are governed by the provisions of the school district's drug and alcohol testing policy relating to school bus drivers (Section III).
8. "Oral fluid test" means analysis of a saliva sample for the purpose of measuring the presence of the same substances as drug and alcohol testing and cannabis testing that:
  - a. can detect drugs, alcohol, cannabis, or their metabolites in levels at or above the threshold detection levels contained in the standards of one of the programs listed in Minnesota Statutes, section 181.953, subdivision 1; and
  - b. does not require the services of a testing laboratory under section 181.953, subdivision 1.

**[NOTE: The 2024 Minnesota legislature added oral fluid tests.]**

9. "Other Employees" means any persons, independent contractors, or persons working for an independent contractor who perform services for the school district for compensation, either full time or part time, in whatever form, except for persons whose positions require a commercial driver's license, and includes both professional and nonprofessional personnel. Persons whose positions require a commercial driver's license are primarily governed by the provisions of the district's drug and alcohol testing policy relating to school bus drivers (Section III.). To the extent that the drug and alcohol testing of persons whose positions require a commercial driver's license is not mandated by federal law and regulations, such testing shall be governed by Section IV. of this policy and the drivers shall fall within this definition of "other employees."
10. "Positive Test Result" means a finding of the presence of drugs, alcohol, or

their metabolites in the sample tested in levels at or above the threshold detection levels contained in the standards of one of the programs listed in Minnesota Statutes, section 181.953, subdivision 1.

11. "Random Selection Basis" means a mechanism for selection of employees that:
  - a. results in an equal probability that any employee from a group of employees subject to the selection mechanism will be selected; and
  - b. does not give the school district discretion to waive the selection of any employee selected under the mechanism.
12. "Reasonable Suspicion" means a basis for forming a belief based on specific facts and rational inferences drawn from those facts.
13. "Safety-Sensitive Position" means a job, including any supervisory or management position, in which an impairment caused by drug, alcohol, or cannabis usage would threaten the health or safety of any person.

B. Circumstances Under Which Cannabis Testing or Drug or Alcohol Testing May Be Requested or Required; Exceptions

1. General Limitations

- a. The school district may not request or require an employee or job applicant whose position does not require a commercial driver's license to undergo drug or alcohol testing or cannabis testing, unless the testing is done pursuant to this policy; and either (1) is conducted by a testing laboratory that meets one of the criteria listed in Minnesota Statutes, section 181.953, subdivision 1; or (2) complies with the oral fluid test procedures under section 181.953, subdivision 5a.

**[NOTE: The 2024 Minnesota legislature amended this provision.]**

- b. The school district will not request or require an employee or job applicant whose position does not require a commercial driver's license to undergo drug and alcohol testing or cannabis testing on an arbitrary and capricious basis.

2. Cannabis Testing Exceptions

For the following positions, cannabis and its metabolites are considered a drug and subject to the drug and alcohol testing provisions in Minnesota Statutes, sections 181.950 to 181.957:

- a. a safety-sensitive position, as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 181.950, subdivision 13;
- b. a position requiring face-to-face care, training, education, supervision, counseling, consultation, or medical assistance to children;
- c. a position requiring a commercial driver's license or requiring an employee to operate a motor vehicle for which state or federal law requires drug or alcohol testing of a job applicant or an employee;
- d. a position of employment funded by a federal grant; or

- e. any other position for which state or federal law requires testing of a job applicant or an employee for cannabis.

3. Job Applicant Testing

The school district may request or require any job applicant whose position does not require a commercial driver's license to undergo drug and alcohol testing, provided a job offer has been made to the applicant and the same test is requested or required of all job applicants conditionally offered employment for that position. If a job applicant has received a job offer that is contingent on the applicant's passing drug and alcohol testing, the school district may not withdraw the offer based on a positive test result from an initial screening test that has not been verified by a confirmatory test. In the event the job offer is subsequently withdrawn, the school district shall notify the job applicant of the reason for its action.

- a. The school district must not request or require a job applicant to undergo cannabis testing solely for the purpose of determining the presence or absence of cannabis as a condition of employment unless otherwise required by state or federal law.
- b. Unless otherwise required by state or federal law, the school district must not refuse to hire a job applicant solely because the job applicant submits to a cannabis test or a drug and alcohol test authorized by Minnesota law and the results of the test indicate the presence of cannabis.
- c. The school district must not request or require an employee or job applicant to undergo cannabis testing on an arbitrary or capricious basis.
- d. Cannabis testing authorized under paragraph (d) must comply with the safeguards for testing employees provided in Minnesota Statutes, sections 181.953 and 181.954.

4. Oral fluid testing

- a. When drug and alcohol testing or cannabis testing is otherwise authorized under Minnesota Statutes, section 181.951, the school district may request an employee or job applicant to undergo oral fluid testing according to the procedures under Minnesota Statutes, section 181.953, subdivision 5a as an alternative to using the services of a testing laboratory under Minnesota Statutes, section 181.953, subdivision 1.
- b. The employee must be informed of the test result at the time of the oral fluid test. Within 48 hours of an oral fluid test that indicates a positive test result or that is inconclusive or invalid, the employee or job applicant may request drug or alcohol testing or cannabis testing at no cost to the employee or job applicant using the services of a testing laboratory under Minnesota Statutes, section 181.953, subdivision 1, and according to the existing laboratory testing standards in subdivisions 1 to 5. The rights, notice, and limitations in Minnesota Statutes, section 181.953, subdivision 6, paragraph (b), and subdivisions 7 to 8 and 10 to 11 apply to an employee or job applicant and a laboratory test conducted pursuant to this paragraph.
- c. If the laboratory test under paragraph (b) above indicates a positive result, any subsequent confirmatory retest, if requested by the employee or job applicant, must be conducted following the retest

procedures provided in Minnesota Statutes, section 181.953, subdivision 6, paragraph (c), and subdivision 9 at the employee's or job applicant's own expense.

- d. Nothing in this subdivision is intended to modify the existing requirements for drug and alcohol testing or cannabis testing in the workplace under Minnesota Statutes, sections 181.950 to 18.957, unless stated otherwise.

**[NOTE: The 2024 Minnesota legislature enacted this provision.]**

5. Random Testing

The school district may request or require "other employees" to undergo cannabis testing or drug and alcohol testing on a random selection basis only if they are employed in safety-sensitive positions.

6. Reasonable Suspicion Testing

The school district may request or require any employee to undergo cannabis testing or drug and alcohol testing if the school district has a reasonable suspicion that the employee:

- a. is under the influence of cannabis, drugs, or alcohol;
- b. has violated the school district's written work rules prohibiting the use, possession, sale, or transfer of drugs or alcohol, cannabis flower, cannabis products, lower-potency hemp edibles, or hemp-derived consumer products while the employee is working or while the employee is on the school district's premises or operating the school district's vehicles, machinery, or equipment;
- c. has sustained a personal injury, as that term is defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 176.011, subdivision 16, or has caused another employee to sustain a personal injury; or
- d. has caused a work-related accident or was operating or helping to operate machinery, equipment, or vehicles involved in a work-related accident.

7. Treatment Program Testing

The school district may request or require any employee to undergo cannabis testing and drug and alcohol testing if the employee has been referred by the school district for chemical dependency treatment or evaluation or is participating in a chemical dependency treatment program under an employee benefit plan, in which case the employee may be requested or required to undergo cannabis testing and drug and alcohol testing without prior notice during the evaluation or treatment period and for a period of up to two (2) years following completion of any prescribed chemical dependency treatment program.

8. Routine Physical Examination Testing

The school district may request or require any employee to undergo drug and alcohol testing as part of a routine physical examination provided the drug or alcohol test is requested or required no more than once annually and the employee has been given at least two weeks' written notice that a drug or alcohol test may be requested or required as part of the physical examination.

C. No Legal Duty to Test

The school district does not have a legal duty to request or require any employee or job applicant whose position does not require a commercial driver's license to undergo drug and alcohol testing.

D. Right of Other Employee or Job Applicant to Refuse Drug and Alcohol Testing and Consequences of Such Refusal

1. Right of Other Employee or Job Applicant to Refuse Drug and Alcohol Testing

Any employee or job applicant whose position does not require a commercial driver's license has the right to refuse drug and alcohol testing subject to the provisions contained in Paragraphs 2. and 3. of Section IV.D.

2. Consequences of an Employee's Refusal to Undergo Drug and Alcohol Testing

Any employee in a position that does not require a commercial driver's license who refuses to undergo drug and alcohol testing in the circumstances set out in the Random Testing, Reasonable Suspicion Testing, and Treatment Program Testing provisions of this policy may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including immediate discharge.

3. Consequences of a Job Applicant's Refusal to Undergo Drug and Alcohol Testing

Any job applicant for a position which does not require a commercial driver's license who refuses to undergo drug and alcohol testing pursuant to the Job Applicant Testing provision of this policy shall not be employed.

E. Reliability and Fairness Safeguards

1. Pretest Notice

Before requesting an employee or job applicant whose position does not require a commercial driver's license to undergo drug or alcohol testing or requesting cannabis testing, the school district shall provide the employee or job applicant with a Pretest Notice in the form of Attachment D to this policy on which to acknowledge that the employee or job applicant has received the school district's drug and alcohol testing or cannabis testing policy.

2. Notice of Test Results

Within three (3) working days after receipt of a test result report from the testing laboratory, the school district shall inform in writing an employee or job applicant who has undergone drug or alcohol testing or cannabis testing of a negative test result on an initial screening test or of a negative or positive test result on a confirmatory test.

3. Notice of and Right to Test Result Report

Within three (3) working days after receipt of a test result report from the testing laboratory, the school district shall inform in writing, an employee or job applicant who has undergone drug or alcohol testing of the employee or job applicant's right to request and receive from the school district a copy of the test result report on any drug or alcohol test or cannabis test.

4. Notice of and Right to Explain Positive Test Result

- a. If an employee or job applicant has a positive test result on a confirmatory test, the school district shall provide the individual with notice of the test results and, at the same time, written notice of the right to explain the results and to submit additional information (see Attachment G to this policy).
- b. The school district may request that the employee or job applicant indicate any over-the-counter or prescription medication that the individual is currently taking or has recently taken and any other information relevant to the reliability of, or explanation for, a positive test result.
- c. The employee may present verification of enrollment in the medical cannabis patient registry or of enrollment in a Tribal medical cannabis program as part of the employee's explanation.
- d. Use of nonintoxicating cannabinoids or edible cannabinoid products is not a legitimate medical explanation for a confirmed positive test result for cannabis. MROs will verify a drug test confirmed as positive, even if an employee claims to have only used nonintoxicating cannabinoids or edible cannabinoid product.
- e. Within three (3) working days after notice of a positive test result on a confirmatory test, an employee or job applicant may submit information (in addition to any information already submitted) to the school district to explain that result.

5. Notice of and Right to Request Confirmatory Retests

- a. If an employee or job applicant has a positive test result on a confirmatory test, the school district shall provide the individual with notice of the test results and, at the same time, written notice of the right to request a confirmatory retest of the original sample at his or her expense.
- b. An employee or job applicant may request a confirmatory retest of the original sample at his or her own expense after notice of a positive test result on a confirmatory test. Within five (5) working days after notice of the confirmatory test result, the employee or job applicant shall notify the school district in writing of his or her intention to obtain a confirmatory retest. Within three (3) working days after receipt of the notice, the school district shall notify the original testing laboratory that the employee or job applicant has requested the laboratory to conduct the confirmatory retest or to transfer the sample to another laboratory licensed under Minnesota Statutes, section 181.953, subdivision 1 to conduct the confirmatory retest. The original testing laboratory shall ensure that appropriate chain-of-custody procedures are followed during transfer of the sample to the other laboratory. The confirmatory retest must use the same drug, alcohol, or cannabis threshold detection levels as used in the original confirmatory test. If the confirmatory retest does not confirm the original positive test result, no adverse personnel action based on the original confirmatory test may be taken against the employee or job applicant.

