

PONCA PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENT HANDBOOK



2023-24 Edition

Ponca Public Schools
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MISSION STATEMENT

Ponca Public Schools is committed to building a solid educational foundation for all individuals by providing a quality learning environment and promoting standards of excellence.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Vice President: Richard Dohma

Members: Monte Burki, Phil Kramper, Christina Luebbe, Casey McGhee

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WELCOME

Dear Students and Parents:

On behalf of the faculty, administration, and board of education, we welcome you to another school year. We are looking forward to helping your children reach their learning potential and achieve their educational goals in the upcoming year.

Please read this handbook carefully. Students and their parents are responsible for knowing the rules, regulations, and procedures covered in this handbook. The student handbook is an extension of school policies and has the force and effect of board policy when approved by the board of education.

There are several forms at the end of this handbook that you must read, sign, and return no later than Friday, August 12th, 2023.

This handbook contains information of value to every student and parent. It contains explanations of school regulations and procedures necessary for our school to run smoothly and efficiently. If you are ever in doubt about what is the right thing to do, ask a classroom teacher, speak with the building principal, or contact my office.

Sincerely,

Mr. Brendan Calahan
Superintendent

Intent of Handbook

This handbook is intended to be used by students, parents, and staff as a guide to the rules, procedures, and general information about this school district. Students and their parents must become familiar with the handbook, and parents should use it as a resource and assist their children in following the rules contained in it. The use of the word "parents" refers to any adult who has the responsibility for making education-related decisions about a child, including, but not limited to biological parents, adoptive parents, legal guardians, and adults acting in loco parentis.

Although the information in this handbook is detailed and specific on many topics, it is not intended to be all-encompassing or to cover every situation and circumstance that may arise during a school day or school year. This handbook does not create a "contract" with parents, students, or staff, and the administration may make decisions and rule revisions at any time to implement the educational program and to assure the well-being of all students. The administration is responsible for interpreting the rules contained in the handbook. If a situation or circumstance arises that is not specifically covered in this handbook, the administration will make a decision based on applicable school district policies, and state and federal statutes and regulations.

Notice of Nondiscrimination

The school district does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies:

Name: Mr. Brendan Calahan
Title: Superintendent
Address: 505 W. 3rd Street, Ponca NE, 68770
Telephone: (402)755-5700
E-mail: brendancalahan@poncaschool.org

For further information on notice of nondiscrimination, visit <http://wdcrobcolp01.ed.gov/CFAPPS/OCR/contactus.cfm> for the address and phone number of the office that serves your area or call 1-800-421-3481.

For additional prohibited discrimination and related information, please review school district Policy 3053– Nondiscrimination.

SECTION ONE

BASIC SCHOOL RULES AND GENERAL PRACTICES

STUDENT CREED

As a student at Ponca School District #1, I believe that the reputation of the school and my self-respect as a member of the student body depends upon my attitude and behavior. Therefore, I shall attempt at all times:

1. To exhibit good manner, good speech, good sportsmanship, and friendliness toward all.
2. To strive for high scholastic standing and to support school activities to the best of my ability.
3. To honor, respect, and cooperate with my school, my teachers, my fellow students and my community.

Attendance

Required Attendance

Every person residing in the school district who has legal or actual charge or control of any child who is of mandatory attendance age shall cause that child to attend a public or private school regularly unless the child has graduated from high school or has been allowed to disenroll pursuant to this policy.

Mandatory Attendance Age

All children who are or will turn six years old before January 1 of the current school year are of mandatory attendance age. Children who have not turned eighteen years of age are of mandatory attendance age.

Exceptions

This policy does not apply when temporary illness or severe weather conditions make attendance impossible or impracticable.

A child who will not reach age 7 before January 1 of the current school year may be excused from mandatory attendance if the child's parent or guardian completes an affidavit affirming that alternative educational arrangements have been made for the child. A copy of the required affidavit is attached to this policy.

Discontinuing Enrollment – 5 Year Old Students

The person seeking to discontinue the enrollment of a student who will not reach six years of age prior to January 1 of the current school year shall submit a signed, written request and to the superintendent using the form which is attached to this policy. The school district may request written verification or documentation that the person signing the form has legal or actual charge or

control of the student. The school district shall discontinue the enrollment of any student who satisfies these requirements. Any student whose enrollment is discontinued under this subsection shall not be eligible to reenroll in this school district until the beginning of the following school year unless otherwise required by law.

Discontinuing Enrollment – 16 and 17 Year Old Students

Only children who are at least 16 years of age may be disenrolled from the district. The person seeking to discontinue the child's enrollment shall submit a signed, written request that demonstrates that the student meets the district's legal criteria allowing for disenrollment to the superintendent using the applicable district form. The district will follow the procedures outlined on the attached form in considering requests to disenroll.

Only children disenrolling to attend a non-accredited school may be exempt from this policy. The person with legal or actual charge or control of the child must provide the superintendent with a copy of the signed request submitted to the State Department of Education for attending non-accredited schools. The superintendent may confirm the validity of the submission with the State Department of Education.

Attendance Officer

Each building principal is designated as an attendance officer for the district. Each building principal, at his or her discretion, may delegate these responsibilities to any other qualified individual. The attendance officer is responsible for enforcing the provisions of state law relating to compulsory attendance. This responsibility includes but is not limited to filing a report with the county attorney of the county in which a student resides. Compensation for the duties of attendance officer is included in the salary for the superintendent or designee.

Expectations for Regular Attendance:

1. Students are expected to attend every class, every day.
2. The only "excused" absences shall be:
 - a.) absences when a licensed health care provider has confirmed in writing that, in his/her professional medical opinion and within his/her scope of practice, the student or a child whom the student is parenting is so physically or mentally ill that attendance of the student is impracticable or impossible; or the absence accompanies a doctor's note.
 - b.) absences when the Nebraska State Patrol or Superintendent of schools determines that weather conditions have made the roads impassable so that the student's attendance impracticable or impossible;
 - c.) student attendance at a school-sponsored activity;

d.) student has been suspended or expelled from school by the school district;

e.) absences required by law enforcement, child protective services or a court of competent jurisdiction, confirmed in writing to the school district.

3. All other absences, including absences for minor illnesses or family events are simply "absences".

4. Students may be required to stay after school and meet with teachers on missing her work as determined by the building level principal.

5. Students shall be allowed two (2) days for each day missed to complete work assigned. After this period elapses, all work not handed in or completed shall receive a zero.

Excessive Absenteeism

When students are absent from school, district staff will respond as follows:

First Stage Response to Absences

1. A member of district staff will contact the parent via telephone for every absence if the parent has not contacted the school in advance.
2. A warning letter will be sent at 5 absences.
3. At ten (10) absences, the school's attendance officer will schedule a meeting with the student's parents or guardians. That meeting will be documented.
4. At fifteen (15) absences, the school's attendance officer will schedule a meeting with the student's parents or guardians where a collaborative attendance Plan of Improvement will be developed and signed by the guardians/parents, student, attendance officer/principal and any other individual deemed necessary to be in said meeting.

Second Stage Response to Absences

Students who accrue more than 20 absences in a school year may be referred to the county attorney for action under NEB. REV. STAT. § 43-247(3)(a) and (b).

Absences due to illness

The school district will contact parents if a student becomes ill at school. A student who is absent due to illness has two days for every day of absence to complete missed assignments.

Planned absences

Parents who know in advance that a student will be absent must call the school or send a written note at the earliest possible date. Students who will be absent for reasons that can be anticipated, such as routine medical appointments and school activities, must complete any work required by the

teacher before the absence. Parents should make every attempt to schedule medical and other appointments after school hours when possible.

Students are obligated to:

- 1) Complete all class work in advance for any absence that can be anticipated.
- 2) Attend school a full day before attending practice or participating in a scheduled student activity except in cases of family emergencies or prearranged absences.
- 3) Check out of school at the office if leaving school during the school day.
- 4) Make up any and all work that is assigned by teachers as make-up work for the instructional time that has been missed.

Parents are obligated to:

- 1) Call the appropriate building office to inform the school of the reason for each absence.
- 2) Submit a doctor's statement, if requested, for each period of absence due to illness that exceeds five days.

Pregnant and Parenting Students

Students who are pregnant or parenting are encouraged to continue participating in the district's educational and extracurricular programs. Students who anticipate deviations from their regular school experience or accrue absences due to pregnancy or parenting should notify their building principal as early as possible to discuss their educational programming. The building principal will work with the student to develop a plan to assist the student in participating in district curriculum and extra-curricular activities.

Band

Students may participate in the elementary band and begin taking band lessons in the 5th grade. Students in grades 7-8 may participate in the middle school band; grades 9-12 may participate in the high school band. Instruments will be provided by students or the school as provided by school policy. Fees may be charged as allowed or provided in the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act and the school's student fee policy or other applicable policy.

Bills

Students should pay bills for supplies, fines, shop materials, clothing orders, etc. in the school bookkeeper's office. Any check for these payments should be made out to Ponca Public Schools unless otherwise instructed. Pursuant to board policy, the district will assess an additional penalty of \$30 for any check returned from the bank for insufficient funds.

When students purchase items of significant value, such as class rings and letter jackets, they must make payment at the time of purchase or when the order is placed.

Books and Supplies

Students must take care of books and other supplies provided by the district. The school will assess fines for damage to books and school property.

Students must supply their own consumable items such as pens, pencils, tablets, notebooks, erasers, and crayons. Each classroom teacher will prepare a supply list for students at the beginning of the school year.

Breastfeeding and Lactation

In order to accommodate lactating and breastfeeding students, the district will provide reasonable opportunities to express breast milk or breastfeed in a place, other than a bathroom, which is shielded from view and free from intrusion from district students, employees, and the public. The district will also provide a location for students to store expressed breast milk in or near the location designated for students to express milk to create the least amount of disruption to the student's participation in class or activities.

Students who wish or need to express breast milk on a regular schedule must work with school administrators to create a schedule that accommodates the student's needs while facilitating education to the maximum extent possible.

In order to prevent interference with the educational process, no student shall express breast milk within school classrooms or buses. Nothing in this policy limits the authority of the administration to impose consequences consistent with the Student Discipline Act and other state and federal law.

Bulletin Boards

Bulletin boards are maintained throughout the building to communicate general information, material, and school announcements. Students should check the bulletin boards carefully each school day. A written copy of daily announcements will be posted on the main bulletin board by the offices.

Bulletin board or electronic publishing space may be provided for the use of students and student organizations for notices relating to matters of general interest to students. The following general limitations apply to all posting or publishing:

1. All postings must be approved by the appropriate building principal or designee. Students may not post any material containing any statement or expression that is libelous, obscene, or vulgar; that would violate

board of education policies, including the student code of conduct; or that is otherwise inappropriate for the school environment.

2. All postings must identify the student or the student organization posting or publishing the notice.
3. Material shall be removed after a reasonable time to assure full access to the bulletin boards or electronic publishing media.

Bullying

Students are prohibited from engaging in any form of bullying. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defines bullying as “any unwanted aggressive behavior(s) by another youth or group of youths who are not siblings or current dating partners that involves an observed or perceived power imbalance and is repeated multiple times or is highly likely to be repeated.” Nebraska statute defines bullying as “an ongoing pattern of physical, verbal or electronic abuse.” The District’s administrators will consider these definitions when determining whether any specific situation constitutes bullying. Both of these definitions include both in-person and cyberbullying behaviors.

The disciplinary consequences for bullying will depend on the severity, frequency, duration, and effect of the behavior and may result in sanctions up to and including suspension or expulsion. Students who believe they are being bullied should immediately inform a teacher or the building principal.

Reporting Bullying

Students who experience or observe bullying behavior must immediately report what happened to a teacher or administrator. Students may always confer with their parents or guardians about bullying they experience or witness, but the students must also ultimately report the situation to a teacher or administrator.

Bullying Investigations

School district staff will investigate allegations of bullying using the same practices and procedures that the district observes for student disciplinary matters. In no circumstance will school district staff be deliberately indifferent to allegations of bullying.

Cafeteria Rules

1. All food must be consumed in the areas designated by the school.
2. After students have eaten, they must return trays to the kitchen. All straws, papers, milk cartons should be deposited in the trash cans. All leftover food should be scraped off the tray on to the correct container.

Forks and spoons should be placed in the pan with water, NOT THROWN AWAY!

3. Students are to use proper manners including eating quietly.
4. Students may not throw food or other items.
5. Second servings are available to those who have made an effort to clean their trays and have requisite funds as required by board policy.
6. Students should remain at their tables until they are dismissed.
7. Parents who wish their child to eat lunch away from school must provide a written authorization to the student's building principal.
8. Students must treat lunch personnel with respect.
9. Students who violate the above rules will be disciplined.

Candy and Gum

Students may not bring candy or gum to school unless they have prior permission from their classroom teacher or the administration.

Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices

Students may not use cell phones or other electronic devices while at school, except as permitted in this handbook.

Students may use cell phones or other electronic devices on the school sidewalks and in the common areas of the school before and after school, so long as they do not create a distraction or a disruption. Students may not use cell phones or other electronic devices while they are in locker rooms or restrooms. Students must comply with each teacher's classroom rules regarding cell phone use in class.

Students may not use cell phones or other electronic devices while riding in a school vehicle unless they have express permission to do so from the vehicle's driver.

Students are personally and solely responsible for the security of their cell phones and other electronic devices. The school district is not responsible for theft, loss, or damage of a cell phone or any calls made on a cell phone.

Students who violate this policy will have their cell phones or other electronic devices confiscated immediately. The administration will return confiscated devices to the offending student's parent or guardian after meeting with the parent or guardian to discuss the violation. Students who violate this policy may, at the discretion of the school's administration, be subject to additional discipline, up to and including suspension or expulsion.

The taking, disseminating, transferring, or sharing of obscene, pornographic, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or photographs, whether by electronic data

transfer or otherwise may constitute a crime under state and/or federal law. Any person engaged in these activities while on school grounds, in a school vehicle or at a school activity will be subject to the disciplinary procedures of the student code of conduct. Any student found to be in possession of obscene, pornographic, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or photographs will be promptly referred to law enforcement and/or other state or federal agencies, which may result in arrest, criminal prosecution, and possible inclusion on sex offender registries.

Violations:

(i) First Violation: Depending upon the nature of the violation and the imposition of other appropriate disciplinary action, consequences at a minimum may include a relinquishment of the electronic device to the school administration and a conference between the student and school principal or assistant principal. The electronic device shall remain in the possession of the school administration until such time as the student personally comes to the school's main office and retrieves the electronic device.

(ii) Second Violation: Depending upon the nature of the violation and the imposition of other appropriate disciplinary action, consequences at a minimum may include a relinquishment of the electronic device to the school administration and a conference between the student and his/her parent/guardian and the school principal or assistant principal. The electronic device shall remain in the possession of the school administration until such time as the student's parent/guardian personally comes to the school's main office and retrieves the electronic device. The student will also receive a detention.

(iii) Third Violation: Depending upon the nature of the violation and the imposition of other appropriate disciplinary action, consequences at a minimum may include a relinquishment of the electronic device to the school administration, a conference between the student and his/her parent/guardian and the school principal or assistant principal, and suspension of the student from school. The electronic device shall remain in the possession of the school administration until such time as the student's parent/guardian personally comes to the school's main office and retrieves the electronic device.

Cheating, Plagiarism, and Academic Dishonesty

Students may not cheat, plagiarize, or otherwise participate in any academic dishonesty in any form. Prohibited behavior includes:

- Obtaining, attempting to obtain, or aiding another person to obtain credit for work by any dishonest or deceptive means.
- Lying.
- Copying another person's work or answers.

- Discussing the answers or questions on a test or assignment unless specifically authorized by the teacher.
- Taking or receiving copies of a test without the permission of the teacher.
- Using or displaying notes, "cheat sheets," or other sources of unauthorized information.
- Using the ideas or work of another person as if they were your own without giving proper credit to the source.
- Submitting work or any portion of work completed by another person.
- Failing to give credit for ideas, statements, facts, or conclusions which rightfully belong to another person.
- Failing to use quotation marks or other appropriate means of attribution when quoting directly from another person or source.

A student who cheats, plagiarizes, or otherwise participates in any academic dishonesty is subject to discipline, up to and including expulsion.

Child Abuse and Neglect

School employees will report suspected abuse or neglect of a child as required by state law and school policy. Nebraska law defines abuse or neglect as knowingly, intentionally, or negligently causing or permitting a minor child or an incompetent or disabled person to be (1) placed in a situation that endangers his or her life or physical or mental health; (2) cruelly confined or cruelly punished; (3) deprived of necessary food, clothing, shelter or care; (4) left unattended in a motor vehicle, if such child is six years of age or younger; (5) sexually abused; (6) placed in a situation to be sexually exploited through sex trafficking of a minor as defined in state law or by allowing, encouraging, or forcing such person to engage in debauchery, public indecency, or obscene or pornographic photography, films, or depictions; or (7) placed in a situation to be a trafficking victim as defined in state law.

Class Dismissal

Classes are in session from the ringing of the tardy bell until the teacher dismisses the class. The bell at the end of the period is not a dismissal bell, and students may not leave their classrooms until they have been excused by their classroom teacher.

Class Rank and Graduation

Grade point average (G.P.A.) shall be maintained for the 9th through 12th grades. High School courses taken prior to 9th grade are considered for G.P.A. purposes. Band and chorus grades are not included in G.P. A.

Pass\fail grades will be assigned to those courses in which students are granted credit when they begin attending Ponca.

Class rank is maintained for the 9th through 12th grades. Class rank is based on the Ponca Public Schools G.P.A. To be considered for class ranking and any honors or awards which are based on class rank or G.P.A. (e.g., Valedictorian), students must complete a minimum of two semesters of attendance at Ponca Public Schools. To receive a diploma from Ponca Public Schools students must complete at least 30 credit hours of courses taken at Ponca Public Schools and students who have transferred from a school which is not accredited or approved must earn a minimum of two years' credit in an approved or accredited senior high school, grades 10-12, with the final semester's credit being earned in this school district.

All students (9-12) will be ranked at the end of each semester. Honor students for graduation will be determined at the end of the 7th semester. The student ranked number one is recognized as Valedictorian and the student ranking number two is recognized as Salutatorian.

Classification

A. Students will be classified according to the following academic credits earned:

Sophomore 60 credits
Junior 120 credits
Senior 180 credits

B. Promotion requirements for Junior High:

One unit for Junior High course is equivalent to a daily class period. The following is the list of classes required by Junior High students and their value in units based on the amount of time they meet each school year.

7th & 8th Grade

English 1 English 1
Science 1 Science 1
Social Studies 1 Social Studies 1
Math 1 Math 1
P.E 1 P.E. 1
Keyboarding 1/5 Keyboarding 1/5
Art 1/5 Art 1/5
Industrial Technology 1/5 Industrial Technology 1/5
Spanish 1/5 Spanish 1/5
Study Skills 1/5 Life Skills 1/5

TOTAL CREDITS 6 6

In order for a student to be promoted from grades 7 and 8, they will have successfully earned at least 4 3/5 units during the school year. Other factors that may be considered are ability, achievement, effort, attendance, progress during the year, age, and number of times the grade has been repeated.

Classroom Behavior

Student behavior and attitude in the classroom must be cooperative and serious. All students must:

- arrive to class on time;
- prepare for class with all necessary materials;
- be considerate of others;
- respond promptly to all directions of the teacher; and
- take care of school property and the property of others.

Teachers will establish classroom conduct rules that students must obey.

Closed Campus

Students may not to leave the building without permission from the administration. Students may leave campus to go home for lunch if they have secured their parents' written permission and submitted it to the office.

Coats and Boots

Elementary students must wear coats outdoors when the weather makes it advisable. The staff will decide when coats are required for recess.

Elementary students may choose to wear overshoes or boots when the playground is wet or muddy. Waterproof boots worn to school should be taken off and regular shoes worn during the day. Boots worn to school must be marked with the student's name.

Communicable Diseases

Any student who has contracted a contagious disease may be restricted from attendance at school until the student is no longer contagious. The school district uses the Title 173- Nebraska Health and Human Services/Control of Communicable Disease, Chapter 3 of the Nebraska Administrative Code as a "best practice" guideline for contagious and infectious diseases. If there are questions regarding the communicability of your child's health condition or if you know your child has contracted a contagious or communicable disease or condition not otherwise specified in board policy or this handbook, please call the school nurse.

Communicating with Parents

Parents shall be kept informed of student progress, grades, and attendance through report cards, progress reports, and parent/teacher conferences. The school district will notify parents if their students are failing or close to failing. The school district will endeavor to notify parents of failing students prior to entry of the failing grade on the student's report card. Parents will also be notified of their student's possible failure to meet graduation requirements. Other pertinent information will be communicated to parents by mail or by personal contact. Official transcripts of student progress, grades, and attendance will be sent to other school systems upon the student's transfer when the district receives a written request signed by the student's parent or guardian or upon being notified that the student has enrolled in another school.

Complaint Procedure

Good communication helps to resolve many misunderstandings and disagreements. This complaint procedure applies to board members, patrons, students and school staff, unless the staff member is subject to a different grievance procedure pursuant to policy or contract. Individuals who have a complaint should discuss their concerns with appropriate school personnel in an effort to resolve problems. When such efforts do not resolve matters satisfactorily, including matters involving discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, marital status, disability, or age, a complainant should follow the procedures set forth below.

A preponderance of the evidence will be required to discipline a party accused of misconduct. This means that the investigator must conclude that it is more likely than not that misconduct occurred.

Complaint and Appeal Process.

1. The first step is for the complainant to speak directly to the person(s) with whom the complainant has a concern. For example, a parent who is unhappy with a classroom teacher should initially discuss the matter with the teacher. However, the complainant should skip the first step if complainant believes speaking directly to the person would subject complainant to discrimination or harassment.
2. The second step is for the complainant to speak to the building principal, Title IX/504 coordinator, superintendent of schools, or president of the board of education, as set forth below.
 - a) Complaints about the operation, decisions, or personnel within a building should be submitted to the principal of the building.

- b) Complaints about the operations of the school district or a building principal should be submitted in writing to the superintendent of schools.
 - c) Complaints about the superintendent of schools should be submitted in writing to the president of the board of education.
 - d) Complaints involving discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, marital status, disability, or age may also be submitted, at any time during the complaint procedure to the School District's Title IX/504 coordinator. Complaints involving discrimination or harassment may also be submitted at any time to the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education: by email at OCR.KansasCity@ed.gov; by telephone at (816) 268-0550; or by fax at (816) 268-0599.
3. When a complainant submits a complaint to an administrator or to the Title IX/504 coordinator, the administrator or Title IX/504 coordinator shall promptly and thoroughly investigate the complaint, and shall:
- a) Determine whether the complainant has discussed the matter with the staff member involved.
 - 1) If the complainant has not, the administrator or Title IX/504 coordinator will urge the complainant to discuss the matter directly with that staff member, if appropriate.
 - 2) If the complainant refuses to discuss the matter with the staff member, the administrator or Title IX/504 coordinator shall, in his or her sole discretion, determine whether the complaint should be pursued further.
 - b) Strongly encourage the complainant to reduce his or her concerns to writing.
 - c) Interview the complainant to determine:
 - 1) All relevant details of the complaint;
 - 2) All witnesses and documents which the complainant believes support the complaint;
 - 3) The action or solution which the complainant seeks.

- d) Respond to the complainant. If the complaint involved discrimination or harassment, the response shall be in writing and shall be submitted within 180 days after the administrator or Title IX/504 coordinator received the complaint.
4. If either the complainant or the accused party is not satisfied with the administrator's or the Title IX/504 coordinator's decision regarding a complaint, he or she may appeal the decision to the superintendent.
- a) This appeal must be in writing.
 - b) This appeal must be received by the superintendent no later than ten (10) business days from the date the administrator or Title IX/504 coordinator communicated his/her decision to the complainant.
 - c) The superintendent will investigate as he or she deems appropriate. However, all matters involving discrimination or harassment shall be promptly and thoroughly investigated.
 - d) Upon completion of this investigation, the superintendent will inform the complainant in writing of his or her decision. If the complaint involved discrimination or harassment, the superintendent shall submit the decision within 180 days after the superintendent received complainant's written appeal.
5. If either the complainant or the accused party is not satisfied with the superintendent's decision regarding a complaint, he or she may appeal the decision to the board.
- a) This appeal must be in writing.
 - b) This appeal must be received by the board president no later than ten (10) business days from the date the superintendent communicated his/her decision to the complainant.
 - c) This policy allows, but does not require the board to receive statements from interested parties and witnesses relevant to the complaint appeal. However, all matters involving discrimination or harassment shall be promptly and thoroughly investigated.
 - d) The board will notify the complainant in writing of its decision. If the complaint involved discrimination or harassment, the board

shall submit its decision within 180 days after it received complainant's written appeal.

