

## SCRIBNER-SNYDER BOARD POLICY MANUAL

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## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The board's objective in the design, contents and the delivery of the education program is to provide an equal opportunity for students to pursue an education free of discrimination on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, national origin, marital status, religion or disability.

In providing the education program of the school district, the board shall strive to meet its overall goal of providing the students an opportunity to develop a healthy social, intellectual, emotional, and physical self-concept in a learning environment that provides guidance and encourages critical thinking in students.

In striving to meet this overall goal, the objectives of the education program are to provide students with an opportunity to:

- Acquire basic skills in obtaining information, solving problems, thinking critically and communicating effectively;
- Become effective and responsible contributors to the decision-making processes of the social and political institutions of the community, state and nation;
- Acquire entry-level job skills and knowledge necessary for further education;
- Acquire the capacities for a satisfying and responsible role as family members;
- Acquire knowledge, habits and attitudes that promote personal and public health, both physical and mental;
- Acquire an understanding of ethical principles and values and the ability to apply them to their own lives;
- Develop an understanding of their own worth, abilities, potential and limitations; and,
- Learn and enjoy the process of learning and acquire the skills necessary for a lifetime of continuous learning and adaptation to change.

The board wishes to have the staff present it with evidence of achievement, or lack of achievement, of the studentw within the light of the school's goals and objectives. it is clear that evidence of the productivity of the school is the board of education's best device for evaluating the educational system, for guiding improvement efforts, and for fostering approval of schools.

The method of instruction is the responsibility of the professional staff. The principals shall have direct responsibility for the direction of instruction to ensure continuity of subject matter. At the secondary level, the principal shall incorporate assistance from department chairmen and teachers.

The board and administration encourages variation in methods of instruction and encourages greater emphasis on student participation and individualization.

### Objectives Of The Instructional Program

1. The primary responsibility of the school is to provide opportunities to develop basic academic skills needed by every citizen to be an effective member of society.
2. The school should strive to achieve the seven cardinal principles of secondary education:
  - A. Command of fundamental processes
  - B. Vocation
  - C. Civic education
  - D. Worthy use of leisure
  - E. Ethical character
  - F. Health
  - G. Responsible citizenship
3. One of the main objectives of the school is to provide those experiences which will develop potential leadership ability.
4. The school has the responsibility to pass on to each child the fundamental concepts of the democratic way of life and to develop in each child positive attitudes toward this country.
5. The school has the responsibility to provide for each child opportunities for growth in the democratic processes so that he or she may become a useful citizen.
6. Through the increased knowledge of child growth and development, or improved testing techniques, and of counseling programs, the school should endeavor to allow for the individual differences of each student.
7. The school's curriculum should be of sufficient scope to include opportunities for all ability levels of students.
8. Promotion in the school should be based upon achievement, sincere effort, readiness to accept responsibility, maturity, and demonstration of application or learning.
9. As new research and techniques become available, it is the responsibility of the school to know and to use this new knowledge in the total school program for continuous educational improvement.
10. Extra-curricular activities have many values, and all students should be encouraged to participate in them. These student activities, however, should always be kept in the proper perspective, keeping in mind the basic purpose of the school.
11. One of the objectives of the school is to maintain the proper rapport between teachers, students, parents, administrators and board members. The relationship should be one

of respect and cooperation. Each group should understand the limits of its responsibility, with a comparative spirit prevailing at all time.

The school has a responsibility to the community to develop leadership and a solid educational foundation in the students. It is the school's responsibility to interpret the educational objectives of the community through the board of education. It is also the school's responsibility to assist the citizens of the community in defining their educational goals and objectives. In order to create a climate for growth, both groups must move toward educational goals that are increasingly mutually acceptable to them.

Legal Reference: NDE Rule 10.012.01A

Cross Reference: 102 Educational Philosophy of the District

## SCHOOL CALENDAR

The school calendar shall accommodate the education program of the school district. The school calendar shall accommodate instruction for a minimum of 1,080 hours for students in grades nine through twelve, 1,032 hours for students in grades one through eight, and 400 hours for students in kindergarten. The school calendar shall include, but need not be limited to, days for student instruction, staff development, in-service days and teacher conferences.

The academic school year for students is considered to include a minimum of one-hundred and seventy-five days in the school calendar.

Special education students may attend school on a school calendar different from that of the regular education program consistent with their Individualized Education Program.

The board, in its discretion, may excuse graduating seniors from up to five days of instruction after the school district requirements for graduation have been met. The board may also excuse graduating seniors from making up days missed due to inclement weather if the student has met the school district's graduation requirements.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to develop the school calendar for recommendation to the board, approval, and adoption. Principals, with the assistance of staff, shall be responsible for planning student schedules and establishing teaching assignments. A final report of schedules and teaching assignments shall be submitted to the superintendent in August for the ensuing year.

The board may amend the official school calendar when the board considers the change to be in the best interests of the school district's education program.

Legal Reference:     Neb. Statute 79-211  
                          NDE Rule 10.012.01B

Cross Reference:    503     Student Attendance  
                          604.03 Special Education

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## SCHOOL DAY

The school day consists of the schedule of class instruction and class activities as established and sponsored by the school district. Time during which school is dismissed for tournaments or contests, parent/teacher conferences, funerals, parades and school picnics may be counted as part of the student's instructional time. The minimum school day shall meet the requirements as established for the operation of accredited schools.

The district may occasionally schedule a school day for less than the standard minimum number of hours due to the scheduling of staff development opportunities, parent-teacher conferences or special events occupying a portion of the day. Schedule revisions and changes in time allotments will be made by the superintendent.

When the school is forced to close due to weather or other emergencies, that part of the day during which school was in session will constitute a school day.

Pupils shall not arrive at school earlier than thirty (30) minutes before the time set for the beginning of classes, except as follows:

1. When pupils are requested to come earlier for participation in school activities
2. When the parent or guardian has applied for and been granted an exception by the principal.

No pupils shall be permitted to leave the school at recess or at any other time before the regular closing hour, except as follows:

1. When a pass has been issued by the school office at the request of parent or guardian.
2. When pursuing an approved schedule of school activities which requires the pupil to leave the school (i.e., field trips).

Pupils shall be instructed to go home, or elsewhere directed by the parents or guardian, immediately following the close of the school day unless attending a regularly organized program of instruction, recreation, or school activities which follows the dismissal of school.

No deviation from the child's regular routine for leaving school shall be authorized by school personnel without written permission of the parent or guardian. Parents or others authorized to care for child shall be notified before a child is sent home or elsewhere at other than the regular time of dismissal. No child shall be sent home alone.

The principal may regulate lunch privileges at any time if pupils abuse the privilege.

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## CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

Curriculum development shall be an ongoing process in the school district. Each curriculum area shall be reviewed and revised when necessary according to the timelines set out by the superintendent. These timelines will provide for periodic review of each curriculum area.

The superintendent shall be responsible for curriculum development and for determining the most effective way of conducting research of the school district's curriculum needs and a long-range curriculum development program. In making recommendations to the board, the superintendent shall propose a curriculum that will:

- fulfill the philosophy of the school district;
- reflect the educational and operational needs assessment of the school district;
- articulate courses of study from kindergarten through grade twelve;
- identify minimum objectives for each course and, at the elementary level, for each grade;
- provide for the evaluation of the procedures and methods for attaining the objectives;
- provide for objective monitoring of a student's progress;
- provide for the needs of vocational and college bound students;
- include, if feasible, the course offerings requested by the students;
- provide measurable quality academic content standards by the dates specified in Part 004 of Rule 10 that are the same as, equal to or more rigorous than the adopted state standards of the Nebraska Department of Education.

The above mentioned standards include the English Language Arts Standards (2014), Mathematics Standards (2010), Science Standards (2010) and Social Studies Standards (2012) as approved by NDE. Any changes from the specific standards as approved by NDE in those four areas will be attached to this policy.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to keep the board apprised of necessary curriculum changes and revisions and, if needed, to develop administrative regulations for curriculum development and recommendations to the board.

Legal Reference: NDE Rule 10  
20 U.S.C. § 1232h (1994).  
34 C.F.R. Pt. 98 (1996).

Cross Reference: 102 Educational Philosophy of the District  
104 Educational and Operational Planning  
604 Instructional Curriculum  
606 Instructional Materials

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Reviewed \_\_\_\_\_ Revised \_\_\_\_\_

## CURRICULUM ADOPTION

Curriculum of the school district must be recommended by the superintendent and approved by the board.