- 6. If an employee or job applicant has a positive test result on a confirmatory test, the school district, at the time of providing notice of the test results, shall also provide written notice to inform the individual of other rights provided under Sections F. or G., below, whichever is applicable.

Attachments F and G to this policy provide the Notices described in Paragraphs 2. through 6. of this Section E.

F. Discharge and Discipline of Employees Whose Positions Do Not Require a Commercial Driver's License

1. The school district may not discharge, discipline, discriminate against, request, or require rehabilitation of an employee on the basis of a positive test result from an initial screening test that has not been verified by a confirmatory test.
2. In the case of a positive test result on a confirmatory test, the employee shall be subject to discipline which includes, but is not limited to, immediate suspension without pay and immediate discharge, pursuant to the provisions of this policy.
3. The school district may not discharge an employee for whom a positive test result on a confirmatory test was the first such result for the employee on a drug or alcohol test or cannabis test requested by the school district, unless the following conditions have been met:
  - a. The school district has first given the employee an opportunity to participate in, at the employee's own expense or pursuant to coverage under an employee benefit plan, either a drug, alcohol, or cannabis counseling or rehabilitation program, whichever is more appropriate, as determined by the school district after consultation with a certified chemical abuse counselor or a physician trained in the diagnosis and treatment of chemical dependency; and
  - b. The employee has either refused to participate in the counseling or rehabilitation program or has failed to successfully complete the program, as evidenced by withdrawal from the program before its completion or by a positive test result on a confirmatory test after completion of the program.
4. Notwithstanding Paragraph 1., the school district may temporarily suspend the tested employee or transfer that employee to another position at the same rate of pay pending the outcome of the confirmatory test and, if requested, the confirmatory retest, provided the school district believes that it is reasonably necessary to protect the health or safety of the employee, co-employees or the public. An employee who has been suspended without pay must be reinstated with back pay if the outcome of the confirmatory test or requested confirmatory retest is negative.
5. The school district may not discharge, discipline, discriminate against, request, or require rehabilitation of an employee on the basis of medical history information or the employee's status as a patient enrolled in the medical cannabis registry program revealed to the school district, unless the employee was under an affirmative duty to provide the information before, upon, or after hire, or failing to do so would violate federal law or regulations or cause the school district to lose money or licensing-related benefit under federal law or regulations.
6. The school district may not discriminate against any employee in termination, discharge, or any term of condition of employment or otherwise penalize an employee based upon an employee registered patient's positive drug test for cannabis components or metabolites, unless the employee used, possessed, or was impaired by medical cannabis on school district property during the hours of employment.

7. An employee must be given access to information in the individual's personnel file relating to positive test result reports and other information acquired in the drug and alcohol testing process or cannabis testing process and conclusions drawn from and actions taken based on the reports or other acquired information.

G. Withdrawal of Job Offer for an Applicant for a Position That Does Not Require a Commercial Driver's License

If a job applicant has received a job offer made contingent on the applicant's passing drug and alcohol testing, the school district may not withdraw the offer based on a positive test result from an initial screening test that has not been verified by a confirmatory test. In the case of a positive test result on a confirmatory test, the school district may withdraw the job offer.

H. Chain-of-Custody Procedures

The school district has established its own reliable chain-of-custody procedures to ensure proper record keeping, handling, labeling, and identification of the samples to be tested. The procedures require the following:

1. Possession of a sample must be traceable to the employee from whom the sample is collected, from the time the sample is collected through the time the sample is delivered to the laboratory;
2. The sample must always be in the possession of, must always be in view of, or must be placed in a secure area by a person authorized to handle the sample;
3. A sample must be accompanied by a written chain-of-custody record; and
4. Individuals relinquishing or accepting possession of the sample must record the time the possession of the sample was transferred and must sign and date the chain-of-custody record at the time of transfer.

I. Privacy, Confidentiality and Privilege Safeguards

1. Privacy Limitations

A laboratory may only disclose to the school district test result data regarding the presence or absence of drugs, alcohol or their metabolites in a sample tested.

2. Confidentiality Limitations

With respect to employees and job applicants, test result reports and other information acquired in the drug or alcohol testing process are private data on individuals as that phrase is defined in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 13, and may not be disclosed by the school district or laboratory to another employer or to a third-party individual, governmental agency, or private organization without the written consent of the employee or job applicant tested.

3. Exceptions to Privacy and Confidentiality Disclosure Limitations

Notwithstanding Paragraphs 1. and 2., evidence of a positive test result on a confirmatory test may be: (1) used in an arbitration proceeding pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement, an administrative hearing under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 43A or other applicable state or local law, or a judicial proceeding, provided that information is relevant to the hearing or

proceeding; (2) disclosed to any federal agency or other unit of the United States government as required under federal law, regulation or order, or in accordance with compliance requirements of a federal government contract; and (3) disclosed to a substance abuse treatment facility for the purpose of evaluation or treatment of the employee.

4. Privilege

Positive test results from the school district drug or alcohol testing program may not be used as evidence in a criminal action against the employee or job applicant tested.

J. Notice of Testing Policy to Affected Employees

The school district shall provide written notice of this drug, alcohol, and cannabis testing policy to all affected employees upon adoption of the policy, to a previously non-affected employee upon transfer to an affected position under the policy, and to a job applicant upon hire and before any testing of the applicant if the job offer is made contingent on the applicant's passing drug and alcohol testing. Affected employees and applicants will acknowledge receipt of this written notice in the form of Attachment H to this policy.

**V. POSTING**

The school district shall post notice in an appropriate and conspicuous location on its premises that it has adopted a drug and alcohol testing policy and that copies of the policy are available for inspection during regular business hours by its employees or job applicants in its personnel office or other suitable locations.

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. Ch. 13 (Minnesota Government Data Practices Act)  
Minn. Stat. Ch. 43A (State Personnel Management)  
Minn. Stat. § 151.72 (Sale of Certain Cannabinoid Products)  
Minn. Stat. § 152.01 (Definitions)  
Minn. Stat. § 152.22 (Definitions; Medical Cannabis)  
Minn. Stat. § 152.23 (Limitations; Medical Cannabis)  
Minn. Stat. § 152.32 (Protections for Registry Program Participation)  
Minn. Stat. § 176.011, subd. 16 (Definitions; Personal Injury)  
Minn. Stat. §§ 181.950-181.957 (Drug and Alcohol Testing in the Workplace)  
Minn. Stat. § 221.031 (Motor Carrier Rules)  
49 U.S.C. § 31306 (Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act of 1991)  
49 U.S.C. 31306a (National Clearinghouse for Controlled Substance and Alcohol Test Results of Commercial Motor Vehicle Operators)  
49 U.S.C. § 521(b) (Civil and Criminal Penalties for Violations)  
49 C.F.R. Parts 40 (Department of Transportation Rules Implementing Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act of 1991)  
49 C.F.R. Part 382 (Controlled Substances and Alcohol Use and Testing)

**Cross-References:** MSBA/MASA Model Policy 403 (Discipline, Suspension, and Dismissal of School District Employees)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 406 (Public and Private Personnel Data)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 417 (Chemical Use and Abuse)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 418 (Drug-Free Workplace/Drug-Free School)

**INTERNATIONAL FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL  
DISTRICT #361**

**BOARD POLICY      417  
Chemical Use and Abuse**

Adopted \_\_\_\_\_ By Reference \_\_\_\_\_

Revised **March 2023**

**[NOTE: This policy reflects mandatory provisions of state and federal law and is not discretionary.]**

**I.      PURPOSE**

The school board recognizes that chemical use and abuse constitutes a grave threat to the physical and mental well-being of students and employees and significantly impedes the learning process. Chemical use and abuse also creates significant problems for society in general. The school board believes that the public school has a role in education, intervention, and prevention of chemical use and abuse. The purpose of this policy is to assist the school district in its goal to prevent chemical use and abuse by providing procedures for education and intervention.

**II.     GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

- A.      Use or possession of controlled substances, toxic substance, medical cannabis, and alcohol before, during, or after school hours, at school or in any other school location, is prohibited in accordance with school district policies with respect to a Drug-Free Workplace/Drug-Free School.
- B.      The school district shall develop, implement, and evaluate comprehensive programs and activities that foster safe, healthy, supportive, and drug-free environments that support student academic achievement.
- C.      Every school that participates in a school district chemical abuse program shall establish a chemical abuse preassessment team. The team is responsible for addressing reports of chemical abuse problems and making recommendations for appropriate responses to the individual reported cases.
- D.      The school district shall establish a drug-free awareness program for its employees.

**[NOTE: School districts are required to establish a drug-free awareness program for school district employees pursuant to the Drug-Free Workplace Act. In addition, state law requires that the written districtwide school discipline policy must include procedures for detecting and addressing chemical abuse problems of a student while on the school premises. Further, school districts are required to develop, implement, and evaluate comprehensive programs and activities that foster safe, healthy, supportive, and drug-free environments that support student academic achievement if receiving funding under the federal Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants law.]**

**III.    DEFINITIONS**

- A.      "Chemical abuse," as applied to students, means use of any psychoactive or mood-altering chemical substance, without compelling medical reason, in a manner that induces mental, emotional, or physical impairment and causes socially dysfunctional or socially disordering behavior, to the extent that the minor's normal function in academic, school, or social activities is chronically impaired.

- B. "Controlled substances," as applied to the chemical abuse assessment of students, means a drug, substance, or immediate precursor in Schedules I through V of Minnesota Statutes, section 152.02 and "marijuana" as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 152.01, subdivision 9 but not distilled spirits, wine, malt beverages, intoxicating liquors or tobacco. As otherwise defined in this policy, "controlled substances" include narcotic drugs, hallucinogenic drugs, amphetamines, barbiturates, marijuana, anabolic steroids, or any other controlled substance as defined in Schedules I through V of the Controlled Substances Act, 21 United States Code, section 812, including analogues and look-alike drugs.
- C. "Drug prevention" means prevention, early intervention, rehabilitation referral, recovery support services, or education related to the illegal use of drugs, such as raising awareness about the consequences of drug use that are evidence based.
- D. "Teacher" means all persons employed in a public school or education district or by a service cooperative as members of the instructional, supervisory, and support staff including superintendents, principals, supervisors, secondary vocational and other classroom teachers, librarians, counselors, school psychologists, school nurses, school social workers, audio-visual directors and coordinators, recreation personnel, media generalists, media supervisors, and speech therapists.

#### IV. STUDENTS

##### A. Districtwide School Discipline Policy

Procedures for detecting and addressing chemical abuse problems of a student while on school premises are included in the districtwide school student discipline policy.

##### B. Programs and Activities

1. The school district shall develop, implement, and evaluate comprehensive programs and activities that foster safe, healthy, supportive, and drug-free environments that support student academic achievements. The programs and activities may include, among other programs and activities, drug prevention activities and programs that may be evidence based, including programs to educate students against the use of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, smokeless tobacco products, and electronic cigarettes.
2. As part of its drug-free programs, the school district may implement the drug abuse resistance education program (DARE) that enables peace officers to undergo the training to teach a curriculum on drug abuse resistance in schools.

##### C. Reports of Use, Possession, or Transfer of Alcohol or a Controlled Substance

1. A teacher in a nonpublic school participating in a school district chemical use program, or a public school teacher, who knows or has reason to believe that a student is using, possessing, or transferring alcohol or a controlled substance while on the school premises or involved in school-related activities, shall immediately notify the school's chemical abuse preassessment team, or staff member assigned duties similar to those of such a team, of this information.