- e) There is no appeal from a decision of the board.
6. When a formal complaint about the superintendent of schools has been filed with the president of the board, the president shall promptly and thoroughly investigate the complaint, and shall:
- a) Determine whether the complainant has discussed the matter with the superintendent.
 - 1) If the complainant has not, the board president will urge the complainant to discuss the matter directly with the superintendent, if appropriate.
 - 2) If the complainant refuses to discuss the matter with the superintendent, the board president shall, in his or her sole discretion, determine whether the complaint should be pursued further.
 - b) Strongly encourage the complainant to reduce his or her concerns to writing.
 - c) Determine, in his or her sole discretion, whether to place the matter on the board agenda for consideration at a regular or special meeting.
 - d) Respond to the complainant. If the complaint involved discrimination or harassment, the response shall be in writing and shall be submitted within 180 days after the president received the complaint.

No Retaliation.

The school district prohibits retaliation against any person for filing a complaint or for participating in the complaint procedure in good faith.

Special Rules Regarding Educational Services and Related Services to Students with Disabilities.

Students with disabilities and their families have specific rights outlined in state and federal law, including administrative processes by which they may challenge the educational services being provided by the school district.

Therefore, the appeal process contained in this policy may not be used to challenge decisions made by a student's individualized education plan (IEP) team or 504 team.

Complaints about the educational services provided a student with a disability, including but not limited to services provided to a student with an IEP, access to curricular and extracurricular activities, and educational placement must be submitted to the school district's Director of Special Education. The Director of Special Education will address the complaint in a manner that he/she deems appropriate and will provide the complainant with a copy of the Notice of IDEA Parental Rights promulgated by the Nebraska Department of Education.

Complaints about the educational services provided a student with a disability pursuant to a Section 504 plan must be submitted to the school district's 504 Coordinator. The 504 Coordinator will address the complaint in a manner that he/she deems appropriate and will provide the complainant with a copy of the Notice of Section 504 Parental Rights adopted by the board of education.

Complaints about the educational services provided to a student who is suspected of having a disability must be submitted in writing to the school district's Director of Special Education or to the district's 504 Coordinator. The Director of Special Education or 504 Coordinator will either refer the student for possible verification as a student with a disability or will provide prior written notice of the district's refusal to do so.

Bad Faith or Serial Filings.

The purpose of the complaint procedure is to resolve complaints at the lowest level possible within the chain of command. Complaints filed (a) without a good faith intention to attempt to resolve the issues raised; (b) for the purpose of adding administrative burden; (c) at a volume unreasonable to expect satisfactory resolution; or (d) for purposes inconsistent with the efficient operations of the district may be dismissed by the superintendent without providing final resolution other than noting the dismissal. There is no appeal from dismissals made pursuant to this section.

Computer Network Use by Students

Students are expected to use computers and the Internet as an educational resource. The following procedures and guidelines govern the use of computers and the Internet at school.

I. Student Expectations in the Use of the Internet

A. Acceptable Use

1. Students may use the Internet to conduct research assigned

- by teachers.
2. Students may use the Internet to conduct research for classroom projects.
 3. Students may use the Internet to gain access to information about current events.
 4. Students may use the Internet to conduct research for school-related activities.
 5. Students may use the Internet for appropriate educational purposes.

B. Unacceptable Use

1. Students shall not use school computers to gain access to material that is obscene, pornographic, harmful to minors, or otherwise inappropriate for educational uses.
2. Students shall not engage in any illegal or inappropriate activities on school computers, including the downloading and copying of copyrighted material.
3. Students shall not use e-mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, or other forms of direct electronic communications on school computers for any unauthorized or unlawful purpose or in violation of any school policy or directive.
4. Students shall not use school computers to participate in on-line auctions, on-line gaming or mp3 sharing systems including, but not limited to Aimster or Freenet and the like.
5. Students shall not disclose personal information, such as their names, school, addresses, or telephone numbers outside the school network.
6. Students shall not use school computers for commercial advertising or political advocacy of any kind without the express written permission of the system administrator.
7. Students shall not publish web pages that purport to represent the school district or the work of students at the school district without the express written permission of the system administrator.
8. Students shall not erase, rename, or make unusable anyone else's computer files, programs or disks.
9. Students shall not share their passwords with fellow students, school volunteers or any other individuals, and shall not use, or try to discover, another user's password.
10. Students shall not copy, change or transfer any software or documentation provided by the school district, teachers or another student without permission from the system administrator.
11. Students shall not write, produce, generate, copy,

propagate, or attempt to introduce any computer code designed to self-replicate, damage, or otherwise hinder the performance of any computer's memory, file system, or software. Such software is often called, but is not limited to, a bug, virus, worm, or Trojan Horse.

12. Students shall not configure or troubleshoot computers, networks, printers or other associated equipment, except as directed by a teacher or the system administrator.
13. Students shall not take home technology equipment (hardware or software) without permission of the system administrator.
14. Students shall not falsify electronic mail messages or web pages.

II. Enforcement

A. Methods of Enforcement

1. The district monitors all Internet communications, Internet usage, and patterns of Internet usage. Students have no right of privacy to any Internet communications or other electronic files. The computer system is owned by the school district. As with any school property, any electronic files on the system are subject to search and inspection at any time.
2. The school district uses a technology protection measure that blocks access to some Internet sites that are not in accordance with the policy of the school district. Standard use of the Internet utilizes a proxy server-based filter that screens for non-curriculum related pages.
3. Due to the nature of filtering technology, the filter may at times filter pages that are appropriate for student research. The system administrator may override the technology protection measure for the student to access a site with legitimate educational value that is wrongly blocked.
4. The school district staff will monitor students' use of the Internet through direct supervision and by monitoring Internet use history to ensure enforcement of the policy.

B. Consequences for Violation of this Policy

1. Access to the school's computer system and to the Internet is a privilege, not a right. Any violation of school policy and rules may result in:
 - a. Loss of computer privileges;
 - b. Short-term suspension;
 - c. Long-term suspension or expulsion in accordance with the Nebraska Student Discipline Act; and
 - d. Other discipline as school administration and the

- school board deem appropriate.
2. Students who use school computer systems without permission and for non-school purposes may be guilty of a criminal violation and will be prosecuted.

III. **Protection of Students**

A. **Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA)**

1. The school will not allow companies to collect personal information from children under 13 for commercial purposes. The school will make reasonable efforts to disable advertising in educational computer applications.
2. This policy allows the school to act as an agent for parents in the collection of information within the school context. The school's use of student information is solely for education purposes.

B. **Education About Appropriate On-Line Behavior**

1. School district staff will educate students about appropriate online behavior, both in specific computer usage units and in the general curriculum.
2. Staff will specifically educate students on
 - a. Appropriate interactions with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms.
 - b. Cyberbullying awareness and response.
3. The School District's technology coordinator shall inform staff of this educational obligation and shall keep records of the instruction which occurs in compliance with this policy

Conferences

Students' academic success has been closely linked to parental involvement in school. The school district has formal parent-teacher conferences at the end of the first quarter and during the third quarter.

In addition to formal conferences, classroom teachers will communicate with parents as necessary. Parents are encouraged to communicate with their student's teacher or the building principal to discuss parental concerns, student needs or any other issue.

Copyright and Fair Use

The school district complies with federal copyright laws. Students must comply with copyright laws when using school equipment or working on school projects and assignments. Federal law prohibits the unauthorized reproduction of works of authorship, regardless of the medium in which they were created.

The “fair use” doctrine allows limited reproduction of copyrighted works for educational and research purposes. “Fair use” of a copyrighted work includes reproduction for purposes such as criticism, news reporting, teaching (including multiple copies for classroom use), scholarship, or research. Students who are unsure whether their proposed reproduction of copyrighted material constitutes “fair use” should consult with their teacher or building principal, review the school district’s copyright compliance policy, and review *Copyright for Students* found at <https://www.whoishostingthis.com/resources/student-copyright/>. You can find more information on copyright compliance requirements and permitted uses from the U.S. Copyright Office and the Library of Congress at the following site: <http://www.loc.gov/teachers/usingprimarysources/copyright.html>.

Damage to School Property

Students who damage school property either intentionally or unintentionally may be required to pay to replace or restore the property, at the discretion of the administration.

Dating Violence

Dating violence, as that term is defined by Nebraska law, will not be tolerated by the school district. Students who engage in dating violence on school grounds, in a school vehicle or at a school activity or that otherwise violates the Nebraska Student Discipline Act will receive consequences consistent with the Act and the district’s student discipline policies.

The school district shall provide dating violence training to staff deemed appropriate by the administration and in accordance with Nebraska law.

Discrimination and Harassment

The school district prohibits discrimination and harassment based upon or related to race, color, national origin, sex, religion, marital status, disability, age or any other unlawful basis that (1) has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive school environment, (2) has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with a student’s school performance, or (3) otherwise adversely affects a student’s school opportunities. Students who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their disability should contact an appropriate administrator. Students who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their sex should contact the following Title IX Coordinator: Kristie Hayes at 402-755-5700 (phone number, kristiehayes@poncaschool.org or in person at school. Students who believe that they have been the subject of any other unlawful discrimination or harassment should contact the appropriate administrator.

Students may report discrimination or harassment to any staff member who will then forward it on to the appropriate coordinator or administrator. The staff member will follow school district policies to respond to the report.

Dress Code

Students must come to school dressed in clean, neat, and appropriate clothing to conform to educational standards.

Students are prohibited from wearing the following attire:

1. Clothing displaying indecent, suggestive or profane writing, pictures or slogans
2. Clothing that advertises or displays alcohol, tobacco or any illegal substance
3. Caps, hats and bandannas during the school day or at school-sponsored events
4. Bare feet (some type of footwear must be worn)
5. Short-shorts, biker shorts, or cutoffs
6. Hairstyles which distract from the learning process or the health and safety for either the student or others
7. Any clothing that could cause damage to others or school property
8. Clothing that is torn, ripped, or cut
9. Shirts, blouses, or other clothing worn unbuttoned, unzipped, or otherwise purposely unfastened
10. "Grubby clothes," those which are purposely torn or bedraggled or threadbare, dirty or disheveled
11. Costumes and/or those clothes intended only for leisure, entertaining or special occasions
12. Bare "midriff" (belly button) styles, see-through and low cut blouses, halters, tank tops or thin-strapped tops (spaghetti straps)
13. Pants and shorts worn below the waist so as to expose undergarments
14. Pants that drag on the floor
15. Chains hanging or attached to pants or shorts
16. Coats during school hours unless the student has permission from a faculty member
17. Clothing with tears or holes that expose flesh or underclothes

Students who violate dress code guidelines will be required to correct the violation by changing into something appropriate at school or returning home to change. A detention or suspension may be given to make up the time away from school. Students will also receive zeros for any class time they miss while correcting the violation. Repeated dress code violations may result in more severe consequences.

Driving and Parking Personal Vehicles

Students who drive privately owned motor vehicles to school must obey the following rules:

1. Students may not move their vehicles during the school day without the permission of the building principal or superintendent. Students will not be allowed to sit in or be around their vehicles during the school day, without administrative permission.
2. Students must drive with care to ensure the safety of the pedestrians. Students may not drive carelessly or with excessive speed.
3. By driving personal vehicles to school and parking on school grounds, students consent to having that vehicle searched by school officials when they have reasonable suspicion that such a search will reveal a violation of school rules.

Drug Free Schools

The board of education has adopted policies to comply with the Federal Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act. Students are prohibited from using, possessing, or selling any drug, alcohol, or tobacco while on school grounds, at a school activity or in a school vehicle. In addition, students who participate in the school's activities program should refer to the Activities Handbook which prohibits the use or possession of alcohol, controlled substances and tobacco at all times.

Any student who violates any school policy regarding drug, alcohol, and tobacco use will be disciplined, up to and including short-term suspension, long-term suspension, or expulsion from school and/or referral to appropriate authorities for criminal prosecution.

Emergency Contact Information

Parents must complete an emergency information card for each child enrolled in the district. The card should list the family physician's name, where parents or a responsible adult can be located, and any necessary emergency instructions. Parents must promptly inform the school if this contact information changes during the school year.

Evacuations

The school district will hold routine evacuation drills throughout the school year. Classroom teachers will provide students with detailed instructions on building evacuations.

Eye Exams

All students enrolling in kindergarten or transferring into the school district from out of state must undergo a visual examination by a physician, a physician assistant, an advanced practice registered nurse, or an optometrist ,

which consists of testing for amblyopia, strabismus, and internal and external eye health, with testing sufficient to determine visual acuity, except that no such physical examination or visual evaluation shall be required of any child whose parent or guardian objects in writing. They must provide evidence of the vision examination within six months prior to entrance. The cost of such physical examination and visual evaluation shall be borne by the parent or guardian of each child who is examined.

Food Service Program

The school district provides a food service program that is designed to provide adequate nutrition and an educational experience for students.

Lunch

Lunch prices depend on the federal funding that the program receives. Lunch for K-2 is \$3.00, for 3-6 is \$3.25, and for 7-12 lunch is \$3.50 for students and \$4.60 for adults.

Milk break

The school will offer a milk program to elementary students.

Payment for Meals

Students are encouraged to pay for meals several weeks in advance. Payment should be made to the bookkeeper in the office.

use its resources and contacts to protect the health and safety of the student. Failure or refusal of parents or guardians to provide meals for students may require mandatory reporting to child protection agencies as required by law.

If a student has no funds available to pay for a meal, the student will be provided and charged for a limited "courtesy meal" option.

Students who qualify for free meals will not be denied a reimbursable meal, even if they have accrued a negative balance from other food purchases. School staff may prohibit any students from charging a la carte or extra items if they do not have cash in hand or their account has a negative balance.

If a student repeatedly lacks funds to purchase a meal, has not brought a meal from home, and is not enrolled in a free meal program, the district will use its resources and contacts to protect the health and safety of the student. Failure or refusal of parents or guardians to provide meals for students may require mandatory reporting to child protection agencies as required by law

Collection of Delinquent Meal Charge Debt

The school district is required to make reasonable efforts to collect unpaid meal charges. The building principal or his or her designee will contact

households about unpaid meal charges and notify them again of the availability of the free and reduced meal program and/or establish payment plans and due dates by telephone, e-mail, or other written or oral communication. If these collection efforts are unsuccessful, the school district may pursue any other methods to collect delinquent debt as allowed by law. Collection efforts may continue into a new school year.

Notice of Non-discrimination

In accordance with federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA. To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410
- (2) Fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) Email: program.intake@usda.gov

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the school district. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

Field Trips

Classes occasionally take field trips off school property for educational enrichment. A student's parent, or "caregiver" as that term is defined in the Nebraska Strengthening Families Act, must authorize a student to participate in a field trip by signing a permission slip and providing it to the school before the field trip. Students who have not completed classroom work on time may not be allowed to attend field trips. Students must comply with the student code of conduct, any applicable extracurricular conduct codes, and all directives by trip chaperones.

First-Aid

First-aid items may only be used by school staff. Students who need first aid should ask for assistance from their classroom teacher or the nearest staff member.

Graduation Requirement Timeline

In that it is an earned privilege to participate in commencement exercises, students who have met the credit requirements for a Ponca High School diploma by the end of the school day (4:00 p.m.) prior to practice for the scheduled event, may participate in the graduation ceremony. Students who have not met the requirements for a Ponca High School diploma may be granted the current year high school diploma upon meeting the credit requirements prior to the first day of the next school year.

Head Lice

Students found to have live head lice or louse eggs will not be permitted at school and will be sent home. Upon discovering the presence of any indication of lice or louse eggs the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) will be notified, and if appropriate will be asked to pick up the student from school immediately.

Students will not be permitted to return to school until the district finds that no live lice or eggs can be detected. The parent(s) or guardian(s) will be required to treat the student and accompany the student to school to be examined.

The student cannot ride the school bus until the district has cleared the student to return to school.

Health Problems Limiting Activities

Parents who do not want their children to play outdoors or participate in physical education for health reasons must send a written request to school. If a student persistently requests to be excused from these activities, the building principal or classroom teacher may require a doctor's verification.

Parents should notify principal or superintendent if their student has any special health problems such as diabetes, asthma, or the like.

Homebound Instruction

The school district may provide a student with instruction in his or her home and under parental supervision if the student is physically or mentally ill or injured and unable to attend regular classes for an extended period of time.

Homebound instruction shall be provided when the student's physical and mental condition are such that the student can benefit from instruction and no other provision will meet the student's educational needs. If you believe that homebound instruction is appropriate for your child, please contact the building principal to initiate the appropriate process to determine eligibility.

Homeless Children and Youth

Homeless students generally include children who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, as further defined by applicable state and federal law.

It is the school's policy not to stigmatize or segregate homeless students on the basis of their status of being homeless. Transportation for homeless students who enroll in the district shall be furnished by the district under the same guidelines applying to other students or if such transportation is necessary for compliance with federal law.

Each homeless child shall be provided services for which the child is eligible comparable to services provided to other students in the school selected regardless of residency. Homeless children shall be provided access to education and other services that such children need to ensure that they have an opportunity to meet the same student performance standards to which all students are held.

If a homeless child registered to attend school in the district is receiving family reconciliation services pursuant to state law, the district will work in cooperation with any county or department of social services in the district to jointly develop an educational program for the child. The district's homeless coordinator is Mr. Bob Hayes, who may be contacted at 402-755-5700.

Illness or Injury at School

Students who feel ill or are hurt while at school should seek immediate assistance from their classroom teacher or the nearest staff member. The school will contact parents to pick students up from school whenever necessary. When school officials determine that a student needs immediate medical attention but the parents cannot be reached by phone, emergency services will be summoned or the student will be taken directly to the doctor and/or hospital. Parents must complete an emergency information card for each child enrolled in the district. The card should list the family physician's name, where parents or a responsible adult can be located, and any necessary emergency instructions.

Immunizations

All students must furnish one of the following to school officials:

- proof of adequate immunizations for mumps, measles, rubella; diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus; polio; and hepatitis B series; or
- a signed parental statement of refusal to provide the immunization history. Homeless students who are in need of immunizations will be referred to the homeless coordinator, who shall assist in obtaining necessary immunizations or medical records.

Provisional Enrollment. Students who meet the statutory requirements for provisional enrollment shall be allowed to attend school for sixty days without the necessary immunizations.

Students who are excepted from the immunization requirement may be excluded from school in the event of an outbreak of any contagious disease in the school population.

Initiations and Hazing

Initiations and hazing by members of classes, clubs, athletic teams, or any other organization affiliated with the district are prohibited except as otherwise permitted by this policy. Any student engaging in hazing or non-approved initiations is subject to discipline as permitted by policy and law.

Initiations are defined as any ritualistic expectations, requirements, or activities placed upon new members of a school organization for the purpose of admission into the organization, even if those activities do not rise to the level of "hazing" as defined below. Initiations are prohibited except by permission of the superintendent.

Hazing is defined as any activity by which a person intentionally or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health or safety of an individual for the purpose of initiation into, admission into, affiliation with, or continued membership in any school organization. Hazing activities include, but are not limited to, whipping, beating, branding, an act of sexual penetration, an exposure of the genitals of the body done with the intent to affront or alarm any person, a lewd fondling or caressing of the body of another person, forced and prolonged calisthenics, prolonged exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug, or harmful substance not generally intended for human consumption, prolonged sleep deprivation, or any brutal treatment or the performance of any unlawful act that endangers the physical or mental health or safety of any person.

Lockers and Other School Property

The school district owns and exercises exclusive control over student lockers, desks, computer equipment, and other such property. Students should not expect privacy regarding usage of or items placed in or on school property, because school property is subject to search at any time by school officials. Periodic, random searches of lockers, desks, computers, and other such property may be conducted at the discretion of the administration. The assignment of a locker is on a temporary basis and may be revoked at any time. School officials may inspect student lockers without any particularized suspicion or reasonable cause.

Lost and Found

All lost and found articles are to be taken to the office and placed on a table outside of the office. Students may claim lost articles there. Unclaimed articles will be donated to a local charity or otherwise disposed of at the conclusion of each semester.

Medications

Whenever possible, parents should arrange medication schedules to eliminate the need for giving medication during school hours. When it is necessary for school personnel to administer medication to students, the school district will comply with the Nebraska Medication Aide Act, the requirements of Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 59, (promulgated by the Nebraska Department of Education and entitled *Methods of Competency Assessment of School Staff Who Administer Medication*), and all state and federal regulations. Parents and guardians who wish to have their child receive medication from school personnel must comply with the following procedures:

Prescription medication. (1) Parents/guardians must provide a physician's written authorization for the administration of the medication. (2) Parents/guardians must provide their own written permission for the administration of the medication. (3) The medication must be brought to school in the prescription container and must be properly labeled with the student's name, the physician's name, and directions for administering the medication.

Non-prescription medication. (1) Parents/guardians must provide written permission for the administration of the medication. (2) The medication must be brought to the school in the manufacturer's container. (3) The container must be labeled with the child's name and with directions for provision or administration of the medication

The district reserves the right to review and decline requests to administer or provide medications that are not consistent with standard pharmacological

references, are prescribed in doses that exceed those recommended in standard pharmacological references, or that could be taken in a manner that would eliminate the need for giving them during school hours. The district may request parental authorization to consult with the student's physician regarding any medication prescribed by such physician.

Media Center

Students must check out materials from the librarian on duty. Each borrower is responsible for all books checked out in his/her name. A fine of five cents per day per book may be charged for overdue books. Each student is responsible for any fine that accumulated on a book charged to him/her. If a book is lost and not found by the end of the semester, the student must pay for it. Students must also pay for any damage they cause to library books.

Memorials

Memorials or plaques honoring deceased students are generally not allowed in or on the school grounds unless authorized by board policy. Dedications to students will not be allowed.

Scholarships in the deceased person's name will not be set up by the school. Scholarships set up by outside organizations or individuals, such as a foundation, will be allowed.

Military Recruiters

The District will provide access to routine directory information to each student in a high school grade upon a request made by a military recruiter, unless the student's parent or guardian has submitted a written request that the student's information not be shared with a military recruiter. The District will provide military recruiters with the same access to a student in a high school grade as the District provides to postsecondary educational institutions or to prospective employers of such students.

If a parent or guardian does not want his or her student's information to be provided to a military recruiter, the parent must submit a written request to the Superintendent.

Multicultural Education

Ponca Public Schools incorporates multicultural education in all curriculum areas at all grades. Multicultural education includes, but is not limited to, studies relative to the culture, history, and contributions of African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, Asian Americans and European Americans with special emphasis on human relations and sensitivity toward all races.

Statement of Philosophy and Mission

The philosophy of the multicultural education program is that students will have improved ability to function as productive members of society when provided with: (a) an understanding of diverse cultures and races, the manner in which the existence of diverse cultures and races have affected the history of our Nation and the world, and of the contributions made by diverse cultures and races and (b) with the ability and skills to be sensitive toward and to study, work and live successively with persons of diverse cultures and races.

The mission of the multicultural education program is to prepare students to: (a) value and respect their own culture and race and cultures and races other than their own and (b) eliminate stereotypes and different treatment of others based on culture and race. The mission shall also include preparing students to eliminate stereotypes and discrimination or harassment of others based on ethnicity, religion, gender, socioeconomic status, age, or disability.

Opting Out of Assessments

The Board of Education has adopted a policy on approval and denial of state and federal assessment opt-out requests, which is based on requirements in law. The policy can be requested by contacting the Superintendent of Schools at brendancalahan@poncaschool.org or 402-755-5700.

Parental Involvement

The school district recognizes the unique needs of students who are being served in its Title I program, and the importance of parent and family engagement in the Title I program. Parent and family engagement in the Title I Program shall include, but is not limited to:

1. An annual meeting to which all parents of participating children will be invited to inform parents of their school's participation under this part, to explain the requirements of this part, and the right of the parents to be involved. Invitations may take the form of notes sent with students or announcements in the school newsletter. Additional meetings may be scheduled, based upon need and interest for such meetings.
2. An explanation of the details for the child's and parents' participation, including but not limited to: curriculum objectives, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress and the achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards, type and extent of participation, parental input in educational decisions, coordination, and integration with

other Federal, State, and district programs, and evaluations of progress.

3. Opportunities for participation in parent involvement activities, such as training to help parents work with their children to improve achievement. A goal of these parent activities is to provide parents with opportunities to participate in decisions relating to the education of their students, where appropriate.
4. The district will, to the extent practicable, provide parents of limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, parents with limited literacy, are economically disadvantaged, are of a racial or minority background or parents of migratory children with opportunities for involvement in the Title I Program. Communication to parents about student progress and the district's other Title I Program communications will be provided in the language used in the home to the extent practicable. Responses to parent concerns will be provided in a timely manner.
5. Opportunities for parent-teacher conferences, in addition to those regularly scheduled by the school district, if requested by the parents or as deemed necessary by school district staff.
6. The district will coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with other programs in the community. These may include cooperation with other community programs such as Head Start and preschools and other community services such as the public library.
7. The district will educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, with the assistance of parents in the value and utility of contributions of parents, how to reach out to, communicate with and work with parents as equal partners.