The board may authorize the use of curriculum guides when it adopts the curriculum. Such guides will be used when, in the opinion of the superintendent, they will be of assistance to the instructional program and will provide a consistent approach in the instructional program.

Legal Reference: 20 U.S.C. § 1232h (1994).  
34 C.F.R. Pt. 98 (1996).

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## CURRICULUM EVALUATION

When a new program is proposed or significant changes occur, a report will be made to the board describing the process employed and the reasons for the curriculum change.

The board may review the students' performance on standardized tests, courses, and other indicators of student achievement deemed relevant by the board as a guideline for the effectiveness of the curriculum. It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to provide the board with supporting data such as test scores and grades along with the superintendent's comments about the school district's curriculum.

Legal Reference: 20 U.S.C. § 1232h (1994).  
34 C.F.R. Pt. 98 (1996).

Cross Reference: 101 Educational Philosophy of the District  
104 Educational and Operational Planning  
604 Instructional Curriculum  
611 Academic Achievement

## PILOT, EXPERIMENTAL OR INNOVATIVE PROJECTS

The board welcomes new ideas in curriculum. Proposals for pilot or experimental projects shall first be reviewed and analyzed by the superintendent. Projects recommended by the superintendent will be considered by the board. Pilot and experimental projects approved by the board, the Nebraska Department of Education, or the U. S. Department of Education may be utilized in the education program.

Students, who may be or are asked to participate in a research or experimental project or program, must have their parents' written consent on file prior to participating in the project or program. A research or experimental program or project requiring parents' prior written consent is a program or project designed to explore or develop new or unproven teaching methods or techniques. These programs or projects shall be designated as research or experimental projects or programs. The educational materials of a program or project designated as a research or experimental program or project may be inspected and reviewed by the parents of the students participating or being considered for participation in the program or project. The inspection and review by the parents shall be in accordance with board policy 606.02, "Instructional Materials Inspection."

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to develop administrative regulations regarding this policy.

Legal Reference: 20 U.S.C. § 1232h (1994).  
34 C.F.R. Pt. 98 (1996)..

Cross Reference: 604 Instructional Curriculum

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## BASIC INSTRUCTION PROGRAM

The basic instructional program shall include the courses required for each grade level by the Nebraska Department of Education.

The basic weekly instructional program of students enrolled in the elementary grades shall include reading and language arts, mathematics, social studies, science, health, physical education, art, and music. Writing skills shall be incorporated in all curricular areas. The district shall consider elementary grades to be all grades up to sixth.

The basic yearly instructional program of students enrolled in the middle grades shall include reading, language arts, mathematics, social studies, science, health, art, music, and physical education. Writing skills shall be incorporated in all curricular areas. Exploratory experiences shall be offered in vocational education, foreign language, and technology education. The district shall consider middle grades to be all grades from seventh to eighth.

The basic instructional program of students enrolled in the high school grades shall consist of a minimum of 400 instructional units including language arts (60 units), social science (40 units), mathematics (40 units), science (40 units), foreign language (20 units), vocational education (80 units), personal health and physical fitness (20 units), and visual and performing arts (40 units). Writing skills shall be incorporated in all curricular areas. The instructional program shall include computer education. The district shall consider high school grades to be all grades of ninth and above.

Each instructional program shall be carefully planned for optimal benefit taking into consideration the financial condition of the school district and other factors deemed relevant by the board or superintendent. Each instructional program's plan should describe the program, its goals, the effective materials, the activities and the method for student evaluation.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to develop administrative regulations stating the required courses and optional courses for the elementary, middle and high school grade programs.

Legal Reference: NDE Rule 10.005 - 10.007  
20 U.S.C. § 1232h (1994)  
34 C.F.R. Pt. 98 (1996)

Cross Reference: 102 Educational Philosophy of the District  
103 Equal Educational Opportunity  
104 Educational and Operational Planning  
603 Curriculum Development  
611 Academic Achievement

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## SUMMER SCHOOL INSTRUCTION

Generally, only \_\_\_\_\_ will be offered during summer school. However, the board, in its discretion, may offer summer school for one or more courses and student activities for students who need additional help and instruction or for enrichment in those areas. This decision shall be within the discretion of the board.

Upon receiving a request for summer school, the board shall weigh the benefit to the students and the school district as well as the school district's budget and availability of certificated employees to conduct summer school.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to develop administrative regulations regarding this policy.

Cross Reference:     411.02 Summer School Certificated Employees  
                          604    Instructional Curriculum  
                          801.07 Summer School Program Transportation Service

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InstructionStudent Participation in Athletic Contests between Schools

Elementary school systems having seventh and eighth grade athletics may include sixth grade boys or girls if the combined enrollment for seventh and eighth grade is fewer than 12 boys or 12 girls and if the school board has a policy regulating participation for sixth graders. The board's policy for participation of sixth graders is as follows: A sixth grade student may participate if (1) the student meets the same standards applicable to seventh and eighth graders and (2) participation in the activity is not prohibited by the bylaws of the Nebraska School Activities Association.

Students in seventh and eighth grades may participate in interscholastic competitions subject to and in a manner consistent with the bylaws of the Nebraska School Activities Association. The scholastic eligibility rules for seventh and eighth grades shall be the same as established by the school board for high school interscholastic competitions and, in the absence of such rules, shall be the minimum established by the Nebraska School Activities Association.

Legal Reference: NDE Rule 10.004.02C  
Nebraska School Activities Association Middle Level Activities Bylaws,  
Article 9

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## MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION

Students shall have an equal opportunity for a quality education without discrimination, regardless of their race, religion, color, sex, marital status, national origin or disability.

The education program shall be free of discrimination and provide equal opportunity for the students. The education program shall foster knowledge of and respect and appreciation for the culture, history and contributions of diverse cultural groups including, but not limited to, African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, and Asian Americans. It shall place special emphasis on human relations and sensitivity toward all races.

The board shall adopt a written plan for the implementation of multicultural education and shall evaluate this plan periodically. During the evaluation process, the board shall involve parents, students, employees and a diverse representation of the community members in assessing the effectiveness and appropriateness of the program. The plan shall establish district goals for the multicultural program and will include staff development to assist the district in pursuing these goals. The plan shall include a process for selecting appropriate materials and shall incorporate multicultural education into all subject areas of the core curriculum of grades kindergarten through twelve.

The superintendent will annually report the status of the multicultural education program to the board.

Legal Reference:               Neb. Statute 79-719 et seq.  
  NDE Rule 10.004.01F

Cross Reference:             103    Equal Educational Opportunity  
  601    Goals and Objectives

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## CAREER EDUCATION

Preparing students for careers is one goal of the education program. Career education will be written into the education program for grades kindergarten through twelve. This education shall include, but not be limited to, awareness of self in relation to others and the needs of society, exploration of employment opportunities, experiences in personal decision-making, and experiences of integrating work values and work skills into their lives.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to assist certificated employees in finding ways to provide career education in the education program. Special attention should be given to offering courses of vocational education. The board, in its review of the curriculum, shall review the means in which career education is combined with other instructional programs.

## TEACHING ABOUT RELIGION

The school district is required to keep the practice of religion out of the school curriculum. The board recognizes the key role religion has played in the history of the world and authorizes the study of religious history and traditions as part of the curriculum. Preferential or derogatory treatment of a single religion shall not take place.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to ensure the study of religion in the schools in keeping with the following guidelines:

- the proposed activity must have a secular purpose;
- the primary objective of the activity must not be one that advances or inhibits religion; and
- the activity must not foster excessive governmental entanglement with religion.

Cross Reference:      605.05 Religious-Based Exclusion from a School Program  
                                 607.02 School Ceremonies and Observances

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## ACADEMIC FREEDOM

The board believes students should have an opportunity to reach their own decisions and beliefs about conflicting points of view. Academic freedom is the opportunity of licensed employees and students to study, investigate, present, interpret, and discuss facts and ideas relevant to the subject matter of the classroom and appropriate to and in good taste with the maturity and intellectual and emotional capacities of the students.

It shall be the responsibility of the teacher to refrain from advocating partisan causes, sectarian religious views, or biased positions in the classroom or through teaching methods. Teachers are not discouraged from expressing personal opinions as long as students are aware it is a personal opinion and students are allowed to reach their own conclusions independently.

It shall be the responsibility of the principal to ensure academic freedom is allowed but not abused in the classroom.

