

## General Administration

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**Religion**

**Religious Expression**

In order to ensure clarity in application of the District's religious expression policy, the following guidelines have been developed and implemented.

**Prayer During Noninstructional Time**

Students are permitted to engage in religious expression during noninstructional time, i.e., before school, after school, during lunch and recess and while not engaged in school activities. Religious expressions permitted include Bible reading, prayer, scripture reading, saying grace before meals. However, the exercise of constitutional rights of religious expression may not be engaged in when the expression disrupts educational activities or school-sponsored activities. The decision to participate or not participate in religious expression is a matter of individual choice. No student will be permitted to harass or intimidate other students to participate or refrain from participating in religious expression.

**Access of Student Religious Groups to School Media**

Religious related student groups will be given the same access to school facilities and school communications as are given to other noncurricular student groups. For example, and to the extent that noncurricular student groups are permitted to advertise in school media, participate in school announcements, make use of student activity bulletin boards and hand out leaflets announcing group activities, religious related groups will be given the same privileges. In all instances, the District maintains the right to control the means and timing of such activities. In all such matters, the District neither favors nor disfavors religious related student groups or the activities sponsored by such groups.

**Release Time for Religious Activities**

Upon written parental request, students may be released from school to participate in off-premises religious instruction or to satisfy religious obligations. Students who are released from class for religious activities will not be penalized for missing school. However, such students will be responsible for all assignments and for the content of lessons missed. The District will not provide transportation to or from off-premises for religious observances and will not be responsible for the safety or welfare of students while away from school.

**Religious Expression in Class Assignments**

Students are free to express their personal beliefs about religion in homework assignments, artwork or other written or oral assignments.

Such assignments will be evaluated by teachers based upon academic standards of substance, quality and relevance. Students will neither be rewarded nor penalized because of the religious content or lack of religious content in their assignments.

### **Student Assemblies and Extracurricular Activities**

Generally, school administrators will determine or substantially control the content of what is expressed at student assemblies and at extracurricular activities. In such cases religious expression will not be permitted as the religious expression may be attributed to the school or seen as an endorsement of a particular religious belief or expression. However, in instances where students are selected to speak at assemblies based upon neutral selection criteria and where the student speaker has primary control over the content of his/her oral presentation, the school will not restrict the student speech because of its religious or anti-religious content. In such cases, school authorities will publicly clarify that the content of the student's speech is the speaker's and not the school's.

### **Prayer at Graduation/Baccalaureate Ceremonies**

Where students or other graduation speakers are selected on the basis of neutral criteria and retain control over the content of their speech, the content of the speech will not be restricted because of the religious or anti-religious content of the speech. The school disclaims responsibility for such speech - neither encouraging nor discouraging its content. However, neither District nor school officials may direct or encourage prayer at graduation or select speakers because of the expectation that such speakers will include religious expressions in their speech.

To the extent that the District makes its facilities and related services available to private groups, the District will provide similar access and on similar terms to private groups for a baccalaureate ceremony. The District and the school will not mandate student attendance nor participate in the organization of the ceremony. School employees are free to attend but will not be required to attend the private baccalaureate ceremony.

### **Religious Activities of School Employees**

When not engaging in work-related activities, i.e., before school or during lunch, school employees may take part in religious activities such as prayer or Bible study. Such activities should be conducted in private in order to avoid the appearance that the employees are acting in their employment responsibilities. School employees are prohibited from encouraging or discouraging religious expression and from actively participating in religious expression with students.

### **Religious Emblems or Garments**

School personnel shall not require students to remove religious emblems or garments if they are worn in a non-disruptive manner.

### **Certification of Compliance**

The District will provide annual written certification of compliance that the District does not maintain any policy that prevents or denies participation in constitutionally protected prayer in public elementary and secondary schools. This certification will be provided to the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education on or by October 1 annually. A copy of the certification will be maintained in the District's administration office and will be available for public review.

Last Modified: July 11, 2005

Board Adopted December 16, 2005

Board Reviewed January 22, 2015

Board Reviewed December 19, 2019

**Calendar Requirements**

**School Year and School Day**

**Alternative Methods of Instruction**

Beginning in school year 2020-21, the District may use a DESE approved alternative method of instruction to compensate for certain hours lost due to exceptional and/or emergency circumstances. “Exceptional or emergency circumstances” include, inclement weather, a utility outage or an outbreak of a contagious disease.

**Notification of Parents and Students**

If the District utilizes such DESE approved alternative method of instruction plan, the District will notify students and parents on each day of the closure. In these circumstances, the District will ensure that each student receives assignments for that day in hard copy or receives instruction through virtual learning or another form of instruction.

**Limitation on Utilization of Instruction Method**

Alternative methods of instruction can be utilized for a maximum of thirty-six (36) hours during a school year. Days lost or cancelled beyond thirty-six (36) hours, will be made up in the scheduling of replacement days.

**Application for Use of Alternative Methods of Instruction**

The District’s application to DESE will describe:

1. Manner in which the District intends to strengthen and reinforce instructional content.
2. Means of communicating to students and parents the decision to implement alternative methods.
3. Process for communicating the purpose and expectation of alternative changes.
4. Communication of proposed expectations.
5. Assignments and materials to be used.
6. Manner in which attendance will be determined.
7. Instruction methods to reach students electronically and to reach students without internet access.
8. Instructional methods for IEP students.
9. Role and responsibility of certified personnel to be available to communicate with students.

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Board Adopted October 17, 2019

## **GENERAL ADMINISTRATION**

**Regulation 1300**  
**(Form 1300)**

### **Equal Opportunity**

#### **Prohibition Against Harassment, Discrimination and Retaliation**

Harassment or discrimination because of an individual's race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, age, genetic information, or any other characteristic protected by law is prohibited in this District. The District also prohibits retaliation against a person who files a complaint of discrimination or harassment or participates in an investigation of allegations of harassment or discrimination.

This Regulation governs and outlines the procedure for filing a complaint by students, employees, parents, and patrons of the District alleging harassment, discrimination, or related retaliation based on a protected classification under the laws identified in Policy 1300 (outside of Title IX). A complaint regarding sexual harassment or related retaliation of a student or employee under Title IX and that is alleged to have occurred on or after August 14, 2020, should be filed in accordance with the procedures outlined in Regulation 1301. A complaint regarding the identification, evaluation, educational program, or placement of a child with a disability under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 should be filed in accordance with the procedures outlined in Regulation 2110.

#### **DISTRICT'S COMPLIANCE OFFICER**

The following person has been designated as the District's Compliance Officer to handle inquiries or complaints regarding the District's non-discrimination policies:

Superintendent  
510 East Avenue  
Grant City, MO 64456-8312  
(660) 564-3389

The District has designated the Compliance Officer with the responsibility to identify, prevent, and remedy unlawful discrimination and harassment in the District. The Compliance Officer is in charge of assuring District compliance with this Policy and Regulation, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; as well as other state and federal nondiscrimination laws. See Regulation 1301 for the individual(s) designated by the District to be the Title IX Coordinator with the responsibility to identify, prevent, and remedy unlawful harassment and related retaliation in accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

The Compliance Officer will:

1. \*Receive complaints of discrimination or harassment based on an individual's race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, age, genetic information, or any other characteristic protected by law.

2. Oversee the investigative process.
3. Assess the training needs of District staff and students in connection with the dissemination, comprehension, and compliance with this Regulation.
4. Arrange for necessary training required for compliance with this Regulation.
5. Insure that investigations are conducted by an impartial investigator.
6. In the event the complaint is about the Compliance Officer or Compliance Officer's immediate supervisor, the District will consider appointment of an outside investigator.

\*If any complaint involves allegations against the Compliance Officer, the Complaint shall be filed directly with the Superintendent, unless the Superintendent is the Compliance Officer, or President of the Board of Education.

## **DEFINITIONS**

For the purpose of this Regulation, the following terms are defined:

*Compliance Officer:* The District employee(s) designated by the Board of Education to coordinate the District's compliance with District policy, Missouri statutes, and federal laws regarding discrimination, harassment and retaliation based on an individual's race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, age, genetic information, or any other characteristic or any other characteristic that is protected by law.

*Day:* A calendar day. All timeframes and deadlines may be extended by the District for good cause, including but not limited to Board-approved holiday breaks and building closures.

*Disability:* A physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity.

*Discrimination:* Adverse conduct directed at an individual or group based on race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, age, genetic information, or any other characteristic that is protected by law. The encouragement, cooperation, coercing, or support of adverse conduct that is based on race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, age, genetic information, or any other characteristic that is protected by law is discrimination.

*Harassment:* Harassment is conduct, including but not limited to, intimidation, ridicule or insult, toward an individual or group because of race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, age, genetic information, or any other characteristic that is protected by law and is so severe or pervasive that it:

- Affects an individual's ability to work in, participate in, or benefit from an educational program or activity; and
- Creates an intimidating, threatening, abusive hostile or offensive environment; or



- Has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably altering the work or educational environment.