Parties

Elementary classes may have seasonal parties during the year. Parents shall communicate with their student's classroom teacher for the teacher's rules regarding birthday and holiday parties. Invitations for private parties and non-school-sponsored events may not be distributed at school.

Personal Items

The school provides the necessary equipment for classroom and school day activities. **Students should not bring items such as athletic equipment, electronic devices, toys, or other similar personal items to school**

unless they have the prior permission of their classroom teacher or a school administrator. The school is not responsible for damaged or lost personal items or equipment.

Physical Education

The school district requires students to receive physical education to assist them in developing gross and fine motor skills. Students are not required to wear P.E. uniforms, but are encouraged to wear tennis shoes for P.E.

Physical Exam

Students entering kindergarten and the seventh grade, and those entering school from another state, are statutorily required to show evidence that they have had a physical examination within six months prior to the date of entering school.

Pictures

The school district arranges for a photographer to be present at school in the fall to take class pictures. Parents will be notified of the date. Included in the individual packet is a class composite. Parents who want pictures of their students or of their student's class composite may purchase them directly from the photographer.

Playground Rules

Students must follow these rules to keep the playground safe when they are using the playground as part of the school day:

1. Students must obey the playground supervisor at all times.
2. Students may not enter the street/highway to retrieve a ball unless given permission by the playground supervisor.
3. Students must play away from the school windows.
4. Touch and flag football are permitted, but tackle football is prohibited. Students may only play football on grassy areas.
5. Students may throw balls and other authorized play equipment. They may not throw rocks, gravel, snowballs, and clothing.
6. Students must use the playground equipment properly and in a safe manner.
7. Students may not leave the playground after they have arrived at school for the day.

Students who violate these rules will be disciplined with the loss of recess or other privileges, detention, and/or other consequences.

The school's playgrounds, equipment, and surrounding areas are generally not supervised. Staff will supervise students when the students are using these areas as part of the school day or as part of a school activity. At all other

times and in all other circumstances, the school district does not provide supervision of its playgrounds, equipment, and surrounding areas.

Police Questioning and Apprehension

Police or other law enforcement officers may be called to the school at the request of school administration, or may initiate contact with the school in connection with a criminal investigation. The school district shall inform parents when law enforcement officers seek access to their student prior to the student being questioned unless the officers are investigating charges that the student has been the victim of abuse or neglect. Members of the school district staff will comply with board policy regarding police questioning of students.

Protection of Student Rights

The Board of Education respects the rights of parents and their children and has adopted a Protection of Pupil Rights policy in consultation with parents to comply with the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA). The policy is available on the district's website or upon request from the district's administrative office. Parents may opt their child out of participation in activities identified by the Protection of Pupil Rights policy by submitting a written request to the superintendent. Parents may have access to any survey or other material described in the Protection of Pupil Rights policy by submitting a written request to the superintendent.

ACT Exam

Students taking the ACT Exam will be prompted to complete a short, optional questionnaire addressing a number of topics. If you wish to review this questionnaire prior to the administration of the exam, please submit a written request to the superintendent.

Public Displays of Affection

Students may not engage in public displays of affection that are disruptive to the school environment or distracting to others. Prohibited conduct includes hugging, kissing, touching or any other display of affection that a staff member determines to be inappropriate.

Reasonable Suspicion Testing

Students may be required to submit to drug or alcohol testing if there is a reasonable suspicion that the student is under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Rights of Custodial and Non-Custodial Parents

The school district will honor the parental rights of natural and adoptive parents unless those rights have been altered by a court.

The term "custodial parent" refers to a biological or adoptive parent to whom a court has given primary physical and legal custody of a child, and a person such as a caseworker or foster parent to whom a court has given legal custody of a child.

The district will not restrict the access of custodial and non-custodial parents to their students and their students' records, unless the district has been provided a copy of a court order that limits those rights. If the district is provided such a court order, school officials will follow the directives set forth in the order.

The district will provide the custodial parent with routine information about his or her child, including notification of conferences. The district will not provide the non-custodial parent with such information on a routine basis, but will provide it upon the non-custodial parent's request unless it has been denied by the courts.

A non-custodial parent who wishes to attend conferences regarding his or her child will be provided information about conference times so both parents may attend a single conference. The district is not required to schedule separate conferences if both parents have been previously informed of scheduled conference times.

If either or both parents' behavior is disruptive, staff members may terminate a conference and reschedule it with appropriate modifications or expectations.

Secret Organizations

Secret organizations are prohibited. School officials shall not allow any person or representative of any such organization to enter upon school grounds or school buildings for the purpose of rushing or soliciting students to participate in any secret fraternity, society, or association.

School Dances

A school sponsored dance is a school activity subject to all provisions of the Student Activity Code, and is a privilege available to students meeting all requirements for participation.

General Rules of Student Conduct at Dances.

In addition to all rules of student conduct in the Student handbook, students attending dances shall adhere to the following rules of conduct:

1. **Who Can Attend:** Only students of Ponca Public Schools and their guests may attend.
 - a. Students currently attending Ponca High School or another Nebraska high school who have not been restricted from attending extracurricular

activities at Ponca High School or their own school are generally considered appropriate dates or invited guests.

b. Persons who are younger than 16 or older than 19 years of age and not attending high school are generally considered to not be appropriate dates or invited guests for our school dances. Any person not meeting the age requirements set forth in this policy shall require prior administrative approval to attend any school dance.

c. Some school dances may be restricted to students attending specified grades levels at Ponca Public Schools. For any dances at the middle school level, only students attending Ponca Public Schools in the grade(s) for which the dance is being held may attend.

d. Students who have been suspended from school or from extracurricular activities may not attend.

e. The school reserves the right to exclude persons who may or do cause a disruption or detract from the event. Dates or invited guests not attending our school are expected to follow the same rules of conduct which apply to our students.

f. Rules for dances may restrict students and their guests from leaving the dance until the dance ends without written parental permission on a form provided.

g. Students or their guests who engage in inappropriate behavior, whether on or off of the dance floor, may be asked to leave.

2. Prohibited Substances:

Alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, and tobacco (including electronic nicotine delivery systems) are prohibited. Anyone using these or showing the effects of use will not be allowed admission or, if discovered after admission, be removed from the dance. Their parents may be contacted. Students and their dates may be required to submit to a breathalyzer prior to gaining entrance. Those who choose not to submit to a breathalyzer will not gain entrance. Law enforcement will be contacted if there is reasonable suspicion that the student or a student's date is under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

3. Appropriate Attire:

Students and their guests must meet the dress code requirements established for each dance. Teachers or administrators will make the final decision as to whether or not a student's attire is appropriate. Students will be asked to change unacceptable items, which may mean that the student may have to return home to change the inappropriate clothing. It is advisable to check in advance of the dance with the Principal or staff sponsor for the event if you are uncertain about your attire.

Eligibility for Selection of Royalty.

Nomination and selection of royalty for school sponsored dances is an honor awarded by students to those of their peers that exemplify the highest

standards of integrity and achievement. Students nominated for dance royalty must have demonstrated through their conduct, academic achievement and activities that they have represented, and will represent, themselves, their classmates, and their school in a manner which reflects outstanding effort, commitment to their school and fellow students, and integrity and good citizenship in the school and in the community. The students selected to be the "royalty" for the Homecoming and Snowball or any other school sponsored dance or activity shall meet that general standard as determined by the administration and, in addition, meet the following specific academic, activity and conduct standards:

1. Achievement, Citizenship, and Conduct Qualifications:

- a. The student must have exhibited sportsmanship and leadership in activity endeavors and participation.
- b. The student must have exhibited a cooperative and respectful attitude toward fellow students, teammates, opponents, sponsors, coaches, and officials.
- c. The student must meet Ponca School academic and activity eligibility requirements.

2. Specific Candidate Eligibility and Selection:

- a. Candidates must be enrolled in Ponca High School one entire semester prior to royalty nomination.
- b. Foreign exchange students are not eligible for royalty nomination.

3. Specific Royalty Eligibility and Selection Requirements:

a. Homecoming Queen & King:

- Only a senior girl shall be eligible to be Queen and only a Senior boy shall be eligible to be King.
- The senior class will nominate three to five queen and three to five king candidates by secret vote of eligible candidates.
- To be eligible, a candidate must agree to attend the Homecoming Dance and represent the school properly. The queen and king will be chosen from the qualified nominees by secret vote of the 9-12 student body.
- The nominee receiving the highest number of votes is the Queen or King.
- Crowning will be held on a scheduled date prior to the Homecoming Dance.
- Each 7-11 class may nominate by secret vote from the qualified candidates one boy and one girl to serve as underclassman royalty for Homecoming.
- Once an underclassman has received royalty honors, s/he may not be nominated again until the senior year.

b. Snowball King and Queen:

- Only a Senior girl shall be eligible to be Queen and a Senior boy shall be eligible to be King. The candidates may not have been previously selected as Homecoming Queen or King.
- To be eligible, a candidate must agree to attend the Dance and represent the school properly.
- The senior class will nominate three to five Queen and three to five King candidates by secret vote of eligible candidates.
- The Queen and King will be chosen from the qualified nominees by secret vote of the 9-12 student body.
- The nominee receiving the highest number of votes is the Queen or King.
- Crowning will be held at a scheduled time the night of the Snowball Dance.

School Day

The school day typically begins at 8:10 a.m. and ends at 3:40 p.m. Students are to leave the school grounds after dismissal. Students are allowed to enter the school building at 7:45 a.m. Students are to leave the building immediately following the dismissal of school unless involved in an extracurricular activity or as requested by a teacher. **There will be no supervision provided by the school before or after these times.** Parents must arrange for their children to leave school promptly at the end of the day.

Self Management of Diabetes or Asthma/Anaphylaxis

Subject to school policy, the school district will work with the parent or guardian in consultation with appropriate medical professionals to develop a medical management plan for a student with diabetes, asthma, or anaphylaxis. Parents desiring to develop such a plan should contact the school nurse.

SEMESTER TESTS

At the end of each semester, days will be set aside for semester/quarter tests in grades 7 to 12. At the end of the first semester, all 9-12 students are required to write semester tests. At the end of the second semester, 9-12 students who have not exceeded the allowable eight absences per class for any reason (excluding school-sponsored activities), meet the student regulations (as stated below), participate in the review, are enrolled in a two semester class or a single semester class that is scheduled only second semester, may choose to be exempt from semester tests in classes with a semester average of 85% or higher. A student, who is exempt from semester test, may choose to write the test and has the option of including the semester test grade in the semester average. The semester average is the average earned in the class up to the semester testing days. Semester tests may not count more than 1/5 of the semester grade.

Students in grades 12 are excused from taking second semester tests due to their early release from school. The 7th grader will have quarter tests. The 8th graders will have first and second quarter tests and have a semester test for the second semester. The 7th and 8th grade tests will count as much as any regular test, at the discretion of the teacher.

***Student Regulations for Waiving the Second Semester Test**

1. 85% average or higher per class.
2. In attendance in each class with no more than eight allowable absences per class. Students having doctor(s) notes does not excuse the absence for semester test purposes. However, doctor(s) notes are important in that they excuse a student from possibly losing credit for courses once a student misses more than the allowable eight absences per class.
3. No cheating or plagiarism violations.
4. No more than two total tardies per class per semester. Three or more tardies in a class requires the student to write semester final tests in only the class(es) that they exceeded the tardy policy.

Smoking and Tobacco

The use or possession of any tobacco product, including cigarettes, cigars, or other tobacco or tobacco derivative products; vapor products or electronic nicotine delivery systems; alternative nicotine products; or any other such look-alike or imitation product, is not permitted on school property at any time.

Sniffer (Drug) Dogs

The administration is authorized to use sniffer dogs to minimize the presence of illicit items on school grounds. Students and staff are specifically notified of the following:

1. Lockers may be sniffed by sniffer dogs at any time.
2. Vehicles parked on school property may be sniffed by sniffer dogs at any time.
3. Classrooms and other common areas may be sniffed by sniffer dogs at any time students and staff are not present.
4. If contraband of any kind is found, the student or staff member shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

Standardized Testing

The Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS) is administered annually in grades 3-11 to determine the students' achievement probability for individual success. Tests are administered in April, and the results are sent home.

Student Assistance

Parents who believe their students have any learning, behavior, or emotional needs that they believe are not being addressed by the school district should contact the student's teacher. If appropriate, the teacher may convene the Student Assistance Team (SAT). The SAT can explore possibilities and strategies that will best meet the educational needs of the student.

Student Fee Policy

The school district shall provide free instruction in accordance with the Nebraska State Constitution and the Nebraska statutes. The district also provides activities, programs, and services that extend beyond the minimum level of constitutionally required free instruction. Under the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act, the district is permitted to charge students fees for these activities or to require students to provide specialized equipment and attire for certain purposes. This policy is subject to further interpretation or guidance by administrative or board regulations. Students are encouraged to contact their building administration, their teachers or their coaches, and sponsors for further specifics.

A. Definitions.

1. "Students" means students, their parents, guardians or other legal representatives.
2. "Extracurricular activities" means student activities or organizations that (1) are supervised or administered by the district; (2) do not count toward graduation or advancement between grades; and (3) are not otherwise required by the district.
3. "Post-secondary education costs" means tuition and other fees associated with obtaining credit from a post-secondary educational institution.

B. Listing of Fees Charged by this District.

1. Guidelines for Clothing Required for Specified Courses and Activities.

Students are responsible for complying with the district's grooming and attire guidelines and for furnishing all clothing required for any special programs, courses or activities in which they participate. The teacher, coach, or sponsor of the activity will provide students with written guidelines that detail any special clothing requirements and explain why the special clothing is required for the specific program, course or activity.

2. Safety Equipment and Attire.

The district will provide students with all safety equipment and attire that is required by law. Building administrators will assure that (a) such equipment is available in the appropriate classes and areas of the school buildings, (b) teachers are directed to instruct students in the use of such devices, and (c)

students use the devices as required. Students are responsible for using the devices safely and as instructed.

3. Personal or Consumable Items.

The district does not provide students with personal or consumable items for participation in courses and activities including, but not limited to, pencils, paper, pens, erasers and notebooks. Students who wish to supply their own personal or consumable items may do so, as long as those items comply with the requirements of the district. The district will provide students with facilities, equipment, materials and supplies, including books. Students are responsible for the careful and appropriate use of such property. Students will be charged for damage to school property caused by the student and will be held responsible for the reasonable replacement cost of any school property that they lose.

4. Materials Required for Course Projects.

The district will provide students with the materials necessary to complete all basic curricular projects. In courses where students choose to produce a project that requires materials beyond the basic materials provided by the district, the students will furnish the materials, purchase the materials from the school, or purchase the materials from an outside vendor with an order form provided by the school.

5. Technological Devices

The district will provide students with the technological devices necessary to complete all basic curricular projects. To the extent that a student is not required by the district's curriculum to utilize a device off district property, the district may charge students a usage fee to take the device off district property. The maximum dollar amount of this usage fee charged by the district will be \$25. As with all school property, students may be charged for damage to such devices

6. Extracurricular Activities.

The district may charge students a fee to participate in extracurricular activities to cover the district's reasonable costs in offering such activities. The district may require students to furnish specialized equipment and clothing that is required for participation in extracurricular activities, or may charge a reasonable fee for the use of district-owned equipment or attire. Attached to this policy is a list of the fees charged for particular activities. The coach or sponsor will provide students with additional written guidelines detailing the fees charged, the equipment and/or clothing required, or the usage fee charged. The guidelines will explain the reasons that fees, equipment and/or clothing are required for the activity. The district currently does not charge a participation fee for any activity, however, students are expected to purchase and/or provide the following equipment including but not limited to:

- Undergarments
- Shoes/Cleats
- Cheerleading uniforms/jackets
 - Mouth Guards
- Instruments
- Dress clothes
- Gloves

7. Post-Secondary Education Costs.

Some students enroll in postsecondary courses while still enrolled in the district's high school. As a general rule, students must pay all costs associated with such post-secondary courses.

8. Transportation Costs.

The district will charge students reasonable fees for transportation services provided by the district to the extent permitted by federal and state statutes and regulations.

9. Copies of Student Files or Records.

Parents of students have the right to inspect and review the students' files or records without the payment of a fee, and the district shall not charge a fee to search for or retrieve any student's files or records. The district may charge a fee for reproduction of student records.

10. Participation in Summer School or Night School.

The district may charge reasonable fees for participation in summer school or night school and may charge reasonable fees for correspondence courses.

11. Charges for Food Consumed by Students.

The district will charge for items that students purchase from the district's lunch program. The fees charged for these items will be set according to applicable federal and state statutes and regulations. The district will charge students for the cost of food, beverages, and the like that students purchase from a school store, vending machine, booster club or from similar sources. Students may be required to bring money or food for field trip lunches and similar activities.

The maximum dollar amount charged by the district for the lunch program is as follows:

- Grades PK-2: \$3.00
- Grades 3-6: \$3.25
- Grades 7-12: \$3.50
- Extra Milk: \$0.50

12. Charges for Musical Extracurricular Activities.

Students who qualify for fee waivers under this policy will be provided, at no charge, the use of a musical instrument in optional music courses that are not extracurricular activities. The following list details the maximum dollar amount of all musical extracurricular activities fees and the equipment or attire required for participation in musical extracurricular activities:

- Band: - Students must provide their own instruments and marching band shoes or may rent a district owned instrument for \$25.00

13. Contributions for class dues

Students in grades 7-12 are required to pay class dues. The following dues have been established:

- 7th, 8th, 9th grade: \$7.00
- 10th, 11th, 12th grade: \$10.00

C. Waiver Policy.

Students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunches under United States Department of Agriculture child nutrition programs shall be provided a fee waiver or be provided the necessary materials or equipment without charge for (1) participation in extracurricular activities, (2) materials for course projects, and (3) the use of a musical instrument in optional music courses that are not extracurricular activities. Actual participation in the free or reduced-price lunch program is not required to qualify for the waivers provided in this section. The district is not obligated to provide any particular type or quality of equipment or other material to eligible students. Students who wish to be considered for waiver of a particular fee must submit a completed fee waiver application to their building principal.

D. Distribution of Policy.

This policy will be published in the Student Handbook or its equivalent that will be provided to students at no cost.

E. Voluntary Contributions to Defray Costs.

The district will, when appropriate, request donations of money, materials, equipment or attire from parents, guardians and other members of the community to defray the costs of providing certain services and activities to students. These requests are not requirements and staff members of the district are directed to clearly communicate that fact to students, parents and patrons.

F. Fund-Raising Activities

Students may be permitted or required to engage in fund-raising activities to support various curricular and extracurricular activities in which they participate. Students who decline to participate in fund-raising activities are

not eligible under this policy for waiver of the costs or fees which the fundraising activity was meant to defray.

G. Student Fee Fund. The school board hereby establishes a Student Fee Fund. The Student Fee Fund shall be a separate school district fund that will not be funded by tax revenue, and that will serve a depository for all monies collected from students for (1) participation in extracurricular activities, (2) post-secondary education costs, and (3) summer school or night school courses. Monies in the Student Fee Fund shall be expended only for the purposes for which they were collected from students.

Student Illness

Students who suffer from a significant illness which has an actual or expected duration of six months or more may be eligible for accommodations and supports under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or under the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act. The school will provide accommodations to students who are returning to school after a prolonged absence due to illness, including pediatric cancer, through a 504 plan or an IEP, as appropriate. The student's plan will include informal or formal accommodations, modifications of curriculum and monitoring by medical or academic staff as determined by the student's IEP team or 504 committee. Parents and staff will engage in ongoing communication about the needs of a student who is facing these circumstances.

Students who become ill at school will be sent to the building office where the school nurse or other school employee will determine the appropriate response. When a child is too ill to remain at school, a school employee will contact the child's parent(s) and arrange for the child to be picked up or sent home. If an illness or injury requires immediate medical attention, school officials shall attempt to contact the child's parent(s) regarding treatment for the child. If the parents cannot be contacted, school officials may have the child treated by an available physician. Students who show symptoms of a contagious disease may be sent home, and the district may require a physician's statement before allowing such students to return to school.

Student Government

Students are encouraged to formulate and participate in elective and representative student government activities. The organization, operation, and scope of the student government shall be administered by the superintendent or designee.

Student Records

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA") provides parents certain rights with respect to their student's education records. These rights include the right to inspect and review the student's education records within

45 days of the date the school receives a request for access; and the right to request the amendment of the student's education records that you believe to be inaccurate.

If parents believe one of their student's records is inaccurate, they should write to the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why they believe it is inaccurate. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested, it will notify the parents of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment.

Directory Information. FERPA and the Nebraska Public Records Law authorize school districts to make "directory information" available for review at the request of non-school individuals. These laws also give parents and guardians a voice in the decision-making process regarding the disclosure of directory information regarding their children. The school district has designated the following as directory information:

name and grade, name of parent and/or guardian, address, telephone number, including the student's cell phone number, e-mail address, date and place of birth, dates of attendance, the image or likeness of students in pictures, videotape, film or other medium, major field of study, participation in activities and sports, degrees and awards received, social media usernames and handles, weight and height of members of athletic teams, most recent previous school attended, certain class work which may be published onto the Internet, classroom assignment and/or home room teacher, student ID number, user ID, or other unique personal identifier used by the student for purposes of accessing or communicating in electronic systems (but only if the identifier cannot be used to gain access to education records except when used in conjunction with one or more factors that authenticate the user's identity, such as a personal identification number (PIN), password, or other factor known or possessed only the authorized user). Directory information does not include a student's social security number.

Directory information about students may be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that market or manufacture class rings, sell student photographs or publish student yearbooks.

Federal law requires school districts to provide military recruiters and institutions of higher education with the names, addresses, and telephone listings of high school students unless parents have notified the school district

in writing that they do not want this information disclosed without prior written parental consent. Military recruiters will be granted the same access to a student in a high school grade as is provided to postsecondary educational institutions or to prospective employers of such students.

Parents who **OBJECT** to the disclosure of any directory information about their student should write a letter to the principal. This letter should specify the particular categories of directory information that the parents do not wish to have released about their child or the particular types of outside organizations to which they do not wish directory information to be released. This letter must be received by the school district no later than September 1st of each school year.

Non-Directory Information

All of the other personally identifiable information about students that is maintained in the school district's education records will generally not be disclosed to anyone outside the school system except under one of two circumstances: (1) in accordance with the provisions of the FERPA statutes and related administrative regulations, or (2) in accordance with the parent's written instructions.

One FERPA exception permits disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests without consent. A school official includes, but is not necessarily limited to, a teacher or other educator, administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); school board member; volunteer; contractor or consultant who, while not employed by the school, performs an institutional service or function for which the school would otherwise use its own employees and who is under the direct control of the school with respect to the use and maintenance of PII from education records, such as an attorney, representative of the district's insurance providers, auditor, medical consultant, therapist, or a third-party website operator who has contracted with the school district or its agent to offer online programs for the benefit of students and/or the district; members of law enforcement acting on behalf of the school district; a parent or student volunteering to serve on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee; or a parent, student, or other volunteer assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official typically has a "legitimate educational interest" if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill a school-related professional, contractual, statutory, or regulatory responsibility.

The district will share information with the Department of Education necessary to comply with the requirement of state law that all third- year high school students take a college entrance exam. Any redisclosure of information related to the administration of this exam shall be governed by the agreement

between the Nebraska Department of Education and the third-party testing company.

Transfer of Records Upon Student Enrollment

Upon request, the school discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll. The school is not obligated to inform parents when it makes a disclosure under this provision.

Complaints

Individuals who wish to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the School to comply with the requirements of FERPA may contact the Office that administers FERPA:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-4605

Student Schedule Changes

Student schedule changes may be made without penalty during the first three days of each semester. Drop and Add slips are to be obtained from the office of the Guidance Counselor and must be signed by the guidance counselor and building principal before they are presented to the teacher of the class that is to be added or dropped.

After the first week of the semester, students who insist on dropping a class, except for instances of an extended illness, will receive a "0" on their permanent records, and that grade will be averaged into the student's cumulative grade point average. If an extended illness makes it impossible or impracticable for a student to successfully complete a class or classes, the student may be allowed to withdraw from a class or classes as (WP)-Withdraw Passing or (WF)-Withdraw Failing. If permission to withdraw as WP or WF is given by the building principal and guidance counselor, the grade(s) will not be averaged into the cumulative grade point average of the student.

