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1520 - **EMPLOYMENT OF ADMINISTRATORS**

The Board of Education recognizes that it is vital to the successful operation of the District that administrative positions created by the Board be filled with highly qualified and competent personnel. The Board may contract with the governing board of the educational service center from which it otherwise receives services to conduct searches and recruitment of candidates for assistant superintendent, Director, assistant director, and other administrator positions.

The Board shall approve the employment, determine the compensation, and establish the term of said employment for each administrator employed by the Board. Individuals may be employed as administrators pursuant to a limited contract for a term not to exceed three (3) years, unless the individual has been employed by the Board as an administrator in the District for three (3) or more years, in which case his/her term of the contract shall be for not more than five (5) years and, unless the Superintendent recommends otherwise, not less than two (2) years. If, however, the Superintendent so recommends, the term of the contract of an individual who has been employed as an administrator in the District for three (3) years or more may be one (1) year. All subsequent contracts granted to such individuals must be for a term of not less than two (2) years and not more than five (5) years.

The Board shall only employ those candidates nominated by the Superintendent, unless otherwise authorized by law (see below).

Individuals employed in the following categories shall be considered members of the administrative staff:

- A. Director of Operations
- B. Director of Business Affairs
- C. Assistant Director, High School
- D. Assistant Director, Adult Education
- E. Career Tech Supervisor
- F. Supervisor, Academics / Student Services
- G. Food Service Manager
- H. _____

The Board shall only employ those candidates nominated by the Superintendent, unless otherwise authorized by law (see below).

Qualifications for Employment

[X] In accordance with the provisions of R.C. 3319.031, the Board may assign specified powers and duties to one (1) or more administrators.

Any person employed as an assistant superintendent, Director, assistant director, or other administrator shall possess a valid certificate/license issued pursuant to Ohio law and shall file a copy of his/her certificate/license with the District.

As a prerequisite to employee pay, the Superintendent must first issue to the Treasurer a written statement that confirms each administrator has filed with the Superintendent both a copy of all valid licenses as well as copies of any reports required by the State Board or this Board to demonstrate his/her qualification to assume an educational administrator position. No administrator employed in a position for which licensure is required may be paid until evidence of such appropriate licensure for the position has been received by the Superintendent and transmitted to the Treasurer.

~~[] Any administrator's intentional misstatement of fact material to qualifications for employment or reemployment, or to the determination of salary, shall be considered by the Board to constitute grounds for dismissal.~~

To the extent permitted by law, the Board may request the State Board of Education to issue a two (2) year alternative administrative specialist license or a one (1) year alternative principal license to a candidate recommended by the Superintendent for an administrative position, provided the candidate is of good moral character and meets the requirements set forth by the State Board of Education.

Relatives of Board members may be employed by the Board, provided the member of the Board does not participate in any way in the discussion or vote on the employment when such a conflict of interest is involved.

[] An individual who is related to [a] staff member[s] may be employed as an administrator by the Board provided the administrator is not placed in a position in which s/he will supervise directly the staff member to whom s/he is related.

[] Applications for employment as an administrator will not be accepted from any current District Board member. If a Board member wishes to apply for a position on the administrative staff, his/her resignation must be accepted by the Board prior to submitting an application.

[] The employment of administrative staff members prior to approval by the Board is authorized when their employment is required to maintain continuity in the educational program. Employment shall be recommended to the Board at the next regular meeting.

Prior to employment, the candidate selected must pass a background check performed by the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation and/or the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Term of Employment

The Board shall approve the employment, determine the compensation, and establish the term of said employment for each administrator employed by the Board. Individuals may be employed as administrators pursuant to a limited contract for a term not to exceed three (3) years, unless the individual has been employed by the Board as an administrator in the District for three (3) or more years, in which case his/her term of the contract shall be for not more than five (5) years and, unless the Superintendent recommends otherwise, not less than two (2) years. If, however, the Superintendent so recommends, the term of the contract of an individual who has been employed as an administrator in the District for three (3) years or more may be for one (1) year. All subsequent contracts granted to such individual must be for a term of not less than two (2) years and more than five (5) years.

The Superintendent may recommend and the Board may approve the reemployment of an administrative staff member at any regular or special meeting held during the period beginning on the first day of January of the calendar year immediately preceding the year of expiration of the employment contract and ending on the first day of June in the year the employment contract expires.

The Board may, by a three-fourth's (3/4's) majority vote of its full membership, reemploy an assistant superintendent, Director, assistant director, or other administrator whom the Superintendent refuses to nominate. ~~The term of an administrator so employed shall be () in accordance with the same terms for those administrators who are recommended for employment by the Superintendent, as set forth above () one (1) to five (5) years, dependent upon the administrator's prior length of service in the District.~~

If need be, and to the extent permitted by law, the Board may request the State Board of Education to issue a two (2) year alternative administrative specialist license or a one (1) year alternative principal license to an administrator whom the Superintendent has refused to nominate for reemployment in an administrative position, provided the candidate is of good moral character and meets the requirements set forth by the State Board of Education.

Before taking action to renew or non-renew the contract of any administrator and prior to the first day of June of the year in which the administrator's contract expires, the Board shall notify each such administrator of the date his/her contract expires and inform the administrator that s/he may request a meeting with the Board to discuss its reasons for considering renewal or

non-renewal of his/her contract. Upon the request of the administrator, the Board shall meet with him/her in executive session. The administrator shall be permitted to have a representative of his/her choice present at that meeting.

If the Board fails to provide the evaluations as required by Board Policy or if the Board fails to provide, following the request of the administrator, a meeting for the purpose of discussing the Board's reasons for considering renewal or non-renewal of the administrator's contract, then the administrator shall be automatically reemployed at the same salary plus any increments that may be authorized by the Board, and the term of reemployment shall be one (1) year, unless the individual has been employed as an administrator by the District for three (3) years or more in which case the reemployment shall be for a term of two (2) years.

Furthermore, an administrator shall be deemed reemployed upon expiration of his/her contract term unless the administrator notifies the Board to the contrary on or before the fifteenth day of June, or unless the Board either reemploys the administrator for a succeeding term or gives written notice of its intent not to reemploy the administrator on or before the first day of June in the year in which said contract expires. In such instances, the reemployment shall be at the same salary plus any increments that may be authorized by the Board, and the term of reemployment shall be one (1) year, unless the individual has been employed as an administrator by the District for three (3) years or more in which case the reemployment shall be for a term of two (2) years.

[] Any administrator's intentional misstatement of fact material to qualifications for employment or reemployment, or to the determination of salary, shall be considered by this Board to constitute grounds for dismissal.

[] All administrators shall become familiar with the policies of the Board and other such guidelines, regulations, memoranda, bulletins, and handbooks that pertain to their duties in the District. Any administrator employed by the Board who shall be guilty of any willful violation of the policies of the Board shall be guilty of gross insubordination and shall be subject to dismissal or such lesser penalty as the Board may prescribe.

Except by mutual agreement of the parties thereto, no administrator shall be transferred during the term of his/her contract to a position of lesser responsibility. Furthermore, no contract may be terminated or suspended except in accordance with State law.

The Superintendent shall prepare administrative guidelines for the recruitment and selection of administrative staff.

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1530 - **EVALUATION OF DIRECTORS AND OTHER ADMINISTRATORS**

Application

This policy shall apply to all persons employed by the Board of Education in a position requiring licensure as an administrator. This definition excludes school counselors but includes professional pupil services personnel and administrative specialists (or equivalent positions) who spend less than fifty percent (50%) of their time teaching or otherwise working directly in the presence of students.

This policy shall also apply to all persons employed in positions not requiring administrative licensure, but whose job duties enable them to be considered either a "supervisor" or "management level employee" as defined in R.C. 4117.01.

Procedures

General Requirements

The Superintendent shall implement a program of regular evaluation for all administrative personnel which includes the following elements:

- A. The evaluation process shall fairly attempt to measure the administrator's effectiveness in performing the duties set forth in his/her job description.
- B. A written evaluation document shall be produced for each evaluation. Each administrator shall be evaluated at least once annually.
- C. The evaluation shall be conducted by the Superintendent or his/her designee (such designation may be oral or in writing) prior to the Board's consideration of contract renewal or non-renewal, the Superintendent shall review the results of the evaluation process with the Board.

Specific Requirements for Building Directors and Assistant Directors

In addition to the above, procedures for the evaluation of District building directors and assistant directors will be based upon comparable standards as set forth in the policy adopted by the Board for the evaluation of teachers pursuant to R.C. 3319.111,

~~() which adopts the Ohio Teacher Evaluation System (OTES)~~

but tailored to address the duties and responsibilities of building directors and assistant directors and the environment in which they work. The Superintendent is authorized to develop administrative guidelines for the procedural and substantive evaluation of building directors and assistant directors consistent with this policy and State law.

() and is further authorized to access the Ohio Principal Evaluation System (OPES) model as a resource in the development and maintenance of an evaluation process, ~~which is weighted equally on student growth measures and performance on the standards of the profession for directors and assistant directors.~~

Evaluation Instruments

The Superintendent may, in his/her discretion, utilize a single evaluation instrument for all administrative positions, instruments particularized for each position, or a combination of both types of instruments.

Evaluation instruments shall be developed and/or utilized by the Superintendent as s/he may determine in his/her best professional judgment and may be modified from time-to-time by the Superintendent in the exercise of such professional judgment. Specific Board approval of the evaluation instruments or modifications to such instruments shall not be required.

Basis for Evaluation

Each evaluation shall fairly attempt to measure the administrator's effectiveness in performing the duties of his/her job description.

Evaluations may be based upon the direct formal observations of the administrator, but may also consider informal or incidental observations and other relevant information which is within the knowledge of or brought to the attention of the evaluator. Out-of-school conduct may be considered if such conduct impairs the individual's effectiveness as an administrator or as a role model for students and staff.

Observations and Conferences

A pre-evaluation conference may be conducted if deemed necessary or advisable by the evaluator.

Formal observations may be made of the administrator, either announced or unannounced, but shall not be a required element of the evaluation process except for directors and assistant directors, who are subject to OPES. Whether formal observations are deemed appropriate to other administrative positions shall be determined by the evaluator on a case-by-case basis.

Following any formal observations and/or gathering of other evaluative data, and before finalizing any evaluation report, the evaluator shall arrange a post-evaluation conference at which the results of the evaluation process are discussed with the administrator. To the extent that any weaknesses or deficiencies have been identified in the evaluation process, the evaluator shall offer suggestions for improvement. Identified weaknesses and suggestions for improvement shall be identified in the evaluation report, but shall not be a required element of any evaluation. However, for Directors and assistant directors, the requirements of OPES shall apply in determining the need for growth and/or improvement plans.

A final written evaluation report shall be produced in a manner deemed appropriate by the evaluator, in consultation with the administrator. This evaluation report may be combined with the evaluation instruments, or may be a separate document. The evaluation report shall be signed and dated by the administrator and the evaluator at the conclusion of the post-evaluation conference. The signature of the administrator shall not necessarily indicate that s/he agrees with the evaluator's comments or conclusions, but only that s/he has been made aware of such comments or conclusions. A copy of the evaluation report shall be provided to the administrator.

~~The final evaluation report for an administrator in the last year of his/her contract shall include the Superintendent's intended recommendation to the Board concerning the renewal or non-renewal of the contract.~~

Number and Timing of Evaluations

A. Administrator Not in Final Year of Contract

An administrator not in the final year of his/her contract shall be evaluated at least once during the school year. A written copy of the evaluation report shall be provided to the administrator no later than the end of the administrator's contract year as defined by the administrator's annual salary notice.

B. Administrator in Final Year of Contract

An administrator whose contract is due to expire at the conclusion of the current school year shall have at least one (1) preliminary evaluation and one (1) final evaluation during such year. A written copy of the preliminary evaluation report shall be provided to the administrator at least sixty (60) days prior to any Board action on the renewal or non-renewal of the contract. A written copy of the final evaluation report shall be provided to the administrator at least five (5) days prior to any Board action on the renewal or non-renewal of the contract.

The final evaluation for an administrator in the last year of his/her contract shall include the Superintendent's intended recommendation to the Board concerning the renewal or non-renewal of the contract. The Board will consider the evaluation results when deciding whether to renew or not renew an administrator's contract.

Meeting with Board

Each administrator shall be provided the opportunity to meet with the Board in executive session prior to the Board's action on his/her contract. In this meeting, the Board shall discuss its reasons for considering the renewal or non-renewal of the contract. The administrator may be accompanied by a representative of his/her choosing at the meeting. However, no witnesses or other persons may appear with or on behalf of the administrator without the express permission of the Board.

Written notice of the right to have such a meeting with the Board shall be provided in accordance with law to each administrator whose contract is expiring at the conclusion of the current school year.

Written Rebuttal

The administrator may, at any time following the receipt of an evaluation report, submit a written rebuttal, not to exceed three (3) pages in length, which shall be promptly attached to the evaluation report and any copies of the evaluation report which are retained in the District's records or submitted to the Board for its consideration.

Legal Effect

This policy and the procedures contained herein shall not create a legal expectancy of continued employment or a property interest in continued employment, and shall not be deemed a part of any individual administrator's contract or otherwise a contractual obligation of the Board.

To the extent that any of the procedures contained herein exceed the requirements of Ohio law, such procedures shall not be construed as a pre-condition to contract non-renewal and shall not prevent the Board from proceeding with a contract non-renewal which otherwise satisfies the minimum requirements of Ohio law.

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Legal

R.C. 3319.02, 3319.111, 3319.112, 4117.01

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2270 - **RELIGION IN THE CURRICULUM**

Based on the First Amendment protection against the establishment of religion in the schools, no Board employee will promote religion in the classroom or in the District's curriculum, or compel or pressure any student to participate in devotional exercises. Displays of a religious character must conform with Policy 8800 () and AG 8800A, AG 8800B, AG 8800C. Instructional activities shall not be permitted to advance or inhibit any particular religion or religion generally.

An understanding of religions and their effects on civilization is essential to the thorough education of young people and to their appreciation of a pluralistic society. To that end, curriculum

~~() shall be developed to include~~

(x) may include

as appropriate to the various ages and attainments of the students, instruction about the religions of the world.

The Board acknowledges the degree to which a religious consciousness has permeated the arts, literature, music, and issues of morality. The instructional and resource materials approved for use in the District's schools frequently contain religious references or concern moral issues that have traditionally been the focus of religious concern. That such materials may be religious in nature shall not, by itself, bar their use in the District. The Board directs that professional staff members employing such materials be neutral in their approach and avoid using them to advance or inhibit religion in any way.

The Board recognizes that religious traditions vary in their perceptions and doctrines regarding the natural world and its processes. The curriculum is chosen for its place in the education of the District's students, not for its conformity to religious principles. Students should receive unbiased instruction in the schools so they may privately accept or reject the knowledge thus gained, in accordance with their own religious tenets.

Accordingly, no student shall be exempted from attendance in a required course of study on the grounds that the instruction therein interferes with the free exercise of his/her religion. However, if after careful, personal review of the program's lessons and/or materials, a parent indicates to the school that either the content or activities conflict with his/her religious beliefs or value system, the school will honor a written request for his/her child to be excused from () a particular class period () particular class periods for specified reasons. The student will be provided with alternate learning activities during the times of such parent requested absence.

No classroom teacher shall be prohibited from providing reasonable periods of time for activities of a moral, philosophical, or patriotic theme. No student shall be required to participate in such activities if they are contrary to the religious convictions of the student or his/her parents or guardians.

[.] Students shall not be prohibited from engaging in religious expression in the completion of homework, artwork, or other written or oral assignments. Such assignments will be graded in the same manner as any other assignments. Students will neither be penalized nor rewarded based on the religious content of the student's work.