For the purposes of this Regulation, sexual harassment is defined as unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature or based upon sex when a) benefits or decisions are implicitly or explicitly conditioned upon submission to, or consequence is applied for refusing to comply with, unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors or conduct of a sexual nature; or b) the school or work environment becomes permeated with intimidation, ridicule or insult that is based on sex or is sexual in nature and that is sufficiently severe or pervasive enough to alter the conditions of participation in the district's programs and activities or the conditions of employment.

A student regardless of age cannot consent to behavior of a sexual nature with an adult irrespective of the circumstances.

*Retaliation:* Adverse conduct including, but not limited to, conduct of a coercive, intimidating, threatening, discriminatory, or harassing nature because of an individual's good faith complaint, participation in the investigation, testifying, or resolution of discriminatory or harassing conduct based on an individual's race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, age, genetic information, or any other characteristic that is protected by law.

*Student:* An individual that is currently enrolled as a student of the District.

### **Illustrations and Examples of Prohibited Harassment**

For the purpose of this Regulation, the determination if conduct as unwelcome is a fact-intensive question that shall be considered on a case-by-case basis.

### **Examples of Sexual Harassment**

Sexual harassment may include a range of subtle and not-so-subtle behaviors and may involve individuals of the same or different gender. Legitimate, non-sexual physical conduct necessary to avoid physical harm to persons or property, to console an individual, or spontaneous movement during a sporting activity is not sexual harassment.

Depending on the circumstances and application of the definitions immediately above in this Regulation, examples of conduct which may or may not constitute sexual harassment, include, but are not limited to:

- sexual advances;
- request for sexual favors;
- threatening an individual for not agreeing to submit to sexual advancement;
- sexually motivated touching of an individual's intimate parts;

- coercing, forcing, or attempting to coerce or force the touching of an individual's intimate parts;
- display of drawings, graffiti, cartoons, pictures, symbols or other written material of a sexual nature;
- sexual gestures;
- sexual or dirty jokes;
- sexually provocative or explicit speech;
- communications about or rating an individual as to his/her body, sexual activity, or performance; and
- verbal abuse of a sexual nature.

**Examples of Race, Color, Nation Origin, Ancestry, Religion, Disability, Age or Genetic Information Harassment**

As defined in this Regulation, examples of conduct that may be considered harassment based on an individual's race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, disability, age, or genetic information, or any other characteristic that is protected by law include, but are not limited to:

- display of drawings, graffiti, cartoons, pictures, symbols or other written material;
- jokes;
- gestures;
- slurs, derogatory stereotypes or remarks, rumors, name-calling, insults, teasing, or taunting;
- threats or intimidating conduct;
- hostile action, physical aggression or violence; and
- damage or theft of property.

**OBLIGATION TO REPORT**

The District is steadfastly committed to providing an inclusive environment that is free from discrimination and harassment for all of its students and staff. Unless a concern is informally resolved, staff and students shall report all incidents of discrimination, harassment and retaliation to the Compliance Officer as set forth in this Regulation. When a formal complaint is filed with the Compliance Officer, the investigation and complaint process detailed below will be used, including a possible determination by the Compliance Officer that the incident has been

appropriately addressed through the informal process. Reports of discrimination, harassment and/or related retaliation must contain as much specific information as possible to allow for proper assessment of the nature, extent and urgency of preliminary investigative procedures.

### **INTERIM MEASURES**

The District will take action to protect a complainant or persons subjected to discrimination, harassment, or retaliation as necessary during the course of an investigation. Appropriate interim measures will be offered and may include, but are not limited to, physical separation, contact limitations, reassignment, alternative work or assignments, altering class or bus seating assignments, additional supervision, counseling, training, warning, conferences, exclusion and employee suspension pending an investigation as permitted by the District's policies and law. Additional interim measures to prevent retaliation may include, but are not limited to, notification of the retaliation prohibition, confirming the individual knows how to report retaliation, and follow-up contact.

### **INVESTIGATION AND RESPONSE**

The District will investigate allegations of harassment, discrimination, and/or retaliation and take appropriate steps reasonably calculated to resolve the situation, eliminate the misconduct, prevent its recurrence and as appropriate, remedy its effects. The District will take equitable and remedial action within its authority on complaints that come to the attention of the District, either formally or informally.

Allegations of criminal misconduct will be reported to law enforcement and suspected child abuse will be reported to law enforcement and/or the Children's Division. Regardless of whether the misconduct is reported to law enforcement and/or the Children's Division, school staff will investigate to determine what occurred and take appropriate steps to resolve the situation, to the extent that such investigation does not interfere with an ongoing criminal investigation.

Engaging in harassment, discrimination, and/or retaliation will result in appropriate discipline or other appropriate sanctions against offending students, staff or other third parties involved in District activities. Anyone else who engages in harassment, discrimination, and retaliation on school property or at school activities will have their access to school property and activities restricted, as appropriate.

Employees and students should fully cooperate with investigation process.

### **Informal Process for Resolution**

The District takes seriously the obligation to investigate complaints of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation and to take appropriate remedial measures when necessary. The District recognizes that the obligation to investigate and remedy may be accomplished through an informal process, depending on the circumstances.

Anyone may use informal procedures to report and resolve complaints of harassment,

discrimination, and retaliation. If a staff member receives an informal complaint of harassment, discrimination, and/or retaliation and the complaint cannot be resolved informally, the staff member shall inform their relevant building administrator or supervisor. The administrator/supervisor may attempt to resolve the matter informally and should inform complainants of this Regulation.

Building administrators/supervisors shall provide information to the Compliance Officer on a regular basis about complaints reported and resolved through the informal process.

Informal complaints may become formal complaints at the request of the complainant, parent/guardian, or the District.

During the course of the informal complaint process, the District will take prompt and effective steps reasonably calculated to end the harassment, discrimination, and retaliation and to correct any effects on the complainant.

Informal remedies may include, but are not limited to:

- If the complainant so desires, an opportunity for the complainant to explain to the alleged harasser that his or her conduct is unwelcome, offensive or inappropriate, either in writing or face-to-face;
- A statement from a staff member to the alleged harasser that the alleged conduct is not appropriate and could lead to discipline if proven or repeated;
- Developing a safety plan;
- Separating students; or
- Providing staff and/or student training.

The District will inform the complainant (and their parent/guardian when applicable) how to report any subsequent problems. Additionally, the District may conduct follow-up inquiries to see if there have been any new incidents or instances of retaliation, and to promptly respond and appropriately address continuing or new problems.

### **Formal Process for Resolution**

#### **Step One – Complaint to District**

Anyone may initiate a formal complaint of harassment, discrimination, or retaliation by filing a written complaint with the District's Compliance Officer. At any step in the formal resolution process, where appropriate, the District will take interim measures to protect the complainant or alleged victim before the final outcome of the District's investigation. Additionally, the District may appoint an outside investigator at any step of the informal or formal resolution process. A subordinate shall not investigate his/her supervisor.

The following process will be followed at Step One:

#### Filing of Complaint

- All formal complaints will be in writing and will set forth the specific acts, conditions or circumstances alleged to have occurred and to constitute harassment, discrimination or retaliation. The Compliance Officer may draft the complaint based on the report of the complainant for the complainant to review and approve. The Compliance Officer may also conclude that the District needs to conduct an investigation based on information in his or her possession, regardless of the complainant's interest in filing a formal complaint.
- Formal complaints must be submitted to the Compliance Officer.
- A charge or complaint of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation filed with an outside agency does not constitute a formal complaint or trigger an obligation to follow the formal complaint investigation procedures as contemplated under this Regulation.

#### Investigation of Complaint

- The Compliance Officer will receive and investigate all formal, written complaints of harassment, discrimination or retaliation or will investigate if information in the Officer's possession leads them to believe further investigation is required. The Compliance Officer will delegate his or her authority to participate in this process if such action is necessary to avoid any potential conflicts of interest. Upon receipt of a complaint, the Compliance Officer will provide the complainant a copy of this Regulation.
- Investigations will be carried out in a manner that is adequate in scope, reliability and impartiality. During the investigation process, the complainant and accused party or parties, if the complainant has identified an accused party, will have an opportunity to identify witnesses and present relevant evidence. The District and complainant may also agree to resolve the complaint in lieu of an investigation.
- When the investigation is completed, the Compliance Officer will compile a written report of the investigation. The report may include a recommendation of appropriate action to remedy the allegations included in the complaint. The Compliance Officer will forward the report and recommendations to the Superintendent. If the Superintendent is the subject of the complaint, the report and recommendations will be forwarded to the Board President.

#### Response to Complaint

- The Superintendent will review the report completed by the Compliance Officer.

- The Superintendent will respond in writing with a Letter of Outcome to the complainant and the accused party within **thirty (30)** calendar days of the Compliance Officer's receipt of the written complaint, unless otherwise agreed to by the complainant or if circumstances related to the complaint require an extension of the time limit. In the event an extension is needed, the District will notify the complainant in writing of the reason for the extension and the anticipated response date.
- The Letter of Outcome will include: 1) a statement of the outcome of the investigation including whether a preponderance of the evidence establishes that harassment, discrimination, and/or retaliation occurred in violation of Policy 1300; 2) if violation of Policy 1300 is found to have occurred, the assurance that the District will take steps to prevent recurrence and remedy its effects on the complainant and others, if appropriate; and 3) notice of the right to appeal to the school board and the necessary filing information.
- Any corrective measures deemed necessary will be instituted as promptly as reasonable.
- The District will inform the complainant (and their parent/guardian if the complainant is a student) how to report any subsequent problems. Additionally, where appropriate the District will conduct follow-up inquiries to see if there have been any new incidents or instances of retaliation, and to respond and appropriately address continuing or new problems.
- If the Superintendent is the subject of the complaint, the actions set forth herein to be completed by the Superintendent will be completed by the Board President.