Before students are allowed to withdraw from a class as WP or WF, the student, the parents of the student, the guidance counselor, and the building principal must meet and review the circumstances of the situation. All available means that could be utilized to allow the student to successfully complete the course(s) must be reviewed before permission to withdraw as WP or WF is given by the building principal and guidance counselor.

Student Vehicles

All students driving cars to school must not park between 2nd and 3rd Streets on Washington Street. Students are not allowed to sit in or drive cars during the school day unless permission is obtained from the Principal. The safety of small children in school and in the community is foremost in mind when considering the policy for student drivers. We ask the cooperation of all students in seeing that this policy is enforced.

Tardiness

A student who does not have a valid excuse for being tardy to any class may be required to serve detention. After four tardies to school, the student and parents will be required to meet with the principal to discuss the situation.

Teacher Helpers

Students maintaining at least a B cumulative average (85%) will be eligible to be teacher helpers. Students, who are helpers on a regular basis, three or more days per week, will be given 1 credit per year.

Telephone Calls

The school's telephone may be used only with permission of staff.

Threat Assessment and Response

The board is committed to providing a safe environment for members of the school community. Students, staff and patrons are urged to immediately report any statements or behavior that makes the observer fearful or uncomfortable about the safety of the school environment.

1. Definitions

- a. A **threat** is an expression of willful intent to physically or sexually harm someone or to damage property in a way that indicates that an individual poses a danger to the safety of school staff, students or other members of the school community.
 - i. The threat may be expressed/communicated behaviorally, orally, visually, in writing, electronically, or through any other means.
 - ii. A **transient threat** is an expression of anger or frustration that can be quickly or easily resolved.
 - iii. A **substantive threat** is an expression of serious intent to harm others which includes, but is not limited to, any threat which involves a detailed plan and means.

- b. A **threat assessment** is a fact-based process emphasizing an appraisal of observed (or reasonably-observable) behaviors to identify potentially dangerous or violent situations, to assess them and to manage/address them. Threat assessment is the process of distinguishing “transient” threats from serious ones in a systematic, data-informed way.
 - i. The threat assessment process is distinct from student disciplinary procedures. The mere fact that the district is conducting a threat assessment does not by itself necessitate suspension, expulsion or emergency exclusion without complying with state law and board policy related governing those actions.
 - ii. The threat assessment process is distinct from specialized instruction which a student with a disability may receive from the school district. The school district will not change a student’s educational placement as that term is used in the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act *solely* as part of a threat assessment.

2. Obligation to Report Threatening Statements or Behaviors.

All staff and students must report **substantive threats** to a member of the administration immediately and comply with any other mandatory reporting obligations. Staff and students who are unsure whether a threat is substantive or transient should report the situation. Staff and students must make such report regardless of the nature of the relationship between the individual who initiated the threat or threatening behavior and the person(s) who were threatened or who were the focus of the threatening behavior. Staff and students must also make such reports regardless of where or when the threat was made or the threatening behavior occurred.

THREATS OR ASSAULTS WHICH REQUIRE IMMEDIATE INTERVENTION SHOULD BE REPORTED TO THE POLICE AT 911.

1. Threat Assessment Investigation and Response

All reports of violent, threatening, stalking or other behavior or statements which could be interpreted as posing a threat to school safety will immediately be forwarded to the designated law enforcement unit. Upon receipt of an initial report of any threat, the law enforcement unit shall initiate an initial inquiry/triage and make a determination of the seriousness of the threat as expeditiously as possible. The law enforcement unit must contact local law enforcement if it determines that an individual poses a clear and immediate threat of serious violence.

If there is no reasonably apparent imminent threat present or once such an imminent threat is contained, the law enforcement unit will meet to evaluate and respond to the threatening behavior. The law enforcement unit may, but is not required to, review the following types of information:

- Review of the threatening behavior and/or communication;
- Interviews with the individuals involved including students, staff members, and family members as necessary and/or appropriate;
- Review of school and other records for any prior history or interventions with the students involved;
- Any other investigatory methods that the law enforcement unit determines to be reasonable and useful.

If the threat has been made by, or is directed towards, a student with a disability, the superintendent must confer with a staff member who is knowledgeable about special education services or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, as appropriate.

At the conclusion of the investigation, the law enforcement unit will share its findings with the superintendent. The superintendent will determine what, if any, response to the threat is appropriate. The superintendent is authorized to disclose the results of the investigation to law enforcement and to the target(s) of any threatened acts. The superintendent may refer the individual of concern to the appropriate school administrator for consequences under the school's student discipline policy or, if appropriate, report the results of the investigation to the student's individualized education plan team.

4. Communication with the Public about Reported Threats

To the extent possible, the superintendent will keep members of the school community informed about substantive threats and about the district's response to those threats. This communication may include oral announcements, written communication sent home with students, and communication through print or broadcast media. However, the superintendent will not reveal the identity of the individual of concern or of any target(s) of threatened violence unless permitted by law.

5. Coordination with the Crisis Team After Resolution of Threat

The superintendent will confer with the district's crisis team after a threat has been investigated to provide the crisis team with information that the crisis team may use in assessing or revising the district's All-Hazard School's Safety Plan.

Transportation Services

The district operates school buses as a convenience for students and parents. They represent a substantial investment, and students are expected to care for and respect them.

Transportation to School

Students who ride the bus to school will arrive in time for them to eat breakfast at school. Parents must contact their bus driver if a student will not ride the bus on a given day. Bus drivers endeavor to adhere to their schedule, and will wait for riders only a short period of time so as not to jeopardize the time remaining for the rest of their schedule.

Non-resident or option enrollment students may ride the buses, but they will be charged a fee to be established by the board of education. The Superintendent will schedule bus routes, and questions concerning them should be directed to that office.

Bus Regulations

Riding school vehicles is a privilege, not a right. The bus drivers have the same authority as teachers while transporting students. Students must comply with the following rules and all school conduct rules and directives while riding in school vehicles. In addition, students must also comply with the student code of conduct while riding in school vehicles. If misconduct is recurring, the student will not be allowed to ride the bus.

a) Rules of Conduct on School Vehicles:

- 1) Students must obey the driver promptly.
- 2) Students must wait in a safe place for the bus to arrive, clear of traffic and away from where the vehicle stops.
- 3) Students are prohibited from fighting, engaging in bullying, harassment, or horseplay.
- 4) Students must enter the bus without crowding or disturbing others and go directly to their assigned seats.
- 5) Students must remain seated and keep aisles and exits clear while the vehicle is moving.
- 6) Students are prohibited from throwing or passing objects on, from, or into vehicles.
- 7) Students may not use profane language, obscene gestures, tobacco, alcohol, drugs, or any other controlled substance on the vehicles.
- 8) Students may not carry weapons, look-a-like weapons, hazardous materials, nuisance items, or animals onto the vehicle.
- 9) Students may carry on conversations in ordinary tones, but may not be loud or boisterous and should avoid talking to the driver while the vehicle is in motion. Students must be

- absolutely quiet when the vehicle approaches a railroad crossing and any time the driver calls for quiet.
- 10) Students may not open windows without permission from the driver. Students may not dangle any item (e.g. legs, arms, backpacks) out of the windows.
 - 11) Student must secure any item or items that could break or produce injury if tossed about the inside of the vehicle if the vehicle were involved in an accident
 - 12) Student must respect the rights and safety of others at all times.
 - 13) Students must help keep the vehicle clean, sanitary, and orderly. Students must remove all personal items and trash upon exiting.
 - 14) Students may not leave or board the vehicle at locations other than the assigned stops at home or school unless approved prior to departure by the superintendent or designee.
 - 15) Video cameras may be placed on buses, at random, to monitor student behavior on the bus.

b) **Consequences**

Drivers must promptly report all student misconduct to the administration. These reports may be oral or written. Students who violate the Rules for Conduct will be referred to their building principal for discipline. Disciplinary consequences may include a note home to parents, suspension of bus riding privileges, exclusion from extracurricular activities, in-school suspension, short term or long term suspension from school, and/or expulsion.

These consequences are not progressive, and school officials have discretion to impose any listed punishment they deem appropriate, in accordance with state and federal law and board policy.

c) **Records**

Records of vehicle misconduct will be forwarded to the appropriate building principal and will be maintained in the same manner as other student discipline records. Reports of serious misconduct may be forwarded to law enforcement.

Requests to be dropped off at a point **not** on the regular route will not be accommodated, unless extenuating circumstances arise and the request is approved by the transportation director or administration.

Students who are not regular route riders may not ride the bus home with a friend, unless the parent of the non-route student presents written permission to the bus driver ahead of time. The written permission should include the date, the non-route rider's name, the signature of the non-rider's parent, and the place approved for drop off. Such requests may not be granted if they cause overcrowding of the vans or buses (Vans-10 riders only, plus driver).

Transportation to Activities

The school district provides transportation to students who are participating in school-sponsored events and they must ride to those events in a school vehicle. Students who wish to take private transportation home from a school event must submit a release form to the sponsor that has been signed by that student's parent.

Video Surveillance, Recordings, and Photographs

The Board of Education has authorized the use of video cameras on school district property to ensure the health, welfare, and safety of all staff, students and visitors, and to safeguard District facilities and equipment. Video cameras may be used in locations deemed appropriate by the Superintendent. If a video surveillance recording captures a student or other building user violating school policies or rules or local, state, or federal laws, it may be used in appropriate disciplinary proceedings against the student or other building user and may also be provided to law enforcement agencies.

Recordings Made by Parents/Guardians and Patrons.

Parents/guardians and patrons may make recordings of school activities in a non-disruptive manner including things like athletic contests and school board meetings to the extent permitted by law unless otherwise lawfully restricted by the administration. Parents/guardians or patrons may not make recordings if they are volunteering or visiting school during the school day without permission of the administration or supervising staff member and subject to this policy, such as recording their child's classroom activities or recess. Violation of this policy may be grounds for exclusion from school property, loss of volunteer privileges, or other restrictions deemed appropriate by the administration.

Recordings Made by Students. This policy applies to students during the school day on school grounds; when being transported to and from school activities or programs in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose by a school employee or by his or her designee; or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event. Students may make recordings of school activities in a non-disruptive manner including things like athletic contests and other extracurricular performances to the extent permitted by law. Students generally are not permitted to record classroom instruction or members of the school community during the school

day without the express consent of a staff member or as required by the student's education plan. Student use of assistive technology that has the capacity to record and/or transmit recordings (e.g. AngelSense) must be approved by the student's education team or administration. Students remain subject to all other district policies and rules. In no event shall recordings be taken or made in restrooms, locker rooms, or other areas where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy. Students who violate this policy may be subject to discipline up to and including expulsion.

Weather-Related School Closing

The Superintendent will occasionally announce an emergency early school dismissal, late start, or cancellation of school due to extreme heat, snow, or ice. School closings will be announced on KCAU, KTIV, KMEG, and other social media outlets. Parents should assume that school is open and a regular schedule is being followed if there is no announcement concerning the school district. Please do not call the school or individual staff members to find out whether school is being canceled. Parents who do not believe it is safe to transport their students to school may keep their students home after contacting the district office.

If schools are closed due to severe weather conditions, all after-school activities will be canceled.

Withdrawal From School

Students who are moving from the district must notify the school office.

Work Permits

The building principal or other authorized school official shall be responsible for the issuance of work permits for children in accordance with state law.

Visitors

No school visitors will be allowed unless previous to their coming, permission is obtained from the Principal's office. This in no way refers to parents who are welcome to visit at any time. Permission will not be granted for school-age visitors in grades K-6.

SECTION TWO

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Academic Eligibility

Academics: Participation in extracurricular school activities is encouraged and desirable for all students. At the same time, the primary mission and responsibility for each student is to establish a firm academic foundation.

A student participating in extracurricular school activities shows evidence of sincere effort towards scholastic achievement. To be eligible for participation in extracurricular activities, students must be enrolled in at least 20 credit hours in the semester of participation.

Eligibility Requirements:

1. A student with a failing grade in two or more classes will be considered ineligible for activities. These activities include athletics, school plays, musicals, declamation contests, swing choir, jazz band, speech, One-Act, and other such school-related activities before and after school, in the evening, or over the weekend. This does not apply to curriculum related activities for which a grade is received.
2. Academic eligibility for all extra-curricular activities begins after the 3rd full week of each semester and is computed weekly for the rest of the semester. Grades will be run by quarter except for the first week of the 2nd and 4th quarter in which grades will be calculated by semester.
3. The eligibility list will be run **on the last school day of the week** at 9AM. Any student deemed ineligible will be ineligible effective Monday through Sunday of the following week.
4. An email will be sent to the parent and student notifying them that they are ineligible.
5. Students serving in-school suspensions (ISS) or out-of-school suspensions (OSS) will not be allowed to attend and/or participate in extracurricular activities or practices.
6. Students in Junior High must be passing four of the five core subjects. Core classes are: Math, Science, English, Social Studies, and Vocational Block class.
7. School related activities and the eligibility period for junior high will be the same as the high school.

*** Teachers will be allowed 2-4 school days to put in grades depending upon the extent of the assignment. Special circumstances may be reviewed by the administration.*

All other eligibility policies as stated by the Nebraska School Activities Association must be in compliance:

1. Students not passing four classes for the semester will be ineligible for the succeeding semester.
2. Students who are on the ineligible list will be able to participate in practice, and at the coach's discretion, be allowed to travel with the team or activity for away events, sit with the team during competitions, be on the sidelines, and enjoy the privileges of his/her teammates as long as the activity is taking place after school hours. Students who are on the ineligible list will not be allowed to leave school early to travel with the team if departure time is during school hours.

Academic Eligibility Reporting Periods will begin:

Grades will be run by quarter except for the first 3 weeks of the 2nd and 4th quarter in which grades will be calculated by semester.

- a. 1st Quarter – Ran: Friday September 1st, 2023
- b. 2nd Quarter – Continuation and ongoing from 1st quarter.
- c. 3rd Quarter – Ran: Friday January 26th, 2024
- d. 4th Quarter – Continuation and ongoing from 3rd quarter.

The ineligibility period carries over from the end of one school year to the beginning of the next school year. Seventh and eighth grade students will be eligible at the beginning of each school year.

Academic requirements do not apply to:

- a. Instructional field trips which are a part of the scheduled course learning experience; or
- b. Activities or events which are a part of the student's grade requirements.
- c. Activities or events which administration may deem as important for the overall development of the student.

Academic Lettering

A student in grades 9-12 is eligible for an academic letter if he/she achieves Honor Roll status any three of the four quarters in a year.

Class Rank

Student class rank shall be determined by using a numeric grade point average derived from all classes graded on a numeric basis. To be included in the class ranking, a student must have received a numeric grade for each

core curriculum class in which he/she was enrolled. For the purposes of this policy, core curriculum shall include all courses in the areas of language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.

Students who transfer into the school district will be eligible to be included in class ranking after two semesters of attendance.

Students who transfer into the school district in middle of their senior year will be eligible to be included in class ranking, although a mid-year transfer will not displace the ranking of a student who has not transferred mid-year. In those circumstances there will be two students holding the relevant class ranking. Mid-year transfer students will not be eligible to receive senior awards such as valedictorian and salutatorian unless the student has been enrolled in the district's high school for the last two semesters.

Credit for Non-Academic Work

Credit is not awarded for participation in extracurricular activities such as sports, speech, drama, etc. However, all such activities in which the student participates, as well as honors earned, are noted on the student's permanent record.

Early Graduation

Students most effectively obtain the skills and experience necessary to graduate from high school by completing grades 9 through 12 over the course of 4 years. Unless otherwise permitted by Board policy or other applicable law, students must finish all 4 grade levels in order to graduate.

Requirements for Application. In unique circumstances, the Board may waive the four-year attendance requirement for high school graduation, provided that the student has met the requirements of this policy. Students must make an application to the high school principal before they may seek permission to graduate early from the Board. The principal may consult with appropriate instructional and guidance staff members in making the determination. The student's application must include:

1. Proof that the student will meet all academic requirements necessary to graduate on or before the proposed graduation date;
2. A detailed essay that (a) addresses the reasons for seeking early graduation and (b) articulates the student's post-graduation plans, including goals and objectives justifying the need to graduate early;
3. Two letters of recommendation from the student's current classroom teachers;
4. A letter from the school counselor confirming the student is on track to graduate early; and

5. A letter from a parent/guardian supporting the application. The student may submit any additional materials which support the student's efforts to graduate early. Such materials may include, but are not required to include: letters of support from staff and community members; proof of admission in a postsecondary program; and/or any other materials which the student believes to support the student's application.

Consideration by the Board of Education.

The principal will make a written recommendation to the Board based on the submitted application from the student. The Board will consider but is not bound by the principal's recommendation. Along with the application, the Board may consult with members of the administration, staff, or anyone else the Board deems appropriate. The Board will grant a student's application only if it determines that the student is best served by permitting the student to graduate early.

Participation in District Activities.

Early graduates will be considered graduates of the district at the time the Board confers such status upon them. Therefore, early graduates will no longer be considered members of the student body and will forfeit those rights and privileges accorded such students.

Grades

Each student in grades K-1 will earn a letter grade on their report card each quarter for each class he/she is enrolled in. Each student in grade 2-12 will earn a percentage grade each quarter for each class he/she is enrolled in. Semester grades will be computed using each quarter grade as 40% and the semester test grade as 20%. The semester grade must be 70% or better to obtain credit in a class.

1. Grades K-1

E-Excellent: The student completes superior work and demonstrates thorough understanding of the subject matter.

S-Satisfactory: The student produces work of good quality and demonstrates an understanding of the subject matter.

I-Improving: The student produces inconsistent work, but demonstrates some evidence of growth.

N-Needs Improvement: The student's work demonstrates that little growth is taking place.

2. Grades 2-12

A 93-100

D 70-76

B 85-92
C 77-84

F Below 70
I Incomplete

A (93-100) The student completes work of superior quality and demonstrates thorough understanding of the subject matter.

B (85-92) The student completes work of good quality and demonstrates an understanding of the subject matter.

C (77-84) The student produces acceptable work and demonstrates a basic understanding of the subject matter.

D (70-76) The student produces inconsistent work, but demonstrates a basic understanding of the subject matter.

F (Below 70) The student's work demonstrates that little growth is taking place.

I (Incomplete) The student has not completed required assignments, projects, quizzes, tests, etc. Students having incomplete daily work will be required to complete it in a scheduled before or after school study session within five (5) days of the assignment due date. In the case of extended absences, all incomplete work for a grading period must be made up within two weeks following the final day of the term. Exceptions may be made for special circumstances at the discretion of the administration. Teachers are allowed a reasonable grade period to grade and record incomplete work.

3. K-4 Music, K-6 Physical Education and 4-6 Keyboarding (Letter Grade)

E Excellent

S Satisfactory

I Improving

N Needs Improvement

4. 5-12 Music and 7-8 Physical Education (Percentage Grade)

A 93-100

B 85-92

C 77-84

D 70-76

F Below 70

I Incomplete

For all other grading reports received on transfer students, the Superintendent and/or principal shall convert these to an approximately equal grade on our system.

Staff members may use whatever method they determine professionally appropriate in the day to day grading, but shall prepare grade reports based

on numerical values. Each staff member, however, must be able to defend whatever method chosen. The following criteria should be used in determining the numerical value of the grade.

1. Achievement in relation to class objectives.
2. Class participation.
3. Mental ability of student in relation to the total class and required work.
4. Evidence the student is exceeding the class requirements and delving further. On absences of secondary students, they shall be allowed two (2) days for each day missed to complete work assigned. After this period elapses, all work not handed in or completed shall receive a zero.

All grade reports will contain the numerical grade for each subject, as well as the following: absences, tardiness, department, comments (if instructor desires).

A student may earn an incomplete when he or she fails to complete classroom assignments. Any student in grades 7-11 who receives an incomplete will have this grade recorded on his/her permanent record until the required work is completed to the teacher's satisfaction. If a student does not remove an incomplete by completing the minimum classroom assignments, the incomplete will be calculated as a failing grade in determining the student's grade point average.

If a student does not remove an incomplete by completing the necessary work within two weeks of the end of the grading period, the incomplete will become a failing grade that the student may make up only by taking the entire course again. The two-week period may be extended by mutual agreement of the teacher, principal, and student.

A student who receives an incomplete during his/her senior year must satisfactorily complete the classroom assignments to participate in the graduation ceremony. Seniors with incompletes will not be dismissed from school attendance until the classroom assignments are completed to the teacher's satisfaction.

Graduation Awards

The school district will recognize the outstanding academic achievement of its graduating seniors in the following manner:

Class rank is maintained for the 9th through 12th grades. Class rank is based on the Ponca Public Schools G.P.A. To be considered for class ranking and any honors or awards which are based on class rank or G.P.A (E.G Valedictorian

and Salutatorian), students must complete a minimum of two semesters of attendance at Ponca Public Schools.

Honor students for graduation will be determined at the end of the 7th semester. The student ranked number one is recognized as Valedictorian and the student ranking number two is recognized as Salutatorian.

Graduation Requirements

Students must earn 240 total credit hours in order to graduate from high school.

For students through Class of 2026:

To participate in commencement exercises or receive a Ponca Public Schools diploma a student must fully complete all requirements for graduation prior to the official commencement exercises, and complete other administrative requirements or conditions. Students who graduate from Ponca Public Schools must accumulate 230 hours. Music credits will be given as follows, band - 5 per year, and chorus - 5 per year. The total graduation requirements must include the following core curriculum:

<u>Curricular Area:</u>	<u>Credits:</u>
Language Arts	40
Math	30
Science	30
American History	10
American Government	10
World Geography	5
World History	10
Econ & Financial Literacy	5
Physical Education	15
Health	5
Electives	70

Effective starting for the Class of 2027

To participate in commencement exercises or receive a Ponca Public Schools diploma a student must fully complete all requirements for graduation prior to the official commencement exercises, and complete other administrative requirements or conditions. Students who graduate from Ponca Public Schools must accumulate 240 hours. Music credits will be given as follows, band - 5 per year, and chorus - 5 per year. The total graduation requirements must include the following core curriculum:

Content Area	Required Courses	Credit Hours Required
Language Arts	English 9, English 10, English 11, and English 12	40
Mathematics	Algebra 1 and Geometry	30
Science	Earth Science, Physical Science and Biology	30
Social Science	World Geography (1 Semester), World History, American History, American Government	35
Econ/Financial Literacy	Split with Speech	5
Physical Education	5 Required splitting with Health	15
Health	Split with PE	5
Computer Science	Info Tech Fundamentals Split with World Geography	5
Speech	Split with Econ/Financial Literacy	5
Electives		70
TOTAL		240

Effective for the class of 2027

Transfer students must meet the minimum hour requirement for graduation both in terms of total number and specific subject areas. Substitutions may be made for deficiencies in required courses, provided that it was not possible to include the courses on the student's schedule while enrolled at this school district.

Students who receive special education services are mainstreamed into the regular education curriculum when appropriate. The curriculum content of regular education classes may be modified to accommodate the individual needs and abilities of verified special education students. Each curriculum modification will be included on the student's Individual Education Plan by the Multi-Disciplinary Team and/or school staffing teams composed of special and regular education staff. Hours in special education will be counted toward a high school diploma.

Parents of students who may not qualify for their high school diploma because of academic deficiencies will be notified of this possibility by the beginning of the second semester of the student's senior year.

Homework

Classroom teachers will often assign homework. Parents who have questions about homework or concerns about class work should contact the teacher. Questions not resolved by the teacher should be referred to the administration.

Each student is expected to spend some time preparing for studies outside of school hours. The amount of time that is needed will depend upon each student. Normally, at least an hour a day should be spent in preparing for an average assignment.

Students who struggle to complete assignments or who must spend an inordinate amount of time completing an assignment should seek the help and advice of their teachers and consult with the principal and/or the guidance counselor.

Homework Help

Homework Help is offered Monday through Thursday from 3:40-4:40. Students who have been assigned to Homework Help and who do not report may be assigned detention.

Honor Roll

There will be an "A" Honor Roll for students who earn all grades of "A" on their report cards and a "A-B" Honor Roll for students who earn all grades of "B" or higher on their report cards. Honor rolls will be figured at the end of each nine-week period and also at the end of each semester. Grades used in figuring honor rolls will be for scholastic subjects for which credit is given. A student must earn credit in a minimum of six Ponca School classes to be considered for Ponca School honor roll purposes. All honor roll lists will be released for publication.

Report Cards

Report cards are sent home the week following the end of the nine-week reporting period. Mid-quarter reports are also sent to parents of students who are having difficulty in an academic subject.

SECTION THREE

STUDENT DISCIPLINE

General Discipline Philosophy

The school district has the authority to discipline students who behave inappropriately on the way to school, at school, during lunch, on the way

home, and at all school activities (home and away or any time while on school or district property).

