School Board Special Meeting
Monday, November 23, 2026 4:00 PM

District Office Conference Room, Room 164
Austin High School
401 3rd Ave. NW
Austin, MN 55912

# Agenda

1. Call to order/roll call
   **Speaker(s):** Chairperson
2. Request approval of agenda (Action)
   **Speaker(s):** Chairperson
3. Request approval of resolution authorizing the redemption of general obligation capital facilities bonds, Series 2018A (Action)
   **Speaker(s):** Exec Director of Finance and Operations Todd Lechtenberg and PMA Representative Michael Hart
4. Construction update
   **Speaker(s):** Superintendent Dr. Joey Page and ISG, Knutson Construction, and PMA Representatives
5. Overview of FY26 audit
   **Speaker(s):** Exec Director of Finance and Operations Todd Lechtenberg and CLA Representative Craig Popenhagen
6. Austin Community Music Center lease approval (Action)
   **Speaker(s):** Exec Director of Finance and Operations Todd Lechtenberg
7. Scheduled review of 500 series district policies with no suggested revisions
   **Speaker(s):** Chairperson
8. Adjournment
   **Speaker(s):** Chairperson

AUSTIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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**DATE:** November 23, 2026

**TITLE:** **Approval of Resolution Authorizing Redemption of 2018A Bonds**

**TYPE:** Action

**PRESENTER:** Todd Lechtenberg, Executive Director of Finance & Operations

**Background:**
Independent School District 492 has outstanding General Obligation Capital Facilities Bonds, Series 2018A, originally dated December 20, 2018. The bonds include maturities that become eligible for redemption and prepayment beginning February 1, 2027. The District has the opportunity to use available District funds to pay off the outstanding maturities from 2028 through 2033.

The proposed redemption includes the applicable outstanding maturities identified in the resolution, with a scheduled redemption date of February 1, 2027.

**Rationale:**
Redeeming these outstanding bond maturities allows the District to utilize available funds to pay down existing debt obligations before their scheduled maturity dates. This action will reduce the District's outstanding long-term debt obligations and eliminate future principal and interest payments associated with the redeemed bonds.

Working with PTMA Securities, LLC, the District's municipal advisor, and Bond Trust Services Corporation will ensure the redemption process and required notifications are completed appropriately.

**Recommendation:**
Administration recommends that the School Board approve the resolution authorizing the redemption and prepayment of the outstanding 2028 through 2033 maturities of the General Obligation Capital Facilities Bonds, Series 2018A, effective February 1, 2027, using available District funds.

CERTIFICATION OF MINUTES RELATING TO
REDEMPTION OF GENERAL OBLIGATION CAPITAL FACILITIES BONDS, SERIES 2018A

Issuer: Independent School District No. 492 (Austin), Minnesota

Governing Body: School Board

Kind, date, time and place of meeting: A special meeting held on November 23, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. in the District Office Conference Room in Austin High School, 401 3rd Avenue NW.

Members present:

Members absent:

Documents attached:

Minutes of said meeting (including):

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE REDEMPTION OF GENERAL OBLIGATION CAPITAL FACILITIES BONDS, SERIES 2018A

I, the undersigned, being the duly qualified and acting recording officer of the public corporation issuing the obligations referred to in the title of this certificate, certify that the documents attached hereto, as described above, have been carefully compared with the original records of said corporation in my legal custody, from which they have been transcribed; that said documents are a correct and complete transcript of the minutes of a meeting of the governing body of said corporation, and correct and complete copies of all resolutions and other actions taken and of all documents approved by the governing body at said meeting, so far as they relate to said obligations; and that said meeting was duly held by the governing body at the time and place and was attended throughout by the members indicated above, pursuant to call and notice of such meeting given as required by law.

WITNESS my hand officially as such recording officer this 23rd day of November, 2026.

_____
School District Clerk

Member _____ introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, which motion was seconded by Member _____:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE REDEMPTION OF
GENERAL OBLIGATION CAPITAL FACILITIES BONDS, SERIES 2018A

**WHEREAS,** Independent School District No. 492 (Austin), Minnesota (the "District"), has outstanding its General Obligation Capital Facilities Bonds, Series 2018A, dated December 20, 2018 (the "Series 2018A Bonds"), which Series 2018A Bonds maturing on or after February 1, 2028, become callable for redemption and prepayment on February 1, 2027;

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education of the District (the "Board") has determined it is necessary and desirable to use District funds on hand to call the outstanding 2028 through 2033 maturities of the Series 2018A Bonds for redemption and prepayment on February 1, 2027 (the "Redemption Date");

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of the District, the outstanding 2028 through 2033 maturities of the Series 2018A Bonds are hereby called for redemption and prepayment on the Redemption Date or on such other date as the District, in consultation with PMA Securities, LLC, in Albertville, Minnesota ("PMA"), determines is necessary and appropriate.

The Board hereby directs the Clerk to work with PMA to cause Bond Trust Services Corporation, as Bond Registrar for the Series 2018A Bonds, to provide timely notice of redemption in substantially the form attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by this reference (the "Notice").

Upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof:

and the following voted against the same:

whereupon the resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

EXHIBIT A

**NOTICE OF REDEMPTION**

$4,910,000 General Obligation Capital Facilities Bonds, Series 2018A
Dated December 20, 2018
Independent School District No. 492 (Austin), Minnesota

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Independent School District No. 492 (Austin), Mower County, Minnesota (the "District"), has called for redemption and prepayment on February 1, 2027 (the "Redemption Date"), the outstanding Bonds of the above-referenced issue (the "Bonds") maturing on February 1 in the following years, in the principal amounts and having the interest rates and CUSIP numbers listed below:

| Year | Original Principal Amount | Interest Rate | CUSIP Number |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2028 | $375,000 | 3.000% | 052267 MM0 |
| 2029 | 385,000 | 3.000 | 052267 MN8 |
| 2031* | 805,000 | 3.000 | 052267 MQ1 |
| 2032 | 420,000 | 3.000 | 052267 MR9 |
| 2033 | 430,000 | 3.125 | 052267 MS7 |
| *Term Maturities | | | |

The Bonds will be redeemed at a price of 100% of their principal amount plus accrued interest to the Redemption Date. Holders of the Bonds should present them for payment to Bond Trust Services Corporation, Minneapolis, Minnesota, on or before said Redemption Date, when they will cease to bear interest, in the following manner:

By Mail , Overnight Mail, or Courier Service, or In Person, By Hand:

Bond Trust Services Corporation
Attention: Bond Trust Services
3001 Broadway Street
Suite 320
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55413
(651) 209-1010

Important Notice: In compliance with the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001, federal backup withholding tax will be withheld at the applicable backup withholding rate in effect at the time the payment by the redeeming institutions if they are not provided with your social security number or federal employer identification number, properly certified. This requirement is fulfilled by submitting a W-9 Form, which may be obtained at a bank or other financial institution.

Additional information may be obtained from the undersigned or from PMA Securities, LLC, 5298 Kyler Avenue Northeast, Albertville, Minnesota, 612-509-2560, independent municipal advisor to the District.

Dated: _____, 2026

BY ORDER OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 492 (AUSTIN), MINNESOTA

By s_____
School District Clerk

AUSTIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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**DATE:** November 23, 2026

**TITLE:** **Approval of Lease Between Austin and ACMC**

**TYPE:** Approval

**PRESENTER:** Todd Lechtenberg, Executive Director of Finance & Operations

**Background:**
With MacPhail leaving the space, Austin Community Music Center (ACMC) was created to continue the music programs that MacPhail had. This contract is an agreement to rent parts of Annex to ACMC.

**Rationale:**
The proposed lease would begin January 1, 2027, and continue through December 31, 2028. The Austin Community Music Center could request additional two-year renewal periods by providing at least 90 days' written notice. Any renewal would remain subject to District approval, and APS would retain sole discretion to decline the request.

Base rent would be $1,000 per month and would also require a $1,000 security deposit.

APS will continue to provide routine cleaning of floors, restrooms, entrances, and common areas, along with building maintenance, property insurance, water, sanitary sewer, electricity, and Metronet internet service. The agreement also establishes how the parties will separate and support their respective technology systems

**Recommendation:**
Administration recommends that the School Board approve the lease between Austin Public Schools and Austin Community Music Center beginning on January 1, 2027.

AUSTIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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**DATE:** November 23, 2026

**TITLE:** Review of 500 Series Policies

**TYPE**: Information

**PRESENTER:** Chairperson Dube

**BACKGROUND:** District policies are reviewed on a regular schedule by district administration and the School Board. A complete review cycle takes approximately three years. The following 500 Series policies are currently due for review.

**RATIONALE:** Policies are updated as needed to reflect legislative changes or School Board-directed revisions. Policies that do not require legislative updates are reviewed according to the established review cycle. These scheduled reviews help ensure that all district policies remain current and relevant.

**RECOMMENDATION:** It is recommended that the attached 500 Series policies be acknowledged as reviewed, with no revisions or updates recommended at this time.

**SEARCH OF STUDENT LOCKERS, DESKS, PERSONAL POSSESSIONS, AND STUDENT'S PERSON** **502**

***[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 a safe and healthful educational environment by enforcing the school district's policies against contraband.

## II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

A. Lockers and Personal Possessions Within a Locker

Pursuant to Minnesota statutes, school lockers are the property of the school district. At no time does the school district relinquish its exclusive control of lockers provided for the convenience of students. Inspection of the interior of lockers may be conducted by school officials for any reason at any time, without notice, without student consent, and without a search warrant. The personal possessions of students within a school locker may be searched only when school officials have a reasonable suspicion that the search will uncover evidence of a violation of law or school rules. As soon as practicable after the search of a student's personal possessions, the school officials must provide notice of the search to students whose lockers were searched unless disclosure would impede an ongoing investigation by police or school officials.

B. Desks

School desks are the property of the school district. At no time does the school district relinquish its exclusive control of desks provided for the convenience of students. Inspection of the interior of desks may be conducted by school officials for any reason at any time, without notice, without student consent, and without a search warrant.

C. Personal Possessions and Student's Person

The personal possessions of students and/or a student's person may be searched when school officials have a reasonable suspicion that the search will uncover a violation of law or school rules. The search will be reasonable in its scope and intrusiveness.

D. A violation of this policy occurs when students use lockers and desks for unauthorized purposes or to store contraband. A violation occurs when students carry contraband on their person or in their personal possessions.