The Board acknowledges that it may not adopt any policy or rule respecting or promoting an establishment of religion or prohibiting any student from the free, individual, and voluntary exercise or expression of the student's religious beliefs. ~~However, such exercise or expression may be limited to lunch periods or other noninstructional time periods when students are free to associate.~~

See Reference: Policy 8800
See References: AGs 8800 A-C

U.S. Const. Amend. 1
R.C. 3313.601, [3320.01](#), [3320.02](#), [3320.03](#)

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Legal	U.S. Consti. Amend. 1
	R.C. 3313.601, 3320.01, 3320.02, 3320.03

Book	Policy Manual
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Title	Vol. 39, No. 1 - August 2020 Revised INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS
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~~2431~~ **INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS**

~~The Board of Education recognizes the value to the students of the District and to the community of a program of interscholastic athletics for students as an integral part of the total school experience.~~

~~[] The program should foster the growth of school loyalty within the student body as a whole and stimulate community interest in athletics.~~

~~[] The game activities and practice sessions should provide many opportunities to teach the values of competition and good sportsmanship.~~

~~[] The program of interscholastic athletics should provide students the opportunity to exercise and test their athletic abilities in a context greater and more varied than that which can be offered by a school or the School District alone. It should also offer an opportunity for career and educational development.~~

~~For purposes of this policy, the program of interscholastic athletics shall include all activities relating to competitive sport contests, games, events, or sport exhibitions involving individual students or teams of students of this District with those of another district.~~

~~[] The Board shall approve annually a program of interscholastic athletics.~~

~~The Board shall determine the standards of eligibility to be met by all students participating in the interscholastic program. Such standards shall require that each student be in good physical condition, be free of injury, and have fully recovered from illness before participating in any interscholastic athletic event.~~

~~No student may practice or compete in interscholastic athletics until the student submits a form signed by his/her parent or guardian, or by a person having care or charge of the student, affirming that each has received a concussion and head injury information sheet as prepared by the Ohio Department of Health. See Form 2431 F1 and Form 2431 F2.~~

~~In addition to the eligibility requirements established by the Ohio High School Athletic Association, to be eligible for any interscholastic extra-curricular activity, a student~~

~~(-)~~ must have maintained at least a _____ grade point average and

~~(-)~~ must not have received a failing grade in any course

OR

~~(-)~~ may have received a failing grade in a course

for the _____ ~~(-) semester(s) (-) grading period prior to the (-) semester (-) grading period~~ in which s/he wishes to participate.

[DRAFTING NOTE: The Board also may adopt rules that include additional standards for determining the eligibility of students to participate in interscholastic extracurricular activities, requirements for attaining reeligibility in interscholastic extracurricular activities]

Students educated at home or enrolled in a nonpublic school who are permitted to participate on a District interscholastic team must fulfill the same academic, nonacademic, and financial requirements as any other participant. See Policy 9270.

~~[] An exception may be made by the Director if the student has been participating in an intervention program and has shown satisfactory progress toward achieving the minimum grade point average.~~

~~If a student who becomes ineligible under these standards improves his/her grade point average during the current () semester () grading period to meet the eligibility standard, s/he may be reinstated~~

~~() at the beginning of the next () semester () grading period.~~

~~() after _____ more () semester(s) () grading period(s) with an acceptable grade point average.~~

~~() and no failing grades.~~

~~[] Restoration of an "Incomplete" Grade~~

~~If a student's failure to meet the academic eligibility requirements is due to an "incomplete" grade given in one or more courses which the student was taking during the grading period in question, the student may have his/her eligibility restored once the "incomplete" has been changed to a passing letter grade provided:~~

- ~~A. the failure to complete the required coursework during the grading period was due to calamity day(s), family tragedy, or illness or accident as verified by a physician; and~~
- ~~B. the "incomplete" was given in accordance with Board of Education grading policies and procedures and is applicable to all students in the school; and~~
- ~~C. the previously scheduled work and/or exams is/are completed within the time period provided in Board policy for completing work required to convert an "incomplete" into a letter grade; and~~
- ~~D. there is no evidence that the "incomplete" was given in order to afford the student extended time in order to provide the student tutoring or other educational services simply to avoid a failing grade.~~

~~Specific documentation of criteria listed above (Items A-D) must be submitted to the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) (See AG 2431) in order to be considered by the Executive Director for such a ruling.~~

~~[DRAFTING NOTE: This exception only applies where an "incomplete" has been issued and not a letter grade that is subsequently changed as a result of the extended time/additional work. In order to be considered for this exception, specific documentation as listed in OHSAA Bylaw 4-4-1 (See AG 2431) must be provided to the OHSAA. The student may have his/her eligibility restored by the Executive Director's office once the "incomplete" has been changed to a passing letter grade. If the District does NOT have a Board Policy on the Restoration of an Incomplete to a Grade or did not have a policy when this exception was requested, the student shall not be able to avail him/herself of this exception.]~~

~~[] These same eligibility standards shall apply to all other co-curricular and extra-curricular activities sponsored by the District. (See Policy 2430)~~

~~Students identified as disabled under R.C. 3323 and the IDEA are subject to the eligibility standards established by this policy unless specifically exempted by the express terms of their individualized education program (IEP). An IEP can specify the criteria by which a grade will be determined for (a) course(s), given the student's individualized disability.~~

~~[] Any student who has not made a passing score on all required sections of the State mandated tests after _____ () attempts shall be ineligible to participate in athletics.~~

~~[Note: The following should be selected, if at all, only if the District provides intervention programs to help students pass the proficiency tests at times that would conflict with practice.]~~

~~[] The Board believes a student who has not passed these tests would be better served by using the time that s/he would be participating in his/her interscholastic sport to participate in one or more of the District's programs for assisting students to pass the required tests.~~

~~[] However, if a parent believes that his/her child may be unduly affected by his/her lack of participation in a particular sport, s/he may come to the school and sign a waiver that will release the student from this proficiency test eligibility rule and allow him/her to participate in a particular sport. The parent shall be informed, prior to signing the waiver, that State law does not allow a student to receive a high school diploma unless s/he has passed all State testing requirements.~~

Since the primary purpose of the athletic program is to enhance the education of participating students as indicated in this policy, the Board places top priority on maximum student participation and the values of good sportsmanship and fair play.

~~[] The Board further adopts those eligibility standards set by the Constitution of the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) that are consistent with State and Federal law, and shall review such standards annually to ascertain that they continue to be in conformity with the objectives of this Board.~~

~~No student shall be excused from a class or supervised study for an extended period of time to participate in interscholastic athletics.~~

~~[] The Board further directs that only those students may participate in the program of interscholastic athletics who have:~~

- ~~A. () maintained a satisfactory academic record;~~
- ~~B. () attended school regularly;~~
- ~~C. () demonstrated good citizenship and responsibility;~~
- ~~D. () returned all school and athletic equipment;~~
- ~~E. () refrained from participation in a contest on a noninterscholastic team, or as an individual in the same sport during the school's season.~~

~~The Superintendent shall annually prepare, approve, and present to the Board for its consideration, a program of interscholastic athletics which shall~~

~~() include a complete schedule of events.~~

~~() and shall inform the Board of changes in that schedule as they occur.~~

~~() and shall secure board approval before making any changes in the said schedule.~~

~~In order to minimize health and safety risks to student athletes and maintain ethical standards, school personnel, coaches, athletic trainers, and lay coaches shall not dispense, supply, recommend, or permit the use of any drug, medication, or food supplement solely for performance enhancing purposes. The Superintendent shall cause to be posted in all locker rooms in buildings that include students in any grade higher than the sixth grade, the following:~~

~~"Warning: Improper use of anabolic steroids may cause serious or fatal health problems, such as heart disease, stroke, cancer, growth deformities, infertility, personality changes, severe acne, and baldness. Possession, sale, or use of anabolic steroids without a valid prescription is a crime punishable by a fine and imprisonment."~~

~~The Superintendent shall develop appropriate administrative guidelines for the operation of the Athletic Program and a Code of Conduct for those who participate. Such guidelines should provide for the following safeguards:~~

- ~~A. () Prior to enrolling in the sport,~~
 - ~~() each participant shall submit to a thorough physical examination by a District approved physician;~~
 - ~~() parents shall report any past or current health problems along with a physician's statement that any such problems have or are being treated and pose no threat to the student's participation.~~
- ~~B. () Any student who is found to have a health condition which may be life threatening to self or others shall not be allowed to participate until the situation has been analyzed by a medical review panel that has determined the conditions under which the student may participate. The District shall assume no liability for any student with a health condition who has been authorized to play by the parents and their physician but not by the District.~~
- ~~C. () Any student who incurs an injury requiring a physician's care is to have the written approval of a physician prior to the student's return to participation.~~
- ~~D. () Any student practicing for or competing in an interscholastic event who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with having sustained a concussion or head injury shall be removed from the practice or competition by the student's coach (and/or the referee serving during the practice or competition).~~

Any student who has been removed from practice or competition by a coach or referee because s/he has exhibited signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with having sustained a concussion or head injury shall not be permitted to return to any practice or competition for which the coach or referee is responsible until both of the following occur:

1. The student's condition is assessed by a physician () or other health care provider authorized by the Board, in accordance with requirements set forth in R.C. 3313.539(E)(2), to assess such a student.
2. The student receives written clearance that it is safe to return to practice or competition from a physician () or other health care provider authorized by the Board, in accordance with requirements set forth in R.C. 3313.539(E)(2), to grant a such a clearance.

~~[]~~ The Superintendent is also to develop guidelines for ensuring that sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity characterize the manner in which the athletic program is conducted and the actions of students who participate. Such guidelines should include:

- A. ~~()~~ criteria for judging these important qualities;
- B. ~~()~~ procedures by which these values will be communicated to students, parents, and supporters;
- C. ~~()~~ means for monitoring the behavior of each of these groups to ensure their behavior reflects high standards.

~~[]~~ The guidelines should also provide a set of behavioral expectations for each type of participant as well as a Sportsmanship Code of Conduct which each type of participant is to follow. The Superintendent is authorized to implement suitable disciplinary procedures against those who violate this Sportsmanship Code.

Students will be further informed that participation in interscholastic sports is a privilege and not a right, and that they may be prohibited from all or part of their participation in such activities by authorized school personnel without further notice, hearing and/or appeal rights (See Policy 5610.05—Prohibition From Extra-Curricular Activities).

In order to support the High School Athletic Association's program to strengthen sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity, the Board commits itself to:

- A. ~~()~~ adopt policies (upon recommendation of the administration) which reflect the District's educational objectives and promote the ideals of good sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity;
- B. ~~()~~ establish standards for athletic participation which reinforce the concept that athletic activities are a privilege, not a right;
- C. ~~()~~ attend and enjoy school athletic activities, serving as a positive role model and expecting the same from parents, fans, participants, coaches, and other school personnel;
- D. ~~()~~ support and reward participants, coaches, school administrators, and fans who display good sportsmanship;
- E. ~~()~~ recognize the value of school athletic activities as a vital part of education.

No student will be denied the opportunity to participate in interscholastic athletics offered by a school in the District because the student has or is participating in college credit plus program as long as the student fulfills all academic, nonacademic and financial requirements.

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3124 - **EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT**

It will be the responsibility of the Superintendent to ensure that all members of the professional staff execute a written employment contract in accordance with the legal requirements related to their position in the District.

~~Initial employment contracts for administrators may not exceed three (3) years in duration; following three (3) years of District employment, the term of subsequent contracts shall be no less than two (2) years nor more than five (5). Contracts will be automatically renewed for a period of two (2) years if the Board does not act upon renewal. If the Superintendent so recommends, the term of the contract of a person who has been employed by the School District as an Assistant Superintendent, Director, Assistant Director, or other administrator for three (3) or more years, may be one (1) year, but all subsequent contracts shall be not less than two (2) years or more than five (5) years.~~

The Superintendent is authorized to execute employment contracts for the Board upon approval of employment.

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Legal R.C. 3319.02, 3319.08, 3319.11

Book	Policy Manual
Section	Vol. 39 No. 1 UPDATES
Title	Vol. 39, No. 1 - August 2020 Revised ATTENDANCE
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5200 - **ATTENDANCE**

The educational program offered by this District is predicated upon the presence of the student and requires continuity of instruction and classroom participation. Attendance shall be required of all students enrolled in the schools during the days and hours that the school is in session.

☒ or during the attendance sessions to which s/he has been assigned.

A student in grades 9 through 12 may be considered a full-time equivalent student provided the student is enrolled in at least five (5) units of instruction, as defined by State law, per school year.

In accordance with statute, the Superintendent shall require, from the parent of each student of compulsory school age or from an adult student who has been absent from school or from class for any reason, a () written **[END OF OPTION]** statement of the cause for such absence. The Board of Education reserves the right to verify such statements and to investigate the cause of each single absence or prolonged absence.

☐ The Board considers the following factors to be reasonable excuses for time missed at school:

- A. personal illness (a written physician's statement verifying the illness may be required)
- B. [appointment with a health care provider](#)
- C. illness in the family necessitating the presence of the child
- D. quarantine of the home
- E. death in the family
- F. necessary work at home due to absence or incapacity of parent(s)/guardian(s)
- G. observation or celebration of a bona fide religious holiday
- H. out-of-state travel (up to a maximum twenty-four (24) hours per school year that the student's school is open for instruction) to participate in a District-approved enrichment or extracurricular activity

Any classroom assignment missed due to the absence shall be completed by the student.

If the student will be absent for twenty-four (24) or more consecutive hours that the student's school is open for instruction, a classroom teacher shall accompany the student during the travel period to provide the student with instructional assistance.

- I. such good cause as may be acceptable to the Superintendent
- J. medically necessary leave for a pregnant student in accordance with Policy 5751

K. (X) service as a precinct officer at a primary, special or general election in accordance with the program set forth in Policy 5725

[X] Attendance need not always be within the school facilities, but a student will be considered to be in attendance if present at any place where school is in session by authority of the Board.

[X] The Board shall consider each student assigned to a program of other guided learning experiences to be in regular attendance for the program provided that s/he reports to such staff member s/he is assigned for guidance at the place in which s/he is conducting study, and regularly demonstrates progress toward the objectives of the course of study.

[X] The Superintendent may excuse a student over fourteen (14) years of age from attendance at school for a future limited period for the purpose of performing essential work directly or exclusively for his/her parents or guardians. Such excuse should not exceed five (5) days and may at the discretion of the Superintendent be renewed for five (5) additional days. At no time, however, shall such excuse cause a student to be absent from school for a period of more than ten (10) consecutive days.

At the discretion of the Superintendent ~~or his/her designee~~, a student may be excused for a longer period of time than ten (10) days if a child's parent or guardian has recently died or become totally or partially incapacitated and there is no older brother or sister living in the home who is out of school. (The Superintendent may request a certificate of a physician attesting to the physical condition of the parent or guardian.)

~~[] Attendance shall be taken at the beginning of every block/period in buildings with block/period based scheduling. Absences from a class block/period shall be accounted for to the nearest full hour.~~

~~[] Attendance shall be taken at the commencement of the school day in buildings with non-period based schedules. Attendance for students arriving late or leaving early must be tracked and recorded to the nearest full hour.~~

Contacting the Parent/Guardian of an Absent Student

When a parent, guardian, or other person having care of a student has failed to initiate a telephone call or other communication notifying the school or building administration of the student's excused or unexcused absence within 120 minutes after the beginning of the school day, the attendance officer or designee for each school building shall make at least one (1) attempt to contact the parent, guardian, or other person having care of any student who is recorded as absent without legitimate excuse within 120 minutes after the beginning of each school day by a method designated by the Superintendent in accordance with Ohio law (see AG 5200).

Excessive Absences

When a student of compulsory school age is absent from school with combined nonmedical excused absences and unexcused absences in excess of thirty-eight (38) or more hours in one (1) school month, or sixty-five (65) or more hours in a school year, that student is considered "excessively absent" from school. The District or school shall notify the child's parent or guardian of the child's absences, in writing, within seven (7) school days after the date of the absence that triggered the notice requirement. At the same time written notice is given, any appropriate intervention action listed herein may be taken.