### Step Two – Appeal to Board of Education

#### Notice of Appeal

- The complainant or accused party may appeal to the Board of Education by filing a written notice of appeal with the secretary of the Board within **ten (10)** calendar days following receipt of the Letter of Outcome.
- On receipt of the written appeal, the matter shall be placed on the agenda of the Board for consideration not later than their next regularly scheduled meeting, unless otherwise agreed to by the complainant and the superintendent or for good cause.
- Parties will be allowed to provide comment and information as the Board deems relevant and material.

#### Board Decision

- Unless otherwise agreed to by the appealing party, the Board will provide written notice of its determination within **thirty (30)** calendar days following the filing of

the notice of appeal and provide the appealing party with a copy of the determination.

## **RETALIATION**

The District prohibits retaliation against a person who files a complaint of discrimination or harassment, and further prohibits retaliation against a person who participates in related proceedings or investigations.

Notwithstanding this provision, employees or students found to have intentionally made false or materially misleading allegations of suspected discrimination, harassment and/or related retaliation under this Regulation may be disciplined, up to and including dismissal or expulsion.

## **CONFIDENTIALITY**

The District will respect the privacy of the complainant, the individuals against whom the complaint is filed, and the witnesses to the extent possible, consistent with applicable law, the District's legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to conform with any discovery or disclosure obligations. However, pursuant to the District's discretion, information may be disclosed, if necessary, to aid in the investigation, resolution, or appeal of the complaint.

## **CONSEQUENCES AND REMEDIES**

The District will take prompt, effective and appropriate action to address substantiated discrimination, harassment or retaliation, prevent its recurrence and remedy its effects.

### **Consequences**

Consequences for violations of this Policy and Regulation may have educational, restorative, rehabilitative and/or punitive components.

Conduct constituting harassment, discrimination or retaliation as defined in this Regulation will be subject to discipline including, but not limited to, written warning or reprimand, conference, required training, "no contact" order, reassignment, probation, suspension or termination for employees, suspension or expulsion for students, or exclusion from District property.

In the event that the evidence suggests that the conduct at issue is also a crime in violation of a Missouri criminal statute, the District Compliance Officer shall report the conduct to the appropriate law enforcement agency charged with responsibility for handling such crimes.

As required by and in compliance with law and District policy, a report will be made to the Missouri Children's Division if there is reasonable cause to suspect abuse or neglect of a child.

Students, employees and others will not be disciplined for speech in circumstances where it is protected by law.

### **Remedies**

The District will consider remedies for the victim as appropriate including, but are not limited to, providing additional resources such as counseling, moving or reassignment of the perpetrator, or allowing the victim to retake or withdraw from a class.

An allegation of discrimination, harassment and/or related retaliation complaint may not necessarily stop, delay or affect pending personnel actions. This includes, but is not limited to, performance evaluations or disciplinary actions related to a reporter who is not performing at acceptable levels or standards or who has violated district policies or regulations.

### **TRAINING & PUBLICATION OF POLICY**

The District will train its employees on this Policy and Regulation. The training will include the requirements of nondiscrimination and the appropriate responses to discrimination, harassment, and retaliation. The District will notify its employees to report complaints of discrimination, harassment or retaliation in accordance with this Policy. This training will be provided to employees on an annual basis, and at such other times as the Superintendent, in consultation with the District's Compliance Officer, determines is necessary or appropriate. Additionally, the District will provide additional training to the District Compliance Officer on identifying, investigating, and reporting on acts that may constitute discrimination, harassment or retaliation. District students will be notified regarding this Policy. This Policy will be posted on the District's website and available in Central Office.

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Board Updated September 17, 2020



**Equal Opportunity**

**Prohibition Against Sexual Harassment and Retaliation under Title IX**

This Policy governs a complaint of sexual harassment or retaliation of a student or employee, as such conduct is defined and regulated under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and that is alleged to have occurred on or after August 14, 2020. If any provision of Title IX or its regulations is held invalid or unenforceable by a court, agency, or department with legal jurisdiction over the District, the corresponding provisions in this Policy shall likewise be rendered invalid and not enforced.

A complaint by students, employees, parents, and patrons of the District alleging harassment, discrimination, or related retaliation based on a protected classification under the laws identified in Policy 1300 (outside of Title IX) should be filed in accordance with the procedures outlined in Regulation 1300. A complaint regarding the identification, evaluation, educational program, or placement of a child with a disability under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 should be filed in accordance with the procedures outlined in Regulation 2110.

**DISTRICT'S TITLE IX COORDINATOR**

The following person has been designated as the District's Title IX Coordinator:

Superintendent  
510 East Avenue  
Grant City, MO 64456-8312  
(660) 565-4489  
mmartz@wc.k12.mo.us

The District has designated the Title IX Coordinator with the responsibility to identify, prevent, and remedy unlawful harassment and retaliation under Title IX in the District. The Title IX Coordinator is in charge of assuring District compliance with Regulation 1301 and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. See Policy and Regulation 1300 for the individual(s) designated by the District to be the Compliance Officer with the responsibility to identify, prevent, and remedy unlawful discrimination and harassment in accordance with Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; as well as other state and federal nondiscrimination laws.

**DEFINITIONS**

For the purpose of this Regulation, the following terms are defined:

*Actual Knowledge:* Notice of sexual harassment or allegations of sexual harassment to any employee (other than the respondent) in an education program or activity of the District against a person in the United States. Actual knowledge does not include constructive notice.

*Complainant:* An individual who is alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment.

*Day:* A calendar day. All timeframes and deadlines may be extended by the District for good cause, including but not limited to Board-approved holiday breaks and building closures.

*Education program or activity:* Locations, events, or circumstances over which the District exercised substantial control over both the respondent and the context in which the sexual harassment occurs.

*Formal complaint:* A document filed by a complainant, or a parent or legal guardian of a student complainant, alleging sexual harassment against a respondent and requesting that the District investigate the allegation of sexual harassment. Additionally, a formal complaint can be completed and signed by the Title IX Coordinator, if, in their sole discretion, they conclude that the District needs to conduct an investigation based on information in their possession, regardless of the complainant's interest in filing a formal complaint. At the time of filing a formal complaint, a complainant must be participating in or attempting to participate in the education program or activity of the District. The complainant must physically or digitally sign the formal complaint, or otherwise indicate that the complainant is the person filing the formal complaint. If the Title IX Coordinator signs a formal complaint, the Title IX Coordinator is not a complainant.

*Respondent:* An individual who is reported to be the perpetrator of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment.

*Retaliation:* Intimidation, threats, coercion, or discrimination of an individual for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by Title IX or because the individual has made a report of complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation or proceeding under this Regulation.

*Sexual harassment:* Conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies one or more of the following:

1. A District employee conditioning an aid, benefit, or service of an education program or activity on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct;
2. Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the education program or activity; or
3. "Sexual assault" as defined in 20 U.S.C. 1092(f)(6)(A)(v), "dating violence" as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(10), "domestic violence" as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(8), or "stalking" as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(30).

*Supportive measures:* Non-disciplinary, non-punitive, individualized services. Appropriate supportive measures shall be offered to the complainant and may be offered to the respondent, as appropriate and depending on the individual circumstances of the situation. Supportive measures

may include, but are not limited to, physical separation, contact limitations, reassignment, alternative work or assignments, altering class or bus seating assignments, additional supervision, counseling, training, and conferences.

### **Illustrations and Examples of Prohibited Sexual Harassment**

For the purpose of this Regulation, the determination if conduct is prohibited under Title IX is a fact-intensive question that shall be considered on a case-by-case basis. Legitimate, non-sexual physical conduct necessary to avoid physical harm to persons or property, to console an individual, or spontaneous movement during a sporting activity is not sexual harassment.

Depending on the circumstances and application of the definitions immediately above in this Regulation, examples of conduct which may or may not constitute sexual harassment, include, but are not limited to:

- sexual advances;
- request for sexual favors;
- threatening an individual for not agreeing to submit to sexual advancement;
- sexually motivated touching of an individual's intimate parts;
- coercing, forcing, or attempting to coerce or force the touching of an individual's intimate parts;
- display of drawings, graffiti, cartoons, pictures, symbols or other written material of a sexual nature;
- sexual gestures;
- sexual or dirty jokes;
- sexually provocative or explicit speech;
- communications about or rating an individual as to their body, sexual activity, or performance; and
- verbal abuse of a sexual nature.