The school district's discipline is guided by the following principles:

1. The school district's discipline policy is intended to ensure that students take responsibility for their behavior.
2. Behavior expectations and the consequences for failing to meet those expectations will be clearly communicated to all students and their parents.
3. The severity of consequences for violating behavior expectations will generally be progressive in nature. That is, sanctions will increase with each instance of misconduct; however, each instance will be assessed on its own facts, and sanctions will be imposed based on the severity of the misconduct.
4. Parents play a vital role in supporting and reinforcing the school district's expectations of their students.
5. Behavior expectations apply to all students; consequences are enforced consistently without regard to a student's academic record or achievement.

Extracurricular activities including athletics, cheerleading, band, chorus, and club activities, are governed by the Student Activity Handbook. Students who are involved in extracurricular activities may face consequences related to the activity in addition to the consequences discussed in this handbook.

The school district reserves the right to refer to the appropriate non-school agency any act or conduct of its students which may constitute a crime under federal, state, county, or local law. The administration will cooperate with these agencies in their investigations.

Forms of School Discipline

Administrative and teaching personnel may take actions regarding student behavior that are reasonably necessary to aid the student, further school purposes, or prevent interference with the educational process. Such actions may include, but need not be limited to, counseling of students, parent conferences, referral to restorative justice practices or services, rearrangement of schedules, requirements that a student remain in school after regular hours to do additional work, restriction of extracurricular activity, or requirements that a student receive counseling, psychological evaluation, or psychiatric evaluation upon the written consent of a parent or guardian to such counseling or evaluation. The actions may also include in-school suspensions during the day or mandatory attendance at Saturday school. When in-school suspensions, after-school assignments, Saturday School, or other disciplinary measures are assigned, the student is responsible for complying with such disciplinary measures; a failure to serve such assigned discipline as directed will serve as grounds for further discipline, up to

expulsion from school. District administrators may develop building-specific protocols for the imposition of student discipline.

In this section, references to "Principal" shall include building principals, the principal's designee, or other appropriate school district administrators.

Any statement, notice, recommendation, determination, or similar action specified in this section shall be effectively given at the time written evidence thereof is delivered personally to or upon receipt of certified or registered mail or upon actual knowledge by a student or his or her parent or guardian.

Any student who is suspended or expelled from school pursuant to this section may not participate in any school activity during the duration of that exclusion including adjacent school holidays and weekends. The student activity eligibility of a student who is mandatorily reassigned shall be determined on a case-by-case basis by the principal of the building to which the student is reassigned.

After School Sessions and Detentions

Teachers and administrators may require students to stay after school or to serve a detention when the student violates any of the rules contained in this handbook or violates classroom-specific conduct rules set by individual teachers.

Students who ride the bus home from school will be given a 24-hour notice of after-school time or a detention so that the parents may make plans to pick up the student the following day.

- After-school sessions will not exceed 30 minutes from the time of dismissal and are to be served in the teacher's room. A student who fails to attend an after school session may be given a detention by the teacher or may face additional disciplinary consequences up to and including long-term suspension and/or expulsion. A student who has a conflict with an after-school session is responsible for working it out with the teacher.
- Detentions are 30 minutes, served in the central office or the detention room designated by the building principal.

In-School Suspension

The building administrator may require a student to serve in-school suspension. Students may be required to attend up to six hours per day of school-sponsored suspension a day at a designated location where they will study and participate in campus clean up. There will be zero tolerance for

behavior problems from students placed in in-school suspension. Students not completing their In-School Suspension will face further disciplinary action.

Emergency Exclusion

Students may be emergency excluded from school pursuant to the board's separate policy on emergency exclusion or state law.

Short-Term Suspension

The Principal or the Principal's designee may exclude a student from school or any school function for a period of up to five school days (short-term suspension) on the following grounds:

1. Conduct constituting grounds for expulsion as hereinafter set forth; or
2. Other violations of rules and standards of behavior adopted by the board of education or the administrative or teaching staff of the school, which occur on or off school grounds, if such conduct interferes with school purposes or there is a nexus between such conduct and school.

The following process will apply to short-term suspensions:

1. The Principal shall make a reasonable investigation of the facts and circumstances. Short-term suspension shall be imposed only after a determination that the suspension is necessary to help any student, to further school purposes, or to prevent an interference with school purposes.
2. Prior to commencement of the short-term suspension, the student will be given oral or written notice of the charges against the student. The student will be advised of what he/she is accused of having done, an explanation of the evidence the authorities have, and an opportunity to explain his/her version of the facts.
3. Within 24 hours or such additional time as is reasonably necessary following the suspension, the Principal will send a written statement to the student and the student's parent or guardian, describing the student's conduct, misconduct, or violation of the rule or standard and the reasons for the action taken. An opportunity will be given to the student, and the student's parent or guardian, to have a conference with the Principal ordering the short-term suspension before or at the time the student returns to school. The Principal shall determine who, in addition to the parent or guardian, is to attend the conference.
4. Students who are short-term suspended will be given the opportunity to complete classwork, including but not limited to examinations.

Weapons and/or Firearms

Students may be disciplined for the possession of weapons and/or firearms pursuant to the board's separate policy on weapons and firearms or state law.

Long-Term Suspension

Students may be excluded by the Principal from school or any school function for a period of more than five school days but less than twenty school days (long-term suspension) for any conduct constituting grounds for expulsion as hereinafter set forth. The process for long-term suspension is set forth below.

Pre-Kindergarten through Second Grade Students

An elementary school shall not suspend a student in pre-kindergarten through second grade unless the student brings a deadly weapon as defined in section 28-109 on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose or in a vehicle being driven for a school purpose by a school employee or his or her designee, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event. As an alternative to suspension, the school district may take any action authorized by law, including those provided in section 79-258.

Expulsion

- 1. Meaning of Expulsion.** Expulsion means exclusion from attendance in all schools, grounds and activities of or within the system for a period not to exceed the remainder of the semester in which it took effect unless the misconduct occurred (a) within ten school days prior to the end of the first semester, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect through the second semester, or (b) within ten school days prior to the end of the second semester, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect for summer school and the first semester of the following school year, or (c) unless the expulsion is for conduct specified in these rules or in law as permitting or requiring a longer removal, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect for the period specified therein. Such action may be modified or terminated by the school district at any time during the expulsion period.
- 2. Summer Review.** Any expulsion that will remain in effect during the first semester of the following school year will be automatically scheduled for review before the beginning of the school year. The review will be conducted by the hearing officer who conducted the initial expulsion hearing, or a hearing officer appointed by the Superintendent in the event no hearing was previously held or the initial hearing officer is no longer available or willing to serve, after the hearing officer has given notice of the review to the student and the student's parent or guardian. This review shall be limited to newly discovered evidence or evidence of changes in the

student's circumstances occurring since the original hearing. This review may lead to a recommendation by the hearing officer that the student be readmitted for the upcoming school year. If the school board or board of education or a committee of such board took the final action to expel the student, the student may be readmitted only by action of the board. Otherwise, the student may be readmitted by action of the Superintendent.

3. **Suspension of Enforcement of an Expulsion:** Enforcement of an expulsion action may be suspended (i.e., "stayed") for a period of not more than one full semester in addition to the balance of the semester in which the expulsion takes effect, and as a condition of such suspended action, the student may be assigned to a school, class, or program/plan and to such other consequences which the school district deems appropriate.
4. **Alternative School or Pre-expulsion Procedures.** The school shall provide either an alternative school, class or educational program for expelled students or shall follow the pre-expulsion procedures outlined in Neb. Rev. Stat. 79-266.

Grounds for Long-Term Suspension, Expulsion, or Mandatory Reassignment:

The following conduct constitutes grounds for long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment, subject to the procedural provisions of the Student Discipline Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-254 through 79-296, when such activity occurs on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose or in a vehicle being driven for a school purpose by a school employee or by his or her designee, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event:

1. Use of violence, force, coercion, threat, intimidation, or similar conduct in a manner that constitutes a substantial interference with school purposes;
2. Willfully causing or attempting to cause substantial damage to property, stealing or attempting to steal property of substantial value, or repeated damage or theft involving property;
3. Causing or attempting to cause personal injury to a school employee, to a school volunteer, or to any student. Personal injury caused by accident, self-defense, or other action undertaken on the reasonable belief that it was necessary to protect some other person shall not constitute a violation of this subdivision;
4. Threatening or intimidating any student for the purpose of or with the intent of obtaining money or anything of value from such student;
5. Knowingly possessing, handling, or transmitting any object or material that is ordinarily or generally considered a weapon (*see also board policy on weapons and firearms*);

6. Engaging in the unlawful possession, selling, dispensing, or use of a controlled substance or an imitation controlled substance, as defined in section 28-401, a substance represented to be a controlled substance, or alcoholic liquor as defined in section 53-103.02 or being under the influence of a controlled substance or alcoholic liquor (*note: the term "under the influence" for school purposes has a less strict meaning than it does under criminal law; for school purposes, the term means any level of impairment and includes even the odor of alcohol on the breath or person of a student; also, it includes being impaired by reason of the abuse of any material used as a stimulant*);
7. Public indecency as defined in section 28-806, except that this prohibition shall apply only to students at least twelve years of age but less than nineteen years of age;
8. Engaging in bullying as defined in section 79-2,137 and in these policies;
9. Sexually assaulting or attempting to sexually assault any person if a complaint has been filed by a prosecutor in a court of competent jurisdiction alleging that the student has sexually assaulted or attempted to sexually assault any person, including sexual assaults or attempted sexual assaults that occur off school grounds not at a school function, activity, or event. For purposes of this subdivision, sexual assault means sexual assault in the first degree as defined in section 28-319, sexual assault in the second degree as defined in section 28-320, sexual assault of a child in the second or third degree as defined in section 28-320.01, or sexual assault of a child in the first degree as defined in section 28-319.01, as such sections now provide or may hereafter from time to time be amended;
10. Engaging in any other activity forbidden by the laws of the State of Nebraska which activity constitutes a danger to other students or interferes with school purposes; or
11. A repeated violation of any of the following rules, or a single violation if the conduct amounts to a criminal act, if such violations constitute a substantial interference with school purposes:
 - a. The use of language, written or oral, or conduct, including gestures, which is profane or abusive to students or staff members. Profane or abusive language or conduct includes, but is not limited to, that which is commonly understood and intended to be derogatory toward a group or individual based upon race, sex, national origin, or religion;
 - b. Dressing or grooming in a manner which violates the school district's dress code and/or is dangerous to the student's health and safety, a danger to the health and safety of others, or which is disruptive, distracting or indecent to the extent that it interferes with the learning and educational process;
 - c. Violating school bus rules as set by the school district or district staff;

- d. Possessing, using, selling, or dispensing tobacco, drug paraphernalia, an electronic nicotine delivery system, or a tobacco imitation substance or packaging, regardless of form, including cigars, cigarettes, chewing tobacco, and any other form of tobacco, tobacco derivative product or imitation, or electronic cigarettes, vapor pens, etc.;
- e. Possessing, using, selling, or dispensing any drug paraphernalia or imitation of a controlled substance regardless of whether the actual substance possessed is a controlled substance by Nebraska law;
- f. Possession of pornography;
- g. Sexting or the possession of sexting images (a combination of sex and texting - the act of sending sexually explicit messages or photos electronically);
- h. Engaging in initiations, defined as any ritualistic expectations, requirements, or activities placed upon new members of a school organization for the purpose of admission into the organization, even if those activities do not rise to the level of "hazing" as defined below. Initiations are prohibited except by permission of the superintendent;
- i. Engaging in hazing as defined by state law and this policy. Hazing is defined as any activity by which a person intentionally or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health or safety of an individual for the purpose of initiation into, admission into, affiliation with, or continued membership in any school organization. Under state criminal law, hazing activities include, but are not limited to, whipping, beating, branding, an act of sexual penetration, an exposure of the genitals of the body done with the intent to affront or alarm any person, a lewd fondling or caressing of the body of another person, forced and prolonged calisthenics, prolonged exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug, or harmful substance not generally intended for human consumption, prolonged sleep deprivation, or any brutal treatment or the performance of any unlawful act that endangers the physical or mental health or safety of any person. For purposes of school rules, hazing also includes any activity expected of someone joining a group, team, or activity that humiliates, degrades or risks emotional and/or physical harm, regardless of the person's willingness to participate; personal servitude; restrictions on personal hygiene; yelling, swearing and insulting new members/rookies; being forced to wear embarrassing or humiliating attire in public; consumption of vile substances or smearing of such on one's skin; binge drinking and drinking games; sexual simulation and sexual assault;

- j. Bullying which shall include cyber-bullying, defined as the use of the internet, including but not limited to social networking sites such as Facebook, cell phones or other devices to send, post or text message images and material intended to hurt or embarrass another person. This may include, but is not limited to; continuing to send e-mail to someone who has said they want no further contact with the sender; sending or posting threats, sexual remarks or pejorative labels (i.e., hate speech); ganging up on victims by making them the subject of ridicule in forums, and posting false statements as fact intended to humiliate the victim; disclosure of personal data, such as the victim's real name, address, or school at websites or forums; posing as the identity of the victim for the purpose of publishing material in their name that defames or ridicules them; sending threatening and harassing text, instant messages or emails to the victims; and posting or sending rumors or gossip to instigate others to dislike and gang up on the target;
- k. Violation of the district's computer acceptable computer use policy are subject to discipline, up to and including expulsion;
- l. Knowingly possessing, handling, or transmitting any object or material that is ordinarily or generally considered a simulated or "look-a-like" weapon;
- m. Using any object to simulate possession of a weapon;
- n. Knowingly making a false statement or knowingly submitting false information during the Title IX grievance process or any other school investigation or making a materially false statement in bad faith in the course of a Title IX grievance proceeding or any other school investigation; and
- o. Any other violation of a rule or regulation established by a school district staff member pursuant to authority delegated by the board.

The length of any suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment shall be as provided or allowed by law.

Reporting Requirement to Law Enforcement

Violations of this section will result in a report to law enforcement if:

1. The violation includes possession of a firearm;
2. The violation results in child abuse;
3. It is a violation of the Nebraska Criminal Code that the administration believes cannot be adequately addressed by discipline from the school district;

4. It is a violation of the Nebraska Criminal Code that endangers the health and welfare of staff or students; or
5. It is a violation of the Nebraska Criminal Code that interferes with school purposes.

Due Process Afforded to Students Facing Long-term Suspension or Expulsion

The following procedures shall be followed regarding any long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment:

1. The decision to recommend discipline shall be made within two school days after learning of the alleged student misconduct. On the date of the decision to discipline, the Principal shall file with the Superintendent a written charge and a summary of the evidence supporting such charge.
2. The Principal shall serve the student and the student's parents or guardian with a written notice by registered or certified mail or personal service within two school days of the date of the decision to recommend long-term suspension or expulsion. The notice shall include the following:
 - a. The rule or standard of conduct allegedly violated and the acts of the student alleged to constitute a cause for long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment, including a summary of the evidence to be presented against the student;
 - b. The penalty, if any, which the principal has recommended in the charge and any other penalty to which the student may be subject;
 - c. A statement that, before long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment can be invoked, the student has a right to a hearing, upon request, and that if the student is suspended pending the outcome of the hearing, the student may complete classwork and homework, including, but not limited to, examinations, missed during the period of suspension pursuant to district guidelines which shall not require the student to attend the school district's alternative programs for expelled students in order to complete classwork or;
 - d. A description of the hearing procedures provided by the act, along with procedures for appealing any decision rendered at the hearing;
 - e. A statement that the principal, legal counsel for the school, the student, the student's parent, or the student's representative or guardian has the right (i) to examine the student's academic and disciplinary records and any affidavits to be used at the hearing

concerning the alleged misconduct and (ii) to know the identity of the witnesses to appear at the hearing and the substance of their testimony; and

- f. A form on which the student, the student's parent, or the student's guardian may request a hearing, to be signed by such parties and delivered to the principal or superintendent in person or by registered or certified mail to the address provided on the form.
3. When a notice of intent to discipline a student by long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment is filed with the superintendent, the student may be suspended by the principal until the date the long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment takes effect, if the principal determines that the student must be suspended immediately to prevent or substantially reduce the risk of (a) interference with an educational function or school purpose or (b) a personal injury to the student himself or herself, other students, school employees, or school volunteers.
 4. Nothing in this policy shall preclude the student, student's parents, guardian or representative from discussing and settling the matter with appropriate school personnel prior to the time the long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment takes effect.
 5. If a hearing is requested within five days after receipt of the notice, the Superintendent shall recommend appointment of a hearing examiner within two school days after receipt of the hearing request. The student or the student's parent or guardian may request designation of a hearing examiner other than the hearing examiner recommended by the superintendent if notice of the request is given to the superintendent within two school days after receipt of the superintendent's recommended appointment. Upon receiving such request, the superintendent must provide one alternative hearing examiner who is not an employee of the school district or otherwise currently under contract with the school district and whose impartiality may not otherwise be reasonably questioned. The student or the student's parent or guardian must, within five school days, select a hearing examiner to conduct the hearing who was recommended or provided as an alternative hearing examiner, and shall notify the superintendent in writing of the selection. The superintendent must appoint the selected hearing examiner upon receipt of such notice.
 6. The hearing examiner must, within two school days after being appointed, give written notice to the principal, the student, and the student's parent or guardian of the time and place for the hearing.
 7. The hearing shall be held within a period of five school days after appointment of the hearing examiner, but such time may be changed by the hearing examiner for good cause with consent of the parties. No hearing shall be held upon less than two school days' actual notice to

- the principal, the student, and the student's parent or guardian, except with the consent of all the parties.
8. The principal or legal counsel for the school, the student, and the student's parent, guardian, or representative have the right to receive a copy of all records and written statements referred to in the Student Discipline Act as well as the statement of any witness in the possession of the school board or board of education no later than forty-eight hours prior to the hearing.
 9. If a hearing is requested more than five school days following the receipt of the written notice, but not more than thirty calendar days after receipt, the Superintendent shall appoint a hearing examiner. The hearing will be held according to the requirements of section 79-269. The student shall be entitled to a hearing but the consequence imposed may continue in effect pending final determination.
 10. If a request for hearing is not received within thirty calendar days following the mailing or delivery of the written notice, the student shall not be entitled to a hearing.

In the event a hearing is requested, the hearing, hearing procedures, the student's rights and any appeals or judicial review permitted by law shall be governed by the applicable provisions of the Nebraska Student Discipline Act (NEB. REV. STAT. § 79-254 to 79-294).

SECTION FOUR

Title IX Policy

It is the policy of the school district that no person shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any of the school district's programs or activities. The district is required by Title IX (20 U.S.C. § 1681) and 34 C.F.R. part 106 to not discriminate in such a manner.

1. Title IX Coordinator

1.1. **Designation.** The district will designate and authorize at least one employee to coordinate its efforts to comply with its responsibilities under this policy, who will be referred to as the "**Title IX Coordinator.**" The district will notify applicants for admission and employment, students, parents or legal guardians of students, employees, and all unions or professional organizations holding collective bargaining or professional agreements with the district, of the name or title, office address, electronic mail address, and telephone number of the Title IX Coordinator. Any person may report sex discrimination, including sexual harassment (whether or not the person reporting is the person alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sex discrimination or sexual harassment). This report may be made by any means, including but not limited to, in person, by mail, by telephone, or by electronic mail, using the contact information listed for the Title IX Coordinator, or by any other means that results in the Title IX Coordinator receiving the person's verbal or written report. Such a report may be made at any time (including during non-business hours).

The district's Title IX Coordinator is:

Kristie Hayes
505 W 3rd St.
Ponca, NE 68770
kristiehayes@poncaschool.org
402-755-5725

2. **Definitions.** As used in this policy, the following terms are defined as follows:

2.1. **Actual knowledge** means notice of sexual harassment or allegations of sexual harassment to any district employee. Imputation of knowledge based solely on vicarious liability or constructive notice is insufficient to constitute actual knowledge. This standard is not met

when the only district employee with actual knowledge is the respondent (as that term is defined below). "Notice" as used in this paragraph includes, but is not limited to, a report of sexual harassment to the Title IX Coordinator as described in subsection 1.1 above.

2.2. **Complainant** means an individual who is alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment.

2.3. **Formal complaint** means a document filed by a complainant or signed by the Title IX Coordinator alleging sexual harassment against a respondent and requesting that the district investigate the allegation of sexual harassment. The only district official who is authorized to initiate the Grievance Process for Formal Complaints of Sexual Harassment against a respondent is the Title IX Coordinator (by signing a formal complaint). At the time of filing a formal complaint with the district, a complainant must be participating in or attempting to participate in the district's education program or activity. A formal complaint may be filed with the Title IX Coordinator in person, by mail, or by electronic mail, by using the contact information required to be listed for the Title IX Coordinator under subsection 1.1 above, and by any additional method designated by the district. As used in this paragraph, the phrase "document filed by a complainant" means a document or electronic submission (such as by electronic mail or through an online portal provided for this purpose by the district) that contains the complainant's physical or digital signature, or otherwise indicates that the complainant is the person filing the formal complaint. Where the Title IX Coordinator signs a formal complaint, the Title IX Coordinator is not a complainant or otherwise a party under this policy or under 34 C.F.R. part 106, and will comply with the requirements of this policy and 34 C.F.R. part 106, and 34 C.F.R. § 106.45(b)(1)(iii).

2.4. **Respondent** means an individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment.

2.5. **Consent** for purposes of this policy means the willingness in fact for conduct to occur. An individual may, as a result of age, incapacity, disability, lack of information, or other circumstances be incapable of providing consent to some or all sexual conduct or activity. Neither verbal nor physical resistance is required to establish that an individual did not consent. District officials will consider the totality of the circumstances in determining whether there was consent for any specific conduct. Consent may be revoked or withdrawn at any time.

2.6. **Sexual harassment** means conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies one or more of the following:

- 2.6.1. An employee of the district conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of the district on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct;
- 2.6.2. Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the district's education program or activity;
- 2.6.3. **Sexual assault**, as defined in 20 U.S.C. § 1092(f)(6)(A)(v), which means an offense classified as a forcible or nonforcible sex offense under the uniform crime reporting system of the Federal Bureau of Investigation:
 - 2.6.3.1. **Sex Offenses, Forcible**—Any sexual act directed against another person, without the consent of the victim including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent.
 - 2.6.3.1.1. **Rape**—(Except Statutory Rape) The carnal knowledge of a person, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of his/her age or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity.
 - 2.6.3.1.2. **Sodomy**—Oral or anal sexual intercourse with another person, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of his/her age or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity
 - 2.6.3.1.3. **Sexual Assault With An Object**—To use an object or instrument to unlawfully penetrate, however slightly, the genital or anal opening of the body of another person, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of his/her age or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity
 - 2.6.3.1.4. **Fondling**—The touching of the private body parts of another person for the purpose of

sexual gratification, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of his/her age or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity

2.6.3.2. **Sex Offenses, Non-forcible**—(Except Prostitution Offenses) Unlawful, non-forcible sexual intercourse.

2.6.3.2.1. **Incest**—Non-Forcible sexual intercourse between persons who are related to each other within the degrees wherein marriage is prohibited by law

2.6.3.2.2. **Statutory Rape**—Non-Forcible sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent

2.6.4. **Dating violence**, as defined in 34 U.S.C. § 12291(a), which means violence committed by a person—

2.6.4.1. who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and

2.6.4.2. where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors:

2.6.4.2.1. The length of the relationship.

2.6.4.2.2. The type of relationship.

2.6.4.2.3. The frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

2.6.5. **Domestic violence**, as defined in 34 U.S.C. § 12291(a), which includes felony or misdemeanor crimes committed by a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim under the family or domestic violence laws of the jurisdiction receiving grant funding and, in the case of victim services, includes the use or attempted use of physical abuse or sexual abuse, or a pattern of any other coercive behavior committed, enabled, or solicited to gain or maintain power and control over a victim, including verbal, psychological,

economic, or technological abuse that may or may not constitute criminal behavior, by a person who—

2.6.5.1. is a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim, or person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim;

2.6.5.2. is cohabitating, or has cohabitated, with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner;

2.6.5.3. shares a child in common with the victim; or

2.6.5.4. commits acts against a youth or adult victim who is protected from those acts under the family or domestic violence laws of the jurisdiction.

2.6.6. **Stalking**, as defined in 34 U.S.C. § 12291(a), which means engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to—

2.6.6.1. fear for his or her safety or the safety of others; or

2.6.6.2. suffer substantial emotional distress.