The following "medical excuses" will not count toward a student's excessive absence hours: (1) personal illness; (2) illness in the family necessitating the presence of the child; (3) quarantine of the home; (4) health care provider appointments (doctor, dentist, mental health provider, etc.); (5) medically-necessary leave for a pregnant student in accordance with Policy 5751; (6) death in the family; or (7) other set of circumstances the Superintendent deems on a case-by-case basis to be a good and sufficient cause for medical absence from school. [DRAFTING NOTE: Use the last option to permit an excused medical absence for student mental health (e.g., school phobia, anxiety, emotional disability) or for students whose chronic conditions could be impacted by recognized pandemic/epidemic (COVID-19) or other causes. Document the reason for the medical excuse.]

A medically excused absence occurs any time a student is out of school due to illness or medical visit (physician, dentist, mental health, etc.). A medical excuse for personal illness will be accepted in the form of doctor's note within (X) five (5) () school days of the absence or parent call-in on the day of the absence due to illness or doctor's visit. A student may have up to () ten (10) () medically excused absences without a doctor's note, but with a phone call from a parent/guardian. For the 2020-2021, medical excuse absences will be accepted through this process for students participating both in-person and remotely. This policy will be extended beyond () ten (10) () days if the student or someone in the student's family is in quarantine due to recognized pandemic/epidemic (e.g., COVID-19) or experiencing symptoms of the pandemic/epidemic.

Habitually Truant

A student will be considered habitually truant if the student is of compulsory school age and absent without a legitimate excuse for thirty (30) or more consecutive hours, for forty-two (42) or more hours in one (1) school month, or for seventy-two (72) or

more hours in one (1) school year.

Legitimate excuses for the absence of a student who is otherwise habitually truant include but are not limited to:

- A. the student was enrolled in another school district;
- B. the student was excused from attendance in accordance with R.C. 3321.04; or
- C. the student has received an age and schooling certificate.

Absence Intervention Team

[DRAFTING NOTE: A school district with a chronic absenteeism percentage that is less than five percent (5%), as displayed on the district's most recent report card, and the school buildings within that district, shall be exempt from the following requirement to assign habitually truant students to an absence intervention team for the following school year and shall instead take any appropriate action as an intervention strategy listed in this policy. Should those intervention strategies fail, within sixty-one (61) days after their implementation, the attendance officer shall determine whether criteria are met to file a complaint against the student in juvenile court, and if so, shall file the complaint. The language "to the extent required by law as determined on an annual basis" refers to this exemption.]

To the extent required by law as determined on an annual basis, within ten (10) days of a student becoming habitually truant, the ~~(-) Superintendent~~ **(X) Assistant** Director shall assign the student to an absence intervention team.

Within fourteen (14) school days after the assignment of a student to an absence intervention team, the team shall develop an intervention plan for that student in an effort to reduce or eliminate further absences. Each intervention plan shall vary based on the individual needs of the student, but the plan shall state that the attendance officer shall file a complaint not later than sixty-one (61) days after the date the plan was implemented, if the child has refused to participate in, or failed to make satisfactory progress on, the intervention plan. Within seven (7) school days after the development of the plan, reasonable efforts shall be made to provide the student's parent/guardian/custodian, with written notice of the plan.

~~[-] As part of the absence intervention plan, the (-) Superintendent (-) Director may, in his/her discretion contact the appropriate juvenile court and ask to have a student informally enrolled in any alternative to adjudication described in R.C. 2151.27(G).~~ **[DRAFTING NOTE: Any school that chooses this option must develop a written policy regarding the use of, and selection process for, offering alternatives to adjudication to ensure fairness.]**

Each absence intervention team may vary based on the needs of each individual student but shall include a representative from the child's building, another representative from the child's building who knows the child, and the child's parent or parent's designee, or the child's guardian, custodian, guardian ad litem, or temporary custodian. The team also may include a ~~(-) school psychologist,~~ **(X) counselor,** ~~(-) social worker, or (-) representative of a public or nonprofit agency~~ designed to assist students and their families in reducing absences. **[DRAFTING NOTE: Schools must obtain written permission to release confidential information about a student to third parties, such as a representative of an outside agency on an intervention team.]**

The members of the absence intervention team shall be selected within seven (7) school days of the student meeting the habitually truant threshold. Within the same period of seven (7) school days, the ~~(-) Superintendent~~ **(X) Assistant** Director shall make at least three (3) meaningful, good faith attempts to secure the participation of the student's parent/guardian/custodian, guardian ad litem, or temporary custodian on that team. A good faith attempt to secure the participation of the parent shall include, but not be limited to, contacting (or attempting to contact) the parent by telephone, email, or regular mail. If the student's parent responds to any of those attempts, but is unable to participate for any reason, the ~~(-) Superintendent~~ **(X) Assistant** Director shall inform the parent of the parent's right to appear by designee. If seven (7) school days elapse and the student's parent/guardian/custodian, guardian ad litem, or temporary custodian fails to respond to the attempts to secure participation, the attendance officer shall investigate whether the failure to respond triggers mandatory abuse or neglect reporting to the public children services agency. At the same time, the absence intervention team shall continue to develop an intervention plan for the child notwithstanding the absence of the child's parent/guardian/custodian, guardian ad litem, or temporary custodian.

Intervention Strategies

In order to address the attendance practices of a student who is habitually truant, the intervention team may, as part of an intervention plan, take any of the following intervention actions:

- A. ☒ provide counseling to the student
- B. ☒ request or require the student's parent to attend a parental involvement program
- C. ☒ request or require a parent to attend a truancy prevention mediation program
- D. ☒ notify the Registrar of Motor Vehicles of the student's absences
- E. ☒ take appropriate legal action
- F. ☐ assignment to an alternative school **[DRAFTING NOTE: If the District has established an alternative school, it must appear as an alternative intervention strategy.]**

In the event that a student becomes habitually truant within twenty-one (21) school days prior to the last day of instruction of a school year, the ~~() Superintendent~~ ☒ Assistant Director may, in his/her discretion, assign the Assistant Director **[one (1) school official]** to work with the child's parent/guardian/custodian, guardian ad litem, or temporary custodian to develop an absence intervention plan during the summer.

~~[] The plan shall be implemented not later than seven (7) days prior to the first day of instruction of the next school year.~~

OR

☒ The absence intervention process shall commence upon the first day of instruction of the next school year.

Reporting Requirements

The attendance officer shall file a complaint in the juvenile court against a student on the sixty-first (61st) day after the implementation of an absence intervention plan or other intervention strategies, provided that all of the following apply:

- A. The student is habitually truant.
- B. The school district or school has made meaningful attempts to re-engage the student through the absence intervention plan, other intervention strategies, and any offered alternatives to adjudication, if applicable.
- C. The student has refused to participate in or failed to make satisfactory progress on the plan, as determined by the absence intervention team, or any offered intervention strategies or alternative to adjudication.

If the student, at any time during the implementation phase of the absence intervention plan or other intervention strategies, is absent without legitimate excuse for thirty (30) or more consecutive hours or forty-two (42) or more hours in one school month, the attendance officer shall file a complaint in juvenile court against that student, unless the absence intervention team has determined that the student has made substantial progress on the absence intervention plan.

In the event that the sixty-first (61st) day after the implementation of the absence intervention plan or other intervention strategies falls on a day during the summer months, ☐ the absence intervention team ☐ the attendance officer may extend the implementation of the plan and delay the filing of the complaint for an additional thirty (30) days from the first day of instruction of the next school year.

The Superintendent is authorized to establish an educational program for parents of truant students which is designed to encourage parents to ensure that their children attend school regularly. Any parent who does not complete the program is to be reported to law enforcement authorities for parental education neglect, a fourth class misdemeanor if found guilty.

Whenever any student of compulsory school age has sixty (60) consecutive hours in a single month or a total of ninety (90) hours of unexcused absence from school during the school year, s/he will be considered habitually absent under R.C. 3321.13(b) (2). The Board authorizes the Superintendent to inform the student and his/her parents, guardian, or custodian of the record of absences without a legitimate excuse as well as the District's intent to notify the Registrar of Motor Vehicles, if appropriate, and the Judge of the Juvenile Court of the student's unexcused absences and habitually absent status. **[DRAFTING NOTE: The term "habitually absent" as used here refers to the level of unexcused absences that will trigger notice to the Registrar of Motor Vehicles and Juvenile Court Judge under R.C. 3321.13(B)(2). It is not to be confused with "excessively absent" or "habitually truant" as those terms are defined above.]**

[DRAFTING NOTE: A student is designated a habitual truant only through the measurement of unexcused absences. Schools must initiate intervention procedures for habitually truant students. If the interventions fail, the school must file a complaint against the habitually truant student in juvenile court. Excessive absenteeism is

marked by an accumulation of both excused and unexcused absences. Intervention strategies may be implemented for students designated excessively absent, but a notice to parents is required. No further action toward the excessively absent student is required unless the student becomes habitually truant. The parent notice is purely a warning that the child has missed an excessive amount of school hours, both with and without a legitimate excuse.]

If a student who is habitually truant violates the order of a juvenile court regarding the student's prior adjudication as an unruly child for being a habitual truant, s/he may further be adjudicated as a delinquent child.

The District shall report to the Ohio Department of Education, as soon as practicable, and in a format and manner determined by the Department, any of the following occurrences:

- A. when a notice that a student has been absent with or without legitimate excuse for thirty-eight (38) or more hours in one (1) school month, or sixty-five (65) or more hours in a school year is submitted to a parent/guardian/or custodian;
- B. when a child of compulsory school age has been absent without legitimate excuse from the public school the child is supposed to attend for thirty (30) or more consecutive hours, forty-two (42) or more hours in one school month, or seventy-two (72) or more hours in a school year;
- C. when a child of compulsory school age who has been adjudicated an unruly child for being a habitual truant violates the court order regarding that adjudication;
- D. when an absence intervention plan has been implemented for a child under this policy.

This policy was developed after consultation with the judge of the juvenile court of _____ County/Countries, with the parents, guardians, or other persons having care of the students attending school in the district, and with appropriate State and local agencies.

Tracking Remote Attendance for the 2020-2021 School Year

Consistent with the Remote Learning Plan submitted to the Ohio Department of Education, the District will provide a variety of instruction models, including both teacher-led remote learning and self-directed remote learning.

Student attendance in teacher-led remote learning (synchronous web-based instruction) shall be tracked in the same manner as hourly, in-person instruction. Teachers shall determine hourly attendance by evidence of student login and logoff data. (.) Teachers are encouraged to verify meaningful attendance in a method selected by the teacher, such as an ungraded quiz at the close of a lesson, a survey or poll questions (unrelated to the lesson and unpredictable) at the end of the lesson, or asking students questions at random throughout a session.

In addition to the reasons listed at the beginning of this policy, absences from teacher-led remote learning (synchronous web-based instruction) may be considered excused under the following circumstances, with (.) written [END OF OPTION] notice from a parent/guardian:

- A. (X.) temporary internet outage for individual students or households;
- B. (X.) unexpected technical difficulties for individual students or households, such as password resets or software upgrades occurring during a teacher-led remote learning lesson;
- C. (X.) computer/device malfunction;
- D. (X.) malfunction of a District-owned device for which the District is providing technical assistance, repair, or replacement.

Attendance in self-directed remote learning (asynchronous) shall be tracked by evidence of participation, which may include, but is not limited to:

- A. daily logins to learning management systems;
- B. daily interactions with the teacher to acknowledge attendance, which may include, but are not limited to, messages, emails, telephone calls, video chats or other formats that enable teachers to engage with students; and

C. assignment completion.

The teacher will determine the number of hours a typical student would take to complete an assignment and report those hours of attendance when the assignment is completed. A teacher (.) may (.) should adjust the number of hours of attendance based on the length of time the student actually spent on the assignment, as reported by the student, parent, or other person with knowledge. [DRAFTING NOTE: If a teacher knows that a regular education student or special education student took "significantly" longer (i.e., more than a de minimis additional amount of time) than the "typical" amount of time to complete an assignment, the student should be given additional attendance "credit." The administration will need to determine how it intends to verify the amount of time the student or parent reports it took the child to complete the assignment from the time a "typical" student would be expected to take to complete the assignment.]

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Legal

R.C. 3313.664, 3313.668, 3317.034, 3321.01 et seq., 3321.13(B)(2), 3321.19, 3321.191

R.C. 3321.22, 3321.38, 3323.041, 3331.05

A.C. 3301-35-03(G), 3301-47-01, 3301-69-02

Book	Policy Manual
Section	Vol. 39 No. 1 UPDATES
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5517.02 - **SEXUAL VIOLENCE**

The Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation or transgender identity), disability, age (except as authorized by law), religion, military status, ancestry, or genetic information (collectively, "Protected Classes") in its education programs and activities. The Board is committed to maintaining an education and work environment that is free from all forms of unlawful harassment, including sexual harassment.

Sexual harassment, including sexual violence, interferes with students' rights to receive an education free from discrimination, and, in the case of sexual violence, is a crime. Pursuant to its Title IX obligations, the Board is committed to eliminating sexual violence in all forms and will take appropriate action against any individual found responsible for violating this policy. To further its commitment against sexual violence, the Board provides reporting options, an investigative and disciplinary process, and other related services as appropriate.

This policy applies to all student complaints, whether filed by a student, his/her parent, an employee, or third party on the student's behalf. It applies to all District operations, programs, and activities, as well as to unlawful conduct occurring on school property or during a Board-sponsored activity. All students, administrators, teachers, staff, and all other school personnel share responsibility for avoiding, discouraging, and reporting any form of unlawful harassment.

Definitions

Sexual Harassment

As detailed further in Policy 5517, sexual harassment includes unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, nonverbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Sexual harassment may involve the behavior of a person of either gender against a person of the same or opposite gender.

Examples include, but are not limited to:

- A. unwelcome sexual propositions, invitations, solicitations, and flirtations;
- B. unwanted physical and/or sexual contact;
- C. threats or insinuations implying that a person's conditions of education may be adversely affected by not submitting to sexual advances;
- D. unwelcome sexual verbal expressions, including graphic sexual commentaries about a person's body, dress, appearance, or sexual activities; unwelcome sexually degrading language, jokes or innuendoes; unwelcome suggestive or insulting sounds or whistles; obscene telephone calls;
- E. sexually suggestive objects, pictures, videotapes, audio recordings or literature;
- F. unwelcome and inappropriate touching, patting, or pinching; obscene gestures;
- G. a pattern of conduct, which can be subtle in nature, that has sexual overtones and is intended to create or has the effect of creating discomfort and/or humiliation to another;

- H. speculations about a person's sexual activities or sexual history, or remarks about one's own sexual activities or sexual history;
- I. inappropriate boundary invasions into a student's personal space and personal life; and
- J. verbal, nonverbal or physical aggression, intimidation, or hostility based on sex or sex-stereotyping that does not involve conduct of a sexual nature.

Sexual Violence

Sexual violence, as used in this policy, refers to physical sexual acts perpetrated against a person’s will or where a person is incapable of giving consent (e.g., due to the student’s age, intellectual or other disability, or use of drugs or alcohol).

Sexual violence includes rape, sexual assault, sexual battery, sexual abuse, and sexual coercion. Sexual violence can be carried out by school employees, other students, or third parties. All such acts of sexual violence are forms of sexual harassment and, in turn, sex discrimination prohibited by Title IX.

Harassing conduct creates a hostile environment when it interferes with or limits a student’s ability to participate in or benefit from the school’s program. A single or isolated incident of sexual harassment may create a hostile environment if the incident is sufficiently severe. For example, a single instance of rape is sufficiently severe to create a hostile environment.

Anti-Harassment Compliance Officers

The Board designates the following individuals to serve as "Anti-Harassment Compliance Officers" for the District. They are hereinafter referred to as the "Compliance Officers."

[NOTE: For the complainant’s comfort, districts are advised to appoint both a male and a female Compliance Officer. The Compliance Officers may also serve as the District's Section 504/ADA and Title IX Coordinators.]