## III. DEFINITIONS

A. "Contraband" means any unauthorized item possession of which is prohibited by

school district policy and/or law. It includes, but is not limited to, weapons and "look-alikes," alcoholic beverages, controlled substances and "look-alikes," overdue books and other materials belonging to the school district, and stolen property.

B. "Personal possessions" includes, but is not limited to, purses, backpacks, bookbags, packages, and clothing.

C. "Reasonable suspicion" means that a school official has grounds to believe that the search will result in evidence of a violation of school district policy, rules, and/or law. Reasonable suspicion may be based on a school official's personal observation, a report from a student, parent or staff member, a student's suspicious behavior, a student's age and past history or record of conduct both in and out of the school context, or other reliable sources of information.

D. "Reasonable scope" means that the scope and/or intrusiveness of the search is reasonably related to the objectives of the search. Factors to consider in determining what is reasonable include the seriousness of the suspected infraction, the reliability of the information, the necessity of acting without delay, the existence of exigent circumstances necessitating an immediate search and further investigation (e.g., to prevent violence, serious and immediate risk of harm or destruction of evidence), and the age of the student.

## IV. PROCEDURES

A. School officials may inspect the interiors of lockers and desks for any reason at any time, without notice, without student consent, and without a search warrant.

B. School officials may inspect the personal possessions of a student and/or a student's person based on a reasonable suspicion that the search will uncover a violation of law or school rules. A search of personal possessions of a student and/or a student's person will be reasonable in its scope and intrusiveness.

C. As soon as practicable after a search of personal possessions within a locker pursuant to this policy, the school officials must provide notice of the search to students whose possessions were searched unless disclosure would impede an ongoing investigation by police or school officials.

D. Whenever feasible, a search of a person shall be conducted in private by a school official of the same sex. A second school official of the same sex shall be present as an observer during the search of a person whenever feasible.

E. A strip search is a search involving the removal of coverings or clothing from private areas. Mass strip searches, or body cavity searches, are prohibited. Strip searches will be conducted only in circumstances involving imminent danger.

F. A school official conducting any other search may determine when it is appropriate to have a second official present as an observer.

G. A copy of this policy will be printed in the student handbook or disseminated in any other way which school officials deem appropriate. The school district shall provide a copy of this policy to a student when the student is given use of a locker.

## V. DIRECTIVES AND GUIDELINES

School administration may establish reasonable directives and guidelines which address specific needs of the school district, such as use of tape in lockers, standards of cleanliness and care, posting of pin-ups and posters which may constitute sexual harassment, etc.

## VI. SEIZURE OF CONTRABAND

If a search yields contraband, school officials will seize the item and, where appropriate, turn it over to legal officials for ultimate disposition.

## VII. VIOLATIONS

A student found to have violated this policy and/or the directives and guidelines implementing it shall be subject to discipline in accordance with the school district's Student Discipline Policy, which may include suspension, exclusion, or expulsion, and the student may, when appropriate, be referred to legal officials.

***Legal References:*** U. S. Const., amend. IV
Minn. Const., art. I, § 10
Minn. Stat. § 121A.72 (School Locker Policy)
*New Jersey v. T.L.O.*, 469 U.S. 325, 105 S.Ct. 733, 83 L.Ed.2d 720 (1985)
*G.C. v. Owensboro Public Schools*, 711 F.3d 623 (6th Cir. 2013)

Policy Adopted: 12/13/04
Policy Revised: 1/9/06
Policy Reviewed: 11/13/13
Policy Reviewed 7/13/15
Policy Reviewed: 05/14/18
Policy Reviewed: 02/08/21

## STUDENT DRESS AND APPEARANCE 504

### I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to enhance the education of students by establishing expectations of dress and appearance that maintain a safe and healthy learning environment, support students in developing their own positive self-image, and treat all students equitably regardless of gender/gender identification, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, religion, body type/size, and personal style.

### II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

A. The District Dress Code Policy applies to all schools in Austin Public Schools grades PK-12.

All students and staff shall understand that they are responsible for managing their own personal distractions and biases without regulating individual students' clothing/self-expression.

B. Appropriate clothing includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Students must wear opaque (non-see-through) clothing including both a shirt or equivalent top, a skirt, pants, shorts, or equivalent bottom, and/or a dress. A student's clothing must cover the front, back, and sides including the student's private parts and abdomen. Students must also wear appropriate footwear, as defined by section B5.

1. Clothing must cover undergarments. Waistbands of undergarments and bra straps are excluded.

2. Hats and other headwear, except as a religious observance, must allow the face to be visible and must not interfere with the line of sight of any student or staff, including while the student wearing the hat is seated.

3. Hoodies must allow the face and ears to be visible and must not interfere with the line of sight to any student or staff including while the student wearing the hoodie is seated.

4. Clothing, including footwear, must be weather-appropriate and suitable for all scheduled classroom activities where unique hazards exist, such as safety gear.

5. Face masks/coverings may be worn when recommended or required by the Centers for Disease Control or in individual cases as deemed medically necessary.

C. Inappropriate clothing includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Clothing may not depict, advertise, or advocate the use of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, controlled substances, or other products that are illegal for use by minors.

2. Clothing may not bear a message that is lewd, vulgar, or obscene, including profanity.

3. Clothing may not depict pornography, nudity, or sexual acts.

4. Clothing may not use or depict hate-speech, targeting groups based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, religious affiliation, or any other protected groups.

5. Objectionable emblems, badges, symbols, signs, words, objects, or pictures on clothing or jewelry communicating a message that is racist, sexist, or otherwise derogatory to a protected minority group, advances, or provokes any form of religious, racial, or sexual harassment and/or violence against other individuals as defined in Austin Public Schools' Policy 413.

    a. A "violent extremist group" or "gang" as defined in this policy means any ongoing organization, association, or group of three or more persons, whether formal or informal, having as one of its primary activities the commission of one or more criminal acts, which has an identifiable name or identifying sign or symbol, and whose members individually or collectively engage in or whose members engaged in a pattern of criminal gang activity. "Pattern of gang activity" means the commission, attempt to commit, conspiring to commit, or solicitation of two or more criminal acts, provided the criminal acts were committed on separate dates or by two or more persons who are members of or belong to the same criminal street gang.

## III. PROCEDURES

A. When, in the judgment of the administration, a student's appearance, grooming, or mode of dress interferes with or disrupts the educational process or school activities or poses a threat to the health or safety of the student or others the student will first be directed to make modifications. If the student does not comply, the student may be sent home for the day, or may receive other disciplinary consequences, as appropriate. Parents/guardians will be notified.

B. The intention of this policy is not to abridge the rights of students to express political, religious, philosophical, or similar opinions by wearing apparel on which such messages are stated. Such messages are acceptable as long as they are not lewd, vulgar, obscene, defamatory, profane, or do not advocate violence or

harassment against others.

***Legal References:*** U. S. Const., amend. I
*Tinker v. Des Moines Indep. Sch. Dist.*, 393 U.S. 503, 89 S.Ct. 733, 21 L.Ed.2d 731 (1969)
*B.W.A. v. Farmington R-7 Sch. Dist.*, 554 F.3d 734 (8th Cir. 2009)
*Lowry v. Watson Chapel Sch. Dist.*, 540 F.3d 752 (8th Cir. 2008)
*Stephenson v. Davenport Cmty. Sch. Dist.*, 110 F.3d 1303 (8th Cir. 1997)
*B.H. ex rel. Hawk v. Easton Area School Dist.*, 725 F.3d 293 (3rd Cir. 2013)
*D.B. ex rel. Brogdon v. Lafon*, 217 Fed.Appx. 518 (6th Cir. 2007)
*Hardwick v. Heyward*, 711 F.3d 426 (4th Cir. 2013)
*Madrid v. Anthony*, 510 F.Supp.2d 425 (S.D. Tex. 2007)
*McIntire v. Bethel School, Indep. Sch. Dist. No. 3*, 804 F.Supp. 1415 (W.D. Okla. 1992)
*Hicks v. Halifax County Bd. of Educ.*, 93 F.Supp.2d 649 (E.D. N.C. 1999)
*Olesen v. Bd. of Educ. of Sch. Dist. No. 228*, 676 F.Supp. 820 (N.D. Ill. 1987)

Policy Adopted: 04/11/05
Policy Updated: 11/13/13
Policy Updated: 10/12/15
Policy Reviewed: 6/11/18
Policy Updated: 02/08/21
Policy Revised: 09/12/22

## DISTRIBUTION OF NONSCHOOL-SPONSORED MATERIALS ON SCHOOL PREMISES

505

## I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to protect the exercise of students', employees', and members of the public's free speech rights, taking into consideration the educational objectives and responsibilities of the school district.

## II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

A. The school district recognizes that students, employees and members of the public have the right to express themselves on school property. This protection includes the right to distribute, at a reasonable time and place and in a reasonable manner, nonschool-sponsored material.

B. To protect First Amendment rights, while at the same time preserving the integrity of the educational objectives and responsibilities of the school district, the school board adopts the following regulations and procedures regarding distribution of nonschool-sponsored material on school property and at school activities.

## III. DEFINITIONS

A. "Distribute" or "Distribution" means circulation or dissemination of material by means of handing out free copies, selling or offering copies for sale, accepting donations for copies, posting or displaying material, or placing material in internal staff or student mailboxes.

B. "Nonschool-sponsored material" or "unofficial material" includes all materials or objects intended for distribution, except school newspapers, employee newsletters, literary magazines, yearbooks and other publications funded and/or sponsored or authorized by the school. Examples of nonschool-sponsored materials include but are not limited to leaflets, brochures, buttons, badges, flyers, petitions, posters, and underground newspapers whether written by students or employees or others, and tangible objects.

C. "Obscene to minors" means:

1. The average person, applying contemporary community standards, would find that the material, taken as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest of minors of the age to whom distribution is requested;

2. The material depicts or describes, in a manner that is patently offensive to prevailing standards in the adult community concerning how such conduct

should be presented to minors of the age to whom distribution is requested, sexual conduct such as intimate sexual acts (normal or perverted), masturbation, excretory functions, or lewd exhibition of the genitals; and

3. The material, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value for minors.

D. "Minor" means any person under the age of eighteen (18).

E. "Material and substantial disruption" of a normal school activity means:

1. Where the normal school activity is an educational program of the district for which student attendance is compulsory, "material and substantial disruption" is defined as any disruption which interferes with or impedes the implementation of that program.