Cross Reference:     504     Student Rights and Responsibilities  
                          1005.10 Distribution or Posting of Materials

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## CITIZENSHIP

Being a citizen of the United States, of Nebraska and of the school district community entitles students to special privileges and protections as well as requiring the students to assume civic, economic and social responsibilities and to participate in their country, state and school district community in a manner that entitles them to keep these rights and privileges.

As part of the education program, students shall have an opportunity to learn about their rights, privileges, and responsibilities as citizens of this country, state and school district community. As part of this learning opportunity students shall be instructed in the elements of good citizenship and the role quality citizens play in their country, state and school district community, the value of active participation and the practice of civil discourse. Instruction will also be aimed at developing patriotism, recognizing patriotic holidays and a reverence for the flag, developing an understanding of our nation's history and its constitution, and gaining an understanding of the dangers and fallacies of other forms of government.

Legal Reference: Nebraska Statute 79-724

Cross Reference: 102 Educational Philosophy of the District  
504 Student Rights and Responsibilities  
505 Student Discipline

Approved: May 2012 Reviewed: September 2014 Revised \_\_\_\_\_

## INSTRUCTION AT A POST-SECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION

*Students in grades eleven and twelve may receive academic or vocational-technical credits that count toward the graduation requirements set out by the board for courses successfully completed in post-secondary educational institutions.*

### **Eligibility**

Any 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade student who is under the age of 21 shall be eligible to apply to an institution of higher education for enrollment through the post-secondary options program if he or she:

1. is deemed by the student and parent/guardian on the advice of the principal to be in need of course work at a higher academic level than that available at school
2. is deemed by school personnel to show a high degree of maturity and responsibility, especially with regard to potential for completing post-secondary courses
3. is deemed by school personnel to be in need of a different environment
4. has given two months' written notice to the school district specifying the courses in which the student intends to enroll

### **Academic Credit**

Academic credit granted for course work successfully completed by a student under this program shall count as high school credit toward graduation requirements unless credit is denied by the principal and the denial, if appealed, is upheld by the superintendent and the board on the basis that such credit is inappropriate. An appeal procedure is provided in the event a student is denied high school credit. A student participating in this program shall still be considered as enrolled in the district and eligible for all high school activities.

The program is not available for summer school.

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### **Payment of Tuition by Student**

The student or parent/guardian shall be responsible for paying the tuition associated with post-secondary courses taken by the student. The district shall not reimburse the student or parent/guardian for tuition for such courses.

### **Transportation Costs**

The school district shall not provide or pay for transportation to the institution of higher education.

### **Notice to Students and Parents/Guardians**

Information about the post-secondary options program, including the appeals procedure if high school credit is denied, shall be distributed annually to all students in grades eleven and twelve and to their parents/guardians. Notice shall be given to allow sufficient time for students and parents/guardians to consider this option.

Cross Reference:     611     Academic Achievement

## INDIVIDUALIZED INSTRUCTION

The board's primary responsibility in the management of the school district is the operation and delivery of the regular education program. Generally, students attending the school district shall receive the regular education program offered by the district. Only in exceptional circumstances will the board approve students receiving individualized instruction at the expense of the school district.

Recommendations from the superintendent for individualized instruction shall state the need for the instruction, the objectives and goals sought for the instruction, the employee requirements for the instruction, the implementation procedures for the instruction and the evaluation procedures and processes that will be used to assess the value of the instruction.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to implement this policy.

## PROGRAM FOR HIGH ABILITY LEARNERS

The district is committed to an educational program that recognizes, identifies and serves the unique needs of high ability learners. High ability learners are those who have been identified as having high performance capability in such areas as intellectual, creative, or artistic capacity or in specific fields and who require accelerated or differentiated curriculum programs in order to develop those capabilities fully.

The board directs the superintendent to develop a written identification process for identifying high ability learners in grades K-12. The identification process shall include an appeals process for parents/guardians who wish to request reconsideration.

A written plan that identifies programs or services to be provided to address the assessed needs of identified students shall be similarly developed. The plan shall include:

- the district's philosophy on educational service to learners with high ability;
- the district's operational definition of a high ability learner;
- goals and objectives of the program;
- a description of the programming services, options and strategies to be provided under this plan;
- yearly evaluation procedures to allow for input from parents, educators, students, and community members;
- staff development training and support provided within the plan; and
- an outline of program management.

Legal Reference:     Neb. Statute 79-1106 et seq.  
                          NDE Rule 3

Cross Reference:    102    Educational Philosophy of the District  
                          611    Academic Achievement

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## RELIGIOUS-BASED EXCLUSION FROM A SCHOOL PROGRAM

Parents who wish to have their child excluded from a school program because of religious beliefs must inform the principal. The board authorizes the administration to allow the exclusion if it is not disruptive to the education program and it does not infringe on a compelling state or educational interest. Further, the exclusion must not interfere with other school district operations.

In notifying the principal, the parents shall abide by the following:

1. The notice shall be in writing;
2. The objection shall be based on religious beliefs;
3. The objection shall state which activities or studies violate their religious beliefs;
4. The objection shall state why these activities or studies violate their religious beliefs;  
and
5. The objection shall state a proposed alternate activity or study.

The principal shall have discretion to make this determination. The factors the principal shall consider when a student requests to be excluded from a program or activity because of religious beliefs include, but are not limited to, staff available to supervise a student who wishes to be excluded, space to house the student while the student is excluded, available principal-approved alternative course of study or activity while the student is excluded, number of students who wish to be excluded, whether allowing the exclusion places the school in a position of supporting a particular religion, and whether the program or activity is required for promotion to the next grade level or for graduation.

Students who are allowed to be excluded from a program or activity which violates their religious beliefs may be required to do an alternate supervised activity or study.

Cross Reference:      604    Instructional Curriculum  
                                 607.02 School Ceremonies and Observances

Approved: May 2012    Reviewed: September 2014    Revised \_\_\_\_\_

## DUAL ENROLLMENT

The parent, guardian, or custodian of a student receiving instruction at a private, denominational or parochial school, or a school choosing not to meet accreditation or approval requirements may also enroll the student in the school district. The student shall be considered under dual enrollment. The parent, guardian, or custodian requesting dual enrollment for the student should notify the superintendent on a form provided by the school district. On the form, they shall indicate the academic courses and extracurricular activities in which the student is interested in participating.

A dual enrollment student is eligible to participate in the school district's academic and extracurricular activities in the same manner as other students enrolled in the school district to the extent allowed within NSAA regulations. The policies and administrative rules of the school district shall apply to the dual enrollment students in the same manner as the other students enrolled the school district. These policies and administrative rules shall include, but not be limited to, athletic eligibility requirements, rules governing student conduct, academic eligibility requirements, and payment of the fees required for participation.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to develop administrative regulations regarding deadlines, specific courses or activities approved, restrictions of classroom space, maximum or minimum course number limitations and other procedures for this policy.

Cross Reference:	502	Student Admissions
	504	Student Rights and Responsibilities
	505	Student Discipline
	506	Student Activities
	508	Student Health and Well-Being
	611	Academic Achievement

## INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS SELECTION

The board delegates authority to certificated employees and administrators to determine which instructional materials, other than textbooks, will be utilized by and purchased by the school district.

In reviewing current instructional materials for continued use and in selecting additional instructional materials, certificated employees shall consider the current and future needs of the school district as well as the changes and the trends in education and society. It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to report to the board the action taken by certificated employees.

In the case of textbooks, the board shall make the final decision after receiving a recommendation from the superintendent. The criteria stated above for selection of other instructional materials shall apply to the selection of textbooks. The superintendent may develop another means for the selection of textbooks. Textbooks shall be reviewed as needed and at least every 7 years.

Education materials given to the school district must meet the criteria established above. The gift must be received in compliance with board policy.

Cross Reference:     203.07 Advisory Board Committees  
                          603     Curriculum Development  
                          611     Academic Achievement

Approved: May 2012   Reviewed: September 2014   Revised \_\_\_\_\_

## INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS INSPECTION

Parents and other members of the school district community may view the instructional materials used by the students. All instructional materials, including teacher's manuals, films, tapes or other supplementary material which will be used in connection with any survey, analysis, or evaluation as part of any federally funded programs must be available for inspection by parents.

The instructional materials must be viewed on school district premises. Copies may be obtained according to board policy.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to develop administrative regulations regarding the inspection of instructional materials.

Cross Reference:     603   Curriculum Development  
                          1003   Public Examination of District Records

Approved: May 2012   Reviewed: September 2014   Revised \_\_\_\_\_

## OBJECTION TO INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Members of the school district community may object to the instructional materials utilized in the school district and ask for their use to be reconsidered.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent, in conjunction with the principals, to develop administrative regulations for reconsideration of instructional materials.