### **OBLIGATION TO REPORT**

The District is steadfastly committed to providing an inclusive environment that is free from sexual discrimination and harassment for all of its students and staff. Staff with actual knowledge of behaviors that may constitute sexual harassment and related retaliation as defined in this Regulation shall report it to the Title IX Coordinator. When a formal complaint is filed with the Title IX Coordinator, the grievance process detailed below will be used. Reports of sexual

harassment and/or related retaliation must contain as much specific information as possible to allow for proper assessment of the nature and extent of the investigative procedures.

## **RESPONSE TO ACTUAL KNOWLEDGE OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT OR RELATED RETALIATION**

When the District has actual knowledge of sexual harassment or related retaliation under Title IX, the Title IX Coordinator shall:

1. Promptly contact the complainant to discuss the availability of supportive measures;
2. Consider the complainant's wishes with respect to supportive measures;
3. Explain the process for filing a formal complaint under this Regulation; and
4. Inform the complainant of the availability of supportive measures regardless of whether a formal complaint is filed under this Regulation.

The respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged conduct until a determination regarding responsibility is made at the conclusion of the grievance process outlined in this Regulation. The District will only impose disciplinary consequences against a respondent for violations of this Regulation after the grievance process has been completed; however, the District may impose disciplinary consequences against a respondent for other violations of the District's Board of Education Policies prior to the conclusion of the grievance process outlined in this Regulation. If there is an immediate threat to the physical health or safety of any student arising from the allegation of sexual harassment that justifies removal, the respondent's placement shall be changed, including removal from the District. Immediately following the removal, the respondent shall be given notice and an opportunity to challenge the decision to the Superintendent in writing. The Superintendent shall issue a written decision on the respondent's challenge and such decision shall be final. If the respondent is an employee, the employee may be placed on administrative leave during the pendency of the grievance process.

## **GRIEVANCE PROCESS FOR FORMAL COMPLAINT**

During the grievance process for a formal complaint, the District shall treat the complainant and the respondent equitably. The District will ensure that relevant evidence is objectively evaluated, including both inculpatory and exculpatory evidence, and that credibility determinations are not based on a person's status as a complainant, respondent, or witness. Additionally, the Title IX Coordinator, the investigator, all decision-makers, and any facilitator of the informal resolution process shall not have a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or individually. Furthermore, the District shall not require, allow, rely upon, or otherwise use questions or evidence that constitute, or seek disclosure of, information protected under a legally recognized privilege, unless the person holding such privilege has waived the privilege.

### Formal Complaint

Formal complaints of sexual harassment under this Regulation must be submitted to the Title IX Coordinator.

A charge or complaint of sexual harassment or retaliation filed with an outside agency does not constitute a formal complaint with the District or trigger the District's obligation to follow the formal complaint grievance process as contemplated under this Regulation.

If a formal complaint involves allegations against the Title IX Coordinator, the formal complaint shall be filed directly with the Superintendent, unless the Superintendent is the Title IX Coordinator, or President of the Board of Education.

Upon receipt of a formal complaint, the Title IX Coordinator shall promptly:

1. Provide written notice of the allegations, the grievance process, and any informal resolution process to the complainant and the respondent to give both parties the proper time to prepare a response before an interview;
2. Inform the complainant and the respondent of the prohibition against making false statement or knowingly submitting false information;
3. Inform the complainant and the respondent that they may have an advisor (who may be but who is not required to be an attorney) present during any of their own subsequent meetings; and
4. Offer supportive measures in an equitable manner to the complainant and the respondent, when appropriate.

The Title IX Coordinator, at their discretion, may consolidate formal complaints if they arise out of the same facts or circumstances. If, in the course of the investigation process as outlined below in this Regulation, the investigator decides to investigate new allegations about the complainant or the respondent that are not included in a written notice previously provided to the complainant and respondent, the Title IX Coordinator will provide another written notice of the additional allegations to the complainant and the respondent.

The Title IX Coordinator must dismiss a formal complaint for any of the following reasons:

1. The conduct alleged in the formal complaint would not constitute sexual harassment even if proved.
2. The conduct alleged in the formal complaint did not occur in the District's education program or activity.
3. The conduct alleged in the formal complaint did not occur within the United States.

The Title IX Coordinator may dismiss a formal complaint for any of the following reasons:

1. The complainant has notified the District in writing that the complainant would like to withdraw the formal complaint or any allegations.
2. The respondent is no longer enrolled or employed by the District.
3. Specific circumstances prevent the District from gathering evidence sufficient to reach a determination as to the formal complaint.

If the Title IX Coordinator dismisses a formal complaint, written notice of the dismissal, including the reasons for dismissal, shall be provided to the complainant and the respondent. If a complainant or respondent wishes to appeal a dismissal of a formal complaint, they should follow the appeal process outlined in this Regulation. Dismissal of a formal complaint does not preclude the District from investigating, taking action, or imposing discipline outside of this Regulation related to the alleged conduct and in accordance with any other Board policy or regulation.

### Investigation

The Title IX Coordinator, or a designee, shall serve as the investigator and be responsible for investigating formal complaints in an equitable manner that involves an objective evaluation of all relevant evidence. The District may appoint an outside investigator when appropriate. A subordinate shall not investigate his or her supervisor.

The burden for obtaining evidence sufficient to reach a determination regarding responsibility rests on the District and not the complainant or respondent.

The investigator shall initiate an investigation within five (5) days of the receipt of the formal complaint by the Title IX Coordinator, unless good cause exists to extend this timeframe. All investigations shall:

1. Provide an equal opportunity for the complainant and the respondent to present witnesses and evidence;
2. Not restrict the ability of either the complainant or the respondent to discuss the allegations under investigation or to gather and present relevant evidence;
3. Refrain from requiring, allowing, relying upon, or otherwise using questions or evidence that seek disclosure of information protected under a legally recognized privilege unless such privilege has been waived;
4. Provide the complainant and the respondent with the same opportunities to have an advisor present during any grievance proceeding;
5. Provide to the complainant and the respondent whose participation is requested written notice of the date, time, location, participants, and purpose of all investigative interviews, or other meetings, with sufficient time for the individual to prepare to participate;

6. Provide the complainant and the respondent an equal opportunity to inspect and review any evidence directly related to the allegations in the formal complaint; and
7. Result in the creation of an investigative report that fairly summarizes relevant evidence.

Employees and students should fully cooperate with the investigation process under this Regulation.

Prior to the completion of the investigative report, the investigator shall send to the complainant and the respondent the evidence related to the investigation to inspect and review. The complainant and the respondent shall have ten (10) days to submit a written response which the investigator shall take into consideration in creating the final investigative report.

At the close of the investigation, a written final investigative report will be delivered to the complainant and the respondent. The final investigative report should be completed within thirty (30) days of the initiation of the investigation, unless good cause exists to extend this timeframe.

Upon receipt of the final investigative report, the complainant and the respondent shall have ten (10) days to submit a written response to the report to the investigator and to submit written, relevant questions to be asked of any party or witness prior to the determination of responsibility.

#### Determination of Responsibility

For the purposes of a determination of responsibility, the decision-maker shall be the Superintendent or their designee; however, the decision-maker shall not be the Title IX Coordinator or the investigator. The decision-maker shall receive the final investigative report as well as any written responses and additional questions to be asked that were timely submitted by the complainant and the respondent. Upon a determination of relevance, the decision-maker will facilitate the exchange of written questions as submitted by the complainant and the respondent, provide the complainant and the respondent with submitted answers (if any), and allow for additional, limited follow-up questions from the complainant and respondent.

Within a reasonably prompt time frame, the decision-maker shall make a determination of responsibility based on the final investigative report, the evidence, and all written responses timely submitted by the complainant and the respondent, and without any live testimony or hearing.

The decision-maker shall provide the written determination to the complainant and the respondent, along with information regarding the procedures and allowable bases to appeal the decision. The written determination shall include:

1. The allegations potentially constituting sexual harassment;
2. A description of the procedural steps taken from the receipt of the formal complaint through the determination, including any notifications to the parties, interviews with

- parties and witnesses, site visits, and methods used to gather other evidence;
3. Findings of fact supporting the determination;
  4. Conclusions regarding the application of the District's code of conduct to the facts; and
  5. A statement of, and rationale for, the result as to each allegation, including a determination regarding responsibility, any disciplinary sanctions the District imposes on the respondent, and whether remedies designed to restore or preserve equal access to the District's education program or activity will be provided by the recipient to the complainant.

The preponderance of the evidence standard shall be used in making a determination of responsibility.

If a determination of responsibility against a respondent is made, the District shall impose consequences as described below in this Regulation. After a determination of responsibility is made, the Title IX Coordinator shall work with the complainant to determine if further supportive measures are necessary. The Title IX Coordinator shall also determine whether any other actions are necessary to prevent reoccurrence of the harassment and to restore equal access to the education program or activity.

### Appeal

Either the complainant or the respondent may appeal from a determination of responsibility or a dismissal of a formal complaint (or any allegations therein) for any of the following reasons:

1. A procedural irregularity that affected the outcome of the investigation;
2. New evidence that was not reasonably available at the time of the determination and that could affect the outcome of the investigation; or
3. A conflict of interest on the part of the Title IX Coordinator, investigator, or decision-maker.