**[NOTE: School districts are not required to participate in a chemical abuse program or establish a chemical abuse preassessment team pursuant to state law. Schools are required to have procedures for detecting student chemical abuse and can obtain federal funding if they establish drug prevention, detection, intervention, and recovery support services. Thus, it is recommended that schools establish these**

**programs and activities. For those schools that do not establish a chemical abuse preassessment team, those obligations could be assigned to a specified staff member such a school counselor or administrator.]**

2. Students involved in the abuse, possession, transfer, distribution, or sale of chemicals may be suspended and proposed for expulsion in compliance with the student discipline policy and the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act, Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.40-121A.56, and proposed for expulsion.
3. Searches by school district officials in connection with the use, possession, or transfer of alcohol or a controlled substance will be conducted in accordance with school board policies related to search and seizure.
4. Nothing in paragraph IV.B.1. prevents a teacher or any other school employee from reporting to a law enforcement agency any violation of law occurring on school premises or at school sponsored events.

D. Preassessment Team

1. Every school that participates in a school district chemical abuse program shall establish a chemical abuse preassessment team designated by the superintendent or designee. The team must be composed of classroom teachers, administrators, and to the extent they exist in the school, school nurse, school counselor or psychologist, social worker, chemical abuse specialist, and other appropriate professional staff. For schools that do not have a chemical abuse program and team, the superintendent or designee will assign these duties to a designated school district employee.
2. The team is responsible for addressing reports of chemical abuse problems and making recommendations for appropriate responses to the individual reported cases.
3. Within forty-five (45) days after receiving an individual reported case, the team shall make a determination whether to provide the student and, in the case of a minor, the student's parents with information about school and community services in connection with chemical abuse.

E. Data Practices

1. Student data may be disclosed without consent in health and safety emergencies pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 13.32 and applicable federal law and regulations.
2. Destruction of Records
  - a. If the preassessment team decides not to provide a student and, in the case of a minor, the student's parents with information about school or community services in connection with chemical abuse, records created or maintained by the team about the student shall be destroyed not later than six (6) months after the determination is made.
  - b. If the team decides to provide the student and, in the case of a minor or a dependent student, the student's parents with information about school or community services in connection with chemical abuse, records created or maintained by the team about the student shall be destroyed not later than six (6) months after the student is no longer enrolled in the district.

- c. Destruction of records identifying individual students shall be governed by paragraph IV.E.2. notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section 138.163 (Preservation and Disposal of Public Records).

F. Consent

Any minor may give effective consent for medical, mental, and other health services to determine the presence of or to treat conditions associated with alcohol and other drug abuse, and the consent of no other person is required.

**[NOTE: State law permits schools to provide these services to minor students without the consent of a parent. If, however, a school district provides these or other services pursuant to a grant received under the Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants law, this funding could be jeopardized if the requirements of federal law, to obtain prior written, informed consent from the parent of each child who is under 18 years of age is not obtained.]**

**V. EMPLOYEES**

- A. The school district shall establish a drug-free awareness program to inform employees about:
  - 1. The dangers of drug abuse in the workplace.
  - 2. The school district's policy of maintaining a drug-free workplace.
  - 3. Available drug counseling, rehabilitation, and employee assistance programs.
  - 4. The penalties that may be imposed on employees for drug abuse violations.
- B. The school district shall notify a federal granting agency required to be notified under the Drug-Free Workplace Act within ten (10) days after receiving notice from the employee or otherwise receiving actual notice of any criminal drug statute conviction occurring in the workplace.

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. § 13.32 (Educational Data)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.25-121A.29 (Chemical Abuse)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.40-121A.56 (Pupil Fair Dismissal Act)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.61 (Discipline and Removal of Students from Class)  
Minn. Stat. § 124D.695 (Approved Recovery Program Funding)  
Minn. Stat. § 126C.44 (Safe Schools Levy)  
Minn. Stat. § 138.163 (Preservation and Disposal of Public Records)  
Minn. Stat. § 144.343 (Pregnancy, Venereal Disease, Alcohol or Drug Abuse, Abortion)  
Minn. Stat. § 152.01 (Definitions)  
Minn. Stat. § 152.02 (Schedules of Controlled Substances; Administration of Chapter)  
Minn. Stat. § 152.22 (Definitions; Medical Cannabis)  
Minn. Stat. § 152.23 (Limitations; Medical Cannabis)  
Minn. Stat. § 299A.33 (DARE Program)Minn. Stat. § 466.07, subd. 1 (Indemnification Required)  
Minn. Stat. § 609.101, subd. 3(e) (Controlled Substance Offenses; Minimum Fines)  
20 U.S.C. § 1232g (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act)  
20 U.S.C. §§ 7101-7122 (Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants)  
20 U.S.C. § 5812 (National Education Goals)  
20 U.S.C. § 7175 (Local Activities)  
41 U.S.C. §§ 8101-8106 (Drug-Free Workplace Act)  
34 C.F.R. Part 84 (Government-Wide Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace)

**Cross References:** MSBA/MASA Model Policy 403 (Discipline, Suspension, and Dismissal of School District Employees)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 416 (Drug and Alcohol Testing)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 418 (Drug-Free Workplace/Drug Free School)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 419 (Tobacco-Free Environment; Possession and Use of Tobacco, Tobacco-Related Devices, and Electronic Delivery Devices; Vaping Awareness and Prevention Instruction)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 502 (Search of Student Lockers, Desks, Personal Possessions, and Student's Person)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 506 (Student Discipline)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 515 (Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 527 (Student Use and Parking of Motor Vehicles; Patrols, Inspections, and Searches)

**INTERNATIONAL FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL  
DISTRICT #361  
BOARD POLICY 418  
Drug-Free Workplace/Drug-Free School**

*Adopted\_\_\_\_\_By Reference\_\_*

*Revised\_July 2023*

**[NOTE: School districts are required by statute to have a policy addressing these issues.]**

**I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to maintain a safe and healthful environment for employees and students by prohibiting the use of alcohol, toxic substances, medical cannabis, nonintoxicating cannabinoids, edible cannabinoid products, and controlled substances without a physician's prescription.

**II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

- A. Use or possession of alcohol, toxic substances, medical cannabis, nonintoxicating cannabinoids, edible cannabinoid products, and controlled substances before, during, or after school hours, at school or in any other school location, is prohibited as general policy. Paraphernalia associated with controlled substances is prohibited.
- B. A violation of this policy occurs when any student, teacher, administrator, other school district personnel, or member of the public uses or possesses alcohol, toxic substances, medical cannabis, nonintoxicating cannabinoids, edible cannabinoid products, or controlled substances in any school location.
- C. An individual may not use or possess cannabis flower, cannabis products, lower-potency hemp edibles, or hemp-derived consumer products in a public school, as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 120A.05, subdivisions 9, 11, and 13, including all facilities, whether owned, rented, or leased, and all vehicles that the school district owns, leases, rents, contracts for, or controls.
- D. The school district will act to enforce this policy and to discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, school personnel, or member of the public who violates this policy.

**III. DEFINITIONS**

- A. "Alcohol" includes any alcoholic beverage containing more than one-half of one percent alcohol by volume.
- B. "Controlled substances" include narcotic drugs, hallucinogenic drugs, amphetamines, barbiturates, marijuana, anabolic steroids, or any other controlled substance as defined in Schedules I through V of the Controlled Substances Act, 21 United States Code, section 812, including analogues and look-alike drugs.
- C. "Edible cannabinoid product" means any product that is intended to be eaten or consumed as a beverage by humans, contains a cannabinoid in combination with food ingredients, and is not a drug.
- D. "Nonintoxicating cannabinoid" means substances extracted from certified hemp plants that do not produce intoxicating effects when consumed by injection, inhalation,

ingestion, or by any other immediate means.

- E. "Medical cannabis" means any species of the genus cannabis plant, or any mixture or preparation of them, including whole plant extracts and resins, and is delivered in the form of: (1) liquid, including, but not limited to, oil; (2) pill; (3) vaporized delivery method with use of liquid or oil but which does not require the use of dried leaves or plant form; (4) combustion with use of dried raw cannabis; or (5) any other method approved by the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Health ("Commissioner").
- F. "Possess" means to have on one's person, in one's effects, or in an area subject to one's control.
- G. "School location" includes any school building or on any school premises; in any school-owned vehicle or in any other school-approved vehicle used to transport students to and from school or school activities; off school property at any school-sponsored or school-approved activity, event, or function, such as a field trip or athletic event, where students are under the jurisdiction of the school district; or during any period of time such employee is supervising students on behalf of the school district or otherwise engaged in school district business.
- H. "Sell" means to sell, give away, barter, deliver, exchange, distribute or dispose of to another, or to manufacture; or to offer or agree to perform such an act, or to possess with intent to perform such an act.
- I. "Toxic substances" includes: (1) glue, cement, aerosol paint, containing toluene, benzene, xylene, amyl nitrate, butyl nitrate, nitrous oxide, or containing other aromatic hydrocarbon solvents, but does not include glue, cement, or paint contained in a packaged kit for the construction of a model automobile, airplane, or similar item; (2) butane or a butane lighter; or (3) any similar substance declared to be toxic to the central nervous system and to have a potential for abuse, by a rule adopted by the Commissioner.
- I. "Use" means to sell, buy, manufacture, distribute, dispense, be under the influence of, or consume in any manner, including, but not limited to, consumption by injection, inhalation, ingestion, or by any other immediate means.

#### **IV. EXCEPTIONS**

- A. A violation of this policy does not occur when a person brings onto a school location, for such person's own use, a controlled substance, except medical cannabis, nonintoxicating cannabinoids, or edible cannabinoid products, which has a currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States and the person has a physician's prescription for the substance. The person shall comply with the relevant procedures of this policy.
- B. A violation of this policy does not occur when a person possesses an alcoholic beverage in a school location when the possession is within the exceptions of Minnesota Statutes, section 624.701, subdivision 1a (experiments in laboratories; pursuant to a temporary license to sell liquor issued under Minnesota laws or possession after the purchase from such a temporary license holder).
- C. A violation of this policy does not occur when a person uses or possesses a toxic substance unless they do so with the intent of inducing or intentionally aiding another in inducing intoxication, excitement, or stupefaction of the central nervous system, except under the direction and supervision of a medical doctor.
- D. The school district may not refuse to enroll or otherwise penalize a patient or person enrolled in the Minnesota Patient Registry Program as a pupil solely because the

patient or person is enrolled in the registry program, unless failing to do so would violate federal law or regulations or cause the school to lose a monetary or licensing-related benefit under federal law or regulations.

**[NOTE: The 2024 Minnesota legislature amended this law to add this protection.]**

## **V. PROCEDURES**

- A. Students who have a prescription from a physician for medical treatment with a controlled substance, except medical cannabis, nonintoxicating cannabinoids, or edible cannabinoid products, must comply with the school district's student medication policy.

**[NOTE: School districts are required by Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.22 to develop procedures for the administration of drugs and medicine. If the school district does not have a student medication policy such as MSBA/MASA Model Policy 516, this Paragraph A. can be modified to provide: "Students who have a prescription from a physician for medical treatment with a controlled substance, except medical cannabis, nonintoxicating cannabinoids, or edible cannabinoid products, must provide a copy of the prescription and the medication to the school nurse, principal, or other designated staff member. The school district's licensed school nurse, trained health clerk, principal, or teacher will administer the prescribed medication except medical cannabis, nonintoxicating cannabinoids, or edible cannabinoid products, in accordance with school district procedures."]**

- B. Employees who have a prescription from a physician for medical treatment with a controlled substance, except medical cannabis, nonintoxicating cannabinoids, or edible cannabinoid products, are permitted to possess such controlled substance and associated necessary paraphernalia, such as an inhaler or syringe. The employee must inform his or her supervisor. The employee may be required to provide a copy of the prescription.
- C. Each employee shall be provided with written notice of this Drug-Free Workplace/Drug-Free School policy and shall be required to acknowledge that he or she has received the policy.