Cross Reference:     204.12 Public Participation in Board Meetings  
                          403.05 Public Complaints About Employees  
                          603     Curriculum Development

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RECONSIDERATION OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS  
REQUEST FORM

Request for re-evaluation of printed or audiovisual material to be submitted to the superintendent.

REVIEW INITIATED BY: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

School(s) in which item is used \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to school (parent, student, citizen, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

BOOK OR OTHER PRINTED MATERIAL IF APPLICABLE:

Author \_\_\_\_\_ Hardcover \_\_\_\_\_ Paperback \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Publisher (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Publication \_\_\_\_\_

AUDIOVISUAL MATERIAL IF APPLICABLE:

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Producer (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

Type of material (filmstrip, motion picture, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

PERSON MAKING THE REQUEST REPRESENTS: (circle one)

Self                      Group or Organization

Name of group \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Group \_\_\_\_\_

1. What brought this item to your attention?

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2. To what in the item do you object? (please be specific; cite pages, or frames, etc.)

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3. In your opinion, what harmful effects upon students might result from use of this item?

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4. Do you perceive any instructional value in the use of this item?

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5. Did you review the entire item? If not, what sections did you review?

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6. Should the opinion of any additional experts in the field be considered?

\_\_\_\_\_ yes      \_\_\_\_\_ no

If yes, please list specific suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_

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7. To replace this item, do you recommend other material which you consider to be of equal or superior quality for the purpose intended?

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8. Do you wish to make an oral presentation to the Review Committee?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes (a) Please call the office of the Superintendent

(b) Please be prepared at this time to indicate the approximate length of time your presentation will require.  
\_\_\_\_\_ minutes.

\_\_\_\_\_ No

\_\_\_\_\_ Dated

\_\_\_\_\_ Signature

SAMPLE LETTER TO INDIVIDUAL CHALLENGING  
INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Dear \_\_\_\_\_ :

We recognize your concern about the use of \_\_\_\_\_ in our school district. The school district has developed procedures for selection of instructional materials but realizes that not everyone will agree with every selection made.

To help you understand the selection process, we are sending copies of the school district's:

1. Instructional goals and objectives,
2. Instructional Materials Selection policy statement, and
3. Procedure for reconsideration of instructional materials.

If you are still concerned after you review this material, please complete the Reconsideration Request Form and return it to me. You may be assured of prompt attention to your request. If I have not heard from you within one week, we will assume you no longer wish to file a formal complaint.

Sincerely,

## OBJECTION TO INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS PROCEDURE

No duly selected materials whose appropriateness is challenged shall be removed from the school except upon the recommendation of a review committee (as provided for below) with the concurrence of the administrator, or, upon the administrator's recommendation, the concurrence of the board of education or upon formal action of the board of education when a recommendation of a review committee is appealed to it.

Procedures to be observed:

1. All complaints to staff members shall be reported to the administrator, whether received by telephone, letter or in personal conversation.
2. The administrator shall direct the appropriate staff member (coordinator) to contact the complainant to discuss the complaint and attempt to resolve it informally by explaining the philosophy and goals of the curriculum unit and/or the library/media center.
3. If the complaint is not resolved informally, the complainant shall be supplied with a packet of materials consisting of the procedure for handling objections. This packet will also include a standard printed form which shall be completed and returned before consideration will be given to the complaint.
4. If the formal request for reconsideration has not been received by the coordinator within two weeks, it shall be considered closed. If the request is returned, the reasons for selection of the specific work shall be reestablished by the appropriate staff.
5. In accordance with statement of philosophy, no questioned materials shall be removed from the school pending a final decision. Pending the outcome of the request for reconsideration; however, access to questioned materials can be denied to the child (children) of the parents making the complaint, if they so desire.
6. Upon receipt of a completed objection form, the coordinator will call together a committee of five to consider the complaint. This committee may consist of personnel such as: coordinator, unit administrator, the library media center director, a teacher and parent representative.
7. The committee shall meet to discuss the material, following the guidelines set forth in Instructions to Evaluation Committee and shall prepare a report on the material containing their recommendations on the disposition of the matter.
8. The Coordinator shall notify the complainant of the decision and send a formal report and recommendation to the administrator. In answering the complaint, the coordinator shall explain the book selection system, give the guidelines used for selection and cite authorities used in reaching the decision. If the committee decides to keep the work

that caused the complaint, the complainant shall be given an explanation. If the complaint is valid, the board will acknowledge it and make recommended changes.

9. If the complainant is still not satisfied, he/she may ask the administrator to present an appeal to the board of education. The board of education may seek assistance from outside organizations such as the American Association of School Administrators, National School Boards Association, American Library Association, Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, Nebraska Association of School Administrators, Nebraska State Education Association, Nebraska Department of Education, etc. in making its determination.

## MEDIA CENTERS

The school district shall maintain a media center at each site for use by students and employees during the school day to expand the opportunity for learning, contribute to literacy, support the local curriculum, and enhance and enrich learning experiences for all students.

Materials for the centers will be acquired according to Board Policy 606.01, "Instructional Materials Selection" and will meet the minimum requirements of the Nebraska Department of Education.

It shall be the responsibility of the principal of the building in which the media center is located to oversee the use of materials in the media center.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to develop procedures for the selection and replacement of both library and instructional materials, for the acceptance of gifts, for the removal of obsolete library and instructional materials, and for the handling of challenges to library materials.

Legal Reference: NDE Rule 10.004.04

Cross Reference: 603 Curriculum Development

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## ACCEPTABLE USE OF COMPUTERS, TECHNOLOGY AND THE INTERNET

The Board supports the use of computers, technology and the Internet in the District's instructional program as a resource to educate and inform. The use of these resources shall be consistent with the curriculum adopted by the School District and shall be employed in an appropriate and responsible manner to meet the varied instructional needs, learning styles, abilities and developmental levels of students.

### **Procedures and Guidelines**

The Superintendent shall develop and implement appropriate procedures to provide guidance for computer use and Internet access. Guidelines shall address teacher supervision of computer use, ethical use of electronic media, and the District's ownership and right of administrative review of electronic files and communications. The term "electronic media" includes, but is not limited to, the Internet, e-mail and other technological resources.

The guidelines shall prohibit utilization of networks for inappropriate or illegal activities, the intentional spreading of imbedded messages (viruses) or the use of other programs with the potential of damaging or destroying programs, data or equipment. The guidelines will describe the District's limitation of liability and will establish that the use of computers, technology and the Internet is a privilege, not a right. Violation of the procedures and guidelines will result in cancellation of those privileges and appropriate disciplinary action.

### **Technology Protection Measure**

The District will implement a technology protection measure that will block or filter Internet access to visual depictions that are obscene, pornographic or of a harmful nature to minors. Operation of this measure will be monitored and enforced during use of computers by minors.

### **Audit of Use**

Users with network access shall not utilize District resources to establish electronic mail accounts through third-party providers or any other nonstandard electronic mail system. Participation in chat rooms is prohibited without specific prior approval by the system administrator. The Superintendent shall establish a process to determine whether the District's education technology is being used for purposes prohibited by law or for accessing prohibited materials. The process may include, but not be limited to:

1. Utilizing blocking/filtering software.

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2. Turning off the "auto load images" feature of the Internet browser.
3. Using a proxy server to control accessible websites.

### **Appropriate Internet Behavior On Social Websites**

The district recognizes its responsibility to educate students regarding appropriate behavior on social networking and chat room sites about cyberbullying. Therefore, students shall be provided instruction about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking sites and in chat rooms and cyberbullying awareness and response.

### **Student Use**

A written parental permission and agreement form will be required prior to the student being granted access to electronic media involving District technological resources. The form will specify acceptable uses, rules of on-line behavior, access privileges and penalties for procedural violations. It must be signed by the parent or legal guardian of minor students (under age 18) and by the student. This document will be kept on file as a legal, binding document. In order to rescind the agreement, the student's parent/guardian (or the student who is at least 18 years old) must provide the Superintendent with a written request.

### **Staff Use**

A written staff agreement form will be required for all employees having access to electronic media. Staff shall confine e-mail use to work-related purposes and a reasonable, appropriate and limited personal use that does not interfere with their district duties. The agreement form will refer to the procedures and guidelines for use of computers and the Internet, describe prohibitions and limitations on the use of these resources and state the employee's responsibility for the security of individual passwords.