Kris Kowalski

(Name)

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(School District Title)

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(Telephone Number)

(Office Address)

(E mail Address)

The names, titles, and contact information of these individuals will be published annually:

- A. (X) in the student, parent, and staff handbooks.
- B. () in the School District Annual Report to the public.
- C. (X) on the School District's web site.
- D. () on each individual school's web site.
- E. () in the School District's calendar.
- F. () _____.

The Compliance Officers are available during regular school/work hours to discuss Title IX questions, sexual violence concerns, and to assist students, other members of the School District community, and third parties. Compliance Officers shall accept sexual violence complaints directly from any members of the School District community or a visitor to the District, as well as those initially filed within a school building administrator. Upon receiving a complaint, the Compliance Officer or designee will discuss confidentiality issues with the complainant (and his/her parent, if the complainant is a minor), and open an investigation as described below.

Complaint Procedures

Reporting

Students and Board employees are required, and parents, community members, and third parties are encouraged, to report sexual violence promptly to a teacher, administrator, supervisor, or other school official. Reports can be made orally or in writing and should be as specific as possible. The person making the report shall identify the alleged victim, perpetrator(s), and witness(es), and describe in detail what occurred, including date(s), time(s), and location(s). The District, however, will investigate and address all reports to the extent possible.

A student has a right to file criminal and/or Title IX complaints simultaneously. A student does not need to wait until the Title IX investigation is completed before filing a criminal complaint. Likewise, questions or complaints relating to sexual violence or any other Title IX concerns may also be filed with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights.

Any teacher, administrator, supervisor, or other school employee or official who receives such a complaint shall file it with the District's Compliance Officer within two (2) school days, and shall comply with his/her mandatory reporting responsibilities pursuant to R.C. 2151.412. The Compliance Officer will oversee the District's investigation and response to any Title IX-related complaints, but s/he may delegate the investigative process to another individual ("Designee"). The Board reserves the right to have the formal complaint investigation conducted by an external person in accordance with this policy.

Confidentiality

The District respects students' privacy and will only disclose information regarding alleged sexual violence to individuals who are responsible for handling the school's response, the student's parents (if the student is a minor or is considered a dependent under Section 152 of the Internal Revenue Code), or as otherwise required by law. During the course of a formal investigation, the Compliance Officer/designee will instruct all interviewees about the importance of maintaining confidentiality. Interviewees will be directed not to disclose any information that s/he learns or that s/he provides during the course of the investigation to third parties.

Students or their parents sometimes ask that the students' names not be disclosed to the alleged perpetrators or that no investigation or disciplinary action be pursued to address the alleged sexual violence. Upon such a request, the Compliance Officer/designee will inform the student and his/her parent that honoring the request may limit the District's ability to respond fully to the incident, including pursuing disciplinary action against the alleged perpetrator. The official will also explain that Title IX includes protections against retaliation and that school officials will not only take steps to prevent retaliation but also take strong responsive action if it occurs.

Should the student or his/her parents continue to request complete confidentiality, the Compliance Officer/designee will balance the student's privacy request with the District's obligation to provide a safe and non-discriminatory environment for all students. Should the official determine that the District can honor the student's or parent's request and remain in compliance with its Federal and State obligations, the District may limit its investigation and/or formal action against the alleged perpetrator. The District will, however, take other action to address the sexual violence. This may include increasing monitoring and security, offering schedule changes, and conducting climate surveys.

If the Compliance Officer/designee determines that the District must disclose the student's identity to an alleged perpetrator, s/he will inform the student and his/her parents prior to disclosure. The District will then afford interim protection measures to

the student as appropriate.

Investigation

The District is committed to investigating all sexual violence complaints in an adequate, reliable, impartial, and prompt manner. The investigation will seek to determine whether the conduct occurred, and if so, what actions the school will take to end the sexual violence, eliminate the hostile environment, prevent its recurrence, and remedy its effects.

The investigation may include:

- A. interviewing the complainant, perpetrator, and any witnesses;
- B. reviewing law enforcement investigation documents;
- C. reviewing student and personnel files;
- D. gathering and examining other relevant documents or evidence; and
- E. providing a disciplinary hearing as needed.

The District affords both parties a balanced and fair process. Specifically, the complainant has the same rights throughout the proceeding as the alleged perpetrator. Both parties, for example, will have an equal opportunity to present relevant witnesses and other evidence at a disciplinary hearing. Likewise, the District's appeal process is available to both parties. The District, however, does not require complainants to be present for the hearing or appeal. Further, the District will not permit parties to personally question or cross-examine each other directly.

[OPTION]

~~[] Additionally:~~

- A. ~~() The District permits both parties to have legal counsel or other advisors at any stage of the proceedings. Any restrictions on legal counsel participation apply to both parties equally.~~
- B. ~~() The District permits both parties to submit third party testimony.~~
- C. ~~() The District permits both parties to be present for the entire hearing, but it will not require the complainant and alleged perpetrator to be present in the same room at the same time.~~

~~[END OF OPTION]~~

In resolving a complaint, the District uses a preponderance of the evidence standard, determining whether it is more likely than not that sexual violence occurred.

Timeline

The Compliance Officer/designee must contact the student, if age eighteen (18) or older, or the student's parents if under the age eighteen (18), within two (2) school days after receipt of a report of sexual violence to advise s/he/them of the Board's intent to investigate the alleged misconduct. The Compliance Officer/designee will also inform the alleged perpetrator of the opportunity to submit a written response to the complaint within five (5) business days. The District's investigation, including a disciplinary hearing process (but not appeal), may take up to sixty (60) calendar days to complete. This timeframe may be extended on a case-by-case basis, depending on the complexity and severity of the matter, criminal investigation requirements, and school breaks. During this period, the District will provide the complainant with periodic updates on the status of the investigation.

Interim Measures

During the investigation, the District will take interim steps to facilitate the complainant's equal access to its education programs. These steps may include, but are not limited to: 1) notifying the complainant of his/her options to avoid contact with the alleged perpetrator; 2) allowing the complainant to change his/her academic, extracurricular, transportation, dining, and working situation as appropriate; and 3) informing complainant of other available resources, such as counseling, legal assistance, and victim advocacy. Specific interim measures will be considered and offered on a case-by-case basis.

Notice

Upon completing its investigation, the District will notify both parties in writing about the outcome of the complaint and any appeal. Specifically, the District will notify the complainant: 1) as to whether the investigation substantiated the allegations; 2) of individual remedies offered to the complainant; 3) of sanctions imposed on the perpetrator that directly relate to the complainant; and 4) other steps the District has taken to eliminate the hostile environment and prevent recurrence. The alleged perpetrator will be notified of the investigation's result and disciplinary consequence to him/her, if any. The District will not notify the alleged perpetrator about the individual remedies afforded to the complainant. All aforementioned notifications will comply with Federal and State privacy laws, including the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Remedies

The District will provide a prompt and equitable resolution. If the investigation substantiates the complaint, the District will take steps to end the sexual violence, eliminate the hostile environment, prevent its recurrence, and remedy its effects. In addition to imposing disciplinary consequences on the perpetrator, the District will consider the following individual and global remedies, on a case-by-case basis.

- A. providing medical, counseling, and academic support services to the complainant and/or perpetrator;
- B. re-arranging schedules at the complainant's request;
- C. affording the complainant extra time to complete or retake classes without academic penalty;
- D. reviewing any disciplinary proceedings against the complainant;
- E. training or retraining employees;
- F. developing materials on sexual violence;
- G. conducting sexual violence prevention programs; and
- H. conducting climate checks.

The District will not offer mediation in cases involving sexual violence. Disciplinary consequences against offenders may include suspension, expulsion, termination, and any other sanctions the Board deems appropriate. Any discipline meted out to offenders will comply with special education and Section 504 laws and regulations.

Appeals Process

Both complainants and perpetrators may appeal the outcome of the investigation. Any appeal opportunities afforded to the alleged perpetrator are also afforded to the complainant. Any party wishing to appeal the outcome of the investigation must submit a written appeal to the Board within ten (10) school days after receipt of the written notice of the outcome of the investigation. The Board shall, within twenty (20) work days, conduct a hearing concerning the appeal. The Board shall provide a written decision to the appealing individual within ten (10) work days following completion of the hearing.

Retaliation

Federal law strictly prohibits retaliation against a complainant or witness. The District will inform complainant of this prohibition and direct him/her to report retaliation, whether by students or school officials, to the Compliance Officer. Upon learning of retaliation, school officials will take strong responsive action as appropriate.

Training

All staff will be trained so they know to report harassment to appropriate school officials. This training will include practical information about how to identify and report sexual harassment, including sexual violence. The training will be provided to any employees likely to witness or receive complaints involving sexual harassment and/or sexual violence, including teachers, school law enforcement unit employees or school resource officers, school administrators, school counselors, and health personnel. Further, school administrators responsible for investigating allegations of sexual harassment and sexual violence will be trained on how to conduct such investigations and respond properly to such charges.

Retention of Investigatory Records and Materials

All individuals charged with conducting investigations under this policy shall retain all documents, electronically stored information ("ESI"), and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315) created and/or received as part of an investigation, which may include but not be limited to:

- A. all written reports/allegations/complaints/grievances/statements/responses pertaining to an alleged violation of this policy;
- B. any narratives that memorialize oral reports/allegations/complaints/grievances/statements/responses pertaining to an alleged violation of this policy;
- C. any documentation that memorializes the actions taken by District personnel related to the investigation and/or the District's response to the alleged violation of this policy;
- D. written witness statements;
- E. narratives, notes from, or audio, video, or digital recordings of witness interviews/statements;
- F. e-mails, texts, or social media posts that directly relate to or constitute evidence pertaining to an alleged violation of this policy (i.e., not after-the-fact commentary about or media coverage of the incident);
- G. notes or summaries prepared contemporaneously by the investigator in whatever form made (e.g., handwritten, keyed into a computer or tablet, etc.), but not including transitory notes whose content is otherwise memorialized in other documents;
- H. written disciplinary sanctions issued to students or employees and other documentation that memorializes oral disciplinary sanctions issued to students or employees for violations of this policy;
- I. dated written determinations/reports (including summaries of relevant exculpatory and inculpatory evidence) and other documentation that memorializes oral notifications to the parties concerning the outcome of the investigation, including any consequences imposed as a result of a violation of this policy;
- J. documentation of any interim measures offered and/or provided to complainants and/or the alleged perpetrators, including no contact orders issued to both parties, the dates the no contact orders were issued, and the dates the parties acknowledged receipt of the no contact orders;
- K. documentation of all actions taken, both individual and systemic, to stop the discrimination or harassment, prevent its recurrence, eliminate any hostile environment, and remedy its discriminatory effects;
- L. copies of the Board policy and/or procedures/guidelines used by the District to conduct the investigation, and any documents used by the District at the time of the alleged violation to communicate the Board's expectations to students and staff with respect to the subject of this policy (e.g., Student and/or Employee Handbooks or Codes of Conduct);
- M. copies of any documentation that memorializes any formal or informal resolutions to the alleged discrimination or harassment;

[DRAFTING NOTE: The following options should be selected if the district concludes that the following items are not adequately encompassed in the preceding paragraphs.]

- N. ~~()~~ documentation of any training provided to District personnel related to this policy, including but not limited to, notification of the prohibitions and expectations of staff set forth in this policy and the role and responsibility of all District personnel involved in enforcing this policy, including their duty to report alleged violations of this policy and/or conducting an investigation of an alleged violation of this policy; **[REMINDER: Documentation of training should be maintained regardless of whether there is an investigation of an alleged violation of this policy. It is best practice to maintain a log of all staff members who participate in a training, along with the date, time and location of the training, and a copy of the materials reviewed and/or presented during the training.]**
- O. ~~()~~ documentation that any rights or opportunities that the District made available to one party during the investigation were made available to the other party on equal terms;
- P. ~~()~~ copies of any notices sent to the alleged perpetrator/responding party of the allegations constituting a potential violation of this policy;
- Q. ~~()~~ copies of any notices sent to the complainant and alleged perpetrator in advance of any interview or hearing;

R. ~~()~~ copies of any documentation or evidence used during informal and formal disciplinary meetings and hearings, including the investigation report, and any written responses submitted by the complainant or the alleged perpetrator.

The documents, ESI, and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315) retained may include public records and records exempt from disclosure under Federal (e.g., FERPA, ADA) and/or State law (e.g., R.C. 3319.321) – e.g., student records and confidential medical records.

The documents, ESI, and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315) created or received as part of an investigation shall be retained in accordance with Policy 8310, Policy 8315, Policy 8320, and Policy 8330 for not less than three (3) years, but longer if required by the District's records retention schedule.

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Legal

20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq., Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX)

20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq., The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEIA)

42 U.S.C. 2000c et seq., Title IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.

42 U.S.C. 2000e et seq.

42 U.S.C. 1983

34 C.F.R. Part 106

Dear Colleague Letter on Sexual Violence (Office for Civil Rights, 2011)

OCR's Revised Sexual Harassment Guidance (2001)

Book	Policy Manual
Section	Vol. 39 No. 1 UPDATES
Title	Vol. 39, No. 1 - August 2020 Revised REMOVAL, SUSPENSION, EXPULSION, AND PERMANENT EXCLUSION OF STUDENTS
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Last Revised	June 17, 2019

5610 - **REMOVAL, SUSPENSION, EXPULSION, AND PERMANENT EXCLUSION OF STUDENTS**

The Board of Education recognizes that exclusion from the educational program of the schools, whether by emergency removal, out-of-school suspension, expulsion, or permanent exclusion, is the most severe sanction that can be imposed on a student in this District, and one that cannot be imposed without due process. However, the Board has zero tolerance of violent, disruptive or inappropriate behavior by its students.

No student is to be removed, suspended out-of-school, expelled and/or permanently excluded unless his/her behavior represents misconduct as specified in the Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code approved by the Board. The Code shall also specify the procedures to be followed by school officials when implementing such discipline. In determining whether a student is to be suspended or expelled, District Administrators shall use a preponderance of evidence standard. In addition to the procedural safeguards and definitions set forth in this policy and the student/parent handbook, additional procedures and considerations shall apply to students identified as disabled under the IDEA, ADA, and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. (See Policy 5605 - Suspension/Expulsion of Students with Disabilities.)

Students may be subject to discipline for violation of the Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code even if that conduct occurs on property not owned or controlled by the Board but where such conduct is connected to activities or incidents that have occurred on property owned or controlled by the Board, or conduct that, regardless of where it occurs, is directed at a District official or employee, or the property of such official or employee.

For purposes of this policy and the Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code, the following shall apply:

- A. "Emergency removal" shall be the exclusion of a student who poses a continuing danger to District property or persons in the District or whose behavior presents an on-going threat of disrupting the educational process provided by the District. (See Policy 5610.03 - Emergency Removal)
- B. "Suspension" shall be the temporary exclusion of a student by the Superintendent, Director, Assistant Director, or any other administrator from the District's instructional program for a period not to exceed ten (10) school days. Suspension shall not extend beyond the current school year if, at the time a suspension is imposed, fewer than ten (10) days remain in the school year.

[X] The Superintendent may instead require a student to participate in a community service program or another alternative consequence for a number of hours equal to the remaining part of the period of the suspension. The student shall be required to begin such community service program or alternative consequence during the first full week day of summer break.

[X] The Superintendent may develop a list of appropriate alternative consequences, and set forth such list in the applicable guidelines.

In the event the student fails to complete the required community service or the assigned alternative consequence, the Superintendent may determine the next course of action. Such course of action, however, shall not include requiring the student to serve the remaining time of the suspension at the beginning of the following year.

The procedures for suspension are set forth in the Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code and Policy 5611 - Due Process Rights.

A student who is suspended shall be permitted to complete any classroom assignments missed because of the suspension and receive at least partial credit for a completed assignment. Grade reductions on account of the student's suspension are permitted; however, no student may receive a failing grade on a completed assignment solely on account of his/her suspension.