2. Where the normal school activity is voluntary in nature (including, without limitation, school athletic events, school plays and concerts, and lunch periods) "material and substantial disruption" is defined as student rioting, unlawful seizures of property, conduct inappropriate to the event, participation in a school boycott, demonstration, sit-in, stand-in, walk-out, or other related forms of activity.

In order for expression to be considered disruptive, there must exist specific facts upon which the likelihood of disruption can be forecast, including past experience in the school, current events influencing student activities and behavior, and instances of actual or threatened disruption relating to the written material in question.

F. "School activities" means any activity sponsored by the school including, but not limited to, classroom work, library activities, physical education classes, official assemblies and other similar gatherings, school athletic contests, band concerts, school plays and other theatrical productions, and in-school lunch periods.

G. "Libelous" is a false and unprivileged statement about a specific individual that tends to harm the individual's reputation or to lower that individual in the esteem of the community.

## IV. GUIDELINES

A. Students, members of the public, and employees of the school district have the right to distribute, at reasonable times and places as set forth in this policy, and in a reasonable manner, nonschool-sponsored material.

B. Requests for distribution of nonschool-sponsored material will be reviewed by the administration on a case-by-case basis. However, distribution of the materials listed below is always prohibited. Material is prohibited that:

1. is obscene to minors;

2. is libelous or slanderous;

3. is pervasively indecent or vulgar or contains any indecent or vulgar language or representations, with a determination made as to the appropriateness of the material for the age level of students to which it is intended;

4. advertises or promotes any product or service not permitted to minors by law;

5. advocates violence or other illegal conduct;

6. constitutes insulting or fighting words, the very expression of which injures or harasses other people (e.g., threats of violence, defamation of character or of a person's race, religious or ethnic origin);

7. presents a clear and present likelihood that, either because of its content or the manner of distribution, it will cause a material and substantial disruption of the proper and orderly operation and discipline of the school or school activities, will cause the commission of unlawful acts or the violation of lawful school regulations;

8. is considered campaign material. School facilities (including teachers' mailboxes in the buildings) are not to be used by candidates for public office or their adherents to distribute campaign materials in their behalf. Solicitation of campaign funds in school buildings in behalf of candidates is also prohibited.

C. Distribution by students, employees and members of the public of nonschool-sponsored materials on school district property are subject to reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions set forth below. In making decisions regarding the time, place, and manner of distribution, the administration will consider factors including, but not limited to, the following:

1. whether the material is educationally related; or services the students in the community including recreation, health, culture or civic which is for the betterment of the community;

2. the extent to which distribution is likely to cause disruption of or interference with the school district's educational objectives, discipline, or school activities;

3. whether the materials can be distributed from the office or other isolated location so as to minimize disruption of traffic flow in hallways;

4. the quantity or size of materials to be distributed;

5. whether distribution would require assignment of school district staff, use of school district equipment, or other resources;

6. whether distribution would require that nonschool persons be present on the school grounds;

7. whether the materials are a solicitation for goods or services not requested by the recipients;

8. whether the materials advocate a particular religion.

D. Distribution by a commercial firm of free materials pertaining to an instructional program will be permitted in any school building or on any school district grounds in the system with the specific permission of the Superintendent of Schools.

## V. TIME, PLACE, AND MANNER OF DISTRIBUTION

A. No nonschool-sponsored material shall be distributed during and at the place of a normal school activity if it is reasonably likely to cause a material and substantial disruption of that activity.

B. Distribution of nonschool-sponsored material is prohibited when it blocks the safe flow of traffic within corridors and entrance ways of the school, and school parking lots. Distribution shall not impede entrance to or exit from school premises in any way.

C. No one shall coerce a student or staff member to accept any publication.

D. The time, place, and manner of distribution will be solely within the discretion of the administration, consistent with the provisions of this policy.

## VI. PROCEDURES

A. Any student, employee, or member of the public wishing to distribute (as defined in this policy) nonschool-sponsored material must first submit for approval a copy

of the material to the Director of Human Resources at least 24 hours in advance of desired distribution time, together with the following information:

1. Name and phone number of the person submitting the request and, if a student, the room number of his or her first-period class.

2. Date(s) and time(s) of day intended for distribution.

3. Location where material will be distributed.

4. If intended for students, the grade(s) of students to whom the distribution is intended.

B. Within one school day, the Director of Human Resources will review the request and render a decision. In the event that permission to distribute the material is denied or limited, the person submitting the request should be informed in writing of the reasons for the denial or limitation.

C. If the person submitting the request does not receive a response within one school day, the person shall contact the Human Resources office to verify that the lack of response was not due to an inability to locate the person.

D. If the person is dissatisfied with the decision of the principal, the person may submit a written request for appeal to the superintendent. If the person does not receive a response within three (3) school days (not counting Saturdays, Sundays and holidays) of submitting the appeal, the person shall contact the office of the Superintendent to verify that the lack of response is not due to an inability to locate the person.

E. Permission or denial of permission to distribute material does not imply approval or disapproval of its contents by either the school, the administration of the school, the school board, or the individual reviewing the material submitted.

## VII. DISCIPLINARY ACTION

A. Distribution by any student of nonschool-sponsored material prohibited herein or in violation of the provisions of time, place and manner of distribution as described above will be halted and disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with the school district's Student Discipline Policy.

B. Distribution by any employee of nonschool-sponsored material prohibited herein or in violation of the provisions of time, place and manner of distribution as described above will be halted and appropriate disciplinary action will be taken, in accordance with any individual contract, collective bargaining agreement, school district policies and procedures, and/or governing statute.

C. Any other party violating this policy will be requested to leave the school property immediately and, if necessary, the police will be called.

## VIII. NOTICE OF POLICY TO STUDENTS, EMPLOYEES AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A copy of this policy will be posted on the district website and in school buildings.

***Legal References:***

- U. S. Const., amend. I
- *Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier*, 484 U.S. 260, 108 S.Ct. 562, 98 L.Ed.2d 592 (1988)
- *Bethel Sch. Dist. No. 403 v. Fraser*, 478 U.S. 675, 106 S.Ct. 3159, 92 L.Ed.2d 549 (1986)
- *Tinker v. Des Moines Indep. Sch. Dist.*, 393 U.S. 503, 89 S.Ct. 733, 21 L.Ed.2d 731 (1969)
- *Bystrom v. Fridley High School*, 822 F.2d 747 (8th Cir. 1986)
- *Victory Through Jesus Sports Ministry Foundation v. Lee's Summit R-7 School Dist.*, 640 F.3d 329 (8th Cir. 2011), cert. denied ___U.S. ___, 132 S.Ct. 592 (2011)

Policy Adopted: 12/12/05
Policy Updated: 11/13/13
Policy Updated: 7/13/15
Policy Updated: 6/11/18
Policy Reviewed: 3/8/21

## EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR FOR CERTAIN STUDENTS WITH INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAMS

**508**

***[Note: The provisions of this policy substantially reflect statutory and regulatory requirements.]***

## I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the school district complies with the overall requirements of law as mandated for certain students subject to individualized education programs (IEPs) when necessary to provide a free appropriate public education (FAPE).

## II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

A. Extended School Year Services Must Be Available to Provide a FAPE. The school district shall provide extended school year (ESY) services to a student who is the subject of an IEP if the student's IEP team determines the services are necessary during a break in instruction in order to provide a FAPE.

B. Extended School Year Determination. At least annually, the IEP team must determine that a student is in need of ESY services if the student meets any of the following conditions:

1. There will be significant regression of a skill or acquired knowledge from the student's level of performance on an annual goal that requires more than the length of the break in instruction to recoup unless the IEP team determines a shorter time for recoupment is more appropriate; OR

2. Services are necessary for the student to attain and maintain self-sufficiency because of the critical nature of the skill addressed by an annual goal, the student's age and level of development, and the timeliness for teaching the skill; OR

3. The IEP team otherwise determines, given the student's unique needs, that ESY services are necessary to ensure the pupil receives a FAPE.

C. Required Factors Schools Must Consider in Making ESY Determinations. The IEP team must decide ESY eligibility using information including:

1. Prior observations of the student's regression and recoupment over the summer;

2. Observations of the student's tendency to regress over extended breaks in instruction during the school year; and

3. Experience with other students with similar instructional needs.

D. Additional Factors to Consider, Where Relevant. In making its determination of ESY needs, the following factors must be considered, where relevant:

1. The student's progress and maintenance of skills during the regular school year.

2. The student's degree of impairment.

3. The student's rate of progress.

4. The student's behavioral or physical problems.

5. The availability of alternative resources.

6. The student's ability and need to interact with nondisabled peers.

7. The areas of the student's curriculum which need continuous attention.

8. The student's vocational needs.

E. No Unilateral Decisions.

In the course of providing ESY services to children with disabilities, the school district may not unilaterally limit the type, amount, or duration of those services.

F. Services to Nonresident Students Temporarily Placed in School District.

A school district may provide ESY services to nonresident children with disabilities temporarily placed in the school district in accordance with applicable state law.

***Legal References:*** Minn. Stat. § 125A.14 (Extended School Year)
Minn. Rules Part 3525.0755
20 U.S.C. § 1400 *et seq.* (Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004)
34 C.F.R. Part 300 (Assistance to States for the Education of Children with Disabilities)

***Cross References:*** None

Policy Adapted: 4/11/05
Policy Revised: 2/10/14
Policy Reviewed: 9/14/15
Policy Reviewed: 08/13/18
Policy Reviewed: 03/08/21
Policy Updated: 04/24/23

## SCHOOL ACTIVITIES 510

### I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to impart to students, employees, and the community the school district's policy related to the student activity program.

### II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

School activities provide additional opportunities for students to pursue special interests that contribute to their physical, mental, and emotional well-being. They are of secondary importance in relationship to the formal instructional program; however, they complement the instructional program in providing students with additional opportunities for growth and development.

### III. RESPONSIBILITY

A. The school board expects all students who participate in school-sponsored activities to represent the school and community in a responsible manner. All rules pertaining to student conduct and student discipline extend to school activities.

B. The school board expects all spectators at school sponsored activities, including parents, employees, and other members of the public, to behave in an appropriate manner at those activities. Students and employees may be subject to discipline and parents and other spectators may be subject to sanctions for engaging in misbehavior or inappropriate, illegal, or unsportsmanlike behavior at these activities or events.

C. The superintendent shall be responsible for disseminating information needed to inform students, parents, staff, and the community of the opportunities available within the school activity program and the rules of participation.