**[NOTE: The Drug-Free Workplace Act requires that school district employees be notified by a published statement of the prohibition of the use of controlled substances and actions that will be taken against employees for violations of such prohibition (41 United States Code, section 8103; 34 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 84). An acknowledgment will document satisfaction by the school district of this federal requirement.]**

- D. Employees are subject to the school district's drug and alcohol testing policies and procedures.
- E. Members of the public are not permitted to possess controlled substances, intoxicating cannabinoids, or edible cannabinoid products in a school location except with the express permission of the superintendent.
- F. No person is permitted to possess or use medical cannabis, nonintoxicating cannabinoids, or edible cannabinoid products on a school bus or van; or on the grounds of any preschool or primary or secondary school; or on the grounds of any child care facility. This prohibition includes (1) vaporizing or combusting medical cannabis on any form of public transportation where the vapor or smoke could be inhaled by a minor child or in any public place, including indoor or outdoor areas used by or open to the general public or place of employment; and (2) operating, navigating, or being in actual physical control of any motor vehicle or working on transportation property, equipment or facilities while under the influence of medical

cannabis, nonintoxicating cannabinoids, or edible cannabinoid products.

- G. Possession of alcohol on school grounds pursuant to the exceptions of Minnesota Statutes, section 624.701, subdivision 1a, shall be by permission of the school board only. The applicant shall apply for permission in writing and shall follow the school board procedures for placing an item on the agenda.

## **VI. SCHOOL PROGRAMS**

- A. Starting in the 2026-2027 school year, the school district must implement a comprehensive education program on cannabis use and substance use, including but not limited to the use of fentanyl or mixtures containing fentanyl, for students in middle school and high school. The program must include instruction on the topics listed in Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.215, subdivision 1 and must:
  - 1. respect community values and encourage students to communicate with parents, guardians, and other trusted adults about cannabis use and substance use, including but not limited to the use of fentanyl or mixtures containing fentanyl; and
  - 2. refer students to local resources where students may obtain medically accurate information about cannabis use and substance use, including but not limited to the use of fentanyl or mixtures containing fentanyl, and treatment for a substance use disorder.
- B. School district efforts to develop, implement, or improve instruction or curriculum as a result of the provisions of this section must be consistent with Minnesota Statutes, sections 120B.10 and 120B.11.
- C. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the school district shall have a procedure for a parent, a guardian, or an adult student 18 years of age or older to review the content of the instructional materials to be provided to a minor child or to an adult student pursuant to this article. The district must allow a parent or adult student to opt out of instruction under this article with no academic or other penalty for the student and must inform parents and adult students of this right to opt out.

## **VII. ENFORCEMENT**

- A. Students
  - 1. Students may be required to participate in programs and activities that provide education against the use of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, smokeless tobacco products, electronic cigarettes, and nonintoxicating cannabinoids, and edible cannabinoid products.
  - 2. Students may be referred to drug or alcohol assistance or rehabilitation programs; school based mental health services, mentoring and counseling, including early identification of mental health symptoms, drug use and violence and appropriate referral to direct individual or group counselling service. which may be provided by school based mental health services providers; and/or referral to law enforcement officials when appropriate.
  - 3. A student who violates the terms of this policy shall be subject to discipline in accordance with the school district's discipline policy. Such discipline may include suspension or expulsion from school.
- B. Employees
  - 1. As a condition of employment in any federal grant, each employee who is engaged either directly or indirectly in performance of a federal grant shall

abide by the terms of this policy and shall notify his or her supervisor in writing of his or her conviction of any criminal drug statute for a violation occurring in any of the places listed above on which work on a school district federal grant is performed, no later than five (5) calendar days after such conviction. Conviction means a finding of guilt (including a plea of nolo contendere) or imposition of sentence, or both, by any judicial body charged with the responsibility to determine violations of the federal or state criminal drug statutes.

2. An employee who violates the terms of this policy is subject to disciplinary action, including nonrenewal, suspension, termination, or discharge as deemed appropriate by the school board.
3. In addition, any employee who violates the terms of this policy may be required to satisfactorily participate in a drug and/or alcohol abuse assistance or rehabilitation program approved by the school district. Any employee who fails to satisfactorily participate in and complete such a program is subject to nonrenewal, suspension, or termination as deemed appropriate by the school board.
4. Sanctions against employees, including nonrenewal, suspension, termination, or discharge shall be pursuant to and in accordance with applicable statutory authority, collective bargaining agreements, and school district policies.

C. The Public

A member of the public who violates this policy shall be informed of the policy and asked to leave. If necessary, law enforcement officials will be notified and asked to provide an escort.

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. § 120B.215 (Education on Cannabis Use and Substance Use)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.22 (Administration of Drugs and Medicine)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.40-§ 121A.56 (Pupil Fair Dismissal Act)  
Minn. Stat. § 151.72 (Sale of Certain Cannabinoid Products)  
Minn. Stat. § 152.01, Subd. 15a (Definitions)  
Minn. Stat. § 152.0264 (Cannabis Sale Crimes)  
Minn. Stat. § 152.22, Subd. 6 (Definitions; Medical Cannabis)  
Minn. Stat. § 152.23 (Limitations; Medical Cannabis)  
Minn. Stat. § 169A.31 (Alcohol-Related School Bus or Head Start Bus Driving)  
Minn. Stat. § 340A.101 (Definitions; Alcoholic Beverage)  
Minn. Stat. § 340A.403 (3.2 Percent Malt Liquor Licenses)  
Minn. Stat. § 340A.404 (Intoxicating Liquor; On-Sale Licenses)  
Minn. Stat. § 342.09 (Personal Adult Use of Cannabis)  
Minn. Stat. § 342.56 (Limitations)  
Minn. Stat. § 609.684 (Abuse of Toxic Substances)  
Minn. Stat. § 624.701 (Alcohol in Certain Buildings or Grounds)  
20 U.S.C. § 7101-7122 (Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants)  
21 U.S.C. § 812 (Schedules of Controlled Substances)  
41 U.S.C. §§ 8101-8106 (Drug-Free Workplace Act)  
21 C.F.R. §§ 1308.11-1308.15 (Controlled Substances)  
34 C.F.R. Part 84 (Government-Wide Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace)

**Cross References:** MSBA/MASA Model Policy 403 (Discipline, Suspension, and Dismissal of School District Employees)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 416 (Drug and Alcohol Testing)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 417 (Chemical Use and Abuse)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 419 (Tobacco-Free Environment; Possession and use of Tobacco, Tobacco-Related Devices, and Electronic Delivery Devices; Vaping Awareness and Prevention Instruction)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 506 (Student Discipline)

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 516 (Student Medication)

**INTERNATIONAL FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL  
DISTRICT #361**

**BOARD POLICY 419**

**TOBACCO-FREE ENVIRONMENT; POSSESSION AND USE OF TOBACCO,  
TOBACCO-RELATED DEVICES, AND ELECTRONIC DELIVERY DEVICES; VAPING  
AWARENESS AND PREVENTION INSTRUCTION**

Adopted\_\_\_\_By Reference\_

Revised\_\_\_\_July 2023\_\_\_\_

**[NOTE: School districts are not required by statute to have a policy addressing these issues. However, Minnesota Statutes, section 144.416 requires that entities that control public places must make reasonable efforts to prevent smoking in public places, including the posting of signs or any other means which may be appropriate. Additionally, Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.238 requires that vaping prevention instruction be provided as set forth in this policy.]**

**I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to maintain a learning and working environment that is tobacco free.

**II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

- A. A violation of this policy occurs when any student, teacher, administrator, other school personnel of the school district, or person smokes or uses tobacco, tobacco-related devices, or carries or uses an activated electronic delivery device in a public school. This prohibition extends to all facilities, whether owned, rented, or leased, and all vehicles that a school district owns, leases, rents, contracts for, or controls. In addition, this prohibition includes vehicles used, in whole or in part, for work purposes, during hours of school operation, if more than one person is present. This prohibition includes all school district property and all off-campus events sponsored by the school district.
- B. A violation of this policy occurs when any elementary school, middle school, or secondary school student possesses any type of tobacco, tobacco-related devices, or electronic delivery devices in a public school. This prohibition extends to all facilities, whether owned, rented, or leased, and all vehicles that a school district owns, leases, rents, contracts for, or controls and includes vehicles used, in whole or in part, for school purposes, during hours of school operation, if more than one person is present. This prohibition includes all school district property and all off-campus events sponsored by the school district.
- C. The school district will act to enforce this policy and to discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, school personnel, or person who is found to have violated this policy.

**[NOTE: The following language is not required by law, but is recommended by MSBA for inclusion in this policy.]**

- D. *The school district will not solicit or accept any contributions or gifts of money, curricula, materials, or equipment from companies that directly manufacture and are identified with tobacco products, tobacco-related devices, or electronic delivery devices. The school district will not promote or allow promotion of tobacco products or electronic delivery devices on school property or at school-sponsored events.*

### **III. DEFINITIONS**

- A. "Electronic delivery device" means any product containing or delivering nicotine, lobelia, or any other substance, whether natural or synthetic, intended for human consumption that can be used by a person to simulate smoking in the delivery of nicotine or any other substance through inhalation of aerosol or vapor from the product. Electronic delivery devices includes but is not limited to devices manufactured, marketed, or sold as electronic cigarettes, electronic cigars, electronic pipe, vape pens, modes, tank systems, or under any other product name or descriptor. Electronic delivery device includes any component part of a product, whether or not marketed or sold separately. Electronic delivery device excludes drugs, devices, or combination products, as those terms are defined in the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, that are authorized for sale by the United States Food and Drug Administration.
- B. "Heated tobacco product" means a tobacco product that produces aerosols containing nicotine and other chemicals which are inhaled by users through the mouth.
- C. "Tobacco" means cigarettes and any product containing, made, or derived from tobacco that is intended for human consumption, whether chewed, smoked, absorbed, dissolved, inhaled, snorted, sniffed, or ingested by any other means, or any component, part, or accessory of a tobacco product, including, but not limited to, cigars; cheroots; stogies; perique; granulated, plug cut, crimp cut, ready rubbed, and other smoking tobacco; snuff; snuff flour; cavendish; plug and twist tobacco; fine cut and other chewing tobacco; shorts; refuse scraps, clippings, cuttings and sweepings of tobacco; and other kinds and forms of tobacco. Tobacco excludes any drugs, devices, or combination products, as those terms are defined in the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, that are authorized for sale by the United States Food and Drug Administration.
- D. "Tobacco-related devices" means cigarette papers or pipes for smoking or other devices intentionally designed or intended to be used in a manner which enables the chewing, sniffing, smoking, or inhalation of vapors aerosol or vapor of tobacco or tobacco products. Tobacco-related devices include components of tobacco-related devices which may be marketed or sold separately.
- E. "Smoking" means inhaling, exhaling, burning, or carrying any lighted or heated cigar, cigarette, pipe, or any other lighted or heated product containing, made, or derived from nicotine, tobacco, marijuana, or other plant, whether natural or synthetic, that is intended for inhalation. Smoking includes carrying or using an activated electronic delivery device.
- F. "Vaping" means using an activated electronic delivery device or heated tobacco product.

### **IV. EXCEPTIONS**

- A. A violation of this policy does not occur when an Indian adult lights tobacco on school district property as a part of a traditional Indian spiritual or cultural ceremony. An American Indian student may carry a medicine pouch containing loose tobacco intended as observance of traditional spiritual or cultural practices. An Indian is a person who is a member of an Indian tribe as defined under Minnesota law.
- B. A violation of this policy does not occur when an adult nonstudent possesses a tobacco or nicotine product that has been approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for sale as a tobacco-cessation product, as a tobacco-dependence product, or for other medical purposes, and is being marketed and sold solely for such an approved purpose. Nothing in this exception authorizes smoking or use of tobacco, tobacco-related devices, or electronic delivery devices on school property or at off-

campus events sponsored by the school district.