[] The grade for a completed classroom assignment missed because of a suspension will be reduced by () ten percent (10%) () twenty-five percent (25%) () _____ percent. **[Drafting Note: Such reduction cannot result in an automatic failure on an otherwise perfect score assignment.]**

- C. "Expulsion" shall be the exclusion of a student from the schools of this District for a period not to exceed the greater of eighty (80) school days or the number of school days remaining in a semester or term in which the incident that gives rise to the expulsion takes place or for one (1) year as specifically provided in this policy and the Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code. Only the Superintendent may expel a student. The procedures for expulsion are set forth in the Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code and Board Policy 5611 "Due Process Rights".

When making a determination whether or not a student will be expelled or permanently excluded under this policy, the Superintendent shall retain all documents, electronically stored information ("ESI"), and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315 - Information Management (i.e. "Litigation Hold")) created and/or received as part of an investigation.

~~[.] The documents, ESI, and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315) retained may include public records and records exempt from disclosure under Federal (e.g., FERPA, ADA) and/or State law (e.g., R.C. 3319.321) — e.g., student records and confidential medical records.~~

~~[.] The documents, ESI, and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315) shall be retained in accordance with Policy 8310, Policy 8315, Policy 8320, and Policy 8330 for not less than three (3) years, but longer if required by the District's records retention schedule.~~

1. Firearm or Knife

Unless a student is permanently excluded from school, the Superintendent shall expel a student from school for a period of one (1) year for bringing a firearm or knife capable of causing serious bodily injury to a school building or on to any other property (including a school vehicle) owned, controlled, or operated by the Board, to an interscholastic competition, an extra-curricular event, or to any other school program or activity that is not located in a school or on property that is owned or controlled by the Board, except that the Superintendent may reduce this period on a case-by-case basis in accordance with this policy. Similarly, the Superintendent shall expel a student from school for a period of one (1) year for possessing a firearm or knife capable of causing serious bodily injury at school or on any other property (including a school vehicle) owned, controlled, or operated by the Board, at interscholastic competition, an extra-curricular event, or at any other school program or activity that is not located in a school or on property that is owned or controlled by the Board, except the Superintendent may reduce this period on a case-by-case basis in accordance with this policy. The expulsion may extend, as necessary, into the school year following the school year in which the incident that gives rise to the expulsion takes place. The Superintendent shall refer any student expelled for bringing a firearm (as defined in 18 U.S.C. 921(a)(3)) or weapon to school to the criminal justice or juvenile delinquency system serving the District.

A firearm is defined as any weapon, including a starter gun, which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive, the frame or receiver of any such weapon, any firearm muffler or silencer, or any destructive device. A destructive device, includes, but is not limited to any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas, bomb, grenade, rocket having a propellant charge of more than four (4) ounces, missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce, mine, or other similar device.

A knife capable of causing serious bodily injury is defined as any weapon or cutting instrument consisting of a blade fastened to a handle; a razor blade; or any similar device (including sharp, metal martial arts weapons such as ninja throwing stars) that is used for, or is readily capable of, causing death or serious bodily injury.

The Superintendent may, in his/her sole judgment and discretion, modify or reduce such expulsion in writing, to a period of less than one (1) year, on a case-by-case basis, upon consideration of the following:

- a. Applicable State or Federal laws and regulations relating to students with disabilities (for example, where the incident involves a student with a disability and the misconduct is determined by a group of persons knowledgeable about the child to be a manifestation of the student's disability);

- b. The degree of culpability given the age of the student and its relevance to the misconduct and/or punishment and/or evidence regarding the probable danger posed to the health and safety of others, including evidence of the student's intent and awareness regarding possession of the firearm or knife; capable of causing serious bodily injury; and/or
- c. The academic and disciplinary history of the student, including the student's response to the imposition of any prior discipline imposed for behavioral problems.

2. **Violent Conduct**

If a student commits an act at school, on other school property, at an interscholastic competition, extra-curricular event, or any other school program or activity and the act:

- a. would be a criminal offense if committed by an adult;
- and
- b. results in serious physical harm to person(s) as defined in R.C. 2901.01(A)(5), or to property as defined in R.C. 2901.01(A)(6)

the Superintendent may expel the student for a period of up to one (1) year. The Superintendent may extend the expulsion into the next school year or reduce the expulsion as necessary on a case-by-case basis as specified below. The student need not be prosecuted or convicted of any criminal act to be expelled under this provision.

The Superintendent may, in his/her sole judgment and discretion, reduce such expulsion to a period of less than one (1) year, on a case-by-case basis, upon consideration of the following:

- a. applicable State or Federal laws and regulations relating to students with disabilities (for example, where the incident involves a student with a disability and the misconduct is determined by a group of persons knowledgeable about the child to be a manifestation of the student's disability);
- b. other extenuating circumstances, including, but not limited to, the academic and disciplinary history of the student, including the student's response to the imposition of any prior discipline imposed for behavioral problems.

If at the time of the expulsion, there are fewer days remaining in the school year than the number of days of the expulsion, the Superintendent may apply any or all of the remaining period to the following school year.

3. **Bomb Threats**

If a student makes a bomb threat to a school building or to any premises at which a school activity is occurring at the time of the threat, the Superintendent may expel the student for a period of up to one (1) year. The Superintendent may extend the expulsion into the next school year or reduce the expulsion as necessary on a case-by-case basis as specified below. The student need not be prosecuted or convicted of any criminal act to be expelled under this provision.

The Superintendent may, in his/her sole judgment and discretion, reduce such expulsion to a period of less than one (1) year, on a case-by-case basis, for the following reasons:

- a. for students identified as disabled under the IDEA, ADA, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, upon recommendation from the group of persons knowledgeable of the student's educational needs;
- or
- b. other extenuating circumstances, including, but not limited to, the academic and disciplinary history of the student, including the student's response to the imposition of any prior discipline imposed for behavioral problems.

If at the time of the expulsion, there are fewer days remaining in the school year than the number of days of the expulsion, the Superintendent may apply any or all of the remaining period to the following school year.

- D. "Permanent exclusion" shall mean the student is banned forever from attending a public school in the State of Ohio. (See Policy 5610.01)

If a student is expelled for more than twenty (20) school days or for any period of time that extends into the next school year, the Superintendent shall provide the student and his/her parents with the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of those public or private agencies in the community which offer programs or services that help to rectify the student's behaviors and attitudes that contributed to the incident(s) that caused the expulsion.

Suspension or Expulsion of Students in Grades Pre-Kindergarten through 3

[DRAFTING NOTE: Pursuant to H.B. 318, the following limitations on suspension/expulsion of students in grades pre-K through 3, will be phased in over the next three (3) school years, using data related to the 2018-2019 school year as the baseline. The phase-in works as follows to comply with Ohio law for the:

- 1. 2019-2020 school year, your District must reduce the number of out-of-school suspensions and expulsions issued to students in grades pre-K through 3 for offenses not listed in paragraphs A-D below by twenty-five percent (25%), using the numbers reported for that category for the 2018-2019 school year as a baseline.**
- 2. 2020-2021 school year, your District must reduce the number of out-of-school suspensions and expulsions issued to students in grades Pre-K through 3 for offenses not listed in paragraphs A-D below by fifty percent (50%), using the numbers reported for that category for the 2018-2019 school year as a baseline.**
- 3. 2021-2022 school year and thereafter, your District may only issue out-of-school suspensions and expulsions to students in grades Pre-K through 3 for the offenses listed in paragraphs A-D below.]**

Beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, except as permitted by law, suspension or expulsion proceedings shall not be initiated against a student in any of grades Pre-kindergarten through 3 unless the student has committed the following acts:

- A. The student brings a firearm or knife capable of causing serious bodily injury to a school building or on to any other property (including a school vehicle) owned, controlled, or operated by the Board, to an interscholastic competition, an extra-curricular event, or to any other school program or activity that is not located in a school or on property that is owned or controlled by the Board, or possesses a firearm or knife capable of causing serious bodily injury at school or on any other property (including a school vehicle) owned, controlled, or operated by the Board, at interscholastic competition, an extra-curricular event, or at any other school program or activity that is not located in a school or on property that is owned or controlled by the Board.
- B. The student commits an act at school, on other school property, at an interscholastic competition, extra-curricular event, or any other school program or activity and the act: 1) would be a criminal offense if committed by an adult; and 2) results in serious physical harm to person(s) as defined in R.C. 2901.01(A)(5), or to property as defined in R.C. 2901.01(A)(6).
- C. The student makes a bomb threat to a school building or to any premises at which a school activity is occurring at the time of the threat.
- D. The student engages in behavior of such a nature that suspension or expulsion is necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of the student, the student's fellow classmates, the classroom staff and teachers, or other school employees.

Prior to suspending or expelling a student in any of grades Pre-K through 3, the Director shall, whenever possible, consult with a mental health professional under contract. If the events leading up to the student's suspension or expulsion from school indicate that the student is in need of additional mental health services, the student's Director or the District's mental health professional shall assist the student's parent or guardian with locating providers or obtaining such services, including referral to an independent mental health professional, provided such assistance does not result in a financial burden to the District or the student's school.

If a student in any of grades Pre-K through 3 is suspended or expelled, the student shall be afforded the same notice and hearing, procedural, and educational opportunities as set forth in Board policy and the law. The suspension or expulsion of a student in any of grades Pre-K through 3 shall not limit the Board's responsibilities with respect to the provision of special education and related services to such student in accordance with Board policy and the law. Further, the Board shall not be limited in its authority to issue an in-school suspension to a student in any of grades Pre-K through 3, provided that the in-school suspension is served in a supervised learning environment.

If the Superintendent determines that a student's behavior on a school vehicle violates school rules, s/he may suspend the student from school bus-riding privileges for the length of time deemed appropriate for the violation and remediation of the behavior. Any such suspension must comply with due process and the Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code.

The Board authorizes the Superintendent to provide for options to suspension/expulsion of a student from school which may include alternative educational options.

The Superintendent shall initiate expulsion proceedings against a student who has committed an act that warrants expulsion under Board policy even if the student withdraws from school prior to the hearing or decision to impose the expulsion. The expulsion must be imposed for the same duration it would have been had the student remained enrolled.

The Board may temporarily deny admittance to any student who has been expelled from the schools of another Ohio district or an out-of-state district, if the student's expulsion period set by the other district has not expired. The expelled student shall first be offered an opportunity for a hearing. This provision also applies to a student who is the subject of a power of attorney designating the child's grandparent as the attorney-in-fact or caretaker authorization affidavit executed by the child's grandparent and is seeking admittance into the schools of this District in accordance with Policy 5111.

The Board may temporarily deny admittance to any student who has been suspended from the schools of another Ohio district, if the student's suspension period set by the other district has not expired. The suspended student shall first be offered an opportunity for a hearing before the Board.

When a student is expelled from this District, the Superintendent shall send written notice to any college in which the expelled student is enrolled under Postsecondary Enrollment Options at the time the expulsion is imposed. The written notice shall indicate the date the expulsion is scheduled to expire.

~~() and that the Board has adopted a provision in Policy 2271 under R.C. 3313.613 to deny high school credit for postsecondary courses taken during an expulsion.~~

If the expulsion is extended, the Superintendent shall notify the college of the extension.

[X] The Superintendent may require a student to perform community service in conjunction with or in place of a suspension or expulsion. The Board may adopt guidelines to permit the Superintendent to impose a community service requirement beyond the end of the school year in lieu of applying the expulsion into the following school year.

A copy of this policy is to be posted in a central location in each school and made available to students and parents upon request. Key provisions of the policy should also be included in the parent-student handbook.

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Legal R.C. 2919.222, 3313.534, 3313.649, 3313.66, 3313.661, 3313.662, 3313.663
 R.C. 3313.664, 3313.668, 3321.13 (B)(3) and (C), 3327.014
 18 U.S.C. Section 921
 20 U.S.C. 3351, 20 U.S.C. 7151, 20 U.S.C. 8921

Book	Policy Manual
Section	Vol. 39 No. 1 UPDATES
Title	Vol. 39, No. 1 - August Revised DUE PROCESS RIGHTS
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5611 - DUE PROCESS RIGHTS

The Board of Education recognizes that students have limited constitutional rights when it comes to their education.

Accordingly, the Board establishes the following procedures which District Administrators shall use when dealing with students:

A. Student subject to suspension:

When a student is being considered for an out-of-school suspension by the Superintendent, Director, or other administrator:

1. The student will be informed in writing of the potential suspension and the reasons for the proposed action.
2. The student will be provided an opportunity for an informal hearing to challenge the reason for the intended suspension and to explain his/her actions.
3. An attempt will be made to notify parents or guardians by telephone if a suspension is issued.
4. Within one (1) school day of the suspension the Superintendent, Director, or other administrator will notify the parents, guardians, or custodians of the student. The notice will include the reasons for the suspension and the right of the student, parent, guardian, or custodian to appeal to the Board or its designee; the right to be represented at the appeal; and the right to request the hearing be held in executive session if before the Board. The notice shall also specify that if the student, parent, guardian, or custodian intends to appeal the suspension to the Board or its designee, such notice of appeal shall be filed, in writing, with the Treasurer of the Board or the Superintendent within 14 calendar days after the date of the notice to suspend. **[Note: It is recommended that the Board require individuals to file the notice of appeal within a specific number of calendar days after the suspension notice. The Board cannot specify a date for the filing of a notice of appeal of an expulsion that is less than fourteen (14) days.]** If the offense is one for which the District may seek permanent exclusion, then the notice will contain that information.
5. Notice of this suspension will also be sent to the:
 - a. Superintendent;
 - b. student's school record (not for inclusion in the permanent record).
6. If a student leaves school property without permission immediately upon violation (or suspected violation) of a provision of the Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code or prior to an administrator conducting an informal hearing as specified above, and the student fails to return to school on the following school day, the Director, assistant Director, Superintendent, or any other administrator, may send the student and his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) notice of the suspension, and offer to provide the student and/or his/her parents an informal hearing upon request to discuss the reasons for the suspension and to allow the student to challenge the reasons and to explain his/her actions, any time prior to the end of the suspension period.

Appeal of Suspension to the Board or its designee

The student who is eighteen (18) or older or the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) may appeal the suspension to the Board or its designee. They may be represented in all such appeal proceedings.

A verbatim record will be kept of the hearing which may be held in executive session at the request of the student, parent, or guardian, if held before the Board.

The procedure to pursue such appeal will be provided in regulations approved by the Superintendent. Notice of appeal must be filed, in writing, with the Treasurer or the Superintendent within 14 calendar days after the date of the notice to suspend. **[Note: It is recommended that the Board require individuals to file the notice of appeal within a specific number of calendar days after the suspension notice. The Board cannot specify a date for the filing of a notice of appeal of an expulsion that is less than fourteen (14) days.]**

While a hearing before the Board may occur in executive session, the Board must act in public.

Appeal to the Court

Under Ohio law, appeal of the Board's or its designee's decision may be made to the Court of Common Pleas.

B. Students subject to expulsion:

When a student is being considered for expulsion by the Superintendent:

1. The Superintendent will give the student and parent, guardian, or custodian written notice of the intended expulsion, including reasons for the intended expulsion.
2. The student and parent or representative have the opportunity to appear before the Superintendent or designee to challenge the proposed action or to otherwise explain the student's actions. The written notice will state the time and place to appear, which must not be earlier than three (3) school days nor later than five (5) school days after the notice is given, unless the Superintendent grants an extension upon request of the student or parent.
3. Within one (1) school day of the expulsion, the Superintendent will notify the parents, guardians, or custodians of the student and Treasurer of the Board. The notice will include the reasons for the expulsion and the right of the student, parent, guardian, or custodian to appeal to the Board or its designee; the right to be represented at the appeal; and the right to request the hearing be held in executive session if before the Board. The notice shall also specify that if the student, parent, guardian, or custodian intends to appeal the expulsion to the Board or its designee, such notice of appeal shall be filed, in writing, with the Treasurer of the Board or the Superintendent within 14 calendar days after the date of the notice of expulsion. **[Note: Under statute, the Board cannot specify a date for the filing of a notice of appeal of an expulsion that is less than fourteen (14) days.]** If the offense is one for which the District may seek permanent exclusion, then the notice will contain that information.