D. Those students who participate in Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) activities must also abide by the league rules. Those employees who conduct MSHSL activities shall be responsible for familiarizing students and parents with all applicable rules, penalties, and opportunities.

E. The superintendent shall be responsible for conducting an annual evaluation of school activity programs and presenting the results and any recommendations to the school board.

F. The school board will ensure that any funds raised for extracurricular activities will be spent only on extracurricular activities.

***Legal References:*** Minn. Stat. § 123B.49 (Extracurricular Activities; Insurance)

Policy Adopted: 7/25/02
Policy Reviewed: 04/09/12
Policy Reviewed 12/9/13
Policy Reviewed: 9/14/15
Policy Reviewed: 8/13/18
Policy Updated: 04/12/21

# STUDENT FUNDRAISING 511

## I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to address student fundraising efforts.

## II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The school board recognizes a desire and a need by some student organizations for fundraising. The school board also recognizes a need for some constraint to prevent fundraising activities from becoming too numerous and overly demanding on employees, students, and the general public.

## III. RESPONSIBILITY

A. The building administrators shall be responsible for developing recommendations to the superintendent that will result in a level of activity deemed acceptable by employees, parents, and students. Fundraising must be conducted in a manner that will not result in embarrassment on the part of individual students, employees, or the school.

B. All fundraising activities must be approved, in advance, by the administration. Participation in nonapproved activities shall be considered a violation of school district policy.

C. The superintendent shall be responsible for providing coordination of student fundraising throughout the school district as deemed appropriate.

D. The school district expects all students who participate in approved fundraising activities to represent the school, the student organization, and the community in a responsible manner. All rules pertaining to student conduct and student discipline extend to student fundraising activities.

E. The school district expects all employees who plan, supervise, coordinate, or participate in student fundraising activities to act in the best interests of the students and to represent the school, the student organization, and the community in a responsible manner.

## IV. ANNUAL REPORT

The superintendent shall report to the school board, at least annually, on the nature and scope of student fundraising activities approved pursuant to this policy.

***Legal References:*** Minn. Stat. § 120A.20 (Age Limitations; Pupils)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.09, Subd. 8 (Duties)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.36 (Authorized Fees)

Policy Approved: 05/23/05
Policy Reviewed: 04/09/12
Policy Reviewed: 12/9/13
Policy Reviewed: 9/14/15
Policy Reviewed: 8/13/18
Policy Updated: 04/11/21

## STUDENT RECRUITING 517

### I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to prevent school district employees from exerting undue influence for purposes of securing or retaining the attendance of a student in a school.

### II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

A. It is the policy of the school district to encourage employees to make available to all interested people information regarding the school district, its schools, programs, policies, and procedures. The purpose of such activity is to assist in the process of fully informed decision making regarding school enrollment and to enhance the visibility and image of the school district.

B. At the same time, the school district recognizes that the scope of such activity is limited by statutory authority and bylaws of the Minnesota State High School League. Accordingly, it shall be a violation of this policy for employees to exert undue influence for purposes of securing or retaining the attendance of a student in a school or to compete with another school district for the enrollment of students.

C. Employees are further prohibited from encouraging others to engage in such conduct on behalf of the school district.

### III. DEFINITION

A. The terms "undue influence" or "competing for enrollment" shall include initiating any oral or written contact with a student from another school district who participates in a school-sponsored sport or activity which solicits the student's transfer to participate in a sport or activity.

B. The terms shall also include the awarding of tuition, allowance for board and/or room, allowance for transportation, priority in assignments of jobs, cash or gifts in any form, or any other privilege or consideration if not similarly available to all students.

### IV. PROCEDURES

A. The school board shall adopt, by resolution, specific standards for acceptance and rejection of applications for open enrollment. Standards may include the capacity of a program, class, school building, or the statutory limits to nonresident enrollment in a particular grade level, or whether the student is currently expelled for (1) possessing a dangerous weapon, as defined under federal law, at a school or school function; (2) possession or using an illegal drug at school or at a school function; (3) selling or soliciting the sale of a controlled substance while at school or a school function; or committing a first, second or third degree assault as described in state law. Standards for acceptance and rejection of open-enrollment

applications are subject to the Graduation Incentives Program and may not include previous academic achievement, athletic or other extracurricular ability, disabling conditions, proficiency in the English language, previous disciplinary proceedings, or the student's district of residence.

B. Employees who violate the provisions of the policy shall be subject to disciplinary action as appropriate. Any such disciplinary action shall be made pursuant to and in accordance with applicable statutory authority, collective bargaining agreements, school district policies, and the bylaws of the Minnesota High School League, as applicable.

***Legal References:***

- Minn. Stat. § 124D.03 (Enrollment Options Program)
- Minn. Stat. § 124D.68 (Graduation Incentives Program)
- Minn. State High School League Bylaws

Policy Approved: 8/22/05
Policy Reviewed: 04/09/12
Policy Reviewed: 1/13/14
Policy Reviewed: 11/9/15
Policy Reviewed: 9/10/18
Policy Reviewed: 05/10/21

**DNR-DNI ORDERS** **518**

## I. PURPOSE

The school district recognizes that it is serving students with complex health needs. The school district also recognizes that school district staff may be confronted with requests to withhold emergency care of a student in the event of a life threatening situation at school or school activities or be presented with Do Not Resuscitate/Do Not Intubate (DNR-DNI) orders. The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to school district staff and parents or guardians in these situations.

## II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

A. The primary mission of the school district is education. DNR-DNI Orders are medical documents. School district staff will not accept or honor requests to withhold emergency care or DNR-DNI orders. The school district will not convey such orders to emergency medical personnel.

B. School district staff will provide reasonable emergency care and assistance when a student is undergoing a medical emergency during school or school activities.

C. School district staff will activate emergency medical services (911) as soon as possible when a student is undergoing a medical emergency during school or school activities.

D. The parent/guardian will be notified of the emergency as soon as possible.

E. Notwithstanding this school district policy, IEP and Section 504 teams must develop individualized medical emergency care plans for students when appropriate in accordance with state and federal law.

F. Parents/guardians who request that emergency care be withheld for their child or who present DNR-DNI Orders, shall be advised of and shall be given a copy of this policy.

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***Legal References:***

- 29 U.S.C. § 794 *et seq.* (Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973)
- 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101-12213 (Americans with Disabilities Act)

Policy Adopted: 2/14/05
Policy Reviewed: 04/09/12
Policy Reviewed: 01/13/14
Policy Reviewed: 11/9/15
Policy Reviewed: 9/10/18
Policy Reviewed: 05/10/21

## POLICIES INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE 523

### PURPOSE

Certain policies as contained in the school district's policies are applicable to students as well as to employees. 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 students:

| | |
|---|---|
| Model Policy 413 | Harassment and Violence |
| Model Policy 417 | Chemical Use and Abuse |
| Model Policy 418 | Drug-Free Workplace/Drug-Free School |
| Model Policy 419 | Tobacco-Free Environment; Possession and Use of Tobacco, Tobacco-Related Devices, and Electronic Delivery Devices |
| Model Policy 420 | Students and Employees with Sexually Transmitted Infections and Diseases and Certain Other Communicable Diseases and Infectious Conditions |

Students are charged with notice that the above cited policies are also applicable to students; however, students 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

Policy Adopted: 12/10/18
Policy Reviewed: 05/10/21
Policy Updated: 04/24/23

## VIOLENCE PREVENTION [APPLICABLE TO STUDENTS AND STAFF] 525

### I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to recognize that violence has increased and to identify measures that the school district will take in an attempt to maintain a learning and working environment that is free from violent and disruptive behavior.

The school board is committed to promoting healthy human relationships and learning environments that are physically and psychologically safe for all members of the school community. It further believes that students are the first priority and they should be protected from physical or emotional harm during school activities and on school grounds, buses, or field trips while under school district supervision.

### II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

A. The policy of the school district is to strictly enforce its weapons policy (Policy 501).

B. The policy of the school district is to act promptly in investigating all acts, or formal or informal complaints, of violence and take appropriate disciplinary action against any student or staff member who is found to have violated this policy or any related policy.

C. The administration will periodically review discipline policies and procedures, prepare revisions if necessary, and submit them to the school board for review and adoption.

D. The school district will implement approved violence prevention strategies to promote safe and secure learning environments, to diminish violence in our schools, and to aid in the protection of children whose health or welfare may be jeopardized through acts of violence.

### III. IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICY

A. The school board will review and approve policies to prevent and address violence in our schools. The superintendent or designee will develop procedures to effectively implement the school weapons and violence prevention policies. It shall be incumbent on all students and staff to observe all policies and report violations to the school administration.

B. The school board and administration will inform staff and students annually of policies and procedures related to violence prevention and weapons.

C. The school district will act promptly to investigate all acts and formal and informal complaints of violence and take appropriate disciplinary action against any student or staff member who is found to have violated this policy or any related policy.

D. The consequences set forth in the school weapons policy (Policy 501) will be imposed upon any student or nonstudent who possesses, uses or distributes a weapon when in a school location.

E. The consequences set forth in the school hazing policy (Policy 526) will be imposed upon any student or staff member who commits an act against a student or staff member; or coerces a student or staff member into committing an act, that creates a substantial risk of harm to a person in order for the student or staff member to be initiated into or affiliated with an organization, or for any other purpose.

F. Students who engage in assault or violent behavior will be removed from the classroom immediately and for a period of time deemed appropriate by the principal, in consultation with the teacher, pursuant to the student discipline policy (Policy 506).

G. Students with disabilities may be expelled for behavior unrelated to their disabilities, subject to the procedural safeguards required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act.

H. Procedures will be developed for the referral of any person in violation of this policy or the weapons policy to the local law enforcement agency in accordance with Minnesota Statutes section 121A.05.

I. Students who wear objectionable emblems, signs, words, objects, or pictures on clothing communicating a message that is racist, sexist, or otherwise derogatory to a protected minority group or which connotes gang membership or that approves, advances, or provokes any form of religious, racial, or sexual harassment or violence against other individuals as defined in the harassment and violence policy (Policy 413) will be subject to the procedures set forth in the student dress and appearance policy (Policy 504). "Gang" as used in this policy means any ongoing organization, association, or group of three or more persons, whether formal or informal, having as one of its primary activities the commission of one or more criminal acts, which has an identifiable name or identifying sign or symbol, and whose members individually or collectively engage in or whose members engaged in a pattern of criminal gang activity. A "pattern of gang activity" means the commission, attempt to commit, conspiring to commit, or solicitation of two or more criminal acts, provided the criminal acts were committed on separate dates or by two or more persons who are members of or belong to the same criminal street gang.