- C. An American Indian student or staff member may use tobacco, sage, sweetgrass, and cedar to conduct individual or group smudging in a public school. The process for conducting smudging is determined by the building or site administrator. Smudging must be conducted under the direct supervision of an appropriate staff member, as determined by the building or site administrator.

#### **V. VAPING PREVENTION INSTRUCTION**

- A. The school district must provide vaping prevention instruction at least once to students in grades 6 through 8.
- B. The school district may use instructional materials based upon the Minnesota Department of Health's school e-cigarette toolkit or may use other smoking prevention instructional materials with a focus on vaping and the use of electronic delivery devices and heated tobacco products. The instruction may be provided as part of the school district's locally developed health standards.

**[NOTE: In addition, school districts may choose to require (a) evidence-based vaping prevention instruction to students in grades 9 through 12; and/or (b) a peer-to-peer education program to provide vaping prevention instruction.]**

#### **VI. ENFORCEMENT**

- A. All individuals on school premises shall adhere to this policy.
- B. Students who violate this tobacco-free policy shall be subject to school district discipline procedures.
- C. School district administrators and other school personnel who violate this tobacco-free policy shall be subject to school district discipline procedures.
- D. School district action taken for violation of this policy will be consistent with requirements of applicable collective bargaining agreements, Minnesota or federal law, and school district policies.
- E. Persons who violate this tobacco-free policy may be referred to the building administration or other school district supervisory personnel responsible for the area or program at which the violation occurred.
- F. School administrators may call the local law enforcement agency to assist with enforcement of this policy. Smoking or use of any tobacco product in a public school is a violation of the Minnesota Clean Indoor Air Act and/or the Freedom to Breathe Act of 2007 and is a petty misdemeanor. A court injunction may be instituted against a repeated violator.
- G. No persons shall be discharged, refused to be hired, penalized, discriminated against, or in any manner retaliated against for exercising any right to a smoke-free environment provided by the Freedom to Breathe Act of 2007 or other law.

#### **VII. DISSEMINATION OF POLICY**

- A. This policy shall appear in the student handbook.
- B. The school district will develop a method of discussing this policy with students and employees.

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. § 120B.238 (Vaping Awareness and Prevention)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.08 (Smudging Permitted)

Minn. Stat. §§ 144.411-144.417 (Minnesota Clean Indoor Air Act)  
Minn. Stat. § 609.685 (Sale of Tobacco to Persons Under Age 21)  
2007 Minn. Laws Ch. 82 (Freedom to Breathe Act of 2007)

**Cross References:** MSBA/MASA Model Policy 403 (Discipline, Suspension, and Dismissal of School District Employees)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 506 (Student Discipline)

**INTERNATIONAL FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL  
DISTRICT #361**

**BOARD POLICY      420  
Students and Employees with Sexually Transmitted Infections and Diseases and  
Certain Other Communicable Diseases and Infectious Conditions**

*Adopted \_\_\_\_\_ By Reference \_\_\_*

*Revised\_ **March 2023***

**420    STUDENTS AND EMPLOYEES WITH SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS AND DISEASES AND CERTAIN OTHER COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND INFECTIOUS CONDITIONS**

**[NOTE: School districts are not required by statute to have a policy addressing these issues. However, Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.23 provides that school districts must have a program that incorporates the provisions contained in this policy.]**

**I.      PURPOSE**

Public concern that students and staff of the school district be able to attend the schools of the district without becoming infected with serious communicable or infectious diseases, including, but not limited to, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS), Hepatitis B, and Tuberculosis, requires that the school board adopt measures effectively responding to health concerns while respecting the rights of all students, employees, and contractors, including those who are so infected. The purpose of this policy is to adopt such measures.

**II.     GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

A.      Students

The policy of the school board is that students with communicable diseases not be excluded from attending school in their usual daily attendance setting so long as their health permits and their attendance does not create a significant risk of the transmission of illness to students or employees of the school district. A procedure for minimizing interruptions to learning resulting from communicable diseases will be established by the school district in its IEP and Section 504 team process, if applicable, and in consultation with community health and private health care providers. Procedures for the inclusion of students with communicable diseases will include any applicable educational team planning processes, including the review of the educational implications for the student and others with whom the student comes into contact.

B.      Employees

The policy of the school board is that employees with communicable diseases not be excluded from attending to their customary employment so long as they are physically, mentally, and emotionally able to safely perform tasks assigned to them and so long as their employment does not create a significant risk of the transmission of illness to students, employees, or others in the school district. If a reasonable accommodation will eliminate the significant risk of transmission, such accommodation will be undertaken unless it poses an undue hardship to the school district.

C.      Circumstances and Conditions

1.      Determinations of whether a contagious individual's school attendance or job

performance creates a significant risk of the transmission of the illness to students or employees of the school district will be made on a case by case basis. Such decisions will be based upon the nature of the risk (how it is transmitted), the duration of the risk (how long the carrier is infectious), the severity of the risk (what is the potential harm to third parties), and the probabilities the disease will be transmitted and will cause varying degrees of harm. When a student is disabled, such a determination will be made in consultation with the educational planning team.

2. The school board recognizes that some students and some employees, because of special circumstances and conditions, may pose greater risks for the transmission of infectious conditions than other persons infected with the same illness. Examples include students who display biting behavior, students or employees who are unable to control their bodily fluids, who have oozing skin lesions, or who have severe disorders which result in spontaneous external bleeding. These conditions need to be taken into account and considered in assessing the risk of transmission of the disease and the resulting effect upon the educational program of the student or employment of the employee by consulting with the Minnesota Commissioner of Health, the physician of the student or employee, and the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student.

D. Students with Special Circumstances and Conditions

The School Nurse, along with the infected individual's physician, the infected individual or parent(s)/guardian(s), and others, if appropriate, will weigh risks and benefits to the student and to others, consider the least restrictive appropriate educational placement, and arrange for periodic reevaluation as deemed necessary by the state epidemiologist. The risks to the student shall be determined by the student's physician.

E. Extracurricular Student Participation

Student participation in nonacademic, extracurricular, and non-educational programs of the school district are subject to a requirement of equal access and comparable services.

F. Precautions

The school district will develop routine procedures for infection control at school and for educating employees about these procedures. The procedures shall be developed through cooperation with health professionals taking into consideration any guidelines of the Minnesota Department of Education and the Minnesota Department of Health. (These precautionary procedures shall be consistent with the school district's procedures regarding blood-borne pathogens developed pursuant to the school district's employee right to know policy.)

G. Information Sharing

1. Employee and student health information shall be shared within the school district only with those whose jobs require such information and with those who have a legitimate educational interest (including health and safety) in such information and shall be shared only to the extent required to accomplish legitimate educational goals and to comply with employees' right to know requirements.
2. Employee and student health data shall be shared outside the school district only in accordance with state and federal law and with the school district's policies on employee and student records and data.

H. Reporting

If a medical condition of student or staff threatens public health, it must be reported to the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Health.

I. Prevention

The school district shall, with the assistance of the Commissioners of Health and Education, implement a program to prevent and reduce the risk of sexually transmitted diseases in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.23 that includes:

1. planning materials, guidelines, and other technically accurate and updated information;
2. a comprehensive, developmentally appropriate, technically accurate, and updated curriculum that includes helping students to abstain from sexual activity until marriage;
3. cooperation and coordination among school districts and Service Cooperatives;
4. a targeting of adolescents, especially those who may be at high risk of contracting sexually transmitted diseases and infections, for prevention efforts;
5. involvement of parents and other community members;
6. in-service training for district staff and school board members;
7. collaboration with state agencies and organizations having a sexually transmitted infection and disease prevention or sexually transmitted infection and disease risk reduction program;
8. collaboration with local community health services, agencies and organizations having a sexually transmitted infection and disease risk reduction program; and
9. participation by state and local student organizations.
10. The program must be consistent with the health and wellness curriculum.
11. The school district may accept funds for sexually transmitted infection and disease prevention programs developed and implemented under this section from public and private sources, including public health funds and foundations, department professional development funds, federal block grants, or other federal or state grants.

J. Vaccination and Screening

The school district will develop procedures regarding the administration of Hepatitis B vaccinations and Tuberculosis screenings in keeping with current state and federal law. The procedures shall provide that the Hepatitis B vaccination series be offered to all who have occupational exposure at no cost to the employee.

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. § 121A.23 (Programs to Prevent and Reduce the Risks of Sexually Transmitted Infections and Diseases)  
Minn. Stat. § 144.441 (Tuberculosis Screening in Schools)  
Minn. Stat. § 142 (Testing in School Clinics)  
Minn. Stat. Ch. 363A (Minnesota Human Rights Act)

20 U.S.C. § 1400 *et seq.* (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)  
29 U.S.C. § 794 *et seq.* (Rehabilitation Act of 1973, § 504)  
42 U.S.C. § 12101 *et seq.* (Americans with Disabilities Act)  
29 C.F.R. 1910.1030 (Bloodborne Pathogens)  
*Kohl by Kohl v. Woodhaven Learning Center*, 865 F.2d 930 (8<sup>th</sup> Cir.), *cert. denied*, 493 U.S. 892 (1989)  
*School Board of Nassau County, Fla. v. Arline*, 480 U.S. 273 (1987)  
16 EHLR 712, OCR Staff Memo, April 5, 1990

**Cross References:** MSBA/MASA Model Policy 402 (Disability Nondiscrimination)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 407 (Employee Right to Know – Exposure to Hazardous Substances)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 521 (Student Disability Nondiscrimination)

**INTERNATIONAL FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL  
DISTRICT #361  
BOARD POLICY 421  
Gifts to Employees**

**Adopted\_\_\_\_\_By Reference\_**

*Revised* **September 2023**

**421 GIFTS TO EMPLOYEES AND SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS**

**I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to avoid the appearance of impropriety or the appearance of a conflict of interest with respect to gifts given to school district employees and school board members.

**II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

- A. The school district recognizes that students, parents, and others may wish to show appreciation to school district employees. The policy of the school district, however, is to discourage gift-giving to employees and to encourage donors instead to write letters and notes of appreciation or to give small tokens of gratitude as memorabilia.
- B. A violation of this policy occurs when any employee solicits, accepts, or receives, either by direct or indirect means, a gift from a student, parent, or other individual or organization of greater than nominal value.
- C. A violation of this policy occurs when any employee solicits, accepts, or receives a gift from a person or entity doing business with or seeking to do business with the school district. Employees may accept items of insignificant value of a promotional or public relations nature or a plaque with a resale value of \$5 or less with an inscription recognizing an individual for an accomplishment. The superintendent has discretion to determine what value is "insignificant."
- D. Teachers may accept from publishers free samples of textbooks and related teaching materials.
- E. This policy applies only to gifts given to employees where the donor's relationship with the employee arises out of the employee's employment with the school district. It does not apply to gifts given to employees by personal friends, family members, other employees, or others unconnected to the employee's employment with the school district.
- F. An elected or appointed member of a school board, a school superintendent, a school principal, or a district school officer, including the school business official, may not accept a gift from an interested person. **III. DEFINITIONS**

- A. "Gift" means money, real or personal property, a service, a loan, a forbearance or forgiveness of indebtedness, or a promise of future employment that is given without something of equal or greater value being received in return.
- B. "Interested person" means a person or a representative of a person or association that has a direct financial interest in a decision that a school board member, a superintendent, a school principal, or a district school officer is authorized to make.

- C. "Financial interest" means any ownership or control in an asset which has the potential to produce a monetary return.