2.7. **Supportive measures** means non-disciplinary, non-punitive individualized services offered as appropriate, as reasonably available, and without fee or charge to the complainant or the respondent before or after the filing of a formal complaint or where no formal complaint has been filed. Such measures are designed to restore or preserve equal access to the district's education program or activity without unreasonably burdening the other party, including measures designed to protect the safety of all parties or the district's educational environment, or deter sexual harassment. Supportive measures may include counseling, extensions of deadlines or other course-related adjustments, modifications of work or class schedules, campus escort services, mutual restrictions on contact between the parties, changes in work or housing locations, leaves of absence, increased security and monitoring of certain areas of the campus, and other similar measures. The district will maintain as confidential any supportive measures provided to the complainant or respondent, to the extent that maintaining such confidentiality would not impair the ability of the district to provide the supportive measures. The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for coordinating the effective implementation of supportive measures.

3. Discrimination Not Involving Sexual Harassment.

3.1. General Prohibition. Except as provided elsewhere in Title IX, 34 C.F.R. part 106, or this policy, no person shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any academic, extracurricular, research, occupational training, or other education program or activity operated by the district.

3.2. Specific Prohibitions. Except as provided elsewhere in Title IX, 34 C.F.R. part 106, or this policy, in providing any aid, benefit, or service to a student, the district will not on the basis of sex:

- 3.2.1. Treat one person differently from another in determining whether such person satisfies any requirement or condition for the provision of such aid, benefit, or service;
- 3.2.2. Provide different aid, benefits, or services or provide aid, benefits, or services in a different manner;
- 3.2.3. Deny any person any such aid, benefit, or service;
- 3.2.4. Subject any person to separate or different rules of behavior, sanctions, or other treatment;
- 3.2.5. Apply any rule concerning the domicile or residence of a student or applicant;
- 3.2.6. Aid or perpetuate discrimination against any person by providing significant assistance to any agency, organization, or person which discriminates on the basis of sex in providing any aid, benefit or service to students or employees;
- 3.2.7. Otherwise limit any person in the enjoyment of any right, privilege, advantage, or opportunity.

3.3. Complaint Procedure. All complaints regarding any alleged discrimination on the basis of sex, including without limitation violations of this policy, 34 C.F.R. part 106, Title IX, Title VII, or other state or federal law—when the alleged discrimination does not arise from or relate to an allegation of sexual harassment as defined in subsection **Error! Reference source not found.** above—shall be addressed pursuant to the district’s general complaint procedure, Board Policy 2006.

4. **Response to Sexual Harassment**

4.1. **Reporting Sexual Harassment.** Any person who witnesses an act of unlawful sexual harassment is encouraged to report it to the District's Title IX Coordinator. No person will be retaliated against based on any report of suspected sexual harassment or retaliation. Any District employee who receives a report of sexual harassment or has actual knowledge of sexual harassment must convey that information to the Title IX Coordinator as soon as reasonably practicable, but in no case later than the end of the following school day.

4.2. **General Response to Sexual Harassment.** When the district has actual knowledge of sexual harassment in its education program or activity against a person in the United States, the district will respond promptly in a manner that is not deliberately indifferent. The district will be deemed to be deliberately indifferent only if its response to sexual harassment is clearly unreasonable in light of the known circumstances. For the purposes of this policy "education program or activity" includes locations, events, or circumstances over which the district exercised substantial control over both the respondent and the context in which the sexual harassment occurs. The district's response will treat complainants and respondents equitably by offering supportive measures as defined in subsection 2.7 above to a complainant, and by following the grievance process described in section 5 below before the imposition of any disciplinary sanctions or other actions that are not supportive measures, against a respondent. The Title IX Coordinator will promptly contact the complainant to discuss the availability of supportive measures, consider the complainant's wishes with respect to supportive measures, inform the complainant of the availability of supportive measures with or without the filing of a formal complaint, and explain to the complainant the process for filing a formal complaint.

4.3. **Emergency Removal.** Nothing in this policy precludes the district from removing a respondent from the district's education program or activity on an emergency basis, provided that the district undertakes an individualized safety and risk analysis, and determines that an immediate threat to the physical health or safety of any student or other individual arising from the allegations of sexual harassment justifies removal. In the event that the district so removes a respondent on an emergency basis, then the district will provide the respondent with notice and an opportunity to challenge the decision immediately following the removal. This provision may not be construed to modify any rights under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, or the Americans with Disabilities Act.

4.4. **Administrative Leave.** Nothing in this policy precludes the district from placing a non-student employee respondent on administrative leave during the pendency of a grievance process that complies with section 5 below. This provision may not be construed to modify any rights under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or the Americans with Disabilities Act.

4.5. **General Response Not Conditioned on Formal Complaint.** With or without a formal complaint, the district will comply with the obligations and procedures described in this section 4

5. **Grievance Process for Formal Complaints of Sexual Harassment.**

5.1. **General Requirements.**

5.1.1. **Equitable Treatment.** The district will treat complainants and respondents equitably by providing remedies to a complainant where a determination of responsibility for sexual harassment has been made against the respondent, and by following the grievance process described in this section 5 before the imposition of any disciplinary sanctions or other actions that are not supportive measures against a respondent. Remedies will be designed to restore or preserve equal access to the district's education program or activity. Remedies may include the same individualized services described in subsection 2.7 as "supportive measures"; however, remedies need not be non-disciplinary or non-punitive and need not avoid burdening the respondent.

5.1.2. **Objective Evaluation.** This grievance process requires an objective evaluation of all relevant evidence—including both inculpatory and exculpatory evidence. Credibility determinations may not be based on a person's status as a complainant, respondent, or witness.

5.1.3. **Absence of Conflicts of Interest or Bias.** The district will require that any individual designated by a recipient as a Title IX Coordinator, investigator, decision-maker, or any person designated by a recipient to facilitate an informal resolution process, not have a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or an individual complainant or respondent.

- 5.1.4. **Training.** The district will ensure that all individuals or entities described in this Training 5.1.4 receive training as provided below. Any materials used to train these individuals will not rely on sex stereotypes and will promote impartial investigations and adjudications of formal complaints of sexual harassment.
- 5.1.4.1. **All District Employees and Board Members.** All district employees and board members will be trained on how to identify and report sexual harassment.
- 5.1.4.2. **Title IX Coordinators, Investigators, Decision-Makers, or Informal Resolution Facilitators.** The district will ensure that Title IX Coordinators, investigators, decision-makers, or any person designated by the district to facilitate an informal resolution process receive training on:
- 5.1.4.2.1. The definition of sexual harassment in subsection 2.6;
- 5.1.4.2.2. The scope of the district's education program or activity;
- 5.1.4.2.3. How to conduct an investigation and grievance process including hearings, appeals, and informal resolution processes, as applicable; and
- 5.1.4.2.4. How to serve impartially, including by avoiding prejudgment of the facts at issue, conflicts of interest, and bias.
- 5.1.4.3. **Decision-Makers.** The district will ensure that decision-makers receive training on issues of relevance of questions and evidence, including when questions and evidence about the complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant, as set forth in subsection 5.6
- 5.1.4.4. **Investigators.** The district will also ensure that investigators receive training on issues of relevance to create an investigative report that fairly summarizes relevant evidence, as set forth in subsection 5.5.8

- 5.1.5. **Presumption.** It is presumed that the respondent is not responsible for the alleged conduct until a determination regarding responsibility is made at the conclusion of the grievance process.
- 5.1.6. **Reasonably Prompt Time Frames.** This grievance process shall include reasonably prompt time frames for conclusion of the grievance process, including reasonably prompt time frames for filing and resolving appeals and informal resolution processes if the district offers informal resolution processes. The process shall also allow for the temporary delay of the grievance process or the limited extension of time frames for good cause with written notice to the complainant and the respondent of the delay or extension and the reasons for the action. Good cause may include considerations such as the absence of a party, a party's advisor, or a witness; concurrent law enforcement activity; or the need for language assistance or accommodation of disabilities.
- 5.1.7. **Range of Possible Sanctions and Remedies.** Following a determination of responsibility, the district may impose disciplinary sanctions and remedies in conformance with this and the district's student discipline policy, and other state and federal laws. Depending upon the circumstances, these policies provide for disciplinary sanctions and remedies up to and including expulsion.
- 5.1.8. **Range of Supportive Measures.** The range of supportive measures available to complainants and respondents include those listed in subsection 2.7
- 5.1.9. **Respect for Privileged Information.** The district will not require, allow, rely upon, or otherwise use questions or evidence that constitute, or seek disclosure of, information protected under a legally recognized privilege, unless the person holding such privilege has waived the privilege.

5.2. **Notice of Allegations.**

- 5.2.1. **Initial Notice.** Upon receipt of a formal complaint, the district will provide the following written notice to the parties who are known:

5.2.1.1. A copy of this policy.

5.2.1.2. Notice of the allegations of sexual harassment potentially constituting sexual harassment as defined in subsection 2.6, including sufficient details known at the time and with sufficient time to prepare a response before any initial interview. Sufficient details include the identities of the parties involved in the incident, if known, the conduct allegedly constituting sexual harassment, and the date and location of the alleged incident, if known. The written notice will include a statement that the respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged conduct and that a determination regarding responsibility is made at the conclusion of the grievance process. The written notice will inform the parties that they may have an advisor of their choice, who may be, but is not required to be, an attorney, under subsection 5.5.5, and may inspect and review evidence under subsection 5.5.5. The written notice will inform the parties of any provision in the district's code of conduct that prohibits knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during the grievance process.

5.2.2. **Supplemental Notice.** If, in the course of an investigation, the district decides to investigate allegations about the complainant or respondent that are not included in the Initial Notice described above, the district will provide notice of the additional allegations to the parties whose identities are known.

5.3. **Dismissal of Formal Complaint.**

5.3.1. The district will investigate the allegations in a formal complaint.

5.3.2. **Mandatory Dismissals.** The district **must** dismiss a formal complaint if the conduct alleged in the formal complaint:

5.3.2.1. Would not constitute sexual harassment as defined in subsection 2.6 even if proved;

5.3.2.2. Did not occur in the district's education program or activity; or

5.3.2.3. Did not occur against a person in the United States.

5.3.3. **Discretionary Dismissals.** The district **may** dismiss the formal complaint or any allegations therein, if at any time during the investigation or hearing:

5.3.3.1. The complainant notifies the Title IX Coordinator in writing that the complainant would like to withdraw the formal complaint or any allegations therein;

5.3.3.2. The respondent is no longer enrolled in or employed by the district; or

5.3.3.3. Specific circumstances prevent the district from gathering evidence sufficient to reach a determination as to the formal complaint or allegations therein.

5.3.4. Upon a dismissal required or permitted pursuant to subsections 5.3.2 or 5.3.3 above, the district will promptly send written notice of the dismissal and an explanation of that action simultaneously to the parties.

5.3.5. Dismissal of a formal complaint under this policy does not preclude the district from taking action under another provision of the district's code of conduct or pursuant to another district policy.

5.4. **Consolidation of Formal Complaints.** The district may consolidate formal complaints as to allegations of sexual harassment against more than one respondent, or by more than one complainant against one or more respondents, or by one party against the other party, where the allegations of sexual harassment arise out of the same facts or circumstances. Where a grievance process involves more than one complainant or more than one respondent, references in this policy to the singular "party," "complainant," or "respondent" include the plural, as applicable.

5.5. **Investigation of Formal Complaint.** When investigating a formal complaint and throughout the grievance process, the district will:

- 5.5.1. Designate and authorize one or more persons (which need not be district employees) as investigator(s) to conduct the district's investigation of a formal complaint;
- 5.5.2. Ensure that the burden of proof and the burden of gathering evidence sufficient to reach a determination regarding responsibility rest on the district and not on the parties provided that the district cannot access, consider, disclose, or otherwise use a party's records that are made or maintained by a physician, psychiatrist, psychologist, or other recognized professional or paraprofessional acting in the professional's or paraprofessional's capacity, or assisting in that capacity, and which are made and maintained in connection with the provision of treatment to the party, unless the district obtains that party's voluntary, written consent to do so for a grievance process under this section (if a party is not an "eligible student," as defined in 34 CFR 99.3, then the district will obtain the voluntary, written consent of a "parent," as defined in 34 CFR 99.3);
- 5.5.3. Provide an equal opportunity for the parties to present witnesses, including fact and expert witnesses, and other inculpatory and exculpatory evidence;
- 5.5.4. Not restrict the ability of either party to discuss the allegations under investigation or to gather and present relevant evidence;
- 5.5.5. Provide the parties with the same opportunities to have others present during any grievance proceeding, including the opportunity to be accompanied to any related meeting or proceeding by the advisor of their choice, who may be, but is not required to be, an attorney, and not limit the choice or presence of advisor for either the complainant or respondent in any meeting or grievance proceeding; however, the district may establish restrictions regarding the extent to which the advisor may participate in the proceedings, as long as the restrictions apply equally to both parties;
- 5.5.6. Provide, to a party whose participation is invited or expected, written notice of the date, time, location, participants, and purpose of all hearings, investigative interviews, or other meetings, with sufficient time for the party to prepare to participate;

- 5.5.7. Provide both parties an equal opportunity to inspect and review any evidence obtained as part of the investigation that is directly related to the allegations raised in a formal complaint, including the evidence upon which the district does not intend to rely in reaching a determination regarding responsibility and inculpatory or exculpatory evidence whether obtained from a party or other source, so that each party can meaningfully respond to the evidence prior to conclusion of the investigation. Prior to completion of the investigative report, the district will send to each party and the party's advisor, if any, the evidence subject to inspection and review in an electronic format or a hard copy, and the parties will have at least 10 calendar days to submit a written response, which the investigator will consider prior to completion of the investigative report; and
- 5.5.8. Create an investigative report that fairly summarizes relevant evidence and, at least 10 calendar days prior to the time of determination regarding responsibility, send to each party and the party's advisor, if any, the investigative report in an electronic format or a hard copy, for their review and written response.

5.6. **Determination Regarding Responsibility**

- 5.6.1. **Decision-Maker(s).** The decision-maker(s) cannot be the same person as the Title IX Coordinator or the investigator(s).
- 5.6.2. **Exchange of Written Questions.** After the district has sent the investigative report to the parties pursuant to subsection 5.5.8, but before reaching a determination regarding responsibility, the decision-maker(s) will afford each party the opportunity to submit written, relevant questions that a party wants asked of any party or witness, provide each party with the answers, and allow for additional, limited follow-up questions from each party. Questions and evidence about the complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant, unless such questions and evidence about the complainant's prior sexual behavior are offered to prove that someone other than the respondent committed the conduct alleged by the complainant, or if the questions and evidence concern specific incidents of the complainant's prior sexual

behavior with respect to the respondent and are offered to prove consent. The decision-maker(s) will explain to the party proposing the questions any decision to exclude a question as not relevant.

5.6.3. **Written Determination.** The decision-maker(s) will issue a written determination regarding responsibility. To reach this determination, the decision-maker(s) will apply the preponderance of the evidence standard. The written determination will include:

5.6.3.1. Identification of the allegations potentially constituting sexual harassment as defined in subsection 2.6;

5.6.3.2. A description of the procedural steps taken from the receipt of the formal complaint through the determination, including any notifications to the parties, interviews with parties and witnesses, site visits, methods used to gather other evidence, and hearings held;

5.6.3.3. Findings of fact supporting the determination;

5.6.3.4. Conclusions regarding the application of the district's code of conduct to the facts;

5.6.3.5. A statement of, and rationale for, the result as to each allegation, including a determination regarding responsibility, any disciplinary sanctions the district imposes on the respondent, and whether remedies designed to restore or preserve equal access to the district's education program or activity will be provided by the district to the complainant; and

5.6.3.6. The district's procedures and permissible bases for the complainant and respondent to appeal.

5.6.4. The district will provide the written determination to the parties simultaneously. The determination regarding responsibility becomes final either on the date that the district provides the parties with the written determination of the result of the appeal, if an appeal is filed, or if an appeal is not filed, the date on which an appeal would no longer be considered timely.

5.6.5. The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for effective implementation of any remedies.

5.7. **Appeals.** The district will offer both parties the opportunity to appeal from a determination regarding responsibility, and from the district's dismissal of a formal complaint or any allegations therein, on the grounds identified below.

5.7.1. **Time for Appeal.** Appeals may only be initiated by submitting a written Notice of Appeal to the Office of the Superintendent of Schools within ten (10) calendar days of the date of the respective written determination of responsibility or dismissal from which the appeal is taken. The Notice of Appeal must include (a) the name of the party or parties making the appeal, (b) the determination, dismissal, or portion thereof being appealed, and (c) a concise statement of the specific grounds (from subsection 5.8.2 below) upon which the appeal is based. A party's failure to timely submit a Notice of Appeal will be deemed a waiver of the party's right to appeal under this policy, 34 C.F.R. part, 106, and Title IX.

5.7.2. **Grounds for Appeal.** Appeals from a determination regarding responsibility, and from the district's dismissal of a formal complaint or any allegations therein, are limited to the following grounds:

5.7.2.1. Procedural irregularity that affected the outcome of the matter;

5.7.2.2. New evidence that was not reasonably available at the time the determination regarding responsibility or dismissal was made, that could affect the outcome of the matter; and

5.7.2.3. The Title IX Coordinator, investigator(s), or decision-maker(s) had a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or the individual complainant or respondent that affected the outcome of the matter.

5.7.3. As to all appeals, the district will:

- 5.7.3.1. Notify the other party in writing when an appeal is filed and implement appeal procedures equally for both parties;
- 5.7.3.2. Ensure that the decision-maker(s) for the appeal is not the same person as the decision-maker(s) that reached the determination regarding responsibility or dismissal, the investigator(s), or the Title IX Coordinator;
- 5.7.3.3. Ensure that the decision-maker(s) for the appeal complies with the standards set forth in subsections
- 5.7.3.4. Give both parties a reasonable, equal opportunity to submit a written statement in support of, or challenging, the outcome;
- 5.7.3.5. Issue a written decision describing the result of the appeal and the rationale for the result; and
- 5.7.3.6. Provide the written decision simultaneously to both parties.

5.8. Informal Resolution. The district will not require as a condition of enrollment or continuing enrollment, or employment or continuing employment, or enjoyment of any other right, waiver of the right to an investigation and adjudication of formal complaints of sexual harassment consistent with this section. Similarly, the district will not require the parties to participate in an informal resolution process under this section and may not offer an informal resolution process unless a formal complaint is filed. However, at any time prior to reaching a determination regarding responsibility the district may facilitate an informal resolution process, such as mediation, that does not involve a full investigation and adjudication, provided that the district:

5.8.1. Provides to the parties a written notice disclosing:

5.8.1.1. The allegations;

5.8.1.2. The requirements of the informal resolution process including the circumstances under which it precludes the parties from resuming a formal complaint arising from the same allegations;

- 5.8.1.3. That at any time prior to agreeing to a resolution, any party has the right to withdraw from the informal resolution process and resume the grievance process with respect to the formal complaint; and
- 5.8.1.4. Any consequences resulting from participating in the informal resolution process, including the records that will be maintained or could be shared;
- 5.8.2. Obtains the parties' voluntary, written consent to the informal resolution process; and
- 5.8.3. Does not offer or facilitate an informal resolution process to resolve allegations that an employee sexually harassed a student.

5.9. Recordkeeping.

- 5.9.1. The district will maintain for a period of seven years records of:
 - 5.9.1.1. Each sexual harassment investigation including any determination regarding responsibility, any disciplinary sanctions imposed on the respondent, and any remedies provided to the complainant designed to restore or preserve equal access to the district's education program or activity;
 - 5.9.1.2. Any appeal and the result therefrom;
 - 5.9.1.3. Any informal resolution and the result therefrom; and
 - 5.9.1.4. All materials used to train Title IX Coordinators, investigators, decision-makers, and any person who facilitates an informal resolution process. The district will make these training materials publicly available on its website, or if the district does not maintain a website then the district will make these materials available upon request for inspection by members of the public.
- 5.9.2. For each response required under section 4 the district will create, and maintain for a period of seven years, records of any actions, including any supportive measures, taken in

response to a report or formal complaint of sexual harassment. In each instance, the district will document the basis for its conclusion that its response was not deliberately indifferent, and document that it has taken measures designed to restore or preserve equal access to the district's education program or activity. If the district does not provide a complainant with supportive measures, then the district will document the reasons why such a response was not clearly unreasonable in light of the known circumstances. The documentation of certain bases or measures does not limit the district in the future from providing additional explanations or detailing additional measures taken.

6. **Superintendent Authorized to Contract.** The board authorizes the Superintendent to contract for, designate, and appoint individuals to serve in the roles of the district's investigator(s), decision-maker(s), informal resolution facilitator(s), or appellate decision-maker(s) as contemplated by this policy.

7. **Access to Classes and Schools.**

7.1. **General Standard.** Except as provided in this section or otherwise in 34 C.F.R. part 106, the district will not provide or otherwise carry out any of its education programs or activities separately on the basis of sex, or require or refuse participation therein by any of its students on the basis of sex.

7.1.1. **Contact sports in physical education classes.** This section does not prohibit separation of students by sex within physical education classes or activities during participation in wrestling, boxing, rugby, ice hockey, football, basketball, and other sports the purpose or major activity of which involves bodily contact.

7.1.2. **Ability grouping in physical education classes.** This section does not prohibit grouping of students in physical education classes and activities by ability as assessed by objective standards of individual performance developed and applied without regard to sex.

7.1.3. **Human sexuality classes.** Classes or portions of classes that deal primarily with human sexuality may be conducted in separate sessions for boys and girls.

7.1.4. **Choruses.** The district may make requirements based on vocal range or quality that may result in a chorus or choruses of one or predominantly one sex.

7.2. **Classes and Extracurricular Activities.** The district may provide nonvocational single-sex classes or extracurricular activities as permitted by 34 C.F.R. part 106.

8. **Athletics.** It is the policy of the district that no person shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, be treated differently from another person or otherwise be discriminated against in any interscholastic, club, or intramural athletics offered by the district, and that the district will not provide any such athletics separately on such basis.

8.1. **Separate Teams.** Notwithstanding the foregoing paragraph, the district may operate or sponsor separate teams for members of each sex where selection for such teams is based upon competitive skill or the activity involved is a contact sport.

8.2. **Equal opportunity.** The district will provide equal athletic opportunity for members of both sexes. Unequal aggregate expenditures for members of each sex or unequal expenditures for male and female teams will not constitute noncompliance with this section.

9. **Certain Different Treatment on the Basis of Sex Permitted.** Nothing herein shall be construed to prohibit the district from treating persons differently on the basis of sex as permitted by Title IX or 34 C.F.R. part 106. For example, and without limiting the foregoing, the district may provide separate toilet, locker room, and shower facilities on the basis of sex, but such facilities provided for students of one sex shall be comparable to such facilities provided for students of the other sex.

10. **Retaliation Prohibited.** Neither the district nor any other person may intimidate, threaten, coerce, or discriminate against any individual for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by Title IX, 34 C.F.R. part 106, or this policy, or because the individual has made a report or complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under this policy. The district will keep confidential the identity of any individual who has made a report or complaint of sex discrimination, including any individual who has made a report or filed a formal complaint of sexual harassment, any complainant, any individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of sex discrimination, any respondent, and any witness, except as may be permitted by the FERPA statute, 20 U.S.C. § 1232g, or FERPA regulations, 34

C.F.R. part 99, or as required by law, or to carry out the purposes of 34 C.F.R. part 106, including the conduct of any investigation, hearing, or judicial proceeding arising thereunder. Complaints alleging retaliation may be filed according to shall be addressed pursuant to Board Policy 2006 (Complaint Procedure).

10.1. **Specific Circumstances.**

- 10.1.1. The exercise of rights protected under the First Amendment does not constitute retaliation prohibited by this section.
- 10.1.2. Charging an individual with a code of conduct violation for making a materially false statement in bad faith in the course of a grievance proceeding under this part does not constitute retaliation prohibited under this section, provided, however, that a determination regarding responsibility, alone, is not sufficient to conclude that any party made a materially false statement in bad faith.

11. **Notification of Policy.** The district will notify applicants for admission and employment, students, parents or legal guardians of students, employees, and all unions or professional organizations holding collective bargaining or professional agreements with the district of the existence of this policy. The requirement to not discriminate, as stated in Title IX and 34 C.F.R. part 106, in the district's education program(s) or activities extends to admission and employment, and inquiries about the application of Title IX and 34 C.F.R. part 106 to the district may be referred to the district's Title IX Coordinator, the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights of the United States Department of Education, or both.

12. **Publication of Policy.** The district will prominently display on its website, if any, and in each handbook that it makes available to applicants for admission and employment, students, parents or legal guardians of students, employees, and all unions or professional organizations holding collective bargaining or professional agreements with the district, the name or title, office address, electronic mail address, and telephone number of the employee or employees designated as the Title IX Coordinator(s).

13. **Application Outside the United States.** The requirements of this policy apply only to sex discrimination occurring against a person in the United States.