J. This policy is not intended to abridge the rights of students to express political, religious, philosophical, or similar opinions by wearing apparel on which such messages are stated. Such messages are acceptable as long as they are not lewd, vulgar, obscene, defamatory, profane, denote gang affiliation, advocate harassment

or violence against others, are likely to disrupt the education process, or cause others to react in a violent or illegal manner (Policy 504).

## IV. PREVENTION STRATEGIES

The school district has adopted and will implement the following prevention strategies to promote safe and secure learning environments, to diminish violence in our schools, and to aid in the protection of children whose health or welfare may be jeopardized through acts of violence.

***[Note: The school board can adopt any of the prevention strategies that it intends to implement in its schools, including some or all of the following sample strategies.]***

A. Adopt a district crisis management policy to address potential violent crisis situations in the district.

B. Provide training in recognition, prevention, and safe responses to violence and development of a positive school climate.

C. Coordinate a local school security review committee or task force comprised of school officials, law enforcement, parents, students, and other youth service providers to advise on policy implementation.

D. In-service training for personnel in aspects of reporting, visibility, and supervision as deterrents to violence.

E. In-service training for personnel and school board members by experts familiar with sexual abuse, domestic violence, and personal safety issues on the following: helping students identify violence in the family and the community so that students may learn to resolve conflicts in effective, nonviolent ways; responding to a disclosure of child sexual abuse in a supportive, appropriate manner; and/or complying with mandatory reporting requirements under the Maltreatment of Minors Reporting Act.

F. Promote student safety responsibility by encouraging the reporting of suspicious individuals and unusual activities on school grounds.

G. Establish a curriculum committee that explores ways of teaching students violence prevention strategies, law-related education, and character/values education (universal values, e.g., honesty, personal responsibility, self-discipline, cooperation, and respect for others).

H. Establish clear school rules that prevent and deter violence.

I. Develop cross-cultural awareness programs to unify students of all cultures and backgrounds, to develop mutual respect and understanding of shared experiences and values among students, and to promote the message of inclusion.

J. Establish conflict resolution training, conflict management, or peer mediation programs for staff and students to teach conservative approaches to settling disputes.

K. Develop curriculum that teaches social skills such as maintaining self-control, building communications skills, forming friendships, resisting peer pressure, being appropriately assertive, forming positive relationships with adults, and resolving conflict in nonviolent ways.

L. Develop curriculum that teaches critical viewing and listening skills in analyzing mass media to recognize stereotypes, distinguish fact from fantasy, and identify differences in behavior and values that conflict with their own.

M. Develop student safety forums that both inform and elicit students' ideas about particular safety problems in the building.

N. Develop a student photo or name identification system for quick identification of the student in case of emergency.

O. Develop a staff photo or name identification system using identification badges for quick identification of unauthorized people on campus.

P. Require all visitors to check-in the main office upon their arrival and state their business at the school. A visitor badge may be issued for easy identification that the visitor is authorized to be present in the school building.

Q. Develop curriculum 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, and resourcefulness.

R. Develop curriculum on child sexual abuse prevention for students, including age-appropriate instruction on recognizing sexual abuse and assault, boundary violations, and ways offenders groom or desensitize victims, as well as strategies to promote disclosure, reduce self-blame, and mobilize bystanders. The curriculum may be created in consultation with federal, state, and local agencies and community-based organizations, including the Child Welfare Information Gateway website maintained by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, to identify research-based tools, curricula, and programs to prevent child sexual abuse.

S. Provide training to all school personnel on recognizing and preventing sexual abuse and sexual violence which may include training on mandatory reporting requirements provided on the Minnesota Department of Education's website and reviewing the Code of Ethics for Minnesota Teachers.

## V. STUDENT SUPPORT

A. Students will have access to school-based student service professionals, when available, including counselors, nurses, social workers, and psychologists who are knowledgeable in methods to assist students with violence prevention and intervention.

B. Students will be apprised of school board policies designed to protect their personal safety.

C. Students will be provided with information as to school district and building rules regarding weapons and violence.

D. Students will be informed of resources for violence prevention and proper reporting.

## VI. PERSONNEL

A. School district personnel shall comply with the school weapons policy (Policy 501) and the school hazing policy (Policy 526).

B. School district personnel shall be knowledgeable of violence prevention policies and report any violation to school administration immediately. School district personnel will be informed annually as to school district and building rules regarding weapons and violence prevention.

C. School district personnel or agents of the school district shall not engage in emotionally abusive acts including malicious shouting, ridicule, and/or threats or other forms of corporal punishment (Policy 507).

***Legal References:***
Minn. Stat. § 13.43, Subd. 16 (Personnel Data)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.22 (Violence Prevention Education)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.232 (Character Development Education)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.234 (Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Education)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.035 (Crisis Management Policy)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.05 (Policy to Refer Firearms Possessor)
Minn. Stat. §§ 121A.40-121A.56 (Pupil Fair Dismissal Act)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.44 (Expulsion for Possession of Firearm)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.61 (Discipline and Removal of Students from Class)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.64 (Notification)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.69 (Hazing Policy)
Minn. Stat. § 181.967, Subd. 5 (School District Disclosure of Violence or Inappropriate Sexual Contact)

18 U.S.C. § 921 (Definition of Firearm)
20 U.S.C. § 1400 *et seq.* (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)
29 U.S.C. § 794 *et seq.* (Rehabilitation Act of 1973, § 504)
*Tinker v. Des Moines Indep. Sch. Dist.*, 393 U.S. 503, 89 S.Ct. 733, 21 L.Ed.2d 731 (1969)
*Stephenson v. Davenport Cmty. Sch. Dist.*, 110 F.3d 1303 (8th Cir. 1997)
*McIntire v. Bethel School*, 804 F.Supp. 1415, 78 Educ. L.Rep. 828 (W.D. Okla. 1992)
*Olesen v. Board of Educ. of Sch. Dist. No. 228*, 676 F.Supp. 820, 44 Educ. L.Rep. 205 (N.D. Ill. 1987)

Policy Reviewed: 12/14/15
Policy Updated: 11/29/18
Policy Revised: 7/12/21
Policy Updated: 05/22/23

## HAZING PROHIBITION 526

***[Note: School districts are required by statute to have a policy addressing these issues. The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) will maintain and make available a model policy on student and staff hazing in accordance with Minn. Stat. § 121A.69. The MDE model policy differs from the MSBA/MASA model policy as it incorporates state and federal requirements related to harassment and discrimination which extends beyond the mandate of Minn. Stat. § 121A.69. Topics of harassment and discrimination are addressed in other MSBA/MASA policies. While school districts are required to adopt a policy governing student and staff hazing, school districts are not required to adopt any particular policy. MSBA recommends this policy.]***

### I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to maintain a safe learning environment for students and staff that is free from hazing. Hazing activities of any type are inconsistent with the educational goals of the school district and are prohibited at all times.

### II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

A. No student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other employee of the school district shall plan, direct, encourage, aid, or engage in hazing.

B. No teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other employee of the school district shall permit, condone, or tolerate hazing.

C. Apparent permission or consent by a person being hazed does not lessen the prohibitions contained in this policy.

D. Retaliation against a victim, good faith reporter, or a witness of hazing is prohibited.

E. False accusations or reports of hazing against a student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other employee are prohibited.

F. A person who engages in an act of hazing, reprisal, retaliation, or false reporting of hazing or permits, condones, or tolerates hazing 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, tolerate, or are a party to prohibited acts of hazing 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 hazing or engage in an act of reprisal or intentional false reporting of hazing may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination or discharge.

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

G. This policy applies to hazing that occurs during and after school hours, on or off school premises or property, at school functions or activities, or on school transportation.

H. A person who engages in an act that violates school policy or law in order to be initiated into or affiliated with a student organization shall be subject to discipline for that act.

I. The school district will act to investigate all complaints of hazing and will discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other employee of the school district who is found to have violated this policy.

## III. DEFINITIONS

A. "Hazing" means committing an act against a student, or coercing a student into committing an act, that creates a substantial risk of harm to a person, in order for the student to be initiated into or affiliated with a student organization, or for any other school-related purpose. The term hazing includes, but is not limited to:

1. Any type of physical brutality such as whipping, beating, striking, branding, electronic shocking, or placing a harmful substance on the body.

2. Any type of physical activity such as sleep deprivation, exposure to weather, confinement in a restricted area, calisthenics, or other activity that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student.

3. Any activity involving the consumption of any alcoholic beverage, drug, tobacco product, or any other food, liquid, or substance that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student.

4. Any activity that intimidates or threatens the student with ostracism, that subjects a student to extreme mental stress, embarrassment, shame, or humiliation, that adversely affects the mental health or dignity of the student or discourages the student from remaining in school.

5. Any activity that causes or requires the student to perform a task that involves violation of state or federal law or of school district policies or regulations.

B. "Immediately" means as soon as possible but in no event longer than 24 hours.

C. "On school premises or school district property, or at school functions or activities, or on school transportation" means all school district buildings, school grounds, and school property or property immediately adjacent to school grounds, school bus stops, school buses, school vehicles, school contracted vehicles, or any other vehicles approved for school district purposes, the area of entrance or departure from school grounds, premises, or events, and all school-related functions, school-sponsored activities, events, or trips. School district property also may mean a student's walking route to or from school for purposes of attending school or school-related functions, activities, or events. While prohibiting hazing at these locations and events, the school district does not represent that it will provide supervision or assume liability at these locations and events.

D. "Remedial response" means a measure to stop and correct hazing, prevent hazing from recurring, and protect, support, and intervene on behalf of a student who is the target or victim of hazing.

E. "Student" means a student enrolled in a public school or a charter school.

F. "Student organization" means a group, club, or organization having students as its primary members or participants. It includes grade levels, classes, teams, activities, or particular school events. A student organization does not have to be an official school organization to come within the terms of this definition.

## IV. REPORTING PROCEDURES

A. Any person who believes he or she has been the target or victim of hazing or any person with knowledge or belief of conduct which may constitute hazing shall report the alleged acts immediately to an appropriate school district official designated by this policy. A person may report hazing 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 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.

The building principal, the principal's designee, or the building supervisor (hereinafter the "building report taker") is the person responsible for receiving reports of hazing at the building level. Any adult school district personnel who receives a report of hazing prohibited by this policy shall inform the building report taker immediately. Any person may report hazing 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.