### **Community Use**

On recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board will determine the conditions and limits under which equipment and services will be made available to the community. Upon request to the Building Principal, community members may have access to electronic resources and programs available through the District, provided they attend any required training and abide by the rules of usage established by the Superintendent. A written agreement form will be required for all community members having access to these resources indemnifying the District from claims by community users.

### **Disregard of Rules**

Individuals who refuse to sign required acceptable use documents or who violate District rules governing the use of District technology shall be subject to loss or restriction of the privilege of using computers, technology or the Internet and related resources.

### **Responsibility for Damages**

Individuals shall reimburse the Board for repair or replacement of District property lost, stolen, damaged, or vandalized while under their care.

### **Responding to Concerns**

School officials shall apply the same criterion of educational suitability used to review other educational resources when questions arise concerning access to specific databases or other electronic media.

Legal Reference:      20 U.S.C. sec. 1232g (1988) (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act)  
                                 47 U.S.C. 201 et seq. (Communications Decency Act of 1995)  
                                 Children's Internet Protection Act and Neighborhood CIPA of 2000  
                                 Nebraska Statutes 79-2104

Cross Reference:    102    Educational Philosophy of the District  
                                 401    Guiding Principles for Employees  
                                 504    Student Rights and Responsibilities  
                                 507    Student Records  
                                 603    Curriculum Development  
                                 604    Instructional Curriculum  
                                 1006  Use of District Facilities and Equipment

InstructionComputerInternet Safety and Acceptable Use PolicyA. Internet Safety Policy

It is the policy of Scribner-Snyder Community Schools to comply with the Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA). With respect to the District’s computer network, the District shall: (a) prevent user access to, or transmission of, inappropriate material via Internet, electronic mail, or other forms of direct electronic communications; (b) provide for the safety and security of minors when using electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications; (c) prevent unauthorized access, including so-called “hacking,” and other unlawful activities online; (d) prevent unauthorized online disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal identification information of minors; (e) obtain verifiable parental consent before allowing third parties to collect personal information online from students; and (f) implement measures designed to restrict minors’ access to materials (visual or non-visual) that are harmful to minors.

1. Definitions. Key terms are as defined in CIPA. “Inappropriate material” for purposes of this policy includes material that is obscene, child pornography, or harmful to minors. The term “harmful to minors” means any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that: (1) taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion; (2) depicts, describes, or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals; and (3) taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors.
2. Access to Inappropriate Material. To the extent practical, technology protection measures (or “Internet filters”) shall be used to block or filter Internet, or other forms of electronic communications, access to inappropriate information. Specifically, as required by the CIPA, blocking shall be applied to visual depictions of material deemed obscene or child pornography, or to any material deemed harmful to minors. Subject to staff supervision, technology protection measures may be disabled or, in the case of minors, minimized only for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.
3. Inappropriate Network Usage. To the extent practical, steps shall be taken to promote the safety and security of users of the District’s online computer network when using electronic mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, and other forms of direct electronic communications. Specifically, as required by CIPA, prevention of inappropriate network usage includes: (a) unauthorized access, including so-called ‘hacking,’ and other unlawful activities; and (b) unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors.
4. Supervision and Monitoring. It shall be the responsibility of all members of the District staff to supervise and monitor usage of the online computer network and

access to the Internet in accordance with this policy and CIPA. Procedures for the disabling or otherwise modifying any technology protection measures shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent and the Superintendent's designees.

5. Social Networking. Students shall be educated about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with others on social networking websites and in chat rooms, and cyberbullying awareness and response. The plan shall be for all students to be provided education on these subjects. The Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee shall be responsible for identifying educational materials, lessons, and/or programs suitable for the age and maturity level of the students and for ensuring the delivery of such materials, lessons, and/or programs to students.
6. Parental Consent. The District shall obtain verifiable parental consent prior to students providing or otherwise disclosing personal information online.
7. Adoption. This Internet Safety Policy was adopted by the Board at a public meeting, following normal public notice.
8. The District shall comply with the Nebraska Student Online Personal Protection Act and will endeavor to take all reasonable and necessary steps to protect the online privacy of all students.

B. Computer Acceptable Use Policy

This computer acceptable use policy is supplemental to the District's Internet Safety Policy.

1. Technology Subject to this Policy. This Computer Acceptable Use Policy applies to all technology resources of the District or made available by the District. Technology resources include, without limitation, computers and related technology equipment, all forms of e-mail and electronic communications, and the internet.
2. Access and User Agreements. Use of the District technology resources is a privilege and not a right. The Superintendent or designee shall develop appropriate user agreements and shall require that employees, students (and their parents or guardians), and others to sign such user agreements as a condition of access to the technology resources, as the Superintendent determines appropriate. Parents and guardians of students in programs operated by the District shall inform the Superintendent or designee in writing if they do not want their child to have access.

The Superintendent and designees are authorized and directed to establish and implement such other regulations, forms, procedures, guidelines, and standards to implement this Policy.

The technology resources are not a public forum. The District reserves the right to restrict any communications and to remove communications that have been posted.

3. Acceptable Uses. The technology resources are to be used for the limited purpose of advancing the District's mission. The technology resources are to be used, in general,

for educational purposes, meaning activities that are integral, immediate, and proximate to the education of students as defined in the E-rate program regulations.

4. Unacceptable Uses.

The following are unacceptable uses of the technology resources:

- a. **Personal Gain:** Technology resources shall not be used, and no person shall authorize its use, for personal financial gain other than in accordance with prescribed constitutional, statutory, and regulatory procedures, other than compensation provided by law.
- b. **Personal Matters:** Technology resources shall not be used, and no person shall authorize its use, for personal matters unless the User has entered into a lease agreement or other similar agreement with the School District that makes such use permissible under law.

Occasional use that the Superintendent or designee determines to ultimately facilitate the mission of the District is not prohibited by this provision. Examples of occasional use that may be determined to ultimately facilitate the mission of the District: sending an e-mail to a minor child or spouse; sending an e-mail related to a community group in which an employee is a member where the membership in the community group facilitates the District's mission.

This occasional use exception does not permit use by employees contrary to the expectations of their position. For example, employees may not play games or surf the net for purposes not directly related to their job during duty time; nor may students do so during instructional time.

The occasional use exception also does not permit use of the technology resources for private business, such as searching for or ordering items on the internet for non-school use; or sending an e-mail related to one's own private consulting business.

- c. **Campaigning:** Technology resources shall not be used, and no person shall authorize its use, for the purpose of campaigning for or against the nomination or election of a candidate or the qualification, passage, or defeat of a ballot question.
- d. **Technology-Related Limitations:** Technology resources shall not be used in any manner which impairs its effective operations or the rights of other technology users. Without limitation:
  1. Users shall not use another person's name, log-on, password, or files for any reason, or allow another to use their password (except for authorized staff members).
  2. Users shall not erase, remake, or make unusable another person's computer, information, files, programs or disks.

3. Users shall not access resources not specifically granted to the user or engage in electronic trespassing.
  4. Users shall not engage in “hacking” to gain unauthorized access to the operating system software or unauthorized access to the system of other users.
  5. Users shall not copy, change, or transfer any software without permission from the network administrators.
  6. Users shall not write, produce, generate, copy, propagate, or attempt to introduce any computer code designed to self-replicate, damage, or otherwise hinder the performance of any computer’s memory, file system, or software. Such software is often called a bug, virus, worm, Trojan horse, or similar name.
  7. Users shall not engage in any form of vandalism of the technology resources.
  8. Users shall follow the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. The Superintendent or designees may further define such rules.
- e. Other Policies and Laws: Technology resources shall not be used for any purpose contrary to any District policy, any school rules to which a student user is subject, or any applicable law. Without limitation, this means that technology resources may not be used:
1. to access any material contrary to the Internet Safety Policy; or to create or generate any such material.
  2. to engage in unlawful harassment or discrimination, such as sending e-mails that contain sexual jokes or images.
  3. to engage in violations of employee ethical standards and employee standards of performance, such as sending e-mails that are threatening or offensive or which contain abusive language; use of end messages on e-mails that may imply that the District is supportive of a particular religion or religious belief system, a political candidate or issue, or a controversial issue; or sending e-mails that divulge protected confidential student information to unauthorized persons.
  4. to engage in or promote violations of student conduct rules.
  5. to engage in illegal activity, such as gambling.
  6. in a manner contrary to copyright laws.
  7. in a manner contrary to software licenses.
5. Disclaimer. The technology resources are supplied on an “as is, as available” basis. The District does not imply or expressly warrant that any information accessed will be valuable or fit for a particular purpose or that the system will operate error free. The District is not responsible for the integrity of information accessed, or software downloaded from the Internet.
6. Filter. A technology protection measure is in place that blocks and/or filters access to prevent access to Internet sites that are not in accordance with policies and regulations. In addition to blocks and/or filters, the District may also use other technology protection measures or procedures as deemed appropriate.