#### **IV. PROCEDURES**

Any employee considering the acceptance of a gift shall confer with the administration for guidance related to the interpretation and application of this policy.

#### **V. VIOLATIONS**

Employees who violate the provisions of this policy may be subject to discipline, which may include reprimand, suspension, and/or termination or discharge.

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. § 10A.07 (Conflicts of Interest)  
Minn. Stat. § 10A.071 (Prohibition of Gifts)  
Minn. Stat. § 15.43 (Acceptance of Advantage by State Employee; Penalty)  
Minn. Stat. § 471.895 (Certain Gifts by Interested Persons Prohibited)

**Cross References:** MSBA/MASA Model Policy 209 (Code of Ethics)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 210 (Conflict of Interest – School Board Members)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 306 (Administrator Code of Ethics)

**INTERNATIONAL FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL  
DISTRICT #361**

**BOARD POLICY            422  
Policies Incorporated By Reference**

**Adopted\_\_\_\_\_By Reference\_\_\_\_\_**

*Revised\_March 2024\_\_*

**422    POLICIES INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE**

**PURPOSE**

Certain policies as contained in this policy reference manual are applicable to employees as well as to students. To avoid undue duplication, the school district provides notice by this section of the application and incorporation by reference of the following policies that also apply to employees:

Model Policy 505	Distribution of Nonschool-Sponsored Materials on School Premises by Students and Employees
Model Policy 507	Corporal Punishment and Prone Restraint
Model Policy 510	Student Activities
Model Policy 511	Student Fundraising
Model Policy 517	Student Recruiting
Model Policy 518	DNR-DNI Orders
Model Policy 519	Interviews of Students by Outside Agencies
Model Policy 522	Title IX Sex Nondiscrimination Policy, Grievance Procedure and Process
Model Policy 524	Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Policy
Model Policy 525	Violence Prevention
Model Policy 535	Service Animals in Schools

Employees are charged with notice that the above cited policies are also applicable to employees; however, employees are also on notice that the provisions of the various policies speak for themselves and may be applicable although not specifically listed above.

**Legal References:**    None

**Cross References:**    None

**INTERNATIONAL FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL  
DISTRICT #361  
BOARD POLICY 424  
License Status**

Adopted \_\_\_\_\_ By Reference \_\_\_\_\_

Revised **July** 2023

**424 LICENSE STATUS**

**[NOTE: The provisions of this policy substantially reflect legal requirements.]**

**I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that qualified teachers are employed by the school district and to fulfill its duty to ascertain the licensure status of its teachers. A school board that employs a teacher who does not hold a valid teaching license or permit places itself at risk for a reduction in state aid. This policy does not negate a teacher's duty and responsibility to maintain a current and valid teaching license.

**II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

- A. A qualified teacher is one holding a valid license to perform the particular service for which the teacher is employed by the school district.
- B. No person shall be a qualified teacher until the school district verifies, through the Minnesota education licensing system available on the Minnesota Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board website, that the person is a qualified teacher consistent with state law.
- C. The school district has a duty to ascertain the licensure status of its teachers and ensure that the school district's teacher license files are up to date. The school district shall establish a procedure for annually reviewing its teacher license files to verify that every teacher's license is current and appropriate to the particular service for which the teacher is employed by the school district.
- D. The school district must annually report to the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board: (1) all new teacher hires and terminations, including layoffs, by race and ethnicity; and (2) the reasons for all teacher resignations and requested leaves of absence. The report must not include data that would personally identify individuals.

**III. PROCEDURE**

- A. The superintendent or the superintendent's designee shall establish a schedule for the annual review of teacher licenses.
- B. Where it is discovered that a teacher's license will expire within one year from the date of the annual review, the superintendent or the superintendent's designee will advise the teacher in writing of the approaching expiration and that the teacher must complete the renewal process and file the license with the superintendent prior to the expiration of the current license. However, failure to provide this notice does not relieve a teacher from his/her duty and responsibility of ensuring that his/her teaching license is valid, current and appropriate to his/her teaching assignment.
- C. If it is discovered that a teacher's license has expired, the superintendent will immediately investigate the circumstances surrounding the lack of license and will take

appropriate action. The teacher shall be advised that the teacher's failure to have the license reinstated will constitute gross insubordination, inefficiency and willful neglect of duty which are grounds for immediate discharge from employment.

- D. The duty and responsibility of maintaining a current and valid teaching license appropriate to the teaching assignment as required by this policy shall remain with the teacher, notwithstanding the superintendent's failure to discover a lapsed license or license that does not support the teaching assignment. A teacher's failure to comply with this policy may be grounds for the teacher's immediate discharge from employment.

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. § 122A.16 (Qualified Teacher Defined)  
Minn. Stat. § 122A.22 (District Verification of Teacher Licenses)  
Minn. Stat. § 122A.40 (Employment; Contracts; Termination - Immediate Discharge)  
Minn. Stat. § 127A.42 (Reduction of Aid for Violation of Law)  
*Vettleson v. Special Sch. Dist. No. 1*, 361 N.W.2d 425 (Minn. App. 1985)  
*Lucio v. School Bd. of Independent Sch. Dist. No. 625*, 574 N.W.2d 737 (Minn. App. 1998)  
*In the Matter of the Proposed Discharge of John R. Statz* (Christine D. VerPloeg), June 8, 1992, *affirmed*, 1993 WL 129639 (Minn. App. 1993)

**Cross References:** None

**INTERNATIONAL FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL  
DISTRICT #361  
BOARD POLICY 425  
Staff Development**

*Adopted \_\_\_\_\_ By Reference \_\_\_\_\_*

*Revised July 2023*

**425 STAFF DEVELOPMENT AND MENTORING**

**[NOTE: The provisions of this policy substantially reflect statutory requirements.]**

**I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to establish a staff development program and structure to carry out planning and reporting on staff development that supports improved student learning.

**II. ADVISORY STAFF DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AND SITE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TEAMS**

A. The school board will establish an Advisory Staff Development Committee to develop a Staff Development Plan, assist Site Professional Development Teams in developing a site plan consistent with the goals of the Staff Development Plan, and evaluate staff development efforts at the site level.

1. The majority of the membership of the Advisory Staff Development Committee shall consist of teachers representing various grade levels, subject areas, and special education. The Committee also will include nonteaching staff, parents, and administrators.
2. Members of the Advisory Staff Development Committee shall be two (2) administrative representatives, six (6) teachers (elected by peers), and up to three (3) paraprofessionals (elected by peers). Committee members shall serve a one-year term\* based upon nominations by teachers and paraprofessionals. The School Board shall appoint replacement members of the Advisory Staff Development Committee as soon as possible following the resignation, death, serious illness, or removal of a member from the Committee.

B. The school board will establish the Site Professional Development Teams.

1. Members of the Site Professional Development Teams will be school representatives of the Advisory Committee. Team members shall serve a one-year term\* based upon nominations by teachers and paraprofessionals. The School Board shall appoint replacement members of the Site Professional Development Teams as soon as possible following the resignation, death, serious illness, or removal of a member from the Team.
2. The majority of the Site Professional Development Teams shall be teachers representing various grade levels, subject areas, and special education.

**III. DUTIES OF THE ADVISORY STAFF DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

A. The Advisory Staff Development Committee will develop a Staff Development Plan that will be reviewed and subject to approval by the School Board annually.

B. The Staff Development Plan must contain the following elements:

1. Staff development outcomes that are consistent with the education outcomes as may be determined periodically by the School Board;

**[NOTE: The board-determined education outcomes for your district could be inserted here.]**

2. The means to achieve the Staff Development outcomes;
3. The procedures for evaluating progress at each school site toward meeting educational outcomes consistent with relicensure requirements under Minnesota Statutes, section 122A.187;
4. Ongoing staff development activities that contribute toward continuous improvement in achievement of the following goals:
  - a. Improve student achievement of state and local education standards in all areas of the curriculum, including areas of regular academic and applied and experiential learning, by using research-based best practices methods;
  - b. Effectively meet the needs of a diverse student population, including at-risk children, children with disabilities, English learners, and gifted children, within the regular classroom, applied and experiential learning settings, and other settings;
  - c. Provide an inclusive curriculum for a racially, ethnically, linguistically, and culturally diverse student population that is consistent with state education diversity rule and the district's education diversity plan;
  - d. Improve staff collaboration and develop mentoring and peer coaching programs for teachers new to the school or district;
  - e. Effectively teach and model violence prevention policy and curriculum that address early intervention alternatives, issues of harassment, and teach nonviolent alternatives for conflict resolution;
  - f. Effectively deliver digital and blended learning and curriculum and engage students with technology; and
  - g. Provide teachers and other members of site-based management teams with appropriate management and financial management skills.
5. The Staff Development Plan also must:
  - a. Support stable and productive professional communities achieved through ongoing and schoolwide progress and growth in teaching practice;
  - b. Emphasize coaching, professional learning communities, classroom action research, and other job-embedded models;
  - c. Maintain a strong subject matter focus premised on students' learning goals consistent with Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.125;
  - d. Ensure specialized preparation and learning about issues related to teaching English learners and students with special needs by focusing on long-term systemic efforts to improve educational services and opportunities and raise student achievement; and
  - e. Reinforce national and state standards of effective teaching practice.

6. Staff development activities must:
  - a. Focus on the school classroom and research-based strategies that improve student learning;
  - b. Provide opportunities for teachers to practice and improve their instructional skills over time;
  - c. Provide opportunities for teachers to use student data as part of their daily work to increase student achievement;
  - d. Enhance teacher content knowledge and instructional skills, including to accommodate the delivery of digital and blended learning and curriculum and engage students with technology;
  - e. Align with state and local academic standards;
  - f. Provide opportunities to build professional relationships, foster collaboration among principals and staff who provide instruction, and provide opportunities for teacher-to-teacher mentoring;
  - g. Align with the plan, if any, of the district or site for an alternative teacher professional pay system;
  - h. Provide teachers of English learners, including English as a second language, and content teachers with differentiated instructional strategies critical for ensuring students long-term academic success, the means to effectively use assessment data on the academic literacy, oral academic language, and English language development of English learners, and skills to support native and English language development across the curriculum; and
  - i. Provide opportunities for staff to learn about current workforce trends, the connections between workforce trends and postsecondary education, and training options, including career and technical education options.
7. Staff development activities may include curriculum development and curriculum training programs and activities that provide teachers and other members of site-based teams training to enhance team performance.
8. The school district may implement other staff development activities required by law and activities associated with professional teacher compensation models.

**[NOTE: To the extent the school board offers K-12 teachers the opportunity for more staff development training under Minnesota Statutes, section 122A.40, Subdivisions. 7 and 7a, or Minnesota Statutes, section 122A.41, subdivisions. 4 and 4a, such additional days of staff development should include peer mentoring, peer gathering, continuing education, professional development, or other training which enable teachers to achieve the staff development outcomes enumerated above in Section III.B.4.]**

- C. The Advisory Staff Development Committee will assist Site Professional Development Teams in developing a site plan consistent with the goals and outcomes of the Staff Development Plan.
- D. The Advisory Staff Development Committee will evaluate staff development efforts at the site level and will report to the School Board annually the extent to which staff at

the site have met the outcomes of the Staff Development Plan.

- E. In addition to developing a Staff Development Plan, the Staff Development Advisory Committee also must develop teacher mentoring programs for teachers new to the profession or school district, including teaching residents, teachers of color, teachers who are American Indian, teachers in license shortage areas, teachers with special needs, or experienced teachers in need of peer coaching. Teacher mentoring programs must be included in or aligned with the school district's teacher evaluation and peer review processes under Minnesota Statutes, sections 122A.40, subdivision 8 or 122A.41, subdivision 5.
- F. The Advisory Staff Development Committee shall assist the school district in preparing any reports required by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) relating to staff development or teacher mentoring including, but not limited to, the reports referenced in Section VII. below.