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.

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

D. Submission of a good faith complaint or report of hazing will not affect the complainant or reporter's future employment, grades, work assignments, or educational or work environment.

E. Reports of hazing are classified as private educational and/or personnel data and/or confidential investigative data and will not be disclosed except as permitted by law. The building report taker, in conjunction with the responsible authority, shall be responsible for keeping and regulating access to any report of hazing and the record of any resulting investigation.

F. 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.

## V. SCHOOL DISTRICT ACTION

A. Within three (3) days of the receipt of a complaint or report of hazing, the school district shall undertake or authorize an investigation by school district officials or a third party designated by the school district.

B. The building report taker or other appropriate school district officials may take immediate steps, at their discretion, to protect the target or victim of the hazing, the complainant, the reporter, and students or others pending completion of an investigation of alleged hazing prohibited by this policy.

C. The alleged perpetrator of the hazing shall be allowed the opportunity to present a defense during the investigation or prior to the imposition of discipline or other remedial responses.

D. Upon completion of an investigation that determines hazing 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 the requirements of applicable collective bargaining agreements; applicable statutory authority, including the Minnesota Pupil Fair Dismissal Act; and applicable school district policies and regulations.

E. 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 parent(s) or guardian(s) of students who are targets or victims of hazing and the parent(s) or guardian(s) of alleged perpetrators of hazing who have been involved in a reported and confirmed hazing incident of the remedial or disciplinary action taken, to the extent permitted by law.

F. In order to prevent or to respond to hazing 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) team 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 hazing.

## VI. RETALIATION OR REPRISAL

The school district will discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other employee of the school district who commits an act of reprisal or who retaliates against any person who asserts, alleges, or makes a good faith report of alleged hazing, who provides information about hazing, who testifies, assists, or participates in an investigation of alleged hazing, or who testifies, assists, or participates in a proceeding or hearing relating to such hazing. 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 prohibited conduct. Remedial responses to the prohibited conduct shall be tailored to the particular incident and nature of the conduct.

## VII. DISSEMINATION OF POLICY

***[Note: Proper reference should be made to the appropriate handbooks in each school district.]***

A. This policy shall appear in each school's student handbook and in each school's building and staff handbooks.

B. The school district will develop a method of discussing this policy with students

and employees.

***egal References:*** Minn. Stat. § 121A.031 (School Student Bullying Policy)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.0311 (Notice of the Rights and Responsibilities of Students and Parents Under the Safe and Supportive Minnesota Schools Act)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.40-121A.56 (Pupil Fair Dismissal Act)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.69 (Hazing Policy)

Policy Adopted: 12/13/04
Policy Revised: 3/10/14
Revised Policy Approved: 2/8/16
Policy Reviewed: 10/08/18
Policy Reviewed: 05/10/21

**STUDENT USE AND PARKING OF MOTOR VEHICLES; PATROLS, INSPECTIONS AND SEARCHES** **527**

## I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for use and parking of motor vehicles by students in school district locations, to maintain order and discipline in the schools, and to protect the health, safety, and welfare of students and school personnel.

## II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The policy of this school district is to allow the limited use and parking of motor vehicles by students in school district locations. The position of the school district is that a fair and equitable district-wide student motor vehicle policy will contribute to the quality of the student's educational experience, will maintain order and discipline in the schools, and will protect the health, safety, and welfare of students and school personnel. This policy applies to all students in the school district.

## III. DEFINITIONS

A. "Contraband" means any unauthorized item possession of which is prohibited by school district policy and/or law. It includes, but is not limited to, weapons and "look-alikes," alcoholic beverages, controlled substances and "look-alikes," overdue books and other materials belonging to the school district, and stolen property.

B. "Reasonable suspicion" means that a school official has grounds to believe that the search will result in evidence of a violation of school district policy, rules, and/or law. Reasonable suspicion may be based on a school official's personal observation, a report from a student, parent, or staff member, a student's suspicious behavior, a student's age and past history or record of conduct both in and out of the school context, or other reliable sources of information.

C. "Reasonable scope" means that the scope and/or intrusiveness of the search is reasonably related to the objectives of the search. Factors to consider in determining what is reasonable include the seriousness of the suspected infraction, the reliability of the information, the necessity of acting without delay, the existence of exigent circumstances necessitating an immediate search and further investigation (e.g., to prevent violence, serious and immediate risk of harm, or destruction of evidence), and the age of the student.

D. "School district location" means property that is owned, rented, leased, or borrowed by the school district for school purposes, as well as property immediately adjacent to such property that may be used for parking or gaining access to such property. A school district location also shall include 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.

## IV. STUDENT USE OF MOTOR VEHICLES IN SCHOOL DISTRICT LOCATIONS

Students generally are not permitted to use motor vehicles during the school day in any school district location. Students may use motor vehicles on the high school campus during the school day only during the student's designated lunch period, to or from a post-secondary class off-campus, or if there is an emergency and permission has been granted to the student by high school administration to use a motor vehicle.

## V. STUDENT PARKING OF MOTOR VEHICLES IN SCHOOL DISTRICT LOCATIONS

A. Students are permitted to park in a school district location as a matter of privilege, not of right. Students will not park vehicles in driveways, on private property, or in other designated staff parking lots. Parking permits are required to park in the school lots. Only grade 12 students who have good attendance record can apply for these parking permits. An annual parking fee will be charged.

B. When there are unauthorized vehicles parked on school district property, school officials may:

1. move the vehicle or require the driver or other person in charge of the vehicle to move it off school district property; or

2. if unattended, provide for the removal of the vehicle, at the expense of the owner or operator, to the nearest convenient garage or other place of safety off of school district property.

## VI. PATROLS, INSPECTIONS, AND SEARCHES

School officials may conduct routine patrols of school district locations and routine inspections of the exteriors of the motor vehicles of students. In addition, the interiors of motor vehicles of students in school district locations may be searched when school officials have a reasonable suspicion that the search will uncover a violation of law and/or school policy or rule.

A. Patrols and Inspections

School officials may conduct routine patrols of student parking lots and other school district locations and routine inspections of the exteriors of the motor vehicles of students. Such patrols and inspections may be conducted without notice, without student consent, and without a search warrant.

B. Search of Interior of Student Motor Vehicle

The interiors of motor vehicles of students in school district locations, including glove or trunk compartments, may be searched when school officials have a reasonable suspicion that the search will uncover a violation of law and/or school

policy or rule. The search will be reasonable in its scope and intrusiveness. Such searches may be conducted without notice, without consent, and without a search warrant. A student will be subject to withdrawal of parking privileges and to discipline if the student refuses to open a locked motor vehicle under the student's control or its compartments upon the request of a school official.

C. Prohibition of Contraband and Interference with Patrols, Inspections, Searches, and/or Seizures

A violation of this policy occurs when students store or carry contraband in motor vehicles in a school district location or interfere with patrols, inspections, searches, and/or seizures as provided by this policy.

D. Seizure of Contraband

If a search yields contraband, school officials will seize the item and may turn it over to legal officials for ultimate disposition when appropriate.

E. Dissemination of Policy

A copy of this policy will be printed in the student handbook or disseminated in any other way which school officials deem appropriate.

## VII. DIRECTIVES AND GUIDELINES

The superintendent is granted authority to develop and present for school board review and approval reasonable directives and guidelines which address specific needs of the school district related to student use and parking of motor vehicles in school district locations, such as a permit system and parking regulations. Approved directives and guidelines shall be attached as an addendum to this policy.

## VIII. VIOLATIONS

A student found to have violated this policy and/or the directives and guidelines implementing it shall be subject to withdrawal of parking privileges and/or to discipline in accordance with the school district's Student Discipline Policy, which may include suspension, exclusion, or expulsion. In addition, the student may be referred to legal officials when appropriate.

***Legal References:***
U. S. Const., amend. IV
Minn. Const., art. I, §10
Minn. Stat. § 123B.02, Subds. 1 and 5 (General Powers of Independent School Districts)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.38 (Hearing)
*New Jersey v. T.L.O.*, 469 U.S. 325 (1985)

Policy Adopted: 12/13/14
Policy Reviewed: 5/14/12
Policy Reviewed: 1/13/14
Policy Reviewed: 12/14/15
Policy Reviewed: 10/08/18
Policy Reviewed: 6/14/21
Policy Updated: 05/22/23

**STUDENT PARENTAL, FAMILY, AND MARITAL STATUS NON-DISCRIMINATION** **528**

## I. PURPOSE

Students are protected from discrimination on the basis of sex and marital status pursuant to Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and the Minnesota Human Rights Act. This includes discrimination on the basis of pregnancy. The purpose of this school district policy is to provide equal educational opportunity for all students and to prohibit discrimination on the grounds of sex, parental, family, or marital status.

## II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

A. The school district provides equal educational opportunity for all students, and will not apply any rule concerning a student's actual or potential parental, family, or marital status which treats students differently on the basis of sex.

B. The school district will not discriminate against any student, or exclude any student from its education program or activity, including any class or extracurricular activity, on the basis of such students' pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy or recovery therefrom, unless the student requests voluntarily to participate in a separate portion of the program or activity of the recipient.

C. The school district may require such a student to obtain the certification of a physician that the student is physically and emotionally able to continue participation in the normal education program or activity so long as such a certification is required of all students for other physical or emotional conditions requiring the attention of a physician.

D. The school district will ensure that any separate and voluntary instructional program is comparable to that offered to non-pregnant students.

E. It is the responsibility of every school district employee to comply with this policy.

F. The school board has designated the Director of Human Resources its Title IX coordinator. This employee coordinates the school district's efforts to comply with and carry out its responsibilities under Title IX.

G. Any student, parent or guardian having questions regarding the application of Title IX and its regulations and/or this policy should discuss them with the Title IX coordinator. Questions relating solely to Title IX and its regulations may be referred to the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights of the United States Department of Education. In the absence of a specific designee, an inquiry or complaint should be referred to the superintendent or the school district human

rights officer.

H. Any reports of unlawful discrimination under this policy will be handled, investigated and acted upon in the manner specified in Policy 522 – Student Sex Nondiscrimination.