Appeals shall be submitted to the Title IX Coordinator within five (5) days of a determination of responsibility or dismissal of a formal complaint (or any allegation therein). If an appeal is not timely submitted, the determination of responsibility or the dismissal of a formal complaint (or any allegation therein) becomes final.

Upon receipt of an appeal, the Title IX Coordinator shall provide written notice of the appeal to the complainant and the respondent. During the appeal process, the complainant and the respondent shall have a reasonable, equal opportunity to submit written statements in support of or in challenge of the appeal to the designated decision-maker on appeal; however, both the complainant and the respondent are limited on appeal to submission of only written statements. There will be no live or oral testimony.



After review of the appeal, investigative report, and any written statement submitted by the complainant and the respondent, the designated decision-maker on appeal, who shall not be the Title IX Coordinator, investigator, or the decision-maker of a dismissal or determination of responsibility, shall issue a written decision describing the result of the appeal and the rationale for the result. The written decision shall be provided to the complainant and the respondent. This decision shall be final.

### Informal Resolution

At any time after a formal complaint is filed and prior to reaching a determination regarding responsibility, the District may facilitate an informal resolution process to address the allegations made in the formal complaint. The informal resolution process is voluntary and does not involve a full investigation and adjudication under the grievance process in this Regulation. If the complainant and respondent both elect to engage in the informal resolution process, their voluntary consent shall be made in writing and all timeframes and deadlines in this Regulation shall be suspended.

An informal resolution may include, but is not limited to the following:

- If the complainant so desires, an opportunity for the complainant to explain to the respondent that his or her conduct is unwelcome, offensive or inappropriate, either in writing or face-to-face;
- A statement from a staff member to the respondent that the alleged conduct is not appropriate and could lead to discipline if proven or repeated;
- Developing a safety plan;
- Separating students; or
- Providing staff and/or student training.

The informal resolution process shall not be made available to formal complaints alleging sexual harassment under this Regulation of a student by an employee.

### **RETALIATION**

The District prohibits retaliation against a person who files a formal complaint of sexual harassment under this Regulation, and further prohibits retaliation against a person who participates in related investigations.

Notwithstanding this provision, employees or students found to have intentionally made knowingly false or materially misleading allegations of suspected harassment and/or related retaliation under this Regulation may be disciplined, up to and including dismissal or expulsion.

### **CONFIDENTIALITY**

The District will respect the privacy of the complainant, the respondent, and the witnesses to the extent possible, consistent with applicable law as well as the District's legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to conform with disclosure obligations as identified in this Regulation.

The complainant and the respondent shall not disclose any information obtained during the grievance process in violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act or for any purpose outside of participation in the grievance process.

## **CONSEQUENCES**

Where a determination of responsibility for sexual harassment or related retaliation as defined in this Regulation has been made, the District will provide remedies to the complainant designed to restore or preserve equal access to the District's education program or activity.

Consequences for violations of this Regulation may have educational, restorative, rehabilitative and/or punitive components.

Conduct constituting sexual harassment or related retaliation as defined in this Regulation will be subject to discipline including, but not limited to, written warning or reprimand, conference, required training, "no contact" order, reassignment, probation, suspension or termination for employees, suspension or expulsion for students, or exclusion from District property.

In the event that the evidence suggests that the conduct at issue is also a crime in violation of a Missouri criminal statute, the Title IX Coordinator shall report the conduct to the appropriate law enforcement agency charged with responsibility for handling such crimes.

As required by and in compliance with law and District policy, a report will be made to the Missouri Children's Division if there is reasonable cause to suspect abuse or neglect of a child.

## **RECORDKEEPING**

The District shall maintain for a period of seven (7) years records of the following:

1. Each investigation and determination of responsibility made under this Regulation, including disciplinary sanctions imposed on the respondent and remedies provided to the complainant;
2. Any appeal decided under this Regulation;
3. Any informal resolution reached under this Regulation;
4. Materials used for training the Title IX Coordinator, investigator, decision-makers, and facilitators of the informal resolution process under this Regulation; and

5. Actions taken in response to actual knowledge of sexual harassment or related retaliation under this Regulation, including supportive measures designed to restore or preserve equal access to the District's education program or activity.

## **TRAINING & PUBLICATION OF POLICY**

The District will train its employees on the definition of sexual harassment and retaliation under this Regulation and the duty to report when they have actual knowledge of sexual harassment. This training will be provided to employees on an annual basis, and at such other times as the Superintendent, in consultation with the District's Title IX Coordinator, determines is necessary or appropriate. Additionally, the District will provide training to the Title IX Coordinator, investigator, decision-makers, and facilitators of the informal resolution process on identifying, investigating, and reporting on acts that may constitute sexual harassment or related retaliation under Title IX, and such training materials will be posted on the District's website. District students will be notified regarding this Regulation. This Regulation will be posted on the District's website and available in Central Office.

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Board Adopted September 17, 2020

**Equal Opportunity**

**Civil Rights, Title IX, Section 504**

This Regulation outlines the responsibilities of Title IX and Section 504 Coordinators and provides mechanisms for the resolution of grievances/complaints by employees, patrons and/or students relating to discrimination based on sex under Title IX or disability under Section 504. For appeal procedures relating to the identification, evaluation or placement of students under Section 504, see Regulation 2110 - Equal Education Opportunity.

**DEFINITIONS**

*Section 504* - Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

*Title IX* - Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972

*Grievance* - A complaint alleging a violation of (1) any District policy, procedure or practice covered by Title IX or Section 504, or (2) other federal or state civil rights laws, rules and regulations or Board of Education policy prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex or disability - other than a complaint regarding a student's identification, evaluation or placement under Section 504. Section 504 programming for students is covered under separate District regulations (Regulation 2110 - Equal Education Opportunity, and Regulation 6250 - Instruction for Students with Disabilities).

*Federal and State Civil Rights Laws, Rules and Regulations* - The Constitutions of the United States and the State of Missouri, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and the Missouri Human Rights Act, and rules and regulations applicable thereto.

*Grievant(s)* - A student of the District, the parent/guardian of a student of the District, or a patron of the District, or an employee of the District, who submits a grievance.

*School District* – Worth County R-III School District

*Section 504/Title IX Coordinator (Coordinator)* - The employee(s) designated to coordinate the District's efforts to comply with Section 504 and Title IX. This employee's responsibilities include receiving and facilitating the processing of complaints. The name of the Coordinator shall be identified in various District publications and shall be posted. If the grievance relates to an alleged wrongful act by the person(s) identified to hear the grievance, the grievant may request the Coordinator to assign a different employee to meeting the grievant.

*Day* - A working day. Saturdays, Sundays and school holidays shall not be included when calculating number of days in the grievance process. Unless otherwise noted, day will include summer vacation days, exclusive of Saturdays and Sundays.

**COORDINATOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES (Section 504 and Title IX Coordinator)**

1. Develop a Section 504 grievance procedure which provides for due process for use by students and staff; develop a Title IX grievance procedure for use by students and staff, provide information about the availability and use of the grievance procedure and maintain a record of all grievance problems and solutions.
2. Develop a job description for the Section 504 and Title IX Coordinator; inform District personnel of the Coordinator's responsibilities and assure periodic meetings to update staff on Section 504 and Title IX activities.
3. Provide ongoing review of District bulletins, catalogs, Board policies, counseling procedures, yearbooks, and administrative regulations and practices related to compliance with Section 504 and Title IX.
4. Ensure that annual notice of the Section 504 and Title IX Coordinator's name, address, and telephone number is placed in school catalogs, handbooks, etc. (See Form 1310.1)
5. Review student-sponsored organizations and suggest criteria for compliance with Section 504 and Title IX.
6. Become familiar with resources/information for assistance with LEA self-evaluation and remediation available from the Office for Civil Rights.
7. Develop a systematic procedure for monitoring compliance with Section 504 and Title IX.
8. Disseminate information about student rights in relation to Section 504 and Title IX.
9. Disseminate facility accessibility information to students and staff.
10. Assure that cooperative training agreements and/or LEA contracts have appropriate nondiscrimination statements.
11. Evaluate present treatment of practices relating to pregnant students to determine compliance with Title IX regulations.

## **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

The Coordinator shall receive complaints, actively and independently investigate the merit of those complaints, and assist the parties in resolution of those complaints. The Coordinator may be utilized as a resource by any party at any level of the grievance procedures.

Students, parents of elementary and secondary school students, employees, applicants for admission and employment, and sources of referral of applicants for admission and employment with Worth County R-III School District have the right to file a formal complaint alleging noncompliance with regulations outlined in Title IX or Section 504.

Relevant records shall be made available to the grievant to the extent appropriate under the particular circumstances of the specific complaint and as permitted by law.

The grievance procedures herein do not deny the right of the grievant to file formal complaints with other appropriate state or federal agencies, such as the Missouri Human Rights Commission, United States Department of Education office for Civil Rights, or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (employees only). Similarly, these procedures do not deny any right of the grievant to seek private counsel for complaints alleging discrimination.

In most instances involving a student under eighteen years old, the student's parent/guardian should participate in the hearing and resolution process.