#### **IV. DUTIES OF THE SITE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM**

- A. Each Site Professional Development Team shall develop a site plan, consistent with the goals of the Staff Development Plan. The school board will review the site plans for consistency with the Staff Development Plan twice a year.\*
- B. The Site Professional Development Team must demonstrate to the school board the extent to which staff at the site have met the outcomes of the Staff Development Plan. The actual reports to the school board can be made by the Advisory Staff Development Committee to avoid duplication of effort.
- C. If the school board determines that staff development outcomes are not being met, it may withhold a portion of the initial allocation of revenue referenced in Section V. below.

#### **V. STAFF DEVELOPMENT FUNDING**

- A. Unless the school district is in statutory operating debt or a majority of the school board and a majority of its licensed teachers annually vote to waive the requirement to reserve basic revenue for staff development, the school district will reserve an amount equal to at least two percent of its basic revenue for: (1) teacher development and evaluation under Minnesota Statutes, section 122A.40, subdivision 8 or 122A.41, subdivision 5; (2) principal development and evaluation under section 123B.147, subdivision. 3; (3) professional development under section 122A.60; (4) in-service education for programs under section 120B.22, subdivision 2; and (5) teacher mentorship under section 122A.70, subdivision 1. To the extent extra funds remain, staff development revenue may be used for development plans, including plans for challenging instructional activities and experiences under section 122A.60, and for curriculum development and programs, other in-service education, teacher's workshops, teacher conferences, the cost of substitute teachers for staff development purposes, preservice and in-service education for special education professionals and paraprofessionals, and other related costs for staff development efforts. The school district also may use the revenue reserved for staff development for grants to the school district's teachers to pay for coursework and training leading to certification as either a college in the schools teacher or a concurrent enrollment teacher. To receive a grant, the teacher must be enrolled in a program that includes coursework and training focused on teaching a core subject.
- B. The school district may, in its discretion, expend an additional amount of unreserved revenue for staff development based on its needs.
- C. Release time provided for teachers to supervise students on field trips and school activities, or independent tasks not associated with enhancing the teacher's knowledge and instructional skills, such as preparing report cards, calculating grades, or

organizing classroom materials, may not be counted as staff development time that is financed with staff development reserved revenue under Minnesota Statutes, section 122A.61.

## **VI. PROCEDURE FOR USE OF STAFF DEVELOPMENT FUNDS**

- A. On a yearly<sup>1\*</sup> basis, the Advisory Staff Development Committee, with the assistance of the Site Professional Development Teams, shall prepare a projected budget setting forth proposals for allocating staff development and mentoring funds reserved for each school site. Such budgets shall include, but not be limited to, projections as to the cost of building site training programs, costs of individual staff seminars, and cost of substitutes.
- B. Upon approval of the budget by the school board, the Advisory Committee shall be responsible for monitoring the use of such funds in accordance with the Staff Development Plan and budget. The requested use of staff development funds must meet or make progress toward the goals and objectives of the Staff Development Plan. All costs/expenditures will be reviewed by the school board and/or superintendent for consistency with the Staff Development Plan on a quarterly basis.\*
- C. Individual requests from staff for leave to attend staff development activities shall be submitted and reviewed according to school district policy, staff procedures, contractual agreement, and the effect on school district operations. Failure to timely submit such requests may be cause for denial of the request.
- D. The school district may use staff development revenue, special grant programs established by the legislature, or another funding source to pay a stipend to a mentor who may be a current or former teacher who has taught at least three (3) years and is not on an improvement plan. Other initiatives using such funds. or funds available under Minnesota Statutes, sections 124D.861 and 124D.862, may include:
  - 1. additional stipends as incentives to mentors of color or who are American Indian;
  - 2. financial supports for professional learning community affinity groups across schools within and between districts for teachers from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups to come together throughout the school year;
  - 3. programs for induction aligned with the school district or school mentorship program during the first three (3) years of teaching, especially for teachers from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups; or
  - 4. grants supporting licensed and nonlicensed educator participation in professional development, such as workshops and graduate courses, related to increasing student achievement for students of color and American Indian students in order to close opportunity and achievement gaps.

To the extent the school district receives a grant for any of the above purposes, it will negotiate additional retention strategies or protection from unrequested leave of absences in the beginning years of employment for teachers of color and teachers who are American Indian. Retention strategies may include providing financial incentives for teachers of color and teachers who are American Indian to work in the school or district for at least five (5) years and placing American Indian educators at sites with other American Indian educators and educators of color at sites with other educators of color to reduce isolation and increase opportunity for collegial support.

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## **VII. PARAPROFESSIONALS, TITLE I AIDES, AND OTHER INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT STAFF**

- A. The school district must provide a minimum of eight hours of paid orientation or professional development annually to all paraprofessionals, Title I aides, and other instructional support staff. Six of the eight hours must be completed before the first instructional day of the school year or within 30 days of hire. The school district must consult the exclusive representative for employees receiving this training before creating or planning the training required under this section.
- B. The orientation or professional development must be relevant to the employee's occupation and may include collaboration time with classroom teachers and planning for the school year.
- C. For paraprofessionals who provide direct support to students, at least 50 percent of the professional development or orientation must be dedicated to meeting the requirements of this section. Professional development for paraprofessionals may also address the requirements of Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.363, subdivision 3.
- D. A school administrator must provide an annual certification of compliance with this requirement to the MDE Commissioner.
- E. For the 2024-2025 school year only, a school may reduce the hours of training required in paragraphs (b) to (e) to a minimum of six hours and must pay for paraprofessional test materials and testing fees for any paraprofessional employed by the school district during the 2023-2024 school year who has not yet successfully completed the paraprofessional assessment or met the requirements of the paraprofessional competency grid.

**[NOTE: The 2024 Minnesota legislature added these provisions. Paragraph E is in effect for the 2024-25 school year only.]**

## **VIII. REPORTING**

- A. The school district and site staff development committee shall prepare a report of the previous fiscal year's staff development activities and expenditures as part of the school district's comprehensive achievement and civic readiness report.
  - 1. The report must include assessment and evaluation data indicating progress toward district and site staff development goals based on teaching and learning outcomes, including the percentage of teachers and other staff involved in instruction who participate in effective staff development activities.
  - 2. The report will provide a breakdown of expenditures for:
    - a. Curriculum development and curriculum training programs;
    - b. Staff development training models, workshops, and conferences; and
    - c. The cost of releasing teachers or providing substitute teachers for staff development purposes.

The report also must indicate whether the expenditures were incurred at the district level or the school site level and whether the school site expenditures were made possible by the grants to school sites that demonstrate exemplary use of allocated staff development revenue. These expenditures must be reported using the uniform financial and accounting and reporting standards (UFARS).

- 3. The report will be signed by the superintendent and staff development chair.

- B. To the extent the school district receives a grant for mentorship activities described in Section V.D., by June 30 of each year after receiving a grant, the site staff development committee must submit a report to the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board on program efforts that describes mentoring and induction activities and assesses the impact of these programs on teacher effectiveness and retention.

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. § 120A.41 (Length of School Year; Days of Instruction)  
Minn. Stat. § 120A.415 (Extended School Calendar)  
Minn. Stat. § 120B.125 (Planning for Students' Successful Transition to Postsecondary Education and Employment; Personal Learning Plans)  
Minn. Stat. § 120B.22, Subd. 2 (Violence Prevention Education)  
Minn. Stat. § 121A.642 (Paraprofessional Training)  
Minn. Stat. § 122A.187 (Expiration and Renewal)  
Minn. Stat. § 122A.40, Subds. 7, 7a and 8 (Employment; Contracts; Termination - Additional Staff Development and Salary)  
Minn. Stat. § 122A.41, Subds. 4, 4a and 5 (Teacher Tenure Act; Cities of the First Class; Definitions - Additional Staff Development and Salary)  
Minn. Stat. § 122A.60 (Staff Development Program)  
Minn. Stat. § 122A.70 (Teacher Mentorship and Retention of Effective Teachers)  
Minn. Stat. § 122A.61 (Reserved Revenue for Staff Development)  
Minn. Stat. § 123B.147, Subd. 3 (Principals)  
Minn. Stat. § 124D.861 (Achievement and Integration for Minnesota)  
Minn. Stat. § 124D.862 (Achievement and Integration Revenue)  
Minn. Stat. § 126C.10, Subds. 2 and 2b (General Education Revenue)  
Minn. Stat. § 126C.13, Subd. 5 (General Education Levy and Aid)

**Cross References:** None.

**INTERNATIONAL FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL  
DISTRICT #361**

**BOARD POLICY      427**

**Workload Limits For Certain Special Education Teachers**

**Adopted\_\_\_\_\_By Reference\_**

*Revised\_October 2023*

**427      WORKLOAD LIMITS FOR CERTAIN SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS**

**[NOTE: School districts are required by Minnesota Rules 3525.2340, subpart 4.B., to have a policy for determining the workload limits of special education staff who provide services to students who receive direct special education services 60 percent or less of the instructional day.]**

**[NOTE: Minnesota Statutes, section 179A.07, subdivision 1, of the Public Employment Labor Relations Act (PELRA) provides that a public employer is not required to meet and negotiate on matters of inherent managerial policy. Matters of inherent managerial policy include, but are not limited to, such areas of discretion or policy as the functions and programs of the employer, its overall budget, utilization of technology, the organizational structure, selection of personnel, and direction of personnel. MSBA’s position is that this policy is not a mandatory subject of bargaining. School districts, therefore, are cautioned to not relinquish their inherent managerial right to determine workload limits for special education teachers.]**

**I.      PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to establish general parameters for determining the workload limits of special education staff who provide services to children with disabilities receiving direct special education services 60 percent or less of the instructional day.

**II.     DEFINITIONS**

A.      Special Education Staff; Special Education Teacher

“Special education staff” and “special education teacher” both mean a teacher employed by the school district who is licensed under the rules of the Minnesota Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board to instruct children with specific disabling conditions.

B.      Direct Services

“Direct services” means special education services provided by a special education teacher or a related service professional when the services are related to instruction, including cooperative teaching.

C.      Indirect Services

“Indirect services” means special education services provided by a special education teacher or a related service professional which include ongoing progress reviews; cooperative planning; consultation; demonstration teaching; modification and adaptation of the environment, curriculum, materials, or equipment; and direct contact with the pupil to monitor and observe.

D. Workload

“Workload” means a special education teacher’s total number of minutes required for all due process responsibilities, including direct and indirect services, evaluation and reevaluation time, management of individualized education programs (IEPs), travel time, parental contact, and other services required in the IEPs.

**III. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

- A. Workload limits for special education teachers shall be determined by the appropriate special education administrator, in consultation with the building principal and the superintendent.
- B. In determining workload limits for special education staff, the school district shall take into consideration the following factors: student contact minutes, evaluation and reevaluation time, indirect services, management of IEPs, travel time, and other services required in the IEPs of eligible students.

**IV. COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT UNAFFECTED**

This policy shall not be construed as a reopening of negotiations between the school district and the special education teachers’ exclusive representative, nor shall it be construed to alter or limit in any way the managerial rights or other authority of the school district set forth in the Public Employment Labor Relations Act or in the collective bargaining agreement between the school district and the special education teachers’ exclusive representative.