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***Legal References:***

- Minn. Stat. § 363.01 *et seq.* (Minnesota Human Rights Act)
- 20 U.S.C. §§ 1681-1688 (Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972)
- 34 C.F.R. Part 106 (Implementing Regulations of Title IX)

Policy Approved: 05/23/05
Policy Reviewed: 05/14/12
Policy Reviewed: 1/13/14
Policy Reviewed: 12/14/15
Policy Reviewed: 11/13/18
Policy Reviewed: 6/14/21

## STAFF NOTIFICATION OF VIOLENT BEHAVIOR BY STUDENTS 529

### I. PURPOSE

In an effort to provide a safe school environment, the assigned classroom teacher and certain staff members should know whether a student to be placed in the classroom has a history of violent behavior. Additionally, decisions should be made regarding how to manage such a student.

The purpose of this policy is to address the circumstances in which data should be provided to classroom teachers and other school staff members about students with a history of violent behavior and to establish a procedure for notifying staff regarding the placement of students with a history of violent behavior.

### II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

A. Any staff member or other employee of the school district who obtains or possesses information concerning a student in the building with a history of violent behavior shall immediately report said information to the principal of the building in which the student attends school.

B. The administration will meet with the assigned classroom teacher and other appropriate staff members for the purpose of notifying and determining how staff will manage such student.

C. Only staff members who have a legitimate educational interest in the information will receive notification.

### III. DEFINITIONS

For purposes of this policy, the following terms have the meaning given them.

A. Administration

"Administration" means the superintendent, building principal, or other designee.

B. Classroom Teacher

"Classroom teacher" means the instructional personnel responsible for the course or room to which a student is assigned at any given time, including a substitute hired in place of the classroom teacher.

C. History of Violent Behavior

1. A student will be considered to have a history of violent behavior if incident(s) of violence, including any documented physical assault of a school district employee by the student, have occurred during the current

or previous school year.

2. If a student has an incident of violence during the current or previous school year, that incident and all other past related or similar incidents of violence will be reported.

D. Incident(s) of Violence

"Incident(s) of violence" means willful conduct in which a student endangers or causes physical injury to the student, other students, a school district employee, or surrounding person(s) or endangers or causes significant damage to school district property, regardless of whether related to a disability or whether discipline was imposed.

E. Legitimate Educational Interest

"Legitimate educational interest" includes interest directly related to classroom instruction, teaching, student achievement and progress, discipline of a student, student health and welfare, and the ability to respond to a request for educational data. It includes a person's need to know in order to:

1. Perform an administrative task required in the school or the employee's contract or position description approved by the school board;

2. Perform a supervisory or instructional task directly related to the student's education; or

3. Perform a service or benefit for the student or the student's family such as health care, counseling, student job placement, or student financial aid.

4. Perform a task directly related to responding to a request for data.

F. School Staff Member

"School staff member" includes:

1. A person duly elected to the school board;

2. A person employed by the school board in an administrative, supervisory, instructional, or other professional position;

3. A person employed by the school board as a temporary substitute in a professional position for the period of his or her performance as a substitute; and

4. A person employed by, or under contract to, the school board to perform a special task such as a secretary, a clerk, a public information officer or data practices compliance official, an attorney, or an auditor for the period

of his or her performance as an employee or contractor.

## IV. PROCEDURE FOR STAFF NOTIFICATION OF STUDENTS WITH VIOLENT BEHAVIOR

A. Reports of Violent Behavior

Any staff member or other employee of the school district who becomes aware of any information regarding the violent behavior of an enrolling student or any student enrolled in the school district shall immediately report the information to the building principal where the student is enrolled or seeks to enroll.

B. Recipients of Notice

Each classroom teacher of a student with a history of violent behavior (see Paragraph III.C., above) will receive written notification from the administration prior to placement of the student in the teacher's classroom. In addition, written notice will be given by the administration to other school staff members who have a legitimate educational interest, as defined in this policy, when a student with a history of violent behavior is placed in a teacher's classroom. The administration will provide notice to anyone substituting for the classroom teacher or school staff member, who has received notice under this policy, that the substitute will be overseeing a student with a history of violent behavior.

The administration may provide other school district employees or individuals outside of the school district with information regarding a student, including information regarding a student's history of violent behavior, in accordance with Policy 515, Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records.

C. Determination of Who Receives Notice

The determination of which classroom teachers and school staff members have a legitimate educational interest in information regarding a student with a history of violent behavior will be made by either: (1) the school district's Responsible Authority appointed by the school board under the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act or (2) the administration. In the event the administration makes this determination, the Responsible Authority will provide guidance to the administration as to what data will be shared.

D. Form of Written Notice

The notice given to classroom teachers and school staff members will be in writing and will include the following:

1. Name of the student;

2. Date of notice;

3. Notification that the student has been identified as a student with a history of violent behavior as defined in Article III. of this policy; and

4. Reminder of the private nature of the data provided.

E. Record of Notice

1. The administration will retain a copy of the notice or other documentation provided to classroom teachers and school staff members notified under this section.

2. Retention of the written notice or other documentation provided to classroom teachers and school staff members is governed by the approved Records Retention Schedule.

F. Meetings Regarding Students with a History of Violent Behavior

1. If the administration determines, in his or her discretion, that the classroom teacher and/or school staff members with a legitimate educational interest in such data reasonably require access to the details regarding a student's history of violent behavior for purposes of school safety and/or intervention services for the student, the administration also may convene a meeting to share and discuss such data.

2. The persons present at the meeting may have access to the data described in Paragraph IV.D., above.

G. Law Enforcement Reports

Staff members will be provided with notice of disposition orders or law enforcement reports received by the school district in accordance with Policy 515, Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records. Where appropriate, information obtained from disposition orders or law enforcement reports also may be included in a Notification of Violent Behavior.

## V. MAINTENANCE AND TRANSFER OF RECORDS

A report, notice, or documentation pertaining to a student with a history of violent behavior are educational records of a student and will be retained, maintained, and transferred to a school or school district in which a student seeks to enroll in accordance with Policy 515, Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records.

## VI. PARENTAL NOTICE

A. The administration will notify parents annually that the school district gives classroom teachers and other school staff members notice about students' history of violent behavior.

B. Prior to providing the written notice of a student's violent behavior to classroom teachers and/or school staff members, the administration will inform the student's parent or guardian that such notice will be provided.

C. Parents will be given notice that they have the right to review and challenge records or data, including the data documenting the history of violent behavior, in accordance with Policy 515, Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records.

## VII. TRAINING NEEDS

Representatives of the school board and representatives of the teachers will discuss the needs of students and staff. The parties may discuss necessary training which may include training on conflict resolution and positive behavior interventions and may discuss necessary intervention services such as student behavioral assessments.

***Legal References:***
Minn. Stat. Ch. 13 (Minnesota Government Data Practices Act)
Minn. Stat. § 120A.22, Subd. 7 (Compulsory Instruction)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.45 (Grounds for Dismissal)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.64 (Notification; Teachers' Legitimate Educational Interest)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.75 (Receipt of Records; Sharing)
Minn. Rules Parts 1205.0100-1205.2000 (Data Practices)
20 U.S.C. § 1232g (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act)
34 C.F.R. §§ 99.1-99.67 (Rules Implementing FERPA)
Minn. Laws 2003, 1st Sp., Ch. 9, Art. 2, § 53

Policy Approved: 8/22/05
Policy Reviewed: 5/14/12
Policy Reviewed: 1/13/14
Policy Updated: 11/13/18
Policy Reviewed 6/14/21
Policy Updated: 5/22/23

## THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE 531

### I. PURPOSE

The school board recognizes the need to display an appropriate United States flag and to provide instruction to students in the proper etiquette, display, and respect of the flag. The purpose of this policy is to provide for recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and instruction in school to help further that end.

### II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

Students in this school district shall recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America one or more times each week. The recitation shall be conducted:

A. By each individual classroom teacher or the teacher's surrogate; or

B. Over a school intercom system by a person designated by the school principal or other person having administrative control over the school.

### III. EXCEPTIONS

Anyone who does not wish to participate in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance for any personal reasons may elect not to do so. Students and school personnel must respect another person's right to make that choice.

### IV. INSTRUCTION

Students will be instructed in the proper etiquette toward, correct display of, and respect for the flag, and in patriotic exercises.

***Legal References:*** Minn. Stat. § 121A.11, Subd. 3 (Pledge of Allegiance)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.11, Subd. 4 (Instruction)

Policy Adopted: 03/08/04
Revised Policy Approved: 07/23/12
Reviewed: 2/10/14
Policy Reviewed: 1/11/16
Policy Reviewed: 11/13/18
Policy Reviewed: 6/14/21

## WELLNESS 533

***[Note: All school districts that participate in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs are required by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (Act) to have a wellness policy that includes standards and nutrition guidelines for foods and beverages made available to students on campus during the school day, as well as specific goals for nutrition promotion and education, physical activity, and other school-based activities that promote student wellness. The Act requires the involvement of parents, students, representatives of the school food authority, teachers of physical education, school health professionals, the school board, school administrators, and the public in the development, implementation, and periodic review and update of the wellness policy. The Act also requires a plan for measuring implementation of the policy and reporting wellness policy content and implementation issues to the public, as well as the designation of at least one person charged with responsibility for the implementation and oversight of the wellness policy to ensure the school district is in compliance with the policy.]***

### I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to set forth methods that promote student wellness, prevent and reduce childhood obesity, and assure that school meals and other food and beverages sold and otherwise made available on the school campus during the school day are consistent with applicable minimum local, state, and federal standards.

### II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

A. The school board recognizes that nutrition promotion and education, physical activity, and other school-based activities that promote student wellness are essential components of the educational process and that good health fosters student attendance and learning.

B. The school environment should promote students' health, well-being, and ability to learn by encouraging healthy eating and physical activity.

C. The school district encourages the involvement of parents, students, representatives of the school food authority, teachers, school health professionals, the school board, school administrators, and the general public in the development, implementation, and periodic review and update of the school district's wellness policy.

D. Children need access to healthy foods and opportunities to be physically active in order to grow, learn, and thrive.

E. All students in grades K-12 will have opportunities, support, and encouragement to be physically active on a regular basis.

F. Qualified food service personnel will provide students with access to a variety of affordable, nutritious, and appealing foods that meet the health and nutrition needs of students; try to accommodate the religious, ethnic, and cultural diversity of the student body in meal planning; and will provide clean, safe, and pleasant settings and adequate time for students to eat.