Appeal of Expulsion to the Board

A student who is eighteen (18) or older or a student's parent(s) or guardian(s) may appeal the expulsion by the Superintendent to the Board or its designee. They may be represented in all such appeal proceedings and will be granted a hearing before the Board or its designee.

A verbatim record will be kept of the hearing which may be held in executive session at the request of the student, parent, or guardian, if it is held before the Board.

The procedure to pursue such appeal will be in accordance with regulations approved by the Superintendent. Notice of appeal must be filed, in writing, within 14 calendar days after the date of the Superintendent's decision to expel with the Treasurer of the Board or the Superintendent. **[Note: Under statute, the Board cannot specify a date for the filing of a notice of appeal of an expulsion that is less than fourteen (14) days.]**

While a hearing before the Board may occur in executive session, the Board must act in public.

Appeal to the Court

Under State law, the decision of the Board or its designee may be further appealed to the Court of Common Pleas.

C. Students subject to emergency removal:

Students whose conduct warrants emergency removal shall be dealt with in accordance with the rights and procedures outlined in Policy 5610.03 - Emergency Removal.

D. Students subject to permanent exclusion:

Students whose conduct is that for which permanent exclusion is warranted shall be dealt with in accordance with the rights and procedures outlined in Policy 5610.01 - Permanent Exclusion of Nondisabled Students.

E. Students subject to suspension from bus riding/transportation privileges:

Student whose conduct warrant suspension from bus riding and/or transportation services shall be dealt with in accordance with the rights and procedures outlined in Policy 5610.04 - Suspension of Bus Riding/Transportation Privileges.

~~The Superintendent shall ensure that all members of the staff use the above procedures when dealing with students. In addition, this statement of due process rights is to be placed in all student handbooks in a manner that will facilitate understanding by students and their parents.~~which District Administrators shall use when dealing with students

In determining whether disciplinary action set forth in this policy is to be implemented, District Administrators shall use a preponderance of evidence standard. Further, any individual charged with making a disciplinary determination under this policy shall retain all documents, electronically stored information ("ESI"), and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315 - Information Management (i.e. "Litigation Hold")) created and/or received as part of an investigation.

[.] The documents, ESI, and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315) retained may include public records and records exempt from disclosure under Federal (e.g., FERPA, ADA) and/or State law (e.g., R.C. 3319.321) – e.g., student records and confidential medical records.

In addition, this statement of due process rights is to be placed in all student handbooks in a manner that will facilitate understanding by students and their parents.

These procedures shall not apply to in-school disciplinary alternatives including in-school suspensions. An in-school suspension is one served entirely in a supervised learning environment within a school setting. Nor shall these disciplinary alternative procedures apply to students who are prohibited by authorized school personnel from all or part of their participation in co-curricular, interscholastic, and/or noninterscholastic extra-curricular activities.

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R.C. 3313.20, 3313.66, 3313.661

Book	Policy Manual
Section	Vol. 39 No. 1 UPDATES
Title	Vol. 39, No. 1 - August 2020 INVESTMENTS
Code	po6144.REVISED
Status	
Adopted	December 19, 2012
Last Revised	January 15, 2015

6144 - **INVESTMENTS**

The Board of Education authorizes the Treasurer to make investments of available monies from the funds of the District in securities authorized by State law. These shall include:

- A. bonds, notes, or other obligations of or guaranteed by the United States, or those for which the faith of the United States is pledged for payment of principal and interest thereon but does not include stripped principal or interest obligations of such obligations;
- B. bonds, notes, debentures, or any other obligations or securities directly issued by a Federal government agency or instrumentality;
- C. interim deposits in Board-approved depositories;
- D. bonds and other obligations of the State, or the political subdivisions of this state, provided that, with respect to bonds or other obligations of political subdivisions, all of the following apply the:
 - 1. bonds or other obligations are payable from the political subdivision's general revenues and backed by the full faith and credit of the political subdivision
 - 2. bonds or other obligations are rated, at the time of purchase, in the three (3) highest classifications established by at least one (1) nationally recognized standard rating service and purchased through a registered securities broker or dealer
 - 3. aggregate value of the bonds or other obligations does not exceed twenty percent (20%) of interim monies available for investment at the time of purchase, and
 - 4. Treasurer is not the sole purchaser of the bonds or other obligations at original issuance
 - 5. the bonds or other obligations mature within ten (10) years from the date of settlement
- E. no-load money market mutual funds consisting exclusively of obligations described in A. and B. above or repurchase agreements secured by such obligations, provided such investments are made only through eligible institutions authorized by R.C. 135.03;
- F. the Ohio Subdivision Fund (STAR Ohio).

Under no circumstances may the Treasurer invest in a derivative as defined by the Revised Code, reverse repurchase agreements, or other funds prohibited by law. The Treasurer shall also not make investments which s/he does not reasonably believe can be held until the maturity date or leverage any investment.

No investment shall be made under division (D), as described above, unless the Treasurer has completed additional training that has been approved by the Treasurer of State and is either conducted by or provided under the supervision of the Treasurer of State.

The Treasurer is also authorized to enter into written repurchase agreements with any eligible institution in accordance with R.C. 135.03 provided that under the terms of the agreement the eligible institution agrees unconditionally to repurchase any of the securities listed in divisions (A) through (E), above. Such agreements may be either overnight or within a time not to exceed thirty (30) days and must comply with the requirements of R.C. 135.14(E).

Upon a two-thirds (2/3's) vote of its members, the Board may authorize the Treasurer to invest up to a maximum of forty percent (40%) of the District's interim funds in either of the following:

A. Commercial paper notes issued by a for-profit corporation, business trust or association, real estate investment trust, common-law trust, unincorporated business, or general or limited partnership which has assets exceeding \$500,000,000. Such notes must:

1. be rated at the time of purchase in the highest classification established by at least two (2) nationally recognized standard rating servicers;
2. have an aggregate value that does not exceed ten percent (10%) of the outstanding commercial paper of the issuing entity;
3. mature not later than 270 days after purchase; and
4. be limited to the aggregate of five percent (5%) of interim monies available for investment at the time of purchase, when issued by a single issuer

No investment shall be made under this provision unless the Treasurer has completed additional training that has been approved by the Treasurer of State and is either conducted by or provided under the supervision of the Treasurer of State.

B. Bankers acceptances of banks that are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC") and that mature no later than 180 days after purchase.

Investments made by the Treasurer must mature within five (5) years from the date of settlement, unless they are matched to a specific obligation or debt of the District.

The Treasurer shall prepare annually and submit to the Board, the Superintendent, ~~of Public Instruction~~, and the Auditor of State, (or IPA) ~~on or before August 31st~~, a report listing each investment made pursuant to (A) and (B) above, during the preceding fiscal year, income earned from such investments, fees and commissions paid in connection with the investments, and any other information required by the Board, Superintendent, and the Auditor of State.

[X] The purpose of the investments is to maximize the returns on the District's excess cash balances consistent with safety of those monies and with the desired liquidity of the investments.

[X] In making investments authorized by R.C. 135.14, the Treasurer may retain the services of an investment advisor, provided the advisor is licensed by the Division of Securities under R.C. 1707.141, or is registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission and possesses experience in public funds investment management, specifically in the area of State and local government investment portfolios, or the advisor is an eligible institution in accordance with R.C. 135.03.

Whenever the Treasurer classifies public money as interim funds, the Treasurer must notify the Board within thirty (30) days. If the Board does not agree with the Treasurer's classification or investment(s), the Board may order the Treasurer to sell or liquidate any investment(s) or deposits. The Board's order will specifically describe the investment(s) or deposit(s) and fix the date upon which they are to be sold or liquidated for cash at the current market price. Neither the Treasurer nor the members of the Board will be held accountable for any loss occasioned by sales or liquidations of investment(s) or deposit(s) at prices lower than their cost. Any loss or expense incurred in making such sales or liquidation is payable as other expenses of the Treasurer's office.

Unless the District's annual portfolio of investments is \$100,000 or less, the Treasurer must place on file with the Auditor of State a written investment policy that has been approved by the Board of Education and signed by all entities conducting investment business with the Board. Earnings on an investment may become a part of the fund from which the investment was made, unless otherwise specified by law.

The Treasurer, acting in accord with the law, may withdraw funds from approved public depositories or sell negotiable instruments prior to maturity.

Provided the Board has no outstanding obligation(s) with respect to a loan received under the authority of R.C. 3313.483, the Treasurer of State and the Board issuing obligations under R.C. Chapter 133 that mature within one (1) year from the original date of issuance may enter into an agreement providing for:

- A. the purchase of those obligations by the Treasurer of State on terms and subject to conditions set forth in the agreement;
- B. the payment by the Board to the Treasurer of State of a reasonable fee as consideration for the agreement of the Treasurer of State to purchase those obligations.

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R.C. 133.23, 135.01-.21, 135.22, 135.45, 135.142, 3317.06, 3315.01, 3315.40, 5705.10

Book	Policy Manual
Section	Vol. 39 No. 1 UPDATES
Title	Vol. 39, No. 1 - August 2020 Revised WAIVER OF SCHOOL FEES FOR INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS
Code	po6152.01.REVISED
Status	
Adopted	December 19, 2012
Last Revised	April 20, 2020

6152.01 - **WAIVER OF SCHOOL FEES FOR INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS**

The Pioneer Career and Technology Center School District ~~may~~^{shall} waive fees assessed by the District for instructional materials ~~only~~ for students who demonstrate a serious financial need. ~~whose parent(s) or guardian are unable to afford them.~~ The Superintendent may, as deemed necessary, establish additional procedures to supplement the procedures established in this policy regarding the requests for the waiver of fees. This waiver does not include District fees associated with extra-curricular activities or student enrichment programs that are not part of a course of instruction.

[**x**] Additionally, the District may charge fees for tools, equipment, and materials, as specified, that are necessary for workforce-readiness career-technical education training programs ~~training~~ that may be retained by the students after completion of the course.

Eligibility Standards

Students eligible for a waiver of school fees include, but are not limited to, the following:

- A. ~~Students~~ who qualify for aid under Ohio Works First (R.C. 5107) or Disability Assistance (R.C. 5115).
- B. Students who qualify for free lunch under the National School Lunch Act and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966.
(.) Students who qualify for free lunch after the start of the school year may request a partial refund that will be prorated based on the amount of the school year that remains.
- C. (**x**) Students whose families have suffered very significant financial losses due to severe illness or injury in the family or unusual expenses including, but not limited to, fire, flood, or storm damage.
- D. (**x**) Other good and just reasons.
- E. (**x**) Students who qualify for reduced breakfast and/or lunch under the Ohio School Meals Program.

Notification to Parents

- A. Annually the substance of this policy shall be communicated in writing to the parent(s) or guardian of all students in the District.
- B. The first bill or notice sent to parents or guardians who owe fees shall state:
 - 1. The District will waive fees for persons unable to afford them in accordance with its policy.
 - 2. The procedure for applying for a fee waiver, and the name, address and telephone number of the person to contact for information concerning a fee waiver.

Procedures for Resolution of Disputes

- A. A parent(s) or guardian who cannot pay school fees may write a letter requesting a waiver of fees to the Superintendent. The letter must contain the following:

1. name(s) of student(s)
2. name of parent(s) or guardian(s)
3. address of parent(s) or guardian(s)
4. phone number of parent(s) or guardian(s)
5. school where child(ren) attend(s)
6. reason for request for waiver of fees

The Superintendent shall have the authority to review the waiver request and request such further information, if any, as s/he deems necessary in order to make a decision on that request.

- B. No fee shall be collected from any parent(s) or guardian who is seeking a fee waiver in accordance with the District's policy until the District has acted on the initial request or appeal (if any is made), and the parent(s) or guardian have been notified of the decision.
- C. If the Superintendent denies a request for fee waiver, then a copy of the decision shall be mailed to the parent(s) or guardian within fifteen (15) school days of receipt of the request. The decision shall state the reason for the denial and shall inform the parent(s) or guardian of the right to appeal, including the process and timelines for that action. The denial notice shall also include a statement informing the parent(s) or guardian that reapplication may be made for a waiver any time during the school year, if circumstances change. (**x**) The decision of the Superintendent is final.
- D. (~~)~~ ~~An appeal of the Superintendent's decision must be made to the Board of Education within seven (7) calendar days after receipt of the decision. An appeal shall be decided within thirty (30) calendar days of the receipt of the parent's or guardian's request for an appeal. The parent(s) or guardian(s) shall have the right to meet with the Board in order to explain why the fee waiver should be granted.~~

Nondiscrimination

The Board expects all staff members to exercise the utmost care to see that, as a result of their actions or comments, students cannot differentiate between those students whose parents are unable to purchase required instructional materials or pay required fees and those whose parents can.

R.C. 3313.642

[National School Lunch Act, 60 Stat. 230 \(1946\), 42 U.S.C. 1751 \(as amended\).](#)
[Child Nutrition Act of 1966, 80 Stat. 885, 42 U.S.C. 1771](#)

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R.C. 3313.642

National School Lunch Act, 60 Stat. 230 (1946), 42 U.S.C. 1751 (as amended)

Child Nutrition Act of 1966, 80 Stat. 885, 42 U.S.C. 1771

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Code	po6152.REVISED
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Adopted	December 19, 2012
Last Revised	January 15, 2015

6152 - STUDENT FEES, FINES, AND CHARGES

~~Choose Option #1 or #2~~

~~[] Option #1~~

~~The Board of Education will provide the necessary textbooks and/or electronic textbooks required by the course of study free of charge for its students. The Board may, however, need to levy certain charges to students to facilitate the utilization of other appropriate learning materials used in the course of instruction. If the District determines that a student is in serious financial need, it may choose to provide any or all such materials free of charge. Any such waiver of these charges shall be made in accordance with Policy 6152.01.~~

~~A charge shall not exceed the combined cost of the material used, freight and/or handling charges, and nominal add-on for loss. Money received from resale of such material shall be returned to the Treasurer with an accurate accounting of all transactions.~~

~~[] Option #2~~

The Board of Education will provide the necessary textbooks and/or electronic textbooks required by the course of study free of charge for its students. The Board may charge fees for any additional materials used in the course of instruction. The Board may furnish these additional materials free of charge to students determined to have a serious financial need. ~~The Board may need to levy certain charges to students to facilitate the utilization of other appropriate materials for curricular as well as co-curricular and extra-curricular, noncredit activities. Such charges would be made on expendable items such as magazines, workbook materials, paperback selections, and laboratory supplies, and materials, for clubs, independent study or special projects, and District sponsored trips.~~ Any waiver of fees shall be made pursuant to Policy 6152.01.

The Board will not charge a fee to a student who is eligible for a free lunch under the National School Lunch Act and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 for any materials needed to enable the student to participate in a course of instruction. However, the Board may nonetheless charge a fee for materials needed for a student to participate in an extracurricular activities student enrichment program.

(X) or tolls, equipment, and materials that are necessary for workforce-readiness career-technical education training program that may be retained by the students after completion of the course.

[] School fees shall be paid in advance for each school term at the time of initial registration or initial enrollment.

Fees

For the purposes of this policy, "school fees" or "fees" means any monetary charge collected by the District from a student or the parent(s) or guardian of a student as a prerequisite for the student's participation in any curricular or extra-curricular program of the District.