14. **Scope of Policy.** Nothing herein shall be construed to be more demanding or more constraining upon the district than the requirements of Title IX (20 U.S.C. § 1681) and 34 C.F.R. part 106. To the extent that the

district is in compliance with Title IX and 34 C.F.R. part 106, then all of the district's obligations under this policy shall be deemed to be fulfilled and discharged.

SECTION FIVE

The school district is committed to providing a school environment that enhances learning and the development of lifelong wellness. The goals outlined in this policy were determined and selected after reviewing and considering evidence-based strategies.*

1. Goals for Nutrition Promotion and Education

- a. The district will promote healthy food and beverage choices for all students, as well as encourage participation in school meal programs by such methods as implementing evidence-based healthy food promotion techniques through the school meal programs and promoting foods and beverages that meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.
- b. The health curriculum will include information on good nutrition and healthy living habits.
- c. Teachers will incorporate information on nutrition and wellness into the classroom curriculum as appropriate.
- d. The district will collaborate with public and private entities to promote student wellness.
- e. Water will be made available to students throughout the school day.

2. Goals for Physical Activity

- a. The school district's curriculums shall include instruction on physical activity and habits for healthy living.
- b. Students will be encouraged to engage in physical activities throughout the school day and will be provided with opportunities to do so.

- c. The district encourages parents and guardians to support their children's participation in physical activity, to be physically active role models, and to include physical activity in family events.

3. Goals for Other School-Based Activities Designed to Promote Student Wellness

- a. The district will participate in state and federal child nutrition programs as appropriate.
- b. The district will provide professional development, support, and resources for staff about student wellness.
- c. Students will be provided sufficient time in which to eat school-provided meals.
- d. The district's lunchrooms will be attractive and well-lighted.
- e. The district will allow other health-related entities to use school facilities for activities such as health clinics and screenings so long as the activities meet the district's requirements and criteria for the use of facilities.
- f. The district may partner with other individuals or entities in the community to support the implementation of this policy.
- g. The district will strive to provide physical activity breaks for all students, recess for elementary students, and before and after school activities, as well as encourage students to use active transport (walking, biking, etc.)
- h. The district will use evidence-based strategies to develop, structure, and support student wellness.

4. Standards and Nutrition Guidelines for All Foods and Beverages Sold to Students on the School Campus and During the School Day

- a. The district will ensure that student access to foods and beverages meet federal, state and local laws and guidelines including, but not limited to:
 - i. USDA National School Lunch and School Breakfast nutrition standards

- ii. USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.
- b. The district will offer students a variety of age-appropriate, healthy food and beverage selections with plenty of fruits, vegetables, and whole grains aimed at meeting the nutrition needs of students within their calorie requirements in order to promote student health and reduce childhood obesity.

5. Standards for All Foods and Beverages Provided, But Not Sold to Students During the School Day

The district may provide a list of healthy party ideas or food and beverage alternatives to parents, teachers, and students for classroom parties, rewards and incentives, or classroom snacks. The district discourages the use of food and beverages as a reward or incentive for performance or behavior.

6. Food and Beverage Marketing

Marketing and advertising is only allowed on school grounds or at school activities for foods and beverages that meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards, except as follows:

- a. This requirement does not apply to marketing that occurs at events outside of school hours such as after school sporting or any other events, including school fundraising events.
- b. The district will not immediately replace menu boards, coolers, tray liners, beverage cups, and other food service equipment with depictions of noncompliant products or logos to comply with the new USDA Smart Snacks in Schools nutrition requirements. All previously purchased products will be used, and all existing contracts honored.
- c. All equipment that currently displays noncompliant marketing materials will not be removed or replaced (e.g., a score board with a Coca-Cola logo). However, as the district reviews and considers new contracts, and as scoreboards or other such durable equipment are replaced or updated over time, any products that are marketed and advertised will meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards

7. Public Participation

Parents, students, representatives of the school food authority, teachers, school health professionals, board members, school administrators, and members of the general public shall be allowed to provide their input to the school district during the wellness policy adoption and review process.

8. Competitive Foods (Includes Food and Beverages Sold in Vending Machines, School Stores, Fundraisers or in Competition with the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs)

- a. Except as otherwise allowed by the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE), all foods and beverages sold during the school day as part of a fundraiser or for any other purpose in competition with the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs must meet the nutrition standards of those programs.
- b. Fundraiser food or beverages are NOT exempt from the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards. Therefore, if food is sold as a fundraiser:
 - (1) It shall not be sold in competition with school meals in the food service area during the meal service.
 - (2) It shall not be sold or otherwise made available to students anywhere on school premises during the period beginning one half hour prior to the serving period for breakfast and/or lunch and lasting until one half hour after the serving of breakfast and/or lunch.
 - (3) The sale of food items during the school day shall meet the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition requirements
 - (4) This restriction does not apply to food sold during non-school hours, weekends, and off-campus fundraising events such as concessions during after-school sporting events, school plays or concerts; or to bulk food items that are sold for consumption at home. (Ex: frozen pizzas, cookie dough tubs, etc.)

9. Triennial Assessment

The school board shall assess and review this policy at least every three years to determine:

- a. Compliance with this policy;

- b. How this policy compares to NDE model wellness policies;
- c. Progress made in attaining the goals of this policy.

The school board will update or modify this policy as appropriate.

10. Public Notice

In addition to identifying the topic on its meeting agenda as required by the Open Meetings Act, the school district will provide notice of this policy at least annually to the public and other stakeholders identified in this policy by one or more of the following methods: on its webpage, in its newsletter, in the student and employee handbooks, newspaper advertisements, direct mailings, electronic mail, and public postings.

In addition to identifying the topic on its meeting agenda as required by the Open Meetings Act, the school district will provide notice of the Triennial Assessment and progress reports towards meeting the goals in this policy using one or more of those same methods.

11. Recordkeeping

The District will retain records to document compliance with the requirements of the wellness policy at its central office.

12. Operational Responsibility

The superintendent is responsible for coordinating the implementation of this policy and for monitoring the district's progress in meeting the goals established by this policy. The superintendent will periodically report to the board on the district's progress in implementing this policy.

* These strategies include, but are not necessarily limited to, those cited in the Alliance for a Healthier Generation's Model Wellness Policy (Updated June 2020 to Reflect the USDA Final Rule) found at <https://api.healthiergeneration.org/resource/2>.

Student/Parent Handbook

2022-2023



Ponca School District

Jackson Elementary

PreSchool – 2nd grade

Ponca Elementary School

Ponca Public Schools

Jackson Elementary / Preschool – 2nd Grade

223 North John Street, Box 67 Jackson, NE 68743

(402)632-4276 (402)632-5014 (Fax)

Amy Crosgrave, Office Manager

Ponca Public School / 3rd Grade – 12th Grade

505 3rd Street, Box 568 Ponca, NE 68770

(402)755-5700 (402)755-5773 (Fax)

Lorrie Huston, Office Manager

Ashley Uthof, Office Assistant

Brendan Calahan, Superintendent

Robert Hayes, Elementary Principal

Allison Stansberry, High School Principal

Jackson and Ponca Elementary Classroom Teachers

Preschool	Mrs. Kimberly Woltman	kimberlywoltman@poncaschool.org
Kindergarten	Mrs. Samantha Mennenga	samanthamennenga@poncaschool.org
	Mrs. JoAnn Todd	joanntodd@poncaschool.org
1 st Grade	Mrs. Staci Pridie	stacipridie@poncaschool.org
	Mrs. Trisha Robinson	triciarobinson@poncaschool.org
2 nd Grade	Mrs. Katie Rotherham	katierotherham@poncaschool.org
	Mrs. Mari Sprakel	marisprakel@poncaschool.org
	Mrs. Katie Pick	katiepick@poncaschool.org
3 rd Grade	Mr. Adam Simington	adamsimington@poncaschool.org
	Mrs. Jessica Templeman	jessicatempleman@poncaschool.org
4 th Grade	Mrs. Kylee Kephart	kyleekephart@poncaschool.org
	Mr. John Stroud	johnstroud@poncaschool.org
5 th Grade	Mrs. Stacey Carnell	staceycarnell@poncaschool.org
	Mrs. LaRita Stewart	laritastewart@poncaschool.org
6 th Grade	Mr. Kory Pfister	korypfister@poncaschool.org
	Mr. Zane Webb	zanewebb@poncaschool.org

Support Instructional Staff

Resource:	Mrs. Lindsay Burrell (Ponca)	lindsayburrell@poncaschool.org
	Mrs. Beth Burki (Jackson)	bethburki@poncaschool.org
Speech:	Mrs. Wendy Sudbeck	wsudbeck@esu1.org
Nurse:	Mrs. Sheila Herfel	sheilaherfel@poncaschool.org
Title I:	Mrs. Leeann Curry	leanncurry@poncaschool.org
Music(Jackson)	TBD	
Music:	Dr. Adam Webb	adamwebb@poncaschool.org
P.E.	Mr. Troy Evans, Mrs. Jessi Walsh	troyevans@poncaschool.org
		jessiwalth@poncaschool.org
Band:	Mrs. Jessica Steckly	jessicasteckly@poncaschool.org
Guidance:	Mrs. Cindy Anderson	cindyanderson@poncaschool.org
Principal:	Mr. Bob Hayes	bobhayes@poncaschool.org

Para-Educators

Stacy Swick, Kamber Hogan, Lisa Hohenstein, Sandy Jensen, Kelsey Hamar, John Street, Annette Schnoor, Sandy Finseth, and Marilyn Peters

Dear Parents:

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year. We're very happy that you and your children are a part of the Ponca Public School District. The following items are presented for your information and guidance during the coming year. This information is a combination of administrative regulations, past practices, common sense and concerns for the safety and well-being of all students.

At both Jackson and Ponca Elementary Schools, each classroom teacher will establish rules for expected behavior in the classrooms, on the playground, in the building hallways, and other student areas. Our expectations for student behavior place an emphasis on respect for others and respect for property.

We believe that everyone deserves to be treated with dignity. Expectations affect performance as everyone deserves a safe learning environment. We know that you have the same expectations for your children and we will keep you informed of your child's growth in social skills, responsibility, and performance in the classroom.

Areas of Interest and Importance

STUDENT CONDUCT

- Students are expected to be prepared and conduct themselves in a manner that would be a credit to themselves and to the school.
- Such behavior as yelling and running in the halls; foul, discourteous speech; unsportsmanlike conduct at play; fighting; and destruction of school property will not be tolerated and are grounds for disciplinary action.
- In the classroom, disciplinary problems are the responsibility of the teacher. On the playground, it is handled by the teacher or person assigned to playground supervision.
- Discipline problems which the teacher feels unable to cope should be referred to the Principal. The use of suspension, expulsion and mandatory reassignment are provided for in the Nebraska statutes and may be resorted to if the situation warrants.
- Students are expected to use school equipment and playground equipment in the fashion for which they are designed. Willful and/or malicious destruction of any school property can result in suspension.
- Students who bully other students verbally, physically and through the use of technology will be dealt with severely. Name calling, threats, teasing, intimidating, or other forms of abuse will not be tolerated.

VISITOR/STUDENT RELEASES

For the safety and security of students, faculty and staff, the following procedures will be in effect:

Visitors to Ponca Public School buildings must first report to the Administrative Office upon entering either the secondary or elementary buildings. Once in the office, you will be asked to sign in. You will be issued a Visitor's Pass if you wish to visit a classroom. We will not send parents/guardians to the classrooms or to the playground to pick up their children, unless they have signed in at the office and have been issued the Visitor's Pass. Teachers and playground supervisors should not be put into a position to determine the validity of a request to release a student. That will be done from the office.

When a student needs to be dismissed during the regular school hours, parents/guardians must sign their students out in the Administrative office. Students will not be allowed to leave the facility without a signature from a parent/guardian. When a parent comes to the office to pick up their child, office personnel will contact the teacher to release that student to the office. If a parent, or other adult, enters the building and goes to a classroom, or to the playground or other area of the school to pick up a child, school personnel have been instructed to direct that person to the office.

CHILD CUSTODY MATTERS

In most cases, when parents are divorced, both parents retain parental rights. If you have court order that limits the rights of one parent in matters such as custody or visitation, please bring a copy to the office for our files. Unless your court order is on file with the School District, we must provide equal rights to both parents.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Schools, including all employees, have a moral duty and responsibility to report all **suspected** cases of child abuse. A person who has reason to believe that a child has been abused **must report** such information to the School Administer or Counselor. The information will be forwarded to the **Department of Health and Human Services**.

STRANGER DANGER

Remind your child frequently of procedures to follow when encountering strangers. Include the following guidelines in your discussion:

- A stranger may ask you to take a ride in his or her car. **DON'T GO!**
- A stranger may ask you for directions or to find a lost pet. Ignore him or her and walk away.
- A stranger may offer you toys, candy or money. Refuse it!
- A stranger may invite you into an empty building or room . **DON'T GO!**
- A stranger may act friendly, as if he or she really likes you a great deal. Don't be fooled.
- Do not allow a stranger to touch you, lift you up, pull your clothes or buttons or zippers.

-If someone does something to you that makes you feel uncomfortable, funny or scared, get away fast!!

Report all incidences to a teacher, principal, or guidance counselor.

EMERGENCY NAMES AND PHONE NUMBERS

Accidents do happen at school and it is not always possible to know the exact extent of a student injury or illness until after x-rays or an examination by a doctor. When an accident occurs or a student becomes ill, the nurse or the school personnel will attempt to notify parents. A student is never sent home unless arrangements are made with the parents or other authorized persons identified on the student's emergency contact information.

ATTENDANCE

The alarming growth in the number of missing children makes the communication between parents and the school that much more important. The administrators of the Ponca Public School District require that parents call the school when your children are going to be absent. When absences are caused by illness or injury, the parents should phone between 7:30 and 8:15 a.m. to the center that the student attends. If we do not receive a call and a student is absent, we will attempt to make certain that the parent is aware of his/her student's absence.

Nebraska state law and Ponca school board policy require that we monitor the attendance of each student and that absences do not exceed 20 days per school year for elementary students. Parents will receive a warning letter after the 15th and 20th absence. In the event of habitual truancies, we are required to notify the county attorney of such excessive absences and it is the decision of the county attorney to file charges against the student/parent/guardian for this violation of the law.

Student's absent from school may not attend extra-curricular activities unless approved by the principal. Students that leave school early because of illness will not be allowed to attend extra-curricular activities unless approved by the principal.

Listed below are guidelines for student arrival to school and absence from school:

TARDY: Late arrival to school or class up until 9:30 a.m. will be considered tardy.

Students with more than 5 tardies per quarter will serve one morning detention.

ABSENT ONE-HALF DAY: A student will be counted absent one-half day if he/she arrives at school after 9:30 a.m., or leaves school prior to 2:00 p.m. Please keep this in mind when scheduling appointments.

SCHOOL DAY

JACKSON ELEMENTARY:

Students will be allowed to enter the building at 8:15, so we would ask that students **NOT ARRIVE AT SCHOOL BEFORE 8:15**. At Jackson Elementary, the school day begins at **8:20** Students will be dismissed at **3:20**, the shuttle bus will leave at **3:20**.

PONCA ELEMENTARY:

Students will be allowed to enter the building at 8:00, so we would ask that students **NOT ARRIVE AT SCHOOL BEFORE 8:00**. At Ponca Elementary, the school day begins at **8:10** -- Student's will be dismissed at **3:35** and allowed to get materials from their lockers, and leave the building. Buses depart each afternoon at approximately **3:45**.

BUS ROUTES

The District operates bus routes on rural paved and gravel roads to pick up students who live outside of Ponca and Jackson. A danger exists when the bus makes a stop on the road and sits waiting for the students(s). To reduce the possibility of any accident, we ask that students riding the bus be at the bus stop when the bus arrives. It is dangerous for all concerned when the bus has to wait for extended periods of time for the student and if the student fails to appear. For this reason, we ask that parents call their bus driver when your children will not be riding the bus.

Elementary Transportation Information

At Ponca elementary students will need to be dropped off on the south side of the building and enter through the south doors of the **high school** building. The route buses will drop off students on the south side of the high school building in the morning. The shuttle bus will load on the south side of the high school building in the school bus pick-up/drop-off area in the morning and leave at 8:00am sharp.

After school at Ponca the shuttle buses will drop off students on the south side of the high school building in the bus drop-off area. Students riding route buses will be dismissed through the south doors of the high school building and load on the south side of the high school in the drop-off area. Students being picked –up after school will be dismissed through the south doors of the high school building. Parents may park in the parking area south of the bus drop-off area.

VOICE MAIL SERVICES

As a convenience for parents, the District provides a voice mail service. If you need to call early to report your child's absence for the day, you may call and leave a message on the voice mail service. The number at Ponca is 755-5700 or at Jackson 632-4276.

REPORT CARDS & PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

Report cards are issued every nine weeks with progress reports provided to parents at the mid-point of each quarter. Students in grades 3 and 4 will have grades calculated according to the following formula: 40% of their grade will come from test scores and 60% of their grade will come from daily work and homework. Students in grades 5 and 6 will have grades calculated according to the following 60% of their grade will come from test scores and 40% of their grade will come from daily work and homework. All math grades are calculated 80% test scores and 20% daily work and homework in grades 3 through 6.

Grading Scale

93– 100%

85 – 92%

Grades K-1

E (Excellent)

S (Satisfactory)

Grades 2– 6

A

B

77 – 84%	I (Improving)	C
70 – 76%	N (Needs Improvement)	D
Below 70		F

Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held following the first quarter and the middle of third quarter. These conferences are an important part of the home/school communication process. The purpose of the conference is to share information and work together to help the student. Elementary parents will be notified of their scheduled conference time.

PLEASE DO NOT BRING CHILDREN TO CONFERENCES.

Informal conferences may be arranged with your child’s teacher at any time convenient to both parents and teacher. Teachers are available to parents between **8:00 to 8:10 a.m. and 3:40 to 4:00 p.m.** when school is in session. Appointments will need to be made for other times.

HOMEWORK

Work assignments outside the classroom shall be for the purpose of enrichment, review, and reinforcement of the principles taught that day or completion of daily class assignment not completed in a timely manner. Homework should not be disciplinary in nature. Homework assignments will be made at the discretion of the individual teacher. **Assignments are due at 3:30pm the day the assignment is due unless otherwise stipulated by the teacher. Any assignment that is not turned in will have a 2 day grace period. After the 2 day grace period the assignment will not be accepted and will be counted as a zero. If the assignment is turned in during the 2 day grace period a deduction in the grade will occur.** Homework assignments should be finished neatly. Any assignment not meeting requirements will not be accepted. Parents and teachers realize that all children differ; one student might have more homework than another. Parental involvement in their child’s homework experiences will greatly enhance their child’s learning environment.

DISTRICT TESTING PROGRAMS

MAP Testing (Measures of Academic Progress) will be administered three times during the school year to grades K through 6. The purpose of such testing is to measure the academic growth of each child from year to year and to provide a profile of the student’s academic strengths and weaknesses. Nebraska State Standard Tests are given to grades 3-6.

Children will be tested for special services after the Student Assistance Team (SAT) and Response To Intervention (RTI) Team has recommended the student for further evaluation. Each child referred will be assessed by the appropriate specialists. With this information, the child’s team will determine if the child qualifies for services. If services are appropriate for the child, he/she will have goals written in a plan that the team will follow for one year.

ELEMENTARY GUIDANCE PROGRAM

The elementary school guidance program is part of the total school program plus the guidance program compliments learning in the classroom. It is child-centered, preventative, developmental, encourages students' social, emotional, and personal growth.

The goal of elementary guidance in the classroom is to provide students with opportunities to learn and practice effective communication skills, friendship building techniques, drug/alcohol resistance skills, personal strengths and talents, effective study skills, character education skills, safety skills, and planning for the future by goal setting along with obtaining information about careers. In addition, students learn about the role of the guidance counselor in the school setting.

Parents, students and teachers/administrators can request the counselor to meet with a student. Individual and group counseling sessions can be scheduled where topics that could be addressed include: helping children cope with difficult and/or unchangeable life events, giving children the opportunity to share their feelings and concerns, teaching and developing communication, problem-solving, and decision-making skills, and building self-esteem and confidence.

The school counselor consults with parents and/or teachers to help promote student success. The counselor intervenes in conflict, crisis, and emergency situations. They also help build tolerance and appreciation of persons of all ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

CHAIN OF COMMAND: COMPLAINTS & SUGGESTIONS

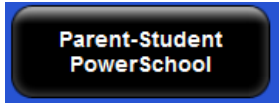
When there is a situation or matter that arises where the parent wishes to notify the school regarding a specific problem, concern, or question, we believe the correct process to follow to resolve matters or to have questions answered is as follows:

1. Teacher – Parent contact.
2. Teacher - Parent – Principal meeting
3. Teacher - Parent – Principal – Superintendent meeting

Parental complaints must be addressed before classes start (8:00 – 8:10 a.m.) or after the School Day ends (3:40 – 4:00 p.m.).

STUDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Ponca Public School District uses the student management system PowerSchool. Parents are able to access their child's grades, attendance, lunch balances etc. from any computer that has Internet access. To access your child's information go to www.poncaschool.org click the button

A rectangular button with a dark background and white text. The text reads "Parent-Student" on the top line and "PowerSchool" on the bottom line.

which is located on the right hand side of the school webpage. Parents and students are given separate logins and passwords to access their information.

PARTY INVITATIONS

Birthday party invitations may not be distributed at school unless the entire class or the entire boy/girl population is invited.

LIBRARY

Library facilities are available to all pupils enrolled at the school. Students will visit the library with their teachers or other supervising personnel. They may also be allowed additional library visits/privileges as permitted by their teachers. Encourage your child to return library materials promptly and to inform the teacher of any damage to library materials so that they may be repaired. If library material is lost, a fine in the amount of the original purchase price of the book will be charged in order to replace the item. Fines for overdue library materials are assessed at one cent per school day. If materials are not returned, replaced, repaired or if fines are not paid by the end of the school year, report cards will be withheld and students will need to pay for the materials.

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips are planned to provide educational experiences for the students. Field trips may be an extension of the classroom experience and have educational value relevant to the material being studied. A field trip may create a unique learning experience to be expanded on in the classroom. Written permission is necessary for any child to participate in a field trip activity. Advance notice of field trips will be provided. Parents may be asked to assist with supervision and transportation for some field trips. School administration officials and/or teachers retain the responsibility and authority for behavior control management.

PETS

Pets and other animals are not permitted in or on school grounds except for use in the classroom. Health and safety considerations make this rule necessary. Parents must make arrangements with the classroom teacher before an animal will be allowed in the school.

STUDENT DRESS GUIDELINES

How a student dresses for school has an impact on how he/she acts. Therefore, we ask that students wear neat and appropriate clothes to school. Examples of inappropriate clothes would be attire which advertises or supports the use of alcohol, drugs, tobacco or has any sexual connotation which is derogatory or offensive. Dress or grooming styles should be modest. **Hats or caps are not suitable in the building.** Hats, scarves and bandanas, or any head covering may not be worn in the building during school or at school activities. Shoes must be worn at all

times. Shoes that mark the floors may not be worn indoors, they must have white soles or be marked “non-marking” soles. We feel it is important for students to participate in recess activities that will be held outside during most days. Please send boots, gloves, hats, and warm winter coats with your child during the winter season. Parents will sometimes ask that students not go outside during recess. We would ask that this be done in a very limited basis due to supervision and scheduling difficulties. Students must have a physician’s note in order to not go outside for recess. The physician’s note will be for one day only.

EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSING

Most generally, prior to 6:00am, a decision will be made whether to cancel school, or to start late for the day. Information is entered online. The relevant information for our school district is released from there to area radio stations, television stations and the school reach system. This information will also be available to our school district patrons online. You can access this by going to the school district’s website www.poncaschool.org. This will let you see what decision has been made for Ponca School District. This same information will be scrolling along the top of the District’s webpage.

There are occasions when the weather patterns and forecasts are clearly obvious that a decision can be made the night before. When this happens, the online process will begin to air the announcement on the 10 o’clock news. However, this may not always be possible. Should the decision be made to start school late, this will always be a **two (2) hour late start**. Classes will start in Jackson and Ponca two (2) hours later than their normal starting time. Buses will run their regular routes, but will be two (2) hours later than normal.

Occasionally, weather conditions will deteriorate during the school day to a point where early dismissal is necessary. We will try to avoid early dismissal, if possible, because contacting parents is difficult. Parents may, during inclement weather, pick up your child/children at your own discretion. Please make arrangements for the care of your child in case an early dismissal is necessary. In case of the early dismissal, all activity practices will be cancelled.

RECESS

Recess will be held inside if the temperature outside is below 10 degrees or wind chill is below 10 degrees. When the weather is cold, please make sure to dress appropriately for playing outside.