No student or employee of the District shall intimidate, harass or retaliate against any person filing a grievance or any person participating in the investigation or resolution of a grievance.

If a grievance is taken to the Board of Education for a formal contested hearing, the parties shall have the right to be represented by legal counsel, to call and examine witnesses, to cross-examine witnesses called by the opposing party, and to submit documentary evidence into the record.

## **TITLE IX GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE**

**Level 1: Principal or Immediate Supervisor (Informal and Optional - may be bypassed by grievant.)**

Employees claiming sex discrimination may first discuss the grievance with their principal or immediate supervisor, with the object of resolving the matter informally. A student or parent with a sex discrimination complaint may discuss it with the teacher, counselor, or building administrator involved.

**Level 2: Title IX Coordinator**

If the grievance is not resolved at Level 1 and the grievant wishes to pursue the grievance, it may be formalized by filing a complaint in writing on a Compliance Violation Form. This form may be obtained from the Title IX Coordinator. The complaint shall state the nature of the grievance and the remedy requested. The filing of the formal, written complaint at Level 2 must be within fifteen (15) working days from the day of the event giving rise to the grievance or from the date the grievant could reasonably become aware of such an occurrence. The grievant may request that a meeting concerning the complaint be held with the Title IX Coordinator. A minor student may be accompanied at that meeting by a parent or guardian. The Title IX Coordinator shall investigate the complaint and attempt to solve it. A written report from the Coordinator to the complainant regarding action taken will be sent within fifteen (15) working days after receipt of the complaint.

**Level 3: Superintendent**

If the complaint is not resolved at Level 2, the grievant may proceed to Level 3 by presenting a written appeal to the Superintendent within ten (10) working days after the grievant receives the report from the Title IX Coordinator. The grievant may request a meeting with the Superintendent or his/her designee. The Superintendent or his/her designee has the option of meeting with the grievant to discuss the appeal. A decision will be rendered by the Superintendent or his/her designee within ten (10) working days after receiving the written appeal.

**Level 4: Board of Education**

If the complaint is not resolved at Level 3, the grievant may proceed to Level 4 by presenting a written appeal to the President of the Board of Education within ten (10) working days after the grievant receives the report from the Superintendent. The grievant may request a meeting with the Board of Education. The Board of Education has the option of meeting with the grievant to discuss the appeal. A decision will be rendered by the Board of Education at their next regularly scheduled meeting. The grievant will be notified in writing of the decision within ten (10) working days after the Board of Education action.

The procedure in no way denies the right of the grievant to file a formal complaint with the Missouri Civil Rights Commission, the Office for Civil Rights, or other agencies available for mediation or rectification of rights grievances, or to seek private counsel for complaints alleging discrimination.

**SECTION 504 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE**

The procedures below must be utilized with regard to discrimination claims under Section 504. Claims relating to identification, evaluation, or educational placement must be challenged using the procedures outlined in Policy and Regulation 2110.

**Level 1: Building Administrator (Informal and Optional - may be bypassed by Grievant)**

Many problems can be solved by an informal meeting with the parties and the building administrator. An individual with a complaint is encouraged to first discuss it with the teacher, counselor or building administrator involved, with the purpose of resolving the matter promptly and informally. Similarly, employees with a complaint are encouraged to first discuss the complaint with the building principal or immediate supervisor.

**Level 2: Section 504 Coordinator**

If the complaint or issue is not resolved at Level 1, the grievant may file a written grievance with the Section 504 Coordinator. The written grievance must be filed with the Coordinator within fifteen (15) days of the event or incident giving rise to the grievance, or within fifteen (15) days of the date the grievant could reasonably have become aware of the event or incident. Extensions of the fifteen- (15) day requirement will be granted if the grievant can establish good cause for the delay and the interests of justice and fairness so require.

The written grievance should include the following information:

1. The nature of the grievance - what is the event, incident or circumstance that is the reason for the complaint.
2. The remedy requested - what would the grievant like to see happen if the Coordinator were to sustain the grievance.
3. The grievant's signature and the date of the grievance.

The Coordinator shall have the authority to investigate all written grievances. The Coordinator may request that an independent investigator, who is not an employee of the District, be assigned by the District to conduct the investigation. When possible, the Coordinator shall work toward resolution of the grievance. This resolution shall be reduced to writing and signed by all parties. If the parties cannot agree on a resolution to the grievance, the Coordinator shall complete the investigation and make a determination regarding the merits of the complaint. The Coordinator shall notify the grievant and the Superintendent in writing of his/her determination within fifteen (15) days after receipt of the written grievance. The fifteen (15) days may be extended (1) at the



request of the grievant, (2) with consent of all parties, or (3) if the Coordinator is on vacation or is otherwise unavailable during the fifteen- (15) day period due to an emergency or other unforeseen circumstances.

If the Coordinator concludes that the allegations contained in the grievance have merit, the Coordinator shall make a recommendation to the Superintendent as to the appropriate action to be taken by the District. If the Superintendent agrees with the recommendation of the Coordinator, the grievance will be sustained, and the recommended remedial action will be implemented. The Superintendent may sustain the grievance, yet modify the recommended remedial action. The Superintendent shall notify all parties of his/her decision in writing within five (5) days of his/her receipt of the recommendation from the Coordinator. The five (5) days may be extended (1) at the request of the grievant, (2) with the consent of all parties, or (3) if the Superintendent is on vacation or is otherwise unavailable during the five- (5) day period due to an emergency or other unforeseen circumstances.

If the Coordinator concludes that the allegations contained in the grievance are without merit, the Coordinator shall make a recommendation to the Superintendent that the grievance be denied. If the Superintendent agrees with the recommendation of the Coordinator, the grievance will be denied. The Superintendent shall notify all parties of his/her decision in writing within five (5) days of his/her receipt of the recommendation from the Coordinator. The five (5) days may be extended (1) at the request of the grievant, (2) with the consent of all parties, or (3) if the Superintendent is on vacation or is other unavailable during the five-(5) day period due to an emergency or other unforeseen circumstances.

If the Superintendent disagrees with the recommendation of the Coordinator, whether sustaining or denying the grievance, the Superintendent shall state his/her reasons for disagreeing with the recommendation in writing, set out his/her conclusions and the reasons therefore, and notify all parties of the decision in writing within five (5) days of his/her receipt of the recommendation from the Coordinator. The five (5) days may be extended (1) at the request of the grievant, (2) with the consent of all parties, or (3) if the Superintendent is on vacation or is other unavailable during the five-(5) day period due to an emergency or other unforeseen circumstances. If the Coordinator or Superintendent is alleged to have violated this Policy, the grievant may request to bypass the respective individual.

**Level 3:      Board of Education**

Any party aggrieved by the decision of the Superintendent or in disagreement with the proposed remedial action may make a written appeal to the Board of Education. Such written appeal shall be filed in writing with either the Superintendent or the Secretary of the Board of Education. Such written appeal must be filed within ten (10) days of receipt of the decision of the Superintendent. Extensions of the ten- (10) day requirement will be granted if the grievant can establish good cause for the delay and the interests of justice and fairness so require. Upon

receipt of a written appeal, the District shall place the grievance on the agenda of the next meeting of the Board of Education following the fifth day after the appeal is received, or at such Board meeting thereafter as may be agreed upon by the parties.

At the hearing before the Board, the parties shall have the right to be represented by legal counsel, to call and examine witnesses, cross-examine witnesses called by the opposing party, and to submit evidence into the record.

The Board shall render its decision within thirty (30) days. The Board shall report its decision in writing. All parties shall receive a copy of the decision.

The hearing before the Board of Education shall be considered a contested case for purposes of Chapter 536, Revised Statutes of the State of Missouri.

**Level 4: Circuit Court**

Any party aggrieved by the decision of the Board of Education may appeal the decision to the Circuit Court of the County, in accordance with Chapter 536, Revised Statutes of the State of Missouri, or to the applicable federal court.

**Other Options**

At any time during the grievance process, a grievant may file a complaint with the United States Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (Kansas City, Missouri) or the Missouri Commission on Human Rights. Employee grievants may also file a complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

Board Approved 2/17/2005  
Board Reapproved 2/18/2010  
Board Reapproved 1/22/2015

**School/Community Relations**

**Parent/Family Involvement in Education**

In order to implement the Board's commitment to parent/family involvement in students' education, the District has implemented an educational involvement plan with the following features:

1. Regular two way communication between school and parents/families. Such communication will include but not be limited to scheduled parent visits to school, electronic communication, use of translators, parent volunteers, and other programs recommended by the Parent/Family Involvement Committee.
2. Assist parents in developing positive, productive parenting skills, as well as positive productive means of interacting with District administrators and staff.
3. Provide professional development opportunities for District staff to facilitate productive parent/school involvement in promoting education of District students.
4. Involve parents in meaningful activities to enhance student learning.
5. Enhance opportunities for parents/families to visit schools in a safe and open atmosphere. Such opportunities will include, but are not limited to, identifying roles for parent volunteers, providing training for volunteers and provision of family activities at school.
6. Affirmatively involve parents in school decisions which affect their children.
7. Utilize community resources to promote and strengthen school programs, family practices, and student learning.
8. The Plan will be reviewed annually with input from parents and staff. Meeting agenda sign-in sheets and meeting minutes will be prepared and maintained by the District.
9. Full opportunity for parent participation will be provided to all parents including, but not limited to, parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children.
10. Conduct an annual evaluation of the policy to identify and resolve any barriers that would limit the involvement of parents. (Examples of barriers include, but are not limited to, economically disadvantaged, limited English proficiency, limited literacy, disabled or are of any racial or minority background).