Notwithstanding technology protection measures, some inappropriate material may be accessible by the Internet, including material that is illegal, defamatory, inaccurate, or potentially offensive to some people. Users accept the risk of access to such material and responsibility for promptly exiting any such material.

The technology protection measure that blocks and/or filters Internet access may be disabled only by an authorized staff member for bona fide research or educational purposes: (a) who has successfully completed District training on proper disabling circumstances and procedures, (b) with permission of the immediate supervisor of the staff member requesting said disabling, or (c) with the permission of the Superintendent. An authorized staff member may override the technology protection measure that blocks and/or filters Internet access for a minor to access a site for bona fide research or other lawful purposes provided the minor is monitored directly by an authorized staff member.

7. Monitoring. Use of the technology resources, including but not limited to internet sites visited and e-mail transmitted or received, is subject to monitoring by the administration and network administrators at any time to maintain the system and insure that users are using the system responsibly, without notice to the users. Users have no privacy rights or expectations of privacy with regard to use of the District's computers or Internet system. All technology equipment shall be used under the supervision of the Superintendent and the Superintendent's designees.
8. Sanctions. Violation of the policies and procedures concerning the use of the District technology resources may result in suspension or cancellation of the privilege to use the technology resources and disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion of students and termination of employees. Use that is unethical may be reported to the Commissioner of Education. Use that is unlawful may be reported to the law enforcement authorities. Users shall be responsible for damages caused and injuries sustained by improper or non-permitted use.

Legal Reference: Children's Internet Protection Act, 47 USC § 254  
 Children's Online Privacy Protection Act, 15 U.S.C. § 6501  
 FCC Order adopted August 10, 2011  
 47 USC § 254(h)(1)(b); 47 CFR 54.500(b) and 68 FR 36932 (2003) (E-rate restrictions)  
 Neb. Rev. Stat. § 49-14,101.01 (Political Accountability and Disclosure Act) LB 512 (2017).

Approved: July 2017 Reviewed: \_\_\_\_\_ Revised \_\_\_\_\_

Scribner-Snyder Community Schools  
Addition to Employee Code of Conduct  
*Appendix "1"*

ACCEPTABLE USE OF COMPUTERS AND NETWORKS

ADMINISTRATORS, FACULTY AND STAFF AGREEMENT

In order to make sure that all members of Scribner-Snyder Community Schools community understand and agree to these rules of conduct for use of the e-mail and Internet systems of the school district, the Scribner-Snyder Community Schools District asks that you, as an administrator, faculty member, or staff member user, sign the following statement:

I have received a copy of, and have read, the Internet Safety and Acceptable Use Policy adopted by the Scribner-Snyder Community Schools, and I understand and will abide by those district guidelines and conditions for the use of the facilities of Scribner-Snyder Community Schools and access to the Internet. I further understand that any violation of the district guidelines is unethical and may constitute a criminal offense. Should I commit any violation, my access privileges will be revoked. School disciplinary action and/or appropriate legal action will be taken.

I agree not to hold the Scribner-Snyder Community Schools, any of its employees, or any institution providing network access to Scribner-Snyder Community Schools responsible for the performance of the system or the content of any material accessed through it.

Employee's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Employee's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

This form will be retained on file by authorized  
faculty designee for duration of applicable  
computer/network/Internet use.

Scribner-Snyder Community Schools  
Addition to Student Code of Conduct  
*Appendix "2"*

ACCEPTABLE USE OF COMPUTERS AND NETWORKS

STUDENT’S AGREEMENT

In order to make sure that all members of Scribner-Snyder Community Schools community understand and agree to these rules of conduct, Scribner-Snyder Community Schools asks that you as a student user sign the following statement:

I have received a copy of, and have read, the Internet Safety and Acceptable Use Policy adopted by the Scribner-Snyder Community Schools, and I understand and will abide by those district guidelines and conditions for the use of the facilities of Scribner-Snyder Community Schools and access to the Internet. I further understand that any violation of the district guidelines is unethical and may constitute a criminal offense. Should I commit any violation, my access privileges will be revoked. School disciplinary action and/or appropriate legal action will be taken.

I agree not to hold the Scribner-Snyder Community Schools, any of its employees, or any institution providing network access to Scribner-Snyder Community Schools responsible for the performance of the system or the content of any material accessed through it.

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

This form will be retained on file by authorized faculty designee for duration of applicable computer/network/Internet use.

[Scribner-Snyder Community Schools  
Addition to Student Code of Conduct  
*Appendix "3"*

ACCEPTABLE USE OF COMPUTERS AND NETWORKS

PARENT’S AGREEMENT

In order to make sure that all members of Scribner-Snyder Community Schools community understand and agree to these rules of conduct, we ask that you as a parent/guardian sign the following statement:

I have received a copy of, and have read, the Internet Safety and Acceptable Use Policy adopted by Scribner-Snyder Community Schools. As parent or guardian of the student named below, I grant permission for my son or daughter to access networked computer services such as electronic mail (e-mail) and the Internet. I understand that this free access is designed for educational purposes. I also understand that individuals may be held liable for violations of those Terms and Conditions. However, I also recognize that it is impossible to restrict access to all controversial materials and I will not hold Scribner-Snyder Community Schools responsible for materials acquired or sent via the network.

I agree not to hold the Scribner-Snyder Community Schools, any of its employees, or any institution providing network access to Scribner-Snyder Community Schools responsible for the performance of the system or the content of any material accessed through it.

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

This form will be retained on file by authorized  
faculty designee for duration of applicable  
computer/network/Internet use.

## INTERNET AND E-MAIL ACCESS PERMISSION LETTER TO PARENTS

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The School District wishes to offer your child limited access to the Internet and an electronic mail (e-mail) account. The Internet is a collection of thousands of interconnected computer networks. The vast amount of information contained within the Internet's libraries can provide valuable learning opportunities to students.

Establishing an e-mail address will allow your child to participate in distance learning activities, communicate with other students around the world, ask questions of and consult with experts, and locate specific material to meet the needs of educational projects.

If your child is a minor (under age 18), your authorization is needed before your child may use these resources. The attached regulations for student use of computers, technology and the Internet should be read carefully and understood by all Internet users. As parents/guardians, you should review it in detail with your children before they begin using the Internet and e-mail in their classroom.

A filtering system is in place to prevent access to certain unacceptable sites on the Internet. However, it is important to understand that no solution is perfect and we cannot guarantee that students will only have access to educational materials. Ultimately, parents/guardians are responsible for setting and conveying the standards that their child should follow. To that end, the School District supports and respects each family's right to decide whether or not to authorize Internet and e-mail access.

If you agree to allow your child to have Internet access and an e-mail address, sign the enclosed Acceptable Use Agreement and return it to your school.

Sincerely,

ACCEPTABLE USE AGREEMENT

STUDENT USE OF COMPUTERS, TECHNOLOGY AND THE INTERNET

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**STUDENT**

I understand and will abide by the regulations for student use of computers, technology and the Internet. I further understand that a violation of the regulations is unethical and may constitute a criminal offense. Should I commit any violation, my access privileges may be revoked, school disciplinary action or appropriate legal action may be taken.

*Your signature on this Acceptable Use Agreement is legally binding and indicates that the party (parties) who signed has (have) read the regulations carefully and understand(s) their significance.*

Student's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**PARENT OR GUARDIAN**

*If the user is under 18 years of age, a parent or guardian also must sign this Agreement.*

As the parent or guardian of this student, I have read the regulations for student use of computers, technology and the Internet. I understand that this access is designed for educational purposes and that the School District has taken precautions to eliminate controversial material. I also recognize, however, that it is impossible for the School District to restrict access to all controversial materials and I will not hold the District responsible for materials acquired on the network. Further, I accept full responsibility for supervision if and when my child's use is not in a school setting.

I hereby give permission to issue a user account for my child and certify that the information contained on this form is true and correct.

Parent/guardian name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

INTERNET APPROPRIATE USE VIOLATION NOTICE

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Students who access restricted items on the Internet shall be subject to the appropriate action described in the school's discipline policy or student handbook or the following consequences.