IMMUNIZATIONS AND HEALTH PRACTICES

Nebraska State Law requires a certificate of immunization for attendance at any Nebraska school. A revised immunization law has been passed by the Nebraska legislature that makes immunization waivers much harder to obtain. The **ONLY REASONS** a student in Nebraska can have a waiver of immunizations on file are:

1. For a medical reason (Forms are available at the school for your physician to sign).

2. Religious reasons: If this is the case, you will need to request a special waiver from the school and then it will have to be notarized.

We are required by state law to have your child's immunization records on file the first day of school or your child will not be allowed to attend school.

Please keep your child out of school if he/she has, or you suspect he/she has a temperature or potentially infectious or contagious condition. Please inform the school if your child has an infectious condition or illness (chicken pox, head lice, pink eye, etc.) Students returning to school after an absence due to a contagious condition may be required to provide a doctor's statement concerning the student's condition and fitness. A child with head lice will be dismissed from school to a parent or guardian. The child will not be allowed back in school for a period of 24 hours from treatment.

MEDICATION

Laws have been enacted that limit the school's ability to dispense medicine. We cannot administer any medicine to students without proper authorization by parents. Forms are available at the school for that purpose. Notes from parents can be sent with precise information to include the following: type of medicine, quantity included, amount per dose, how often and under what circumstances it should be given to the child; and what length of time the medication is to be administered. All medications will be kept in the office. Please include the student's name and provide a parent's signature to the note. Prescription drugs must be in the original container with the pharmacist's label containing directions for administration. A staff member will administer all medications and all administrations will be documented. If you should have additional questions, please contact the school nurse.

ALLERGIES/ASTHMA

Please let the school know if your child has any allergies or a history of asthma. Ponca school has an Emergency Response Team. They keep track of the students with these conditions and set up a treatment plan, so they are prepared in case of an emergency. If your child requires an epi-pen or an inhaler, please make sure they carry these items to school with them, or the office has a supply on hand for your child if it is needed.

LUNCH

The District's hot lunch program offers a nutritionally balanced lunch with milk to all students in grades K-6. The current price for lunch is \$2.75 daily for PreK-2 and \$3.00 daily for 3-6. Students may purchase extra half-pint milk for \$.40. Students choosing to bring a lunch from home may also purchase milk at school. Students may bring beverages from home with their lunch, although soda pop is not allowed. Students will be allowed to purchase ice cream for \$1.25 after having eaten their lunch with approval from their teacher.

The District participates in the National School Lunch Program, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, to provide free or reduced price meals to eligible students. Eligibility for this program is based on income guidelines provided by the USDA. The issues of privacy and confidentiality of personal applicant information is strictly maintained.

Applications for free and reduced price lunches are available throughout the school year to all students. Free and reduced lunch students are factored into many school aid formulas. Please check your eligibility, it could help Ponca Public School and yourself.

“In Accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964.”

“USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.”

DRUG-FREE ENVIRONMENT

We are committed to being a Drug-Free Zone at Ponca Public Schools. Seizure of any type of drug on school grounds or at any school sponsored event will result in immediate disciplinary action.

EMERGENCY DRILLS

The District will conduct emergency drills, to include fire, tornado, and bus evacuation, in compliance with Nebraska State Laws.

GUNS AND WEAPONS POLICY

All students who enter the Ponca Public School system have the right to be safe and free of harm or threat from guns, knives, and other dangerous weapons. The District will exercise the right and uphold its responsibility to discipline those students who choose to make our school environment unsafe. The knowing and intentional possession, use, or transmission of a firearm or other dangerous weapon at school, at a school sponsored event, or during a school event off school grounds will result in disciplinary action, up to, and including, expulsion from school.

Knives of any type or size are never permissible at school, at school-sponsored events, or during an event off school grounds. The student will be sent to the office and knife will be confiscated and not returned to the student. Any student in the possession of a knife at school will face the possibility of being suspended or expelled as determined by the Board of Education.

COMPUTERS

All students' K through 6 will be issued a Chromebook during the school day. **Students will not be allowed to take these devices home. Please refer to the acceptance use policy.**

STAFF DIRECTORY

Members of the Board of Education:

Shawn Fethkenher..... President
Richard Dohma..... Vice-President
Monte Burki..... Member
Phil Kramper..... Member
Christina Luebbe..... Member
Casey McGhee..... Member

Administrative Staff:

Brendan Calahan..... Superintendent
Allison Stansberry..... High School Principal
Robert Hayes..... Elementary Principal

Bus Drivers

Michael Dutton.....Route Driver
Robert Hayes.....Route Driver
Rebecca Irwin.....Route Driver
Annette Schnoor.....Route/Activity Driver
Joey Stansberry.....Route/Activity Driver
Nancy Wimmer..... Route Driver
Trevin Wimmer.....Route Driver

Bus Drivers

Kristie Hayes.....Technology Coordinator
Andy Stark.....Technology Coordinator

District Librarian

Rebecca Irwin.....Librarian Ponca and Jackson Schools

District Nurse

Sheila Herfel.....School Nurse Ponca and Jackson Schools

District Maintenance/Custodial

Louis Amato.....Maintenance
Mary Granato.....Custodial
Trevin Wimmer.....Maintenance
TBD.....Custodial

Food Service

Kristi Goetz.....Food Service Manger Ponca School
Desiree Hoelsing.....Food Service Manger Jackson School
TBD.....Food Service Jackson School
Lynelle Krohn.....Food Service Ponca School

Mathia Shumaker.....Food Service Ponca School
Sadie VanderStreek.....Food Service Ponca School
Trecy Mitchell.....Food Service Ponca

Guidance

Cindy Anderson.....Elementary Guidance
Fran Hassler.....Secondary Guidance

Educational Service Unit 1

Hannah Curry.....School Psychologist (ESU #1)
Wendy Sudbeck.....Speech & Language Pathologist (ESU #1)

Office Personnel

Jeanne Brandt.....Ponca Secondary Secretary
Amy Crosgrove.....Jackson Elementary Secretary
Susan Fox.....Guidance/Ponca Education Foundation Secretary
Lorrie Huston.....Business Manager
Ashley Uthof..... Ponca Elementary Secretary /Food Service Accounts

Para Professionals

Amanda Benson.....Para-Educator Jackson Elementary
Sandy Finseth.....Para-Educator Jackson Elementary
Kelsey Hamar..... Para-Educator Jackson Elementary
Kamber Hogan.....Para-Educator Jackson Elementary
Lisa Hohenstein.....Para-Educator Ponca Elementary
Cheri Janssen.....Para-Educator Ponca Secondary
Sandy Jensen.....Para-Educator Ponca Elementary
Margarite Maeda.....Para-Educator Ponca Secondary
Marilyn Peters..... Para-Educator Jackson Elementary
Annette Schnoor..... Para-Educator Jackson Elementary
John Street.....Para-Educator Ponca School Library
Stacey Swick.....Para-Educator Ponca Elementary

Sponsors/Coaches

Activity Director.....Robert Hayes
Yearbook.....Lisa Balvantin
Cheerleading.....LaRita Stewart
Class Sponsor Grade 7.....Mallory Wortmann
Class Sponsor Grade 8.....Shannon Webb
Class Sponsor Grade.....Carol Ryan
Class Sponsor Grade 10.....Sadie Voss
Class Sponsors Grade 11.....Ryan Olander
Class Sponsor Grade 12.....Lisa Balvantin
Future Business Leaders of America.....Suzette Curry
Jazz Band.....Jessica Steckly

Junior High Boys Basketball.....TBD
 Assistant Junior High Boys Basketball.....Jeff Peters
 Junior High Boys Football.....Travis Olander
 Assistant Junior High Football.....Jeff Keller
 Junior High Cross Country.....Kory Pfister
 Junior High Track.....Zane Webb
 Assistant Junior High Track.....Beth Burki
 Assistant Junior High Track.....Jeff Peters
 Junior High Boys Wrestling.....Chad Cleveland
 Junior High Girls Basketball.....Alyssa Crosgrove
 Assistant Junior High Girls Basketball.....Mari Sprakel
 Junior High Girls Volleyball.....Mari Sprakel
 Assistant Junior High Girls Volleyball.....Katie Pick
 National Honor Society.....Paula Larsen
 One-Act.....Adam Webb and Olivia Hrouda
 Speech Coach.....Kristin Reuter
 Student Council Sponsors.....Dacia Jensen and Hannah Curry
 Acapella Choir.....Adam Webb
 Varsity Boys Basketball.....Adam Poulosky
 Assistant Varsity Boys Basketball.....BJ Hansen
 Assistant Varsity Boys Basketball.....Matt Koeppe
 Varsity Girls Basketball.....Robert Hayes
 Assistant Varsity Girls Basketball.....Ryan Olander
 Assistant Varsity Girls Basketball.....Jared Curry
 Varsity Cross Country.....Kory Pfister
 Varsity Football.....Troy Evans
 Assistant Football.....Ryan Olander
 Assistant Football.....Drew Buck
 Varsity Golf.....Adam Simington
 Assistant Varsity Golf.....Phil Lowe
 Varsity Girls Softball.....Tim Heiner
 Assistant Varsity Girls Softball.....Aimee James
 Varsity Boys Track.....Troy Evans
 Varsity Girls Track.....Jamie Hamar
 Assistant Track.....TBD
 Assistant Track.....Jessi Walsh
 Varsity Volleyball.....Jessica Templeman
 Assistant Volleyball.....Andrea Stewart
 Assistant Volleyball.....Alyssa Crosgrove
 Varsity Wrestling.....TBD
 Assistant Varsity Wrestling.....TBD

Teachers

Lisa Balvantin.....	English Grades 8-12
Beth Burki.....	Resource Grades K-2
Lindsay Burrell.....	Resource Grades 3-6
Drew Buck.....	Spanish Grades 9-12
Stacey Carnell.....	Social Studies Grades 5 & 6
LeAnn Curry.....	Title 1
Suzette Curry.....	Business & Technology Grades 7-12
Troy Evans.....	Physical Education Grades 5-12
Dacia Jensen.....	Family and Consumer Science Grades 7-12
Kylee Kephart.....	Grade 4
Matt Koeppe.....	Social Studies Grades 8-12
Paula Larsen.....	Mathematics Grades 8-12
Samantha Mennenga.....	Kindergarten
Ryan Olander.....	Industrial Technology Grades 7-12
Kory Pfister.....	Language Arts Grades 5 & 6
Katie Pick.....	Grade 2
Staci Pridie.....	Grade 1
Adam Poulosky.....	Social Studies Grades 7-12
Kristin Reuter.....	English Grades 7-11
Tricia Robinson.....	Grade 1
Katie Rotherham.....	Grade 2
Carol Ryan.....	Resource Grades 9-12
Adam Simington.....	Grade 3
Danielle Sparks.....	Art Grades 3-12
Mari Sprakel.....	Grade 2
Jessica Steckly.....	Instrumental Music Grades 5-12
Andrea Stewart.....	Resource Grades 7-12
LaRita Stewart.....	Science Grades 5 & 6
John Stroud.....	Grade 4
Jessica Templeman.....	Grade 3
Joann Todd.....	Kindergarten
Keith Trusty.....	Biology and General Science Grades 7-12
TBD.....	Music Grades PK-2
Sadie Voss.....	Mathematics Grades 7-12
Jessi Walsh.....	Keyboarding Grades 3-6/Physical Education Grades PK-8
Adam Webb.....	Vocal Music Grades 3-12
Shannon Webb.....	Math & Science Grades 7-9
Zane Webb.....	Math Grades 5 & 6
Kimberly Woltman.....	Preschool
Mallory Wortmann.....	Physical Sciences Grades 9-12

School Calendar

<p>7 1st Day – Fall Practices</p> <p>7,8,9 Teacher Workdays 8 Meet & Greet Night Jackson 6:00-7:00 PM Ponca. 7:00-8:00 PM</p> <p>10 1st DAY OF SCHOOL Dismiss @ 1:10/1:30</p>	AUGUST '23	JANUARY '24	<p>1-3 Christmas Break</p> <p>3 Teacher Workday</p> <p>4 Start of 3rd Quarter</p>
<p>4 No School - Labor Day</p>	SEPTEMBER '23	FEBRUARY '24	<p>8 K-12 Parent/Teacher Conferences 2:00-8:00 Dismiss @ 1:10/1:30</p> <p>9 No School</p> <p>12 No School – Staff PD</p> <p>26 1st Day – Spring Practice</p>
<p>12 End of 1st Quarter</p> <p>13 Start of 2nd Quarter 19 K-12 Parent/Teacher Conferences 2:00-8:00PM Dismissal @ 1:10/1:30</p> <p>20 No School – Fall Break</p>	OCTOBER '23	MARCH '24	<p>7-8 Spring Break</p> <p>6 End of 3rd Quarter 11 Start of 4th Quarter</p> <p>28 Early Dismissal 1:10/1:30 29 No School – Easter Break</p>
<p>13 1st Day – Winter Practices</p> <p>22 Early Dismissal 1:10/1:30</p> <p>23-24 No School – Thanksgiving Break</p>	NOVEMBER '23	APRIL '24	<p>1 No School – Easter Break</p>
<p>19-20 Early Dismissal 1:10/1:30</p> <p>23-27 NSAA Moratorium</p> <p>21-31 No School – Christmas Break</p> <p>Qtr 1 = 45 Instructional days Qtr 2 = 46 Instructional days</p>	DECEMBER '23	MAY '24	<p>4 GRADUATION – 10:30AM 17 Last Day of School (Tentative)</p> <p>20, 21, 22 Teacher Workday/PD and last day for teachers (Tentative)</p> <p>13-17 Possible snow days if needed</p> <p>Qtr 3 = 43 Instructional days Qtr 4 = 43 Instructional days</p>
EARLY DISMISSAL DAYS			
STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAYS / TEACHER WORKDAYS—NO SCHOOL			
NO SCHOOL—NO STUDENTS OR STAFF			
PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES 2:00PM - 8:00 PM / DISMISSAL TIMES 1:10 (J) 1:30 (P)			
STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT – 1 HOUR LATE START			
Calendar Approved: February 20, 2023			

Bell Schedules

<p style="text-align: center;">Regular School Day</p> <p>Students may enter the <u>building</u> 8:00 a.m.</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>First Bell</td><td style="text-align: right;">8:05 a.m.</td></tr> <tr><td>Period 1</td><td style="text-align: right;">8:10 a.m.-9:00 a.m.</td></tr> <tr><td>Period 2</td><td style="text-align: right;">9:04 a.m.-9:54 a.m.</td></tr> <tr><td>Period 3</td><td style="text-align: right;">9:58 a.m.-10:48 a.m.</td></tr> <tr><td>Period 4</td><td style="text-align: right;">10:52 a.m.-11:42 a.m.</td></tr> <tr><td>First Lunch</td><td style="text-align: right;">11:42 a.m.-12:09 p.m.</td></tr> <tr><td>Period 5</td><td style="text-align: right;">11:45 a.m.-12:35 p.m.</td></tr> <tr><td>Second Lunch</td><td style="text-align: right;">12:35 p.m.-1:02 p.m.</td></tr> <tr><td>Period 5</td><td style="text-align: right;">12:09 p.m.-12:59 p.m.</td></tr> <tr><td>Period 6</td><td style="text-align: right;">1:02 p.m.-1:52 p.m.</td></tr> <tr><td>Period 7</td><td style="text-align: right;">1:56 p.m.-2:46 p.m.</td></tr> <tr><td>Period 8</td><td style="text-align: right;">2:50 p.m.-3:40 p.m.</td></tr> </table>	First Bell	8:05 a.m.	Period 1	8:10 a.m.-9:00 a.m.	Period 2	9:04 a.m.-9:54 a.m.	Period 3	9:58 a.m.-10:48 a.m.	Period 4	10:52 a.m.-11:42 a.m.	First Lunch	11:42 a.m.-12:09 p.m.	Period 5	11:45 a.m.-12:35 p.m.	Second Lunch	12:35 p.m.-1:02 p.m.	Period 5	12:09 p.m.-12:59 p.m.	Period 6	1:02 p.m.-1:52 p.m.	Period 7	1:56 p.m.-2:46 p.m.	Period 8	2:50 p.m.-3:40 p.m.	<p style="text-align: center;">PLC Late Start Mondays</p> <p>Students may enter the <u>building</u> 9:00 a.m.</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>First Bell</td><td style="text-align: right;">9:05 a.m.</td></tr> <tr><td>Period 1</td><td style="text-align: right;">9:10 a.m.-9:45 a.m.</td></tr> <tr><td>Period 2</td><td style="text-align: right;">9:49 a.m.-10:24 a.m.</td></tr> <tr><td>Period 3</td><td style="text-align: right;">10:28 a.m.-11:03 a.m.</td></tr> <tr><td>Period 4</td><td style="text-align: right;">11:07 a.m.-11:42 p.m.</td></tr> <tr><td>First Lunch</td><td style="text-align: right;">11:42 a.m.-12:09 p.m.</td></tr> <tr><td>Period 5</td><td style="text-align: right;">11:45 a.m.-12:35 p.m.</td></tr> <tr><td>Second Lunch</td><td style="text-align: right;">12:35 p.m.-1:02 p.m.</td></tr> <tr><td>Period 5</td><td style="text-align: right;">12:09 p.m.-12:59 p.m.</td></tr> <tr><td>Period 6</td><td style="text-align: right;">1:02 p.m.-1:52 p.m.</td></tr> <tr><td>Period 7</td><td style="text-align: right;">1:56 p.m.-2:46 p.m.</td></tr> <tr><td>Period 8</td><td style="text-align: right;">2:50 p.m.-3:40 p.m.</td></tr> </table>	First Bell	9:05 a.m.	Period 1	9:10 a.m.-9:45 a.m.	Period 2	9:49 a.m.-10:24 a.m.	Period 3	10:28 a.m.-11:03 a.m.	Period 4	11:07 a.m.-11:42 p.m.	First Lunch	11:42 a.m.-12:09 p.m.	Period 5	11:45 a.m.-12:35 p.m.	Second Lunch	12:35 p.m.-1:02 p.m.	Period 5	12:09 p.m.-12:59 p.m.	Period 6	1:02 p.m.-1:52 p.m.	Period 7	1:56 p.m.-2:46 p.m.	Period 8	2:50 p.m.-3:40 p.m.
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FORMS

This section contains forms that students and their parents must complete and return to the school office **NO LATER THAN** August 12th, 2023.

RECEIPT

This Student Handbook is distributed in accordance with Nebraska State Law, Section 79-262, paragraph three which states in part: "Rules and Standards which form the basis for discipline shall be distributed to students and parents at the beginning of each school year or at the time of enrollment..."

Parents (or guardians) and students are required to sign & return the receipt form below before August 12th, 2023.

PARENT/STUDENT AGREEMENT

I have received and read the Student Handbook that describes the Ponca Public Schools School District's discipline policies, regulations, rules, and expectations to be followed by students enrolled in the Ponca Public Schools, including the Drug Free School Policy. My child and I have discussed these policies and understand that we must comply with them.

RECOGNITION OF POTENTIAL AMENDMENTS OR SUPPLEMENTS

The rules and information provided in this handbook may be supplemented or amended by the School District's administration at any time, consistent with applicable law and board policy. All parents shall be provided notice of any such changes by the district's regular means of contact. By signing below, you agree that you will read any such information and communications, discuss them with your child, and recognize that you must comply with all rules, procedures, and requirements as they apply at that time.

Student's Signature Date

Parent/Guardian's Signature Date

Cell Phone Number (Optional)

Cell Phone Number (Optional)

Parent's Email Address (Optional)

Parent's Email Address (Optional)

EMERGENCY INFORMATION:

Student's Name

Parent/Guardian's Name(s)

Mailing Address

Home Phone

Father's Employer

Business Phone

Mother's Employer

Business Phone

Other Person Who May Be Contacted in Case of Emergency

Phone

Choice of Doctor

Phone

**PARENTAL AUTHORIZATION AND RELEASE FORM
ADMINISTRATION OF NON- PRESCRIPTION DRUGS TO STUDENTS**

While the administration of medications to students should be scheduled outside of school hours whenever possible, occasionally it may be necessary for school personnel to administer nonprescription drugs to a student as authorized by the student’s parents, guardians, or medical professionals and state law. School personnel will only dispense those nonprescription drugs which have been approved by state and federal law for use as a drug and meet the definition of nonprescription drugs in Nebraska’s Medication Aide law which states:

Nonprescription drugs means nonnarcotic medicines or drugs which may be sold without a medical order and which are prepackaged for use by the consumer and labeled in accordance with the requirements of the laws and regulations of this state and the federal government.

In order for students to be administered nonprescription medication by school personnel, a parent or guardian must:

- Complete and return this authorization form.
- Provide the district with any nonprescription drugs you wish to be administered in its original container from the manufacturer, which must include legible, unadulterated manufacturer instructions. The container must be labeled with the student’s name.
- Provide the district with specific written instructions regarding the requested nonprescription drug’s administration, including the date(s) the student is to be administered the drug, the dosage to be administered, the frequency of administration, and any other details or conditions relevant to administration.

School personnel will not administer nonprescription drugs in a manner inconsistent with the manufacturer instructions or state law. School personnel will not administer non-prescription drugs that is expired.

The undersigned are the parent(s), guardian(s), or person(s) in charge of

(name of the student)

I authorize and request school personnel to administer nonprescription drugs to my student. I release the school district, its officials, and employees from any and all liability concerning the administration of nonprescription drugs to my student.

DATED this ____ day of _____, 20__.

Parent/Guardian

**PARENTAL AUTHORIZATION AND RELEASE FORM
ADMINISTRATION OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS TO STUDENTS**

The undersigned are the parent(s), guardian(s), or person(s) in charge of

(name of the student)

It is necessary that the student receive (name of drug) _____, a physician-prescribed drug, during school intervals beginning on (date) _____ and continuing through _____ (date)

I hereby request that the School District, or its authorized representative, administer the drug named above to my child named above, in accordance with the prescribing physician's instructions, and agree to:

1. Submit this request to the teacher.
2. Make certain the Physician's Request for the Administration of Prescription Medication by School Personnel is submitted to the teacher.
3. Make sure personally that the drug is received by the teacher and/or county nursing service administering it, in the container in which it was dispensed by the prescribing physician or licensed pharmacist.
4. Make sure personally that the container in which the drug is dispensed is marked with the drug name, dosage, interval dosage, and date after which no administration should be given.
5. Submit a REVISED STATEMENT signed by the physician prescribing the drug to the teacher IF ANY OF THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE PHYSICIAN CHANGES.
6. Release the School District and the Board of Education of the School District and all employees, agents, and the representatives of the School District from any liability concerning the giving or non-giving of the drug to the student.

DATED this _____ day of _____, 20__.

Parent/Guardian

**ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION TO STUDENTS
PHYSICIAN'S REQUEST FOR ADMINISTRATION OF PRESCRIPTION
MEDICATIONS BY SCHOOL PERSONNEL**

DATE _____

CHILD'S FULL NAME _____ is under my care and must take medication which I have prescribed during the school day.

Name of medication (as it appears on container in which the drug is stored)

Dosage and time _____

Date administration of drug is to begin

Possible adverse reactions to be reported to physician _____

Special instructions for the administration and storage of the drug _____

I or my designee(s) have trained school personnel or approved alternative training as adequate to administer the medication, have evaluated the situation, the general administration plan and if applicable, the self administration plan or emergency care plan, and deemed each to be safe and appropriate, and if applicable authorize the use of hypodermic syringes and needles or similar medical terms.

Name of Physician and Designee

Print or Type

Primary Phone Number

Secondary Phone Number

Signature of Physician

RECORD OF SELF-ADMINISTRATED MEDICINE

Parent's Phone _____

Student Name _____ Grade _____

Date to Begin _____ Date to End _____

Name of Medication _____

Dosage of Medication _____ Time _____

Doctor _____ Phone #1 _____

Phone # _____

Possible Adverse Reaction: _____

_____ gives permission for _____ our son/daughter to self-administer specific medications at school. This medication cannot be taken at any other non-school time.

DATED this _____ day of _____, 20____.

Students who are able to self-administer specific medication may do so provided:

1. The physician provides written authorization allowing self-administration of said medication.
2. The parent provides written authorization allowing self-administration of said medication.
3. Such medication is transported to the school and maintained under the student's control in the original, properly labeled package and (a) is not opened except when self-administering the medication, (b) is not self-administered during instructional time or in the presence of other students unless medically necessary, and (c) is not shown or exhibited to other students.
4. The student's physician or physicians' designee has (1) evaluated the situation and deemed it to be safe and appropriate; (2) documented this on the physician's authorization for the student's cumulative health record, and (3) approved the general administration plan.
5. The student and the student's physician or physician's designee have developed a plan for reporting and supervising self-administration.
6. The principal and appropriate teacher are informed that the student is self-administering prescribed medication.

Doctor's Signature _____