Board Adopted February 16, 2006

Board Reviewed February 18, 2015

Board Reviewed December 19, 2019

**School/Community Relations**

**Community Use of School Facilities**

**Use of Buildings**

In accordance with the law, buildings may be used for free discussion of public questions and subjects of general public interest, for the meeting of organizations of citizens and for such other civic, social and educational purposes as will not interfere with the use of the building for school purposes. No part of the building is to be used without permission being granted by the Superintendent/designee.

**Applications for Use**

Applications for the use of the premises shall be made in writing and shall state the date and purpose of the use, and, if an admission charge is to be made, the purpose of raising said funds and such other information as the Board or the Superintendent may require. Parent organizations, Scout, educational and other school activity organizations which may be granted use of certain rooms for regular meeting purposes shall not use other rooms in the building to hold meetings or entertainment on other than the regular meeting night unless written application is made for the use of same as provided above.

Any cancellation of reserved dates must be made in writing at least twenty-four hours before the date on which meetings are scheduled. The Board reserves the right to cancel any arrangements for use of buildings upon due notice in advance.

**Rental Charges**

No charge will be made for any "strictly school" activities or for regular meetings of parent organizations. No charge will be made to Scouts and similar organizations so long as no additional cost is incurred in custodial support who would not normally be on duty and if no extra work is incurred in setting up chairs, equipment, etc.

All rental charges for use of buildings are due and payable at least twenty-four hours before the date on which the building is to be used. When the buildings are rented on Saturday or Sunday, an additional charge over and above the minimum charge may be required. Other payment arrangements may be made with the Superintendent/designee.

**Prohibitions**

1. Special permission must be received to serve meals.

2. The sale, consumption or possession of alcoholic beverages shall not be permitted on School District premises at anytime. Nor shall any person who is in a drunken or intoxicated condition, or who is under the influence of liquor, be permitted on School District premises. The person in charge of the meeting will be held responsible for the enforcement of this rule.
3. Damage or breakage occurring in any building or grounds on account of the activities of an organization using it as a meeting place shall be paid for by the organization.
4. No use of equipment shall be granted unless an instructor or attendant, approved by the Board, is in charge of the rooms or equipment.
5. Smoking is not permitted in any school building.
6. The use of profane language or gambling in any form is not permitted in any school building.

Board Adopted February 18, 2015  
Board Review January 23, 2020

## **GENERAL ADMINISTRATION**

## **Regulation 1431**

### **School/Community Relations**

#### **Code of Conduct - Adults**

In order to ensure a safe and orderly environment in which our students can maximize their educational and social development, the following regulations are enacted with respect to the conduct of adult visitors:

1. Verbally aggressive behavior, which would include, but not be limited to, threats, intimidation, and profanity, will result in limited access to school premises and school activities for up to one (1) year. The length of the restriction will be determined by the Superintendent of Schools.
2. Physical or violent behavior will result in a ban by the Board of Education from school premises and activities and will be referred to law enforcement.
3. Failure to comply with the restricted access provided in these regulations will result in the filing of civil and/or criminal charges.

Board Adopted March 19, 2015

Board Reviewed January 23, 2020

**School/Community Relations**

**Research Requests**

The following steps must be taken by the researcher:

1. Obtain a copy of the District's policy statement on research requests.
2. Present a letter of introduction and authentication from the responsible official, i.e., department chairman or above, of the institution of higher education or the professional organization.
3. Submit a copy of the research proposal to include an outline of the research design, copies of the instruments to be used, and an outline or summary of techniques and procedures to be used in the study, including an anticipated date the District can expect a report of the findings.
4. Obtain approval by the Superintendent/designee.
5. Obtain approval from the principal(s) of the school (s) to be involved so that the District will be assured that data collecting will not in any way disrupt ongoing school programs.
6. Obtain written permission from parents of children to be directly involved.
7. Sign an agreement using Form 1440 provided by the Superintendent's office.

Board Adopted March 19, 2015

Board Reviewed February 20, 2020



**School/Community Relations**

**Public Access to District Documents**

The following regulations are intended to ensure full and open disclosure of the District's public records.

**Public Records**

As defined by state statute and provided in Board policy, public records include but are not limited to reports, surveys, memoranda, documents/studies prepared and presented to the Board by consultants or other professional service paid for in any part by public funds, provided that such "records" are retained by the District.

The phrase *public records* does not include:

1. Creation of a document not retained or creation of a summary/compilation of District data where such compilation or summary is not an existing, retained record.
2. Internal memoranda or correspondence received by or prepared by or on behalf of the Board where such documents involve advice, opinions, or recommendations related to the Board's decision making process. However, if such memoranda or correspondence is retained by the District or are presented at a public meeting, they will be deemed public records subject to public access.
3. District records closed to public access by the Board including but not limited to appropriate legal actions, real estate matters, information related to the performance or merit of individual employees, academic discipline and testing records of personally identifiable students, testing and examination materials, software codes, preparation for employee negotiations, specifications for competitive bidding, personnel records, and sealed bidding.

**Request for Inspection and/or Duplication**

1. Requests for access or duplication of the District's public records must be made to the District's designated custodian of records.
2. Upon receipt, the custodian/designee will provide or deny access within three (3) business days of the request. The date of request will not be counted as one of the three (3) business days provided for response. Where reasonable cause exists the three-day response period may be exceeded.

3. *If access is not immediately provided*, the custodian/designee will provide the person requesting access with a detailed explanation of the reason for the delay. The custodian/designee will advise of the earliest date, time, and place when access will be provided.
4. *If access is denied*, the custodian/designee will provide the person requesting access with a written explanation of the reason for denial of access. The written explanation will provide the specific provision of law relied upon in denying access and will be provided within three (3) days of the date when access was denied.
5. Fees for duplication of the District's public records must be received prior to copying unless the fee has been waived by the Board. Upon request of the person requesting duplication, the custodian/designee will certify that the actual cost of document search and duplication does not exceed the allowable charges for public records set out in state law.

#### **Unauthorized Removal of Public Records**

No person is permitted to remove original public records from District facilities without written permission of the custodian of records/designee. Employees who violate this provision are subject to discipline up to and including termination. Violators may be referred to law enforcement officials.

#### **Commercial Use of District Records**

No person or business entity will be provided with the exclusive right to have access to, control over, duplication of, and dissemination of the public records of the District.

Board Adopted March 19, 2015

Board Reviewed February 20, 2020

**School/Community Relations**

**Community Involvement in Decision Making**

As elected officials, members of the Board of Education will be open to input from members of the community. While accountable to the Electorate of the District, Board members will act in what they believe is in the best interest of District students given existing finances and circumstances of the District.

As required by State or Federal Law or Regulations the Superintendent or designated representative shall:

1. Solicit parents' suggestions in the planning, development, and operation of programs.
2. Consult with parents about how the school can work with parents to achieve the program's objectives.
3. Provide to parents timely information concerning program evaluations.
4. Facilitate willing participation by parents in program activities.
5. Provide timely responses to parents' recommendations.
6. Establish parent advisory councils as needed.
7. Inform parents concerning the selection of students for programs, objectives for the child, the child's progress, advice on ways parents may help the child, and provide when possible materials to help parents assist their children in special programs.

Board Adopted January 1998

Board Reviewed April 16, 2015

Board Reviewed February 20, 2020

## **GENERAL ADMINISTRATION**

## **Regulation 1520**

### **Office Methods and Data Management**

#### **School District Annual Report**

The Board of Education will annually issue the School Accountability Report Card information, which will be made available to patrons and media outlets via the Missouri Comprehensive Data System (MCDS). This report will also be accessible from the district home page.

The School Accountability Report Card for each school building will include the following information:

1. Accreditation Status
2. Preschool Enrollment
3. K-12 Enrollment
4. Rates of Pupil Attendance
5. High School Dropout Rate
6. High School Graduation Rate
7. Number of Suspensions of Ten (10) Days or Longer
8. Rate of Suspensions of Ten (10) Days or Longer
9. District Ratio of Students to Administrators
10. District Ratio of Students to Teachers
11. Average Years of Experience of the Professional Staff
12. Number of Advanced Degrees Earned by the Professional Staff
13. Student Achievement Measured the District Assessment System
14. Student Scores of ACT
15. Percentage of District Graduates Taking the ACT
16. Average Teachers' Salaries Compared to State Average

17. Average Administrators' Salaries Compared to State Average
18. Average Per Pupil Expenditures for the District
19. Average Per Pupil Expenditures by Attendance Center
20. Adjusted Tax Rate of the District
21. District's Assessed Valuation
22. Percentage of District's Operating Budget Derived from State, Federal and Local Sources.
23. Percentage of Students Eligible for Free or Reduced-Price Lunch
24. Percentage of Students Continuing their Education in Post-Secondary Programs
25. Placement Rate for Students who Complete District Vocational Education Programs
26. Existence of a State-Approved Gifted Education Program
27. If a District Gifted Program exists, the Number of Students Currently Being Served in Such Program

### **School Report Card**

The District Report Card will permit disclosure of data on a school-by-school basis. However, school reporting will not be personally identifiable to any student or professional staff member.