\_\_\_\_\_ First Offense:

The above student has violated the regulations for student use of computers, technology and the Internet. He/she may lose Internet access for up to three weeks at the discretion of the supervising teacher. A second offense will result in the student losing Internet access for a period \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ Second Offense:

The above student has violated the regulations for student use of computers, technology and the Internet for a second time. As a consequence of this violation the above student has lost Internet access for a period \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ Third Offense:

The above student has violated the regulations for student use of computers, technology and the Internet for a third time. As a consequence of this violation the above student has forfeited all Internet privileges for a period of \_\_\_\_\_ or the balance of the school year.

ACCEPTABLE USE AGREEMENT

STAFF USE OF COMPUTERS, TECHNOLOGY AND THE INTERNET

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I understand and will abide by the regulations for staff use of computers, technology and the Internet. I further understand that a violation of the regulations is unethical, unprofessional and may constitute a criminal offense. Should I commit any violation, my access privileges may be revoked, disciplinary action, dismissal and/or appropriate legal action may be taken.

***Your signature on this Acceptable Use Agreement is legally binding and indicates that the party who signed has read the regulations carefully and understands their significance.***

Employee name: \_\_\_\_\_

Employee signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ACCEPTABLE USE AGREEMENT

COMMUNITY USE OF COMPUTERS, TECHNOLOGY AND THE INTERNET

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I understand and will abide by the regulations for community use of computers, technology and the Internet. I further understand that a violation of the regulations is unethical and may constitute a criminal offense. Should I commit any violation, my access privileges may be revoked and/or appropriate legal action may be taken.

Additional conditions or limitations of resource use:

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***Your signature on this Acceptable Use Agreement is legally binding and indicates that the party who signed has read the regulations carefully and understands their significance.***

Applicant name: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## STUDENT USE OF COMPUTERS, TECHNOLOGY AND THE INTERNET

*In order to provide for the appropriate use of the District's technological resources in keeping with School Board policy, the following administrative regulation has been developed. A copy of this regulation, an accompanying cover letter, and an Acceptable Use Agreement will be distributed to students and parents/guardians for signature before a student is issued an Internet or e-mail account.*

### **Acceptable Use**

The use of computers, technology and the Internet are provided to students only for limited educational purposes. All School District electronic resources must be used in a responsible, efficient, ethical and legal manner. Failure to adhere to these regulations will result in loss of user privileges, disciplinary action and/or appropriate legal action.

### **Privileges**

The use of the District's electronic networks is a privilege, not a right. The Building Principal will make all decisions regarding whether or not a user has violated this authorization and may deny, revoke, or suspend access at any time.

### **Oversight**

Teachers will preview the materials and sites they require or recommend students access to determine the appropriateness of the material contained on or reached through the site. Teachers will assist their students in developing the skills to ascertain the validity of information, distinguish fact from opinion, and engage in discussions about controversial issues, tolerance and respect for divergent views.

### **Unacceptable Use**

The user is responsible for his or her actions and activities involving electronic resources. Some examples of unacceptable uses are:

1. Using the network for any illegal activity, including violation of copyright or other contracts, or transmitting any material in violation of any U.S. or State law.
2. Unauthorized loading or downloading of software, games or files, regardless of whether they are copyrighted or devirused.
3. Downloading copyrighted material for other than personal use.
4. Commercial or for-profit uses.
5. Wastefully using resources, such as file space.

6. Destroying, modifying or abusing hardware or software.
7. Gaining unauthorized access to resources, files, passwords or other users' accounts.
8. Revealing the personal addresses or telephone numbers of students or staff.
9. Invading the privacy of individuals.
10. Disrupting the work of others.
11. Posting material authorized or created by another without his/her consent.
12. Impersonation of another user, anonymity and pseudonyms.
13. Sending or accessing encrypted information.
14. Commercial or private advertising, or political lobbying.
15. Accessing, submitting, posting, publishing, or displaying any defamatory, inaccurate, abusive, obscene, profane, sexually oriented, threatening, discriminatory, offensive, harassing, or illegal material.
16. Using or attempting to use the resources while access privileges are suspended or revoked.

### **No Expectation of Privacy**

Use of the District's electronic resources, including e-mail, is not private. The District reserves the right to log, monitor, examine, evaluate, and disclose solely at its discretion, the contents of all files, communications, or other usage on or conducted through these resources despite any designation of privacy by either the sender or recipient.

### **No Warranties**

The District makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the service it is providing. The District will not be responsible for any damages the user suffers. This includes loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, missed deliveries, or service interruptions caused by its negligence or the users' errors or omissions. Use of any information obtained via the Internet is at the user's own risk. The District specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through its services.

### **Indemnification**

The user agrees to indemnify the School District for any losses, costs, or damages, including reasonable attorney fees, incurred by the District relating to, or arising out of, any violation of these procedures.

### **Security**

Network security is a high priority. If the user can identify a security problem on the Internet, the user must notify appropriate personnel. Do not demonstrate the problem to other users. Users shall not reveal their passwords to other individuals. Attempts to log-on to the Internet as a system administrator will result in cancellation of user privileges. Any user identified as a security risk may be denied access to these resources.

### **Vandalism**

Vandalism will result in cancellation of privileges and will be reported to the legal authorities for possible prosecution. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy data of another user, the Internet, or any other network. This includes, but is not limited to, the uploading or creation of computer viruses.

### **Telephone Charges**

The District assumes no responsibility for any unauthorized charges or fees, including telephone charges, long-distance charges, per-minute surcharges, and/or equipment or line costs.

### **Limited Resource**

Activities that are deemed by the network supervisor to cause unreasonable demand on network capacity or disruption of system operation are prohibited. Users shall not post chain letters or engage in "spamming". Spamming is sending unsolicited messages to a large number of people, or sending a large number of unsolicited messages to one or a few individuals.

## STAFF USE OF COMPUTERS, TECHNOLOGY AND THE INTERNET

*In order to provide for the appropriate use of the District's technological resources in keeping with School board policy, the following administrative regulation has been developed. An Acceptable Use Agreement stating the staff member has read and understands this regulation must be signed and returned to the Building Principal before access is allowed to the Internet or an e-mail account.*

### **Acceptable Use**

The use of computers, technology and the Internet must be consistent with the educational objectives of the School District. All School District electronic resources must be used in a responsible, efficient, ethical and legal manner. Failure to adhere to these regulations will result in loss of user privileges, disciplinary action, dismissal and/or appropriate legal action.

### **Privileges**

The use of the District's electronic networks is a privilege, not a right. The Building Principal will make all decisions regarding whether or not a user has violated this authorization and may deny, revoke, or suspend access at any time.

### **Unacceptable Use**

The user is responsible for his or her actions and activities involving electronic resources. Some examples of unacceptable uses are:

1. Using the network for any illegal activity, including violation of copyright or other contracts, or transmitting any material in violation of any U.S. or State law.
2. Unauthorized loading or downloading of software, games or files, regardless of whether they are copyrighted or devirused.
3. Downloading copyrighted material for other than personal use.
4. Commercial or for-profit uses.
5. Wastefully using resources, such as file space.
6. Destroying, modifying or abusing hardware or software.
7. Gaining unauthorized access to resources, files, passwords or other users' accounts.

8. Accessing the Internet from a School District access point using a nonschool district Internet account.
9. Accessing fee services via district technology without specific permission from the Building Principal.
10. Accessing, receiving, transmitting or re-transmitting material regarding students, parents/guardians or district employees that is protected by confidentiality laws. If material is not legally protected but is of a confidential or sensitive nature, great care shall be taken to ensure that only those with a "need to know" are allowed access to the material. Staff members shall handle all employee and student records in accordance with School District policies and regulations.
11. Invading the privacy of individuals.
12. Disrupting the work of others.
13. Posting material authorized or created by another without his/her consent.
14. Impersonation of another user, anonymity and pseudonyms.
15. Sending or accessing encrypted information.
16. Commercial or private advertising, or political lobbying.
17. Accessing, submitting, posting, publishing, or displaying any defamatory, inaccurate, abusive, obscene, profane, sexually oriented, threatening, discriminatory, offensive, harassing, or illegal material.
18. Using or attempting to use the resources while access privileges are suspended or revoked.

### **No Expectation of Privacy**

Use of the District's electronic resources, including e-mail, is not private. The District reserves the right to log, monitor, examine, evaluate, and disclose solely at its discretion, the contents of all files, communications, or other usage on or conducted through these resources despite any designation of privacy by either the sender or recipient.