A. "School fees" include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. **(X)** all charges for required workbooks and instructional materials
2. **(X)** all charges and deposits collected by a school for use of school property (e.g., locks, towels, laboratory equipment)

3. ☒ charges for field trips made during school hours, or made after school hours if the field trip is a required or customary part of a class or extra-curricular activity
4. ☒ charges or deposits for uniforms or equipment related to varsity and intramural sports, or to fine arts programs
5. ☒ charges to participate in extra-curricular activities
6. ☒ charges for supplies required for a particular class or for gym uniforms
7. ☒ graduation fees
8. ☒ school records fees
9. ☒ school health service fees
10. ☒ driver's education fee assessed pursuant to Ohio Revised Code

B. "School fees" do not include:

1. ☒ library fines and other charges made for the loss, misuse, or destruction of school property;
2. ☒ charges for the purchase of class rings, yearbooks, pictures, diploma covers, or similar items;
3. ☒ charges for optional travel undertaken by a school club or group of students outside of school hours;
4. ☒ charges for admission to school dances, athletic events, or other social events;
5. ☒ optional community service programs for which fees are charged (e.g., preschool before and after-school child care, recreation programs).

A charge shall not exceed the combined cost of the material used, freight and/or handling charges, and nominal add-on for loss. Money received from resale of such material shall be returned to the Treasurer with an accurate accounting of all transactions.

~~A charge shall not exceed the combined cost of the outside service provided or material used, freight and/or handling charges. Money received from resale of such material, if any, shall be returned to the Treasurer with an accurate accounting of all transactions.~~

[END OF OPTIONS]

Fines

When school property, equipment, or supplies are damaged, lost, or taken by a student, a fine will be assessed. The fine will be reasonable, seeking only to compensate the school for the expense or loss incurred.

The late return of borrowed books or materials from the school libraries will be subject to appropriate fines.

Choose Option #1 or #2

~~[] Option #1~~

~~Any fees, fines, and/or other charges collected by members of the staff shall be turned in to the Treasurer within one (1) business day after collection.~~

☒ Option #2

Any fees, fines, and/or other charges collected by members of the staff that total more than \$1,000.00 or that cannot be safeguarded shall be turned in to the Treasurer within one (1) business day after collection. Any fees, fines, and/or charges collected by members of the staff that total less than \$1,000.00 and that can be safeguarded shall be turned in to the Treasurer within three (3) business days after collection. A place such as the building safe or a locked file cabinet ☒ shall be designated in each building ☒ shall be used for securing these monies until they are deposited with the Treasurer. At no time shall any staff member place public monies in his/her own banking accounts or commingle public monies with their own. Except in cases of extenuating circumstances, i.e., the inability to access the secure place in the building, public monies should not be taken to a person's place of residence.

[END OF OPTIONS]

In accordance with R.C. 3313.642, failure to pay fees and fines may result in the withholding of grades and credit. In the event the above course of action does not result in the fee being collected, the Board authorizes the Treasurer to take the student and/or his/her parents to Small Claims Court for collection. Under no circumstances will the Board withhold the grades, credits, official transcripts, diploma, IEPs, or Section 504 Plans of a student for nonpayment of fees for materials used in the course of instruction, if a complaint has been filed at any time in a juvenile court alleging that the student is an abused, neglected, or dependent child, or if the student has been adjudicated an abused, neglected, or dependent child. Further, the Board will transfer immediately the grades, credits, official transcripts, IEPs, or Section 504 Plans of a student upon the receipt of either another district's or school's request for those records pursuant to R.C. 3313.672, or a juvenile judge's order under R.C. 2151.272. The Superintendent may request a copy of any order regarding a child's custody or placement issued pursuant to a complaint filed under R.C. 2151.27. The Board, however, will not withhold records required to be transferred pursuant to this paragraph pending receipt of a copy of the order.

[X.] For convenience to families, the Board of Education may enter into an agreement with one or more credit card/online payment processing vendors to facilitate online payment of fees, fines, and charges. Parents/guardians or students may elect but are not required to make payments online. Vendors will comply with all Board policies and procedures related to confidentiality and security of information transmitted electronically. Payees will be notified of any processing or other nominal fees that may be charged for use of an online payment system before the transaction is completed.

Annually, the District will report to the Ohio Department of Education the number of students for whom it sent transcripts pursuant to R.C. 3313.642(D), and the total amount of unpaid fees lost due to compliance with that provision.

Nothing in this policy restricts the right of access of a parent or student to school records or to receive copies of such records, as required by Federal and State laws.

R.C. 2151.272, 3313.642, 9.38

National School Lunch Act, 60 Stat. 230 (1946), 42 U.S.C. 1751 (as amended)

Child Nutrition Act of 1966, 80 Stat. 885, 42 U.S.C. 1771

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R.C. 2151.272, 3313.642, 9.38

National School Lunch Act, 60 Stat. 230 (1946), 42 U.S.C. 1751 (as amended)

Child Nutrition Act of 1966, 80 Stat. 885, 42 U.S.C. 1771

Book	Policy Manual
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Code	po6325.revised
Status	
Adopted	June 20, 2016
Last Revised	June 17, 2019

6325 - PROCUREMENT - FEDERAL GRANTS/FUNDS

Procurement of all supplies, materials, equipment, and services paid for from Federal funds or District matching funds shall be made in accordance with all applicable Federal, State, and local statutes and/or regulations, the terms and conditions of the Federal grant, Board of Education policies, and administrative procedures.

The Superintendent shall maintain a procurement and contract administration system in accordance with the USDOE requirements (2 C.F.R. 200.317-.326), including affirmative steps for small and minority businesses and women's business enterprises, for the administration and management of Federal grants and Federally-funded programs. The District shall maintain a contract administration system that requires contractors to perform in accordance with the terms, conditions, and specifications of their contracts or purchase orders. Except as otherwise noted, procurement transactions shall conform to the provisions of the District's documented general purchasing Policy 6320 and AG 6320A.

All District employees, officers, and agents who have purchasing authority shall abide by the standards of conduct covering conflicts of interest and governing the actions of its employees, officers, and agents engaged in the selection, award, and administration of contracts as established in Policy 1130, Policy 3113 and Policy 4113 - Conflict of Interest.

The District will avoid acquisition of unnecessary or duplicative items. Additionally, consideration shall be given to consolidating or breaking out procurements to obtain a more economical purchase and, where appropriate, an analysis shall be made of lease versus purchase alternatives, and any other appropriate analysis to determine the most economical approach. These considerations are given as part of the process to determine the allowability of each purchase made with Federal funds.

To foster greater economy and efficiency, the District may enter into State and local intergovernmental agreements where appropriate for procurement or use of common or shared goods and services.

Competition

All procurement transactions paid for from Federal funds or District matching funds shall be conducted in a manner that encourages full and open competition and that is in accordance with good administrative practice and sound business judgment. In order to promote objective contractor performance and eliminate unfair competitive advantage, the District shall exclude any contractor that has developed or drafted specifications, requirements, statements of work, or invitations for bids or requests for proposals from competition for such procurements.

Some of the situations considered to be restrictive of competition include, but are not limited to, the following:

- A. unreasonable requirements on firms in order for them to qualify to do business
- B. unnecessary experience and excessive bonding requirements
- C. noncompetitive contracts to consultants that are on retainer contracts
- D. organizational conflicts of interest
- E. specification of only a "brand name" product instead of allowing for an "or equal" product to be offered and describing the performance or other relevant requirements of the procurement

F. any arbitrary action in the procurement process

Further, the District does not use statutorily or administratively imposed State, local, or tribal geographical preferences in the evaluation of bids or proposals, unless 1) an applicable Federal statute expressly mandates or encourages a geographic preference; or 2) the District is contracting for architectural and engineering services, in which case geographic location may be a selection criterion provided its application leaves an appropriate number of qualified firms, given the nature and size of the project, to compete for the contract.

To the extent that the District uses a pre-qualified list of persons, firms or products to acquire goods and services that are subject to this policy, the pre-qualified list includes enough qualified sources as to ensure maximum open and free competition. The District allows vendors to apply for consideration to be placed on the list annually. **[insert frequency. See Drafting Note]**

[Drafting Note: The District shall allow vendors not on the pre-qualified list to apply for placement on the list periodically. The District may determine how frequently the pre-qualified list becomes open for new vendors or whether it is open continuously.]

Solicitation Language

The District shall require that all solicitations made pursuant to this policy incorporate a clear and accurate description of the technical requirements for the material, product, or service to be procured. Such description shall not, in competitive procurements, contain features which unduly restrict competition. The description may include a statement of the qualitative nature of the material, product or service to be procured and, when necessary, shall set forth those minimum essential characteristics and standards to which it shall conform if it is to satisfy its intended use. Detailed product specifications should be avoided if at all possible.

When it is impractical or uneconomical to make a clear and accurate description of the technical requirements, a "brand name or equivalent" description may be used as a means to define the performance or other salient requirements of procurement. The specific features of the named brand which shall be met by offers shall be clearly stated; and identify all requirements which the offerors shall fulfill and all other factors to be used in evaluating bids or proposals.

The Board will not approve any expenditure for an unauthorized purchase or contract.

Procurement Methods

The District shall utilize the following methods of procurement:

A. ☒ **Micro-purchases**

Procurement by micro-purchase is the acquisition of supplies or services, the aggregate dollar amount of which does not exceed \$ 10,000 **[not to exceed \$10,000]**. To the extent practicable, the District shall distribute micro-purchases equitably among qualified suppliers. Micro-purchases may be made without soliciting competitive quotations if the Superintendent considers the price to be reasonable. The District maintains evidence of this reasonableness in the records of all purchases made by this method.

B. ☒ **Small Purchases**

Small purchase procedures provide for relatively simple and informal procurement methods for securing services, supplies, and other property that does not exceed the competitive bid threshold of \$ 50,000 **[not to exceed \$250,000]**. Small purchase procedures require that price or rate quotations shall be obtained from () _____ ☒ an adequate number of qualified sources. **[Drafting Note: The District may define in policy how many quotations are adequate. The number must be greater than one (1).]**

C. ☐ **Sealed Bids**

Sealed, competitive bids shall be obtained when the purchase of, and contract for, single items of supplies, materials, or equipment which amounts to more than \$ 50,000 **[the lesser of the established Small Purchase threshold or \$250,000]** and when the Board determines to build, repair, enlarge, improve, or demolish a school building/facility the cost of which will exceed \$50,000.

In order for sealed bidding to be feasible, the following conditions shall be present:

1. a complete, adequate, and realistic specification or purchase description is available;

2. two (2) or more responsible bidders are willing and able to compete effectively for the business; and
3. the procurement lends itself to a firm fixed price contract and the selection of the successful bidder can be made principally on the basis of price.

When sealed bids are used, the following requirements apply:

1. Bids shall be solicited in accordance with the provisions of State law and Policy 6320. Bids shall be solicited from () _____ (☒) an adequate number of qualified suppliers, providing sufficient response time prior to the date set for the opening of bids. The invitation to bid shall be publicly advertised.
2. The invitation for bids will include product/contract specifications and pertinent attachments and shall define the items and/or services required in order for the bidder to properly respond.
3. All bids will be opened at the time and place prescribed in the invitation for bids; bids will be opened publicly.
4. A firm fixed price contract award will be made in writing to the lowest responsible bidder. Where specified in bidding documents, factors such as discounts, transportation cost, and life cycle costs shall be considered in determining which bid is lowest. Payment discounts may only be used to determine the low bid when prior experience indicates that such discounts are usually taken.
5. The Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids for sound documented reason.

D. (☒) Competitive Proposals

Procurement by competitive proposal, normally conducted with more than one source submitting an offer, is generally used when conditions are not appropriate for the use of sealed bids or in the case of a recognized exception to the sealed bid method. **[Drafting Note: Federal law does not require a competitive proposal unless the procurement is for over \$250,000. The State/District may set a lower threshold for sealed bids and competitive proposals. Ohio law requires sealed bids when the Board seeks to build, repair, enlarge, improve, or demolish a school building/facility if the cost will exceed \$50,000 (see Policy 6320).]**

If this method is used, the following requirements apply:

1. Requests for proposals shall be publicized and identify all evaluation factors and their relative importance. Any response to the publicized requests for proposals shall be considered to the maximum extent practical.
2. Proposals shall be solicited from () _____ (☒) an adequate number of sources.
3. The District shall use its written method for conducting technical evaluations of the proposals received and for selecting recipients.
4. Contracts shall be awarded to the responsible firm whose proposal is most advantageous to the program, with price and other factors considered.

The District may use competitive proposal procedures for qualifications-based procurement of architectural/engineering (A/E) professional services whereby competitors' qualifications are evaluated and the most qualified competitor is selected, subject to negotiation of fair and reasonable compensation. The method, where price is not used as a selection factor, can only be used in procurement of A/E professional services. It cannot be used to purchase other types of services though A/E firms are a potential source to perform the proposed effort.

E. (☒) Noncompetitive Proposals

Procurement by noncompetitive proposals allows for solicitation of a proposal from only one source and may be used only when one or more of the following circumstances apply:

1. the item is available only from a single source
2. the public exigency or emergency for the requirement will not permit a delay resulting from competitive solicitation
3. the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity expressly authorizes noncompetitive proposals in response to a written request from the District

4. after solicitation of a number of sources, competition is determined to be inadequate

F. (.) Noncompetitive Purchases Through Educational Service Centers (ESCs)

Under State law, the Board of Education may enter into a contract with an educational service center (ESC) that authorizes the ESC to make purchases for supplies, materials, equipment, and services or the delivery of services on the District's behalf. These contracts promote operational efficiency and cost savings, and further enhance the educational experience for our students. Purchases made through such contracts are exempt from competitive bidding. [DRAFTING NOTE: this provision applies to 3313.843, 3313.844, and 3313.845 contracts. A District with student enrollment of less than 16k must enter into a contract with an ESC in accordance with 3313.843.]

The District may apply for approval from ODE to use a noncompetitive purchasing method to procure personnel-based services from an ESC only when the following criteria are met:

1. the ESC posts a list of all services it provides including costs of these services on its website;
2. the ESC has been designated as "high performing" by the Ohio Department of Education, and
3. ODE as the passthrough state entity has determined that the ESC was substantially in compliance with all audit rules and guideline during the most recent audit conducted by the Auditor of State

The Treasurer/CFO will submit an application and any required documentation to ODE on the designated form requesting approval for use of a noncompetitive purchasing method for personnel services. Purchases will not be made until the application is approved. Notice of approval will be maintained by the Treasurer/CFO.

Contract/Price Analysis

The District shall perform a cost or price analysis in connection with every procurement action in excess of \$250,000, including contract modifications. A cost analysis generally means evaluating the separate cost elements that make up the total price, while a price analysis means evaluating the total price, without looking at the individual cost elements.

The method and degree of analysis is dependent on the facts surrounding the particular procurement situation; however, the District shall come to an independent estimate prior to receiving bids or proposals.

When performing a cost analysis, the District shall negotiate profit as a separate element of the price. To establish a fair and reasonable profit, consideration is given to the complexity of the work to be performed, the risk borne by the contractor, the contractor's investment, the amount of subcontracting, the quality of its record of past performance, and industry profit rates in the surrounding geographical area for similar work.

Time and Materials Contracts

The District uses a time and materials type contract only 1) after a determination that no other contract is suitable; and 2) if the contract includes a ceiling price that the contractor exceeds at its own risk. Time and materials type contract means a contract whose cost to the District is the sum of the actual costs of materials, and direct labor hours charged at fixed hourly rates that reflect wages, general and administrative expenses, and profit.

Since this formula generates an open-ended contract price, a time-and-materials contract provides no positive profit incentive to the contractor for cost control or labor efficiency. Therefore, the District sets a ceiling price for each contract that the contractor exceeds at its own risk. Further, the District shall assert a high degree of oversight in order to obtain reasonable assurance that the contractor is using efficient methods and effective cost controls.

Suspension and Debarment

The District will award contracts only to responsible contractors possessing the ability to perform successfully under the terms and conditions of the proposed procurement. All purchasing decisions shall be made in the best interests of the District and shall seek to obtain the maximum value for each dollar expended. When making a purchasing decision, the District shall consider such factors as 1) contractor integrity; 2) compliance with public policy; 3) record of past performance; and 4) financial and technical resources.