**Legal References:** Minn. Stat. § 179A.07, Subd. 1 (Inherent Managerial Policy)  
Minn. Rule 3525.0210, Subps. 14, 27, 44, and 49 (Definitions)  
Minn. Rule 3525.2340, Subp. 4.B. (Case Loads for School-Age Educational Service Alternatives)

**Cross References:** MSBA/MASA Model Policy 508 (Extended School Year for Certain Students with Individualized Education Programs)  
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 608 (Instructional Services – Special Education)

**RESOLUTION FOR ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS AND DONATIONS**

**Whereas**, School Board Policy 706 establishes the guidelines for the acceptance of gifts or donations to the District;

**Whereas**, the International Falls School District Board encourages the support of the District’s educational programs through gifts or donations that meet the goals and objectives of the School District;

**Whereas**, Minnesota Statute §465.03 states the School Board may accept a gift, grant or devise of real or personal property only by the adoption of a resolution approved by two-thirds of its members;

**Therefore**, be it resolved, the School Board of International Falls Public Schools, ISD #361, accepts with appreciation the following gifts, donations or grants received by the School District:

District Donations received:

Motion by \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_, to accept the gifts and donations.

The following voted in favor:

<b>Volleyball Boosters</b>	<b>Hudl and Ice Machine</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>
<b>Basketball Boosters</b>	<b>Lights and Ice Machine</b>	<b>\$2,960</b>
<b>Baseball Boosters</b>	<b>Ice Machine</b>	<b>\$200</b>

Voting against:

**Whereupon**, the resolution was declared adopted.

August 12, 2025

Project # 25-23150

Beth Shermoen  
International Falls Schools-ISD # 361  
1515 11th St  
Int'l Falls, MN 56649

Dear Beth Shermoen:

I am pleased to inform you that the Northland Foundation has reviewed your proposal for the ***Expanding Care & Learning Opportunities for ISD 361 Youth Award*** and has approved a grant of **\$25,000.00** for the period (09/08/2025 to 07/31/2026) to **International Falls Schools-ISD # 361**.

**GRANT AGREEMENT AND ACH AUTHORIZATION FORM**

***Please note that we use electronic signatures and fillable forms to expedite this process.***

**GRANT AGREEMENT**

Please review the Grant Agreement for the specific terms and/or conditions of this grant. If you agree, please follow the instructions provided to electronically sign your Grant Agreement. A copy will automatically be emailed to you after both parties sign the agreement. Please retain a copy of the Grant Agreement for your files.

**ACH AUTHORIZATION FORM**

The Northland Foundation uses an Electronic Funds Transfer process (ACH) for grant payments. ***PLEASE NOTE THAT WE HAVE CHANGED OUR ACH PROCESS. The ACH form needs to be completed on the Grantee Portal by the authorized person as indicated on your grant application.*** A separate email will be sent with a link and instructions for completing the form.

Grant payments are made during the first full week of each month. We will need both the signed Grant Agreement and completed ACH Authorization Form **no later than the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month before your payment is scheduled.**

The Northland Foundation will issue the following payment(s) for this grant on or around these dates:

\$25,000.00 – 08/01/2025

As you will note, one of the conditions of the Grant Agreement is the submission of a report(s) on the activities, outcomes, and financial expenditures of your project. Please provide us sufficient narrative to describe the activities and impact of your project. The following report(s) have been scheduled for your grant:

ACH Form – 07/25/2025

Final Report – 08/31/2026

On behalf of the Northland Foundation, I would like to extend sincere congratulations to you and your organization. Please call Carol Chipman, Grants Manager at 218-740-7309 if you have any questions. I look forward to learning about the progress and success of your project.

Sincerely,



202 West Superior Street, Suite 800  
Duluth, Minnesota 55802  
218.723.4040 · northlandfdn.org

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony Sertich". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "T".

Anthony Sertich  
President

Attachments  
cc: Carol Chipman

## GRANT AGREEMENT

**Award Date:** 06/26/2025

**Organization Name:** International Falls Schools-ISD # 361

**Project #:** 25-23150

**Project Name:** Expanding Care & Learning Opportunities for ISD 361 Youth Award

**Amount:** \$25,000.00

**By accepting this grant, International Falls Schools-ISD # 361 (the “Grantee”) agrees to comply with the following terms and conditions of the grant by the Northland Foundation specific to the project identified above.**

1. Use of Grant Funds. Grantee will use the grant funds only for the designated activities as described in the approved grant application dated (the “Project”) and will notify the Northland Foundation of and obtain its prior consent to any significant programmatic changes of the Project or any changes to the Project budget [that involve an increase or reduction of the total budget amount by 20% or more, as compared to the budget submitted with such grant application.]
2. Grantee’s Tax Status. Grantee certifies that it is exempt from federal income tax as an organization described in Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3), Section 501(c)(4), or a unit of government, as previously represented to the Northland Foundation, and that it has not received any revocation or suspension notice from the IRS. Grantee agrees to notify Northland Foundation of any change in its exempt status during the grant period.
3. Books and Records. Grantee will maintain its books and records to show, and separately account for, the funds received under this grant, and will maintain records of expenditures adequate to identify the purposes for which grant funds have been expended. Grantee will maintain such files and records for a period of at least four years after completion or termination of the Project.
4. Access to Records; Cooperation. Grantee will permit the Northland Foundation, at its reasonable request, to have access to Grantee's files and records for the purpose of making such inquiries as it deems necessary concerning the grant, the use of grant funds, and for Northland Foundation to fulfill its own public reporting responsibilities. Grantee will cooperate with the Northland Foundation by providing all information, reports, and documents as the Northland Foundation may reasonably request.
5. Prohibited Activities. Grantee will not use the grant funds for any purpose prohibited by law, including, but not limited to the following restrictions:
  - a. Grantee will not use the grant funds to lobby or influence legislation;
  - b. Grantee will not use the grant funds to intervene in or to influence the outcome of any election, or to support or oppose any political party or candidate for public office;



- c. Grantee will not use the grant funds to carry on a voter registration drive without the prior approval of the Northland Foundation; and
  - d. Grantee will not use the grant funds in any manner inconsistent with Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
6. Progress Reports. Grantee will submit progress reports, if requested, to the Northland Foundation, detailing activities and progress in accomplishing the objectives of the project, as well as all expenditures made in administration of the grant, as requested by the Northland Foundation staff.
7. Final Report. Within 30 days of completion of the grant period, Grantee will submit to the Northland Foundation a detailed final report of the activities carried out under the grant, a final expenditures report, and an evaluation of what has been accomplished by the project.
8. Publicity of the Grant.
  - a. By Northland Foundation. The Northland Foundation will be making public news releases through the regional media regarding all of the grants awarded. Grantee authorizes the Northland Foundation to use the Grantee's name, logo, information about the grant, and any materials provided by the Grantee for purposes of publicizing the grant, including, but not limited to on the Northland Foundation's website and in advertising, editorial, internal publications, social and public media, and other publications.
  - b. By Grantee. Grantee may use its community media resources to announce receipt of the grant funds to the Project. The Northland Foundation would appreciate being acknowledged as a source of support in all news releases initiated by Grantee. Grantee is requested to provide the Northland Foundation with copies of any press coverage and photographs received by the Project, as well as any media releases and program materials produced by Grantee. These materials may be used by the Northland Foundation in its publicity of the grant. Unless otherwise notified by the Northland Foundation, Grantee may use Northland Foundation's name and information about the grant for purposes of publicizing the grant in the manner described in this section.
9. Repayment of Funds. Grantee will repay to the Northland Foundation any portion of the grant which remains unused at the end of the grant period, or which is not used for the purposes specified herein or in the grant application.
10. Discretion to Discontinue, Modify or Withhold Payment. The total amount of this grant, or any portion thereof, may be discontinued, modified or withheld at any time when, in the sole discretion of the Northland Foundation, such action is necessary or advisable.
11. Notice of Litigation. Grantee will immediately notify the Northland Foundation of any lawsuit or any proceedings before any federal, state, or local administrative agency, which are initiated against Grantee.
12. Signature. This agreement may be signed electronically.

International Falls Schools-ISD # 361

 *Beth Shermaen*

Beth Shermoen  
Beth Shermoen

Northland Foundation

Michelle Ufford  
Director of Grantmaking

**Date:** August 18, 2025

**To:** International Falls ISD 361

**From:** Nicole Allen  
Nexus Solutions

**Subject:** International Falls Schools –  
Building Improvements Falls High School & Stadium  
Building Improvements Bronco Ice Arena  
Building Improvements Falls Elementary  
Project Recommendation to Award Bids

Dear Board Members,

Bids for the International Falls Schools – Bid Package 01, 02, and 03 – **Building Improvements Falls High School & Stadium, Building Improvements Bronco Ice Arena, and Building Improvements Falls Elementary.** Project bids were received and publicly opened at 2:00 PM on Thursday, July 25, 2025.

Nexus Solutions recommends to ISD #361 that the motion be approved for the following bids to be awarded. These amounts include alternates A, B, F, and G.

The following contract totals include:

**Work Scope 01: General Construction (Building Improvements Falls High School & Stadium)**

- Nor-Son Construction in the amount of \$3,230,000

**Work Scope 01: General Construction (Building Improvements Falls Elementary)**

- BCI Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$4,055,000

**Work Scope 02: Roofing (All Projects Combined)**

- Nelson Roofing, Inc. in the amount of \$869,901

**Work Scope 03: Food Service (HS/Stadium and Elementary Building Improvements)**

- Horizon Equipment, LLC in the amount of \$174,150

**Work Scope 04: Fire Suppression (All Projects Combined)**

- Escape Fire, Inc. in the amount of \$1,200,000

**Work Scope 5-6: HVAC (HS/Stadium and Elementary Building Improvements)**

- Shannon's Inc in the amount of \$3,783,500

**Work Scope 07: Controls (HS/Stadium and Elementary Building Improvements)**

- **UHL, Company** in the amount of **\$375,340**

**Work Scope 08-09-10: Electrical (HS/Stadium and Elementary Building Improvements)**

- **Hanson Electric of Bemidji, Inc.** in the amount of **\$3,613,000**

Nexus recommends the Board award Bids for Building Improvements Falls High School & Stadium, Building Improvements Bronco Ice Arena, and Building Improvements Falls Elementary.

Project total: **\$17,300,891**

Thank You,



**Nicole Allen**  
Nexus Solutions

Please contact me at [nallen@NexusSolutions.com](mailto:nallen@NexusSolutions.com) or **763.294.1088** with any questions.

Attachments: Bid Packages: **Building Improvements Falls High School & Stadium, Building Improvements Bronco Ice Arena, and Building Improvements Falls Elementary**

CC: International Falls ISD 361  
Nexus Solutions

Member \_\_\_\_\_ introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION DECLARING A PART OF SCHOOL PROPERTY NOT NEEDED FOR SCHOOL PURPOSES**

WHEREAS, KOOTASCA Community Actions (“KOOTASCA”) has expressed an interest in leasing a portion of School District real property for the purpose of providing Head Start/Early Head Start services;

WHEREAS, KOOTASCA has expressed an interest in leasing approximately \_\_\_\_\_ rooms/facilities for this purpose during the \_\_\_\_ [YEAR] school year and during the general hours of \_\_\_\_\_ [HOURS];

WHEREAS, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 123B.51, subd. 4, the School District may lease real property or a part of real property that is not needed for school purposes if the Board determines that leasing such real property does not interfere with the education programs taking place on the property;

WHEREAS, the School District currently has certain classrooms and facilities located at \_\_\_\_\_ [BUILDING NAME/ADDRESS] (“Premises”), that are not being utilized for school purposes.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is resolved by the Board as follows:

1. The Board determines that the Premises are not needed for school purposes during the \_\_\_\_ school year(s).
2. While it appears based on preliminary information that the use of the Premises as intended by KOOTASCA would not interfere with the educational programs taking place on the property, the Board reserves determination as to whether such use would not interfere with the educational programs taking place on the property pending further negotiations and lease drafting.
3. The Board authorizes School District administration to discuss and negotiate lease terms with KOOTASCA for the Board’s consideration at a future meeting.

Member \_\_\_\_\_ seconded the foregoing resolution and upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof:

And the following voted against:

And the following abstained:

Whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.