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Board Adopted August 20, 2015  
Board Reviewed March 19, 2020

## **GENERAL ADMINISTRATION**

## **Regulation 1620**

### **Private, State and Federal Programs Administration**

#### **Private, State and Federal Funding**

Steps to be followed in securing grants are:

1. Identify a significant District problem or need for program improvement that may be helped through outside funds.
2. Match the need or problem with a funding source that subscribes to a relevant purpose.
3. Study the background, resources, and funding prospects of the agency.
4. Clear with the Superintendent the general idea for a proposal.
5. Involve prospective participants in planning for a proposal. Secure parents' written permission if children are to be involved in experimental types of instruction.
6. Prepare the application, using the format and following the timeline prescribed by the funding agency.
7. Discuss the funding of personnel, including the project director, with the Personnel Director, making sure to apply for full outside funding of all fringe benefits, including unemployment insurance.
8. Submit copies as required to the Superintendent for recommendation to the Board for approval.
9. If approved, complete the process of submission to the funding agency and its subsidiaries as required, with copies provided to participants.

Board Adopted May 29, 2015

Board Reviewed March 19, 2020

## **GENERAL ADMINISTRATION**

## **Regulation 1621** **(Form 1621)**

### **Private, State and Federal Programs Administration**

#### **Title I**

The responsibility for implementation of the Title I policy is shared between the Title I Director and each building principal. The designation of these duties is described below.

#### **Title I Staff and Parent Responsibilities**

1. Development of the District's Plan will include input from parents of eligible students, teachers, administrators and related personnel.
2. Provide letters to parents regarding Title I programs and curriculum, how their children were selected for Title I, how their progress will be measured, how much progress they are expected to make during the school year, and how their performance compares to that of their schoolmates.
3. Provide an orientation meeting for parents each school year before the end of the first quarter.
4. Provide parents of each school with the results of the annual review. This review is to include the individual school performance profiles.
5. Provide timely notification to parents, in the form of letters and flyers, regarding Title I meetings and workshops.
6. Offer professional development opportunities for teachers on increasing their effectiveness in teaching all students eligible for Title I services and on addressing the needs of Title I parents.
7. Offer workshops for parents on how to help assist in the instruction of their children.
8. The District will conduct an annual review meeting of Title I activities which will include, but not be limited to, parent evaluations and the school-parent compact. Meeting agenda sign-in sheets for parents and staff, as well as, meeting minutes will be maintained by the District.
9. Send data regarding year-end Title I program evaluation results to all parents.
10. Invite parents to and include parents in Title I program review team meetings.
11. Notify parents regarding the professional qualifications of their student's classroom teachers.

## **Title I Staff Qualifications**

### Teachers

Title I teachers hired after the first day of school for 2002-2003 must meet the following qualifications:

1. Have obtained full state certification as a teacher.
2. Hold at least a bachelor's degree.
3. Elementary teachers - have demonstrated subject knowledge and teaching skills in reading, writing, mathematics and other areas of the basic elementary school curriculum.
4. Secondary teachers - have demonstrated a high level of competency in each of the academic subjects that they teach.

Title I teachers hired prior to 2002-2003 must meet the same qualifications by the end of 2005-2006.

### Paraprofessionals

Title I paraprofessionals hired after January 8, 2002, must have a secondary school diploma or a GED and meet one of the following qualifications:

1. Completed at least two (2) years of study at an institution of higher education, or
2. Obtained an associate's (or higher) degree, or
3. Have demonstrated knowledge of, and the ability to assist in instructing reading readiness, writing readiness and mathematics readiness, as appropriate.

Title I paraprofessionals hired prior to January 8, 2002, must meet the above qualifications by January 8, 2006. Exceptions to these qualifications would apply to those Title I paraprofessionals who primarily serve as translators or whose duties consist solely of conducting parental involvement activities.

## **Title I Building Level Responsibilities**

Each Title I building administrator will invite all parents to attend their school's program planning meetings, school review and improvement meetings.



Title I teachers will provide parents with quarterly written reports on the progress of their children, so that parents can know the extent to which they are learning. Teachers will be available for individual conferences at the regularly scheduled District Parent/Teacher Conference dates and at other times by appointment through each building office. Meeting times will take into account the need to accommodate a variety of parent work schedules.

Through these reports and conferences, Title I teachers will provide parents with the results of evaluations of student progress. These evaluations will include, but will not be limited to, test results, measurements of homework turned in, homework completed, student attitudes and student behavior.

Each Title I school will:

1. Design and sponsor activities to address the needs of children which are unmet due to the absence of one parent.
2. Design types of parent involvement that do not involve being at school, such as helping teachers by assembling materials at home for use in classroom activities.
3. Offer opportunities and materials for parents to participate in classroom activities.

### **Parent Notification of Teacher Qualifications**

At the beginning of each school year, the District will notify the parents of each student attending any school receiving Title I funds that they may request information regarding the professional qualifications of the student's classroom teachers, including, at a minimum, the following:

1. Whether the teacher has met state qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
2. Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which state qualification or licensing criteria have been waived;
3. Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications; and
4. What baccalaureate degree major and any other graduate certification or degree is held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree.

In addition to the information that parents may request, the District will provide to each individual parent:

1. Information on achievement level of the parent's child in each of the state academic assessments as required under this part; and
2. Timely notice that the parent's child has been assigned, or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by, a teacher who is not highly qualified.

Requests by parents for this information must be provided in a timely manner.

### **Title I Grievance Procedure**

This grievance procedure applies to all complaints regarding District operations under all programs authorized under the Federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) including Title I, Title II, Title III, Title IV (Part A), Title V, Title VI, Title VII and Title IX (Part C).

A formal complaint may be filed by parents, member of the public, teachers, or other District employees. Complaints must be in writing; must be signed by the complainant; and must include facts, including documentary evidence that supports the complaint and the specific requirement, statute, or regulation alleged to have been violated.

All complaints must be filed with the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee and will be addressed in a prompt and courteous manner.

1. The District will notify the Commission of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) within fifteen (15) days of receipt of the complaint.
2. The District will investigate and process the complaint within thirty (30) days of receipt of the complaint.
3. The complaint findings and resolutions will be disseminated to all parties and to the Board of Education.
4. If dissatisfied with the District's determination, complainant may appeal to DESE within fifteen (15) days of receipt of the District's determination.

Board Adopted September 19, 2013  
Board Reviewed May 19, 2015  
Board Updated February 15, 2018  
Board Reviewed April 16, 2020

**Administrative Organization and Roles**

**Superintendent of Schools**

1. Attend and participate in all meetings of the Board, except when his/her own employment status is being considered.
2. Formulate and present for Board action policies, plans, programs and proposals for curriculum revision with full information which will assist the Board in making fully informed decisions. Short and long term educational goals shall be presented along with regular population studies.
3. Enforce all provisions of applicable municipal, state and federal laws, policies and regulations of the Board of Education, make recommendations for any changes of policy or regulation which may be needed.
4. Make recommendations for the employment, promotion, assignment, transfer, or dismissal, of any school employee in accordance with school policy.
5. Prepare, or direct the preparation of, the annual School District budget for the Board's consideration and action.
6. Administer the budget as approved by the Board and interpret it to the community.
7. Conduct a program of public relations which will keep the community fully informed of the activities, successes and needs of the School District. The Superintendent shall maintain a cooperative working relationship between the School District and the community by regularly attending community and school activities.
8. Initiate citizen committees which includes professional consultants to act in an advisory capacity in areas such as curriculum, government programs, school projects, research, school finance and evaluations subject to the Board's approval.
9. Respond to situations requiring discretion because they are not covered by Board existing policies, reporting the action to the Board as soon as possible thereafter.
10. Assist the Board in fulfilling its legislative function for the schools in an efficient and just manner.
11. Assume direct operational responsibility for all duties and responsibilities not specifically assigned to an assistant Superintendent, director, or others.

12. Maintain accurate up-to-date records and reports as required by law, the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, and/or the Board.
13. Provide an orientation program for new Board members and inform Board members of conferences, workshops and other meetings that will assist them in their duties and responsibilities.
14. Provide an agenda to Board members prior to all regular Board meetings, with appropriate background information.
15. Provide leadership for all School District personnel which encourages team effort to provide quality education and services.
16. Supervise and evaluate central office administrative personnel and all principals, making annual recommendations to the Board for administrative employment and compensation.
17. Resolve student disciplinary problems resulting from principals' referrals.
18. Serve as spokesperson for the Board team in discussions with the representative teacher organization.
19. Perform other duties as may be assigned by the Board of Education or as may be required to implement the policies and regulations of the Board of Education.

Board Adopted May 20, 2010  
Board Reviewed June 18, 2015  
Board Reviewed April 16, 2020