## III. WELLNESS GOALS

***[Note: The Act requires that wellness policies include goals for nutrition promotion and education, physical activity, and other school-based activities that promote student wellness.]***

A. Nutrition Promotion and Education

1. The school district will encourage and support healthy eating by students and engage in nutrition promotion that is:

   a. offered as part of a comprehensive program designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to promote and protect their health;

   b. part of health education classes, as well as classroom instruction in subjects such as math, science, language arts, social sciences, and elective subjects, where appropriate; and

   c. enjoyable, developmentally appropriate, culturally relevant, and includes participatory activities, such as contests, promotions, taste testing, and field trips.

2. The school district will encourage all students to make age appropriate, healthy selections of foods and beverages, including those sold individually outside the reimbursable school meal programs, such as through a la carte/snack lines, vending machines, fundraising events, concession stands, and student stores.

B. Physical Activity

1. Students need opportunities for physical activity and to fully embrace regular physical activity as a personal behavior. Toward that end, health and physical education will reinforce the knowledge and self-management skills needed to maintain a healthy lifestyle and reduce sedentary activities, such as watching television;

2. Opportunities for physical activity will be incorporated into other subject lessons, where appropriate; and

3. Classroom teachers will provide short physical activity breaks between lessons or classes, as appropriate.

C. Communications with Parents

1. The school district recognizes that parents and guardians have a primary role in promoting their children's health and well-being.

2. The school district will support parents' efforts to provide a healthy diet and daily physical activity for their children.

3. The school district encourages parents to pack healthy lunches and snacks and refrain from including beverages and foods without nutritional value.

4. The school district will provide information about physical education and other school-based physical activity opportunities and will support parents' efforts to provide their children with opportunities to be physically active outside of school.

## IV. STANDARDS AND NUTRITION GUIDELINES

***[Note: The Act requires that school districts have standards, selected by the school district, for all foods available on the school campus during the school day with the objective of promoting student health and reducing childhood obesity. For foods and beverages sold to students during the school day on school campus, the Act requires that school districts also have nutrition guidelines.]***

A. School Meals

***[Note: The Act specifically requires that the wellness policy contain standards and nutrition guidelines for all foods and beverages sold to students during the school day that are consistent with the meal requirements for lunches and after-school snacks set forth in 7 Code of Federal Regulations section 210.10 and the meal requirements for breakfasts set forth in Code of Federal Regulations section 220.8.]***

1. The school district will provide healthy and safe school meal programs that comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations.

2. Food service personnel will provide students with access to a variety of affordable, nutritious, and appealing foods that meet the health and nutrition needs of students.

3. Food service personnel will try to accommodate the religious, ethnic, and cultural diversity of the student body in meal planning.

4. Food service personnel will provide clean, safe, and pleasant settings and adequate time for students to eat.

5. Food service personnel will take every measure to ensure that student access to foods and beverages meets or exceeds all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations and that reimbursable school meals meet USDA nutrition standards.

6. Food service personnel shall adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local food safety and security guidelines.

7. The school district will make every effort to eliminate any social stigma attached to, and prevent the overt identification of, students who are eligible for free and reduced-price school meals.

8. The school district will provide students access to hand washing or hand sanitizing before they eat meals or snacks.

9. The school district will make every effort to provide students with sufficient time to eat after sitting down for school meals and will schedule meal periods at appropriate times during the school day.

10. The school district will discourage tutoring, club, or organizational meetings or activities during mealtimes unless students may eat during such activities.

B. School Food Service Program/Personnel

1. The school district shall designate an appropriate person to be responsible for the school district's food service program, whose duties shall include the creation of nutrition guidelines and procedures for the selection of foods and beverages made available on campus to ensure food and beverage choices are consistent with current USDA guidelines.

2. As part of the school district's responsibility to operate a food service program, the school district will provide continuing professional development for all food service personnel in schools.

C. Competitive Foods and Beverages

1. All foods and beverages sold on school grounds to students, outside of reimbursable meals, are considered "competitive foods." Competitive foods include items sold a la carte in the cafeteria, from vending machines, school stores, and for in-school fundraisers.

2. All competitive foods will meet the USDA Smart Snacks in School (Smart Snacks) nutrition standards and any applicable state nutrition standards, at a minimum. Smart Snacks aim to improve student health and well-being, increase consumption of healthful foods during the school day, and create an environment that reinforces the development of healthy eating habits.

3. Before and Aftercare (child care) programs must also comply with the school district's nutrition standards unless they are reimbursable under USDA school meals program, in which case they must comply with all applicable USDA standards.

D. Other Foods and Beverages Made Available to Students

1. Student wellness will be a consideration for all foods offered, but not sold, to students on the school campus, including those foods provided through:

   a. Celebrations and parties. The school district will provide a list of healthy party ideas to parents and teachers, including non-food celebration ideas.

      ***[Note: Healthy party ideas are available from the USDA.]***

   b. Classroom snacks brought by parents. The school district will provide to parents a list of suggested foods and beverages that meet Smart Snacks nutrition standards.

2. Rewards and incentives. Schools will not use foods or beverages as rewards for academic performance or good behavior (unless this practice is allowed by a student's individual education plan or behavior intervention plan) and will not withhold food or beverages as punishment.

3. Fundraising. The school district will make available to parents and teachers a list of suggested healthy fundraising ideas.

E. Food and Beverage Marketing in Schools

1. School-based marketing will be consistent with nutrition education and health promotion.

2. Schools will restrict food and beverages marketing to the promotion of only those foods and beverages that meet the Smart Snacks nutrition standards.

## V. WELLNESS LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

A. Wellness Coordinator

***[Note: The Act requires that local school wellness policies identify the position of the local education agency or school official(s) responsible for the implementation and oversight of the local school wellness policy.]***

1. The superintendent will designate a school district official to oversee the school district's wellness-related activities (Wellness Coordinator). The Wellness Coordinator will ensure that each school implements the policy.

2. The principal of each school, or a designated school official, will ensure compliance within the school and will report to the Wellness Coordinator regarding compliance matters upon request.

B. Public Involvement

***[Note: The Act requires a description of the manner in which parents, students, representatives of the school food authority, teachers of physical education, school health professionals, the school board, school administrators, and the general public are provided an opportunity to participate in the development, implementation, and periodic review and update of the local school wellness policy.]***

1. The Wellness Coordinator will permit parents, students, representatives of the school food authority, teachers of physical education, school health professionals, the school board, school administrators, and the general public to participate in the development, implementation, and periodic review and update of the wellness policy.

2. The Wellness Coordinator will hold meetings, from time to time, for the purpose of discussing the development, implementation, and periodic review and update of the wellness policy. All meeting dates and times will be posted on the school district's website and will be open to the public.

## VI. POLICY IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

A. Implementation and Publication

***[Note: The Act requires a description of the plan for measuring the implementation of the local school wellness policy.]***

1. After approval by the school board, the wellness policy will be implemented throughout the school district.

2. The school district will post its wellness policy on its website, to the extent it maintains a website.

***[Note: Per Minnesota Statutes section 121A.215, when available, a school district must post its current local school wellness policy on its website.]***

B. Annual Reporting

***[Note: The Act requires that school districts inform the public about the content and implementation of the local wellness policy and make the policy and any updates to the policy available to the public on an annual basis.]***

The Wellness Coordinator will annually inform the public about the content and implementation of the wellness policy and make the policy and any updates to the policy available to the public.

C. Triennial Assessment

***[Note: The Act requires a triennial assessment of schools' compliance with the wellness policy. The Act also requires school districts to inform the public about progress toward meeting the goals of the wellness policy by making the triennial assessment available to the public in an accessible and easily understood manner.]***

1. At least once every three years, the school district will evaluate compliance with the wellness policy to assess the implementation of the policy and create a report that includes the following information:

   a. the extent to which schools under the jurisdiction of the school district are in compliance with the wellness policy;

   b. the extent to which the school district's wellness policy compares to model local wellness policies; and

   c. a description of the progress made in attaining the goals of the school district's wellness policy.

2. The Wellness Coordinator will be responsible for conducting the triennial assessment.

3. The triennial assessment report shall be posted on the school district's website or otherwise made available to the public.

D. Recordkeeping

***[Note: The Act requires school districts to retain records to document compliance with the requirements of 7 Code of Federal Regulations section 210.30.]***

The school district will retain records to document compliance with the requirements of the wellness policy. The records to be retained include, but are not limited to:

1. The school district's written wellness policy.

2. Documentation demonstrating compliance with community involvement requirements, including requirements to make the local school wellness policy and triennial assessments available to the public.

3. Documentation of the triennial assessment of the local school wellness policy for each school under the school district's jurisdiction efforts to review and update the wellness policy (including an indication of who is involved in the update and methods the school district uses to make stakeholders aware of their ability to participate on the Wellness Committee).

***Legal References:***
Minn. Stat. § 121A.215 (Local School District Wellness Policy; Website)
42 U.S.C. § 1751 *et seq.* (Healthy and Hunger-Free Kids Act)
42 U.S.C. § 1758b (Local School Wellness Policy)
42 U.S.C. § 1771 *et seq.* (Child Nutrition Act)
7 U.S.C. § 5341 (Establishment of Dietary Guidelines)
7 C.F.R. § 210.10 (School Lunch Program Regulations)
7 C.F.R. § 220.8 (School Breakfast Program Regulations)

***Local Resources:***
Minnesota Department of Education, www.education.state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Health, www.health.state.mn.us
County Health Departments
Action for Healthy Kids Minnesota, www.actionforhealthykids.org
United States Department of Agriculture, www.fns.usda.gov

Policy Adopted: 05/22/06
Revised Policy Adopted: 08/10/09
Policy Reviewed: 01/11/16
Policy Revised: 06/12/17
Policy Reviewed: 11/13/18
Policy Reviewed: 6/14/21
Policy Updated: 05/22/23

## EARLY ENTRANCE AND GRADE ACCELERATION 536

### I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide procedures for the consideration of early entrance for students in kindergarten and grade acceleration for students in grades 1-8.

### II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The school board will allow early school entrance and grade acceleration. The following steps will be followed prior to the school district's decision regarding each individual student case.

A. Early Entrance
Students who have met the criteria set by the Austin Public Schools will be allowed to enter kindergarten early. The decision made by the administration shall be final.

B. Grade Acceleration
Students who have met the criteria set by the Austin Public Schools will be allowed to accelerate.

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Policy Adopted: 12/9/02
Policy Reviewed and Renumbered from 514 to 534: 12/9/13
Policy Updated: 1/11/16
Policy Renumbered from 534 to 535: 8/14/17
Policy Reviewed: 11/13/18
Policy Renumbered from 535 to 536: 6/14/21
Policy Revised: 9/11/23