The Superintendent shall have the authority to suspend or debar a person/corporation, for cause, from consideration or award of further contracts. The District is subject to and shall abide by the nonprocurement debarment and suspension regulations implementing Executive Orders 12549 and 12689, 2 C.F.R. Part 180.

Suspension is an action taken by the District that immediately prohibits a person from participating in covered transactions and transactions covered under the Federal Acquisition Regulation (48 C.F.R. Chapter 1) for a temporary period, pending completion of an agency investigation and any judicial or administrative proceedings that may ensue. A person so excluded is suspended. (2 C.F.R. Part 180 Subpart G)

Debarment is an action taken by the Superintendent to exclude a person from participating in covered transactions and transactions covered under the Federal Acquisition Regulation (48 C.F.R. Chapter 1). A person so excluded is debarred. (2 C.F.R. Part 180 Subpart H)

The District shall not subcontract with or award subgrants to any person or company who is debarred or suspended. For contracts over \$25,000, the District shall confirm that the vendor is not debarred or suspended by either checking the Federal government's System for Award Management, which maintains a list of such debarred or suspended vendors at www.sam.gov; collecting a certification from the vendor; or adding a clause or condition to the covered transaction with that vendor. (2 C.F.R. Part 180 Subpart C)

Bid Protest

The District maintains the following protest procedures to handle and resolve disputes relating to procurements and, in all instances, discloses information regarding the protest to the awarding agency.

A bidder who wishes to file a bid protest shall file such notice and follow procedures prescribed by the Request For Proposals (RFPs) or the individual bid specifications package, for resolution. Bid protests shall be filed in writing with the Superintendent within seventy-two (72) hours of the opening of the bids in protest.

Within five (5) days of receipt of a protest, the Superintendent shall review the protest as submitted and render a decision regarding the merits of the protest and any impact on the acceptance and rejection of bids submitted. Notice of the filing of a bid protest shall be communicated to the Board and shall be so noted in any subsequent recommendation for the acceptance of bids and awarding of contracts.

Failure to file a notice of intent to protest, or failure to file a formal written protest within the time prescribed, shall constitute a waiver of proceedings.

Maintenance of Procurement Records

The District maintains records sufficient to detail the history of all procurements. These records will include but are not necessarily limited to the following: rationale for the method of procurement, selection of contract type, contractor selection or rejection, and the basis for the contract price (including a cost or price analysis).

2 C.F.R. 200.317 - .326

[R.C. 3313.843 - 3313.846](#)

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2 C.F.R. 200.317 - .326

R.C. 3313.843 - 3313.846

Book	Policy Manual
Section	Vol. 39 No. 1 UPDATES
Title	Vol. 39, No. 1 - August 2020 Replacement PROCUREMENT CARDS
Code	po6424.revised
Status	
Adopted	December 19, 2012

6424 - **PROCUREMENT CARDS**

The Board of Education recognizes that procurement cards offer a convenient and efficient method of purchasing minor goods and services, and therefore authorizes the use of procurement cards. The Board authorizes the Treasurer/CFO to obtain procurement cards for use with Board-approved vendors. The name of the District shall appear on each card.

Procurement cards are cards issued to authorized employees to make purchases of designated items at authorized businesses, and are linked to either a credit card or bank account. They function like a credit card, except that there are more options for spending controls.

The Director of Business Affairs~~Treasurer/CFO~~ shall establish per purchase and per month dollar limits with each voucher for every procurement card, the total value of which shall not exceed \$_____ the budget established by the Director of Business Affairs per year. The Treasurer/CFO may also establish limits on the number of purchases that may be made per day, week, or month with the card. Purchases must be limited to items in the following Merchant Category Codes:

- A. office supplies
- B. printing and stationery
- C. catering and other food purchases
- D. computers and software
- E. educational supplies/materials
- F. _____
- G. other purchases approved by the Director of Business Affairs on a case-by-case basis.

The bank manages the procurement card and will provide invoices at least monthly. The Treasurer/CFO will approve these invoices prior to payment being made. Employees shall submit itemized receipts ~~within _____ days~~ by the 5th of each month after purchases are made.

The Board authorized the following employees to use procurement cards:

- A. employees authorized by the Director of Business Affairs
- B. _____
- C. _____

Employees who use a procurement card are subject to all procedures and restrictions that apply to the use of credit cards summarized in Policy 6423, as well as administrative guidelines developed by the (**x**) Superintendent () Treasurer/CFO.

All approved cardholders must agree to abide by procurement card procedures and regulations set forth in this policy as well as Policy 6423 and relevant administrative guidelines. All transactions must be made by the individual to whom the card is issued.

Employees are responsible for the security and physical custody of the card. Lost or stolen cards shall be reported immediately to the Treasurer/CFO.

Employees may use procurement cards only for school-related purposes in accordance with State law and Board policy. Procurement cards shall not be used or circumvent the general purchasing procedures required by Ohio law and Board policy. The procurement card may never be used to purchase alcohol or personal items or services, nor is the personal gain of credit card rewards such as bonus points, frequent flyer miles, or any other affinity program reward program permitted under any circumstances.

[x] Employees shall be responsible for any and all unrelated or unsubstantiated purchases and shall be required to make full reimbursement to the District within thirty (30) business days.

Cardholders will immediately surrender their cards upon request of the Treasurer for administrative reasons and shall surrender their cards upon separation from employment. This policy and related administrative guideline cannot cover every issue, exception, or contingency that may arise during the cardholder use of the procurement card.

The Treasurer shall conduct independent regular reviews of each cardholder's activity to verify that the purchasing card is being used in accordance with this policy and administrative guidelines. Prices for commonly priced items should be periodically verified to prevent schemes of purposeful price inflation.

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Book	Policy Manual
Section	Vol. 39 No. 1 UPDATES
Title	Vol. 39, No. 1 - August 2020 New PROTECTIVE FACIAL COVERINGS DURING PANDEMIC/EPIDEMIC EVENTS
Code	po8450.01.revised
Status	

8450.01 - **PROTECTIVE FACIAL COVERINGS DURING PANDEMIC/EPIDEMIC EVENTS**

During times of elevated communicable disease community spread (pandemic or epidemic), the Superintendent will issue periodic guidance through Board of Education plans/resolution(s) in alignment with public health officials and/or in accordance with government edicts and including any Pandemic Plan developed by the District's Pandemic Response Team under Policy 8420.

School settings can be a source of community spread. Wearing face masks/coverings is especially important during these times and can help mitigate the risk of exposure from person to person.

As such, during times of elevated communicable disease community spread, the Superintendent may activate this policy by notifying the school community, requiring all school staff, volunteers and visitors (including vendors) to wear appropriate face masks/coverings on school grounds unless it is unsafe to do so or where doing so would significantly interfere with the District's educational or operational processes.

[x] Face masks/shields will be provided by the District to employees. Alternatively, employees may elect to wear their own face coverings if they meet the requirements of this policy as well as any requirements issued by State or local health departments.

In addition, the Board may require that

~~(-) students in ____ grade and higher shall wear a face mask unless they are unable to do so for a health or developmental reason. Efforts will be made to reduce any social stigma for a student who, for medical or developmental reasons, cannot and should not wear a mask.~~

OR

[x-] students shall wear a face mask unless they are unable to do so for a health or developmental reason. Efforts will be made to reduce any social stigma for a student who, for medical or developmental reasons, cannot and should not wear a mask.

If face masks/coverings are required, and no exception is applicable, students shall be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code, and in accordance with policies of the Board

[x] and/or may be reassigned by the Superintendent to an online/virtual learning environment if the Superintendent determines that reassignment is necessary to protect the health and safety of the student or others. **[DRAFTING NOTE: Districts should consult with legal counsel before reassigning a student with a disability to a virtual learning format. This might constitute a change in placement in violation of state and federal law.]**

[x] During times of elevated communicable disease community spread as determined by the Board in consultation with health professionals, all students are required to wear masks while being transported on District school buses or other modes of school transportation.

[DRAFTING NOTE: The majority opinion among medical experts from the Ohio Department of Health and elsewhere appears to be that children kindergarten through 5th grade can wear masks as long as consideration is given for the age and developmental level of the child and the physical situation the child is in at that moment.]

Use of Mask/Face Covering

Cloth face coverings/masks should:

- A. fully cover the mouth, nose, and chin;
- B. fit snugly against the side of the face so there are no gaps;
- C. not create difficulty breathing while worn; and
- D. be held securely through either a tie, elastic, etc. to prevent slipping.

Facial masks/coverings generally should not include surgical masks or respirators unless medically indicated (as those should be reserved for healthcare workers) or masks designed to be worn for costume purposes.

All employee facial masks/coverings shall meet the requirements of the appropriate dress/staff grooming policies (Policy 3216/4216). All student facial masks/coverings shall meet the requirements of the appropriate Student Code of Conduct/Student Discipline Code [x] and Policy 5511 Dress and Grooming.

Any person may be required to temporarily remove a face mask or covering when instructed to do so for identification or security purposes. Failure to comply with such a request violates this policy and may lead to disciplinary or other action.

Exceptions to the use of masks/face coverings include when:

- A. facial masks/coverings in the school setting are prohibited by law or regulation;
- B. facial masks/coverings are in violation of documented industry standards;
- C. facial masks/coverings are not advisable for health reasons;
- D. facial masks/coverings are in violation of the school's documented safety policies;
- E. facial masks/coverings are not required when the staff works alone in an assigned work area;
- F. there is a functional (practical) reason for a staff member or volunteer not to wear a facial mask/covering in the workplace;
- G. settings where cloth masks might present a safety hazard (i.e. science labs);
- H. for individuals who have difficulty wearing a cloth face covering; or
- I. to assist with communication for hearing impaired students.

The Board may be required to provide written justification to the local health officials upon request explaining why a staff member is not required to wear a facial covering in the school. Therefore, if any exceptions are made to the requirement for facial coverings, the request for such exception must be submitted in writing to the individual's supervisor with appropriate documentation provided. A decision on the request will be provided in writing.

Use of Face Shields

Face shields that wrap around the face and extend below the chin may be permitted as an alternative to cloth face masks/coverings with permission of the Superintendent as the Board recognizes that face shields may be useful in some situations, including:

- A. when interacting with students, such as those with disabilities, where communication could be impacted;
- B. when interacting with English-language learners or when teaching a foreign language;
- C. settings where cloth masks might present a safety hazard (i.e. science labs); or
- D. for individuals who have difficulty wearing a cloth face covering.

If employees receive approval from the District administration after discussing their request not to wear a face mask/covering/shield due to a physical, mental or developmental health condition, and/or if wearing a mask/covering/shield

would lead to a medical emergency or would introduce significant safety concerns, the District administration may also discuss other possible accommodations for the staff member. Such discussion shall follow Board policies and guidelines under the ADA.

School nurses or staff who care for individuals with symptoms consistent with those of a communicable disease must use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), provided by the school, in accordance with OSHA standards.

When facial masks/coverings are required by the Board, and no exception has been applied, staff members who violate this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with policies of the Board.

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R.C. 3313.20, 3313.60, 3313.661, 3313.665

Book	Policy Manual
Section	Vol. 39 No. 1 UPDATES
Title	Vol. 39, No. 1 - August 2020 Revised RELIGIOUS/PATRIOTIC CEREMONIES AND OBSERVANCES
Code	po8800.revised
Status	
Adopted	December 19, 2012
Last Revised	January 15, 2015

8800 - RELIGIOUS/PATRIOTIC CEREMONIES AND OBSERVANCES

Decisions of the United States Supreme Court have made it clear that it is not the province of a public school to advance or inhibit religious beliefs or practices. Under the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the Constitution, this remains the inviolate province of the individual and the church of his/her choice. The rights of any minority, no matter how small, must be protected. No matter how well intended, either official or unofficial sponsorship of religiously-oriented activities by the school are offensive to some and tend to supplant activities which should be the exclusive province of individual religious groups, churches, private organizations, or the family.

District staff members shall not use prayer, religious readings, or religious symbols as a devotional exercise or in an act of worship or celebration. The District shall not act as a disseminating agent for any person or outside agency for any religious or anti-religious document, book, or article. Distribution of such materials on District property by any party shall be in accordance with Policy 7510 and AG 7510A - Use of District Facilities and Policy 9700 and AG 9700 - Relations with Special Interest Groups.

The Board of Education acknowledges that it is prohibited from adopting any policy or rule respecting or promoting an establishment of religion or prohibiting any student from the free, individual, and voluntary exercise or expression of the student's religious beliefs. ~~However, such exercise or expression may be limited to lunch periods or other non-instructional time periods when students are free to associate.~~

[x.] Any student enrolled in the District may choose to engage in religious expression before, during, or after school hours in the same manner and to the same extent that a student is permitted to engage in secular activities or expression. However, no student will be required to participate in any religious expression or activities.

Observance of religious holidays through devotional exercises or acts of worship is also prohibited. Acknowledgement of, explanation of, and teaching about religious holidays of various religions is encouraged. Celebration activities involving nonreligious decorations and use of secular works are permitted, but it is the responsibility of all faculty members to ensure that such activities are strictly voluntary, do not place an atmosphere of social compulsion or ostracism on minority groups or individuals, and do not interfere with the regular school program.

The Board shall not conduct or sanction a baccalaureate service in conjunction with graduation ceremonies.

The Board shall not include religious invocations, benedictions, or formal prayer at any school-sponsored event.

At the discretion of the Superintendent, a moment of silence may be provided each school day for prayer, reflection, or meditation upon a moral, philosophical, or patriotic theme. However, under no circumstances shall students be compelled to participate.

The flag of the United States shall be raised above each school and/or at other appropriate places during all school sessions, weather permitting. The flag shall be raised before the opening of school and taken down at its close every day.

The mottoes of the United States of America ("In God We Trust") and the State of Ohio ("With God, All Things Are Possible") shall be displayed in an appropriate manner in a classroom, auditorium, or cafeteria of a school building of the District, if copies of the mottoes or money to purchase copies of the mottoes are donated to the District. The donated or purchased copies of the mottoes shall meet the applicable design requirements as provided by statute.

Furthermore, the Board requires that an observance be scheduled each year on or about Veterans Day to convey the meaning and significance of that day to all students and staff. The amount of time each school devotes to this observance shall be at least one (1) hour or, in schools that schedule class periods of less than one (1) hour, at least one (1) standard class period. The Board shall determine the specific activities to constitute observance in each school in the District after consulting with the school's administrators.

Districts are required to hold an educational program pertaining to the United States Constitution on September 17th of each year, Constitution Day. Whenever September 17th falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, the Constitution Day observance shall be held during the preceding or following week.

[] Professional staff members are authorized to lead students in the Pledge of Allegiance at an appropriate time each school day. However, no student shall be compelled/required to participate in the recitation of the Pledge. Additionally, the Board prohibits the intimidation of any student by other students or staff for the purposes of coercing participation. The Superintendent shall develop administrative guidelines that require any staff member who conducts this activity does it at an appropriate time, in an appropriate manner, and with due regard to the need to protect the rights and the privacy of a nonparticipating student. Wording of the Pledge of Allegiance as set forth in the United States Code shall not be altered.

R.C. 3313.601, 3313.602, 3313.76, 3313.77, 3313.801, 3314.03, 3314.03(A)(11)(h), [3320.01](#), [3320.02](#), [3320.03](#)
20 U.S.C. 4071 et seq.

Section 111 of Division J of Publ. L 108-447

Gregoire vs. Centennial School District, 907 F.2d 1366, (3rd Cir. 1990)

Lee vs. Weisman, 505 U.S. 577 (1992)

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R.C. 3313.601, 3313.602, 3313.76, 3313.77, 3313.801, 3314.03, 3314.03(A)(11)(h),
3320.01, 3320.02, 3320.03

20 U.S.C. 4071 et seq.

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