### **No Warranties**

The District makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the service it is providing. The District will not be responsible for any damages the user suffers. This includes loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, missed deliveries, or service interruptions caused by its negligence or the users' errors or

omissions. Use of any information obtained via the Internet is at the user's own risk. The District specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through its services.

### **Indemnification**

The user agrees to indemnify the School District for any losses, costs, or damages, including reasonable attorney fees, incurred by the District relating to, or arising out of, any violation of these procedures.

### **Security**

Network security is a high priority. If the user can identify a security problem on the Internet, the user must notify appropriate personnel. Do not demonstrate the problem to other users. Users shall not reveal their passwords to other individuals. Attempts to log-on to the Internet as a system administrator will result in cancellation of user privileges. Any user identified as a security risk may be denied access to these resources.

### **Vandalism**

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Approved: May 2012 Reviewed: September 2014 Revised \_\_\_\_\_

## COMMUNITY USE OF COMPUTERS, TECHNOLOGY AND THE INTERNET

*In order to provide for the appropriate use of the District's technological resources in keeping with School Board policy, the following administrative regulation has been developed. An Acceptable Use Agreement stating the applicant has read and understands this regulation must be signed and returned to the Building Principal before a community member is issued an Internet or e-mail account.*

### **Acceptable Use**

The use of computers, technology and the Internet are provided to community members only for limited educational purposes. All School District electronic resources must be used in a responsible, efficient, ethical and legal manner. Failure to adhere to these regulations will result in loss of user privileges and/or appropriate legal action.

### **Privileges**

The use of the District's electronic networks is a privilege, not a right. The Building Principal will make all decisions regarding whether or not a user has violated this authorization and may deny, revoke, or suspend access at any time.

### **Unacceptable Use**

The user is responsible for his or her actions and activities involving electronic resources. Some examples of unacceptable uses are:

1. Using the network for any illegal activity, including violation of copyright or other contracts, or transmitting any material in violation of any U.S. or State law.
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5. Wastefully using resources, such as file space.
6. Destroying, modifying or abusing hardware or software.
7. Gaining unauthorized access to resources, files, passwords or other users' accounts.
8. Revealing the personal addresses or telephone numbers of students or staff.
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10. Disrupting the work of others.
11. Posting material authorized or created by another without his/her consent.
12. Impersonation of another user, anonymity and pseudonyms.
13. Sending or accessing encrypted information.
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15. Accessing, submitting, posting, publishing, or displaying any defamatory, inaccurate, abusive, obscene, profane, sexually oriented, threatening, discriminatory, offensive, harassing, or illegal material.
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### **No Warranties**

The District makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the service it is providing. The District will not be responsible for any damages the user suffers. This includes loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, missed deliveries, or service interruptions caused by its negligence or the users' errors or omissions. Use of any information obtained via the Internet is at the user's own risk. The District specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through its services.

### **Indemnification**

The user agrees to indemnify the School District for any losses, costs, or damages, including reasonable attorney fees, incurred by the District relating to, or arising out of, any violation of these procedures.

### **Security**

Network security is a high priority. If the user can identify a security problem on the Internet, the user must notify appropriate personnel. Do not demonstrate the problem to other users. Users shall not reveal their passwords to other individuals. Attempts to log-

on to the Internet as a system administrator will result in cancellation of user privileges. Any user identified as a security risk may be denied access to these resources.

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Approved: May 2012 Reviewed: September 2014 Revised \_\_\_\_\_

## REPRODUCTION OF COPYRIGHTED MATERIALS

It is the intent of the Board to abide by the provisions of current copyright and intellectual property laws as they affect the school district and its employees.

Copyrighted materials, whether they are print or nonprint, will not be duplicated, reproduced, distributed or displayed for district-sponsored activities or by using district equipment except in accordance with law.

While the district encourages its staff to enrich learning programs by making proper use of supplementary materials, it is the responsibility of district staff to abide by the district's copying procedures and obey the requirements of the law. In no circumstances shall it be necessary for district staff to violate copyright requirements in order to perform their duties properly. The district cannot be responsible for any violations of the copyright law by its staff.

Any staff member who is uncertain as to whether reproducing or using copyrighted material complies with district procedures or is permissible under the law, should consult the superintendent. The superintendent will assist staff in obtaining proper authorization to copy or use protected materials, when such authorization is required.

The superintendent is responsible for implementing this policy and creating procedures to guide employees in following copyright compliance.

Legal Reference: P.L. 94-553, Federal Copyright Law of 1976 (U.S. Code, Title 17)  
P.L. 105-304, Digital Millennium Copyright Act of 1998

Approved: May 2012 Reviewed: September 2014 Revised \_\_\_\_\_

## TEXTBOOK LOANS TO CHILDREN ENROLLED IN PRIVATE SCHOOLS

In compliance with rules of the Nebraska Department of Education, the district will purchase and loan textbooks to private school children residing within the boundaries of the school district. Textbooks will be made available to the extent that funds are provided for the purchase and loan of such textbooks by the Nebraska Department of Education.

CLASS SIZE - CLASS GROUPING

It shall be within the sole discretion of the board to determine the size of classes and to determine whether class grouping shall take place. The board shall review the class sizes annually.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to make a recommendation to the board on class size based upon the financial condition of the school district, the qualifications of and number of certificated employees, and other factors deemed relevant to the board.

Cross Reference: 502.02 Nonresident Students

Approved: May 2012 Reviewed: September 2014 Revised \_\_\_\_\_

## SCHOOL CEREMONIES AND OBSERVANCES

### Instruction

#### Ceremonies, Observances, and the Pledge of Allegiance

Appropriate exercises may be held for the following: Veterans' Day, Martin Luther King Day, Presidents' Day, Flag Day, Memorial Day, and State Fire Day (the Friday before the Fire Recognition Day, which is the second Saturday in May). An educational program on the United States Constitution shall be held on September 17 every year, or in the preceding or following week if September 17 falls on a weekend or a holiday.

The flags of the United States of America and the State of Nebraska shall be prominently displayed on the school grounds on each day such school is in session. All flag displays shall be in accordance with the standards prescribed for the display of the flag of the United States of America.

Each of the District's schools shall establish a period of time during the school day, when a majority of the students are scheduled to be present, during which time students will be led in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance in the presence of the flag of the United States of America. Student participation in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance shall be voluntary. Students not participating in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance shall be permitted to silently stand or remain seated but shall be required to respect the rights of those students electing to participate.

The school district will continue school ceremonies and observances which have become a tradition and a custom of the education program. Such ceremonies or observances shall have a secular purpose and shall not advocate or sponsor a particular religion.

Students who do not wish to participate in these activities may be silent during the ceremony or observance or receive permission from the principal to be excused from the ceremony for religious reasons in compliance with board policy

Legal Reference

P.L. 108-477 (Consolidate Appropriations Act of 2005)

## STUDENT FIELD TRIPS AND EXCURSIONS

The principal may authorize field trips and excursions when such events contribute to the achievement of education goals of the school district. The school district will provide transportation for field trips and excursions. Excursions are defined as brief educational trips beyond the boundaries of the school grounds beginning and ending in a single class period.

In authorizing field trips and excursions, the principal shall consider the financial condition of the school district, the educational benefit of the activity, the inherent risks or dangers of the activity, and other factors deemed relevant by the superintendent. Written parental permission will be required prior to the student's participation in field trips.

Field trips and excursions are to be arranged with the principal well in advance. A detailed schedule and budget must be submitted by the employee. The school district will be responsible for obtaining a substitute teacher if one is needed. Following field trips and excursions, the teacher may be required to submit a written summary of the event.

Cross Reference:     504.03 Student Conduct  
                          506.01 Student Activity Eligibility  
                          604    Instructional Curriculum  
                          801    Transportation

Approved: May 2012   Reviewed: September 2014   Revised \_\_\_\_\_

## SERVICE ANIMALS AND THERAPY DOGS

The Board recognizes that service animals may be used to provide assistance to some persons with disabilities. This policy governs the presence of service animals in the schools, on school property, including school buses, and at school activities.

A service animal is a dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. Other species of animals are not service animals for the purposes of this definition, though miniature horses are entitled to similar treatment in certain circumstances.

The service animal must perform tasks or do work for the individual with a disability. The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the individual's disability, such as:

- Assisting individuals who are blind or have low vision with navigation and other tasks,
- Alerting individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to the presence of people or sounds,
- Providing non-violent protection or rescue work,
- Pulling a wheelchair,
- Assisting an individual during a seizure,
- Alerting individuals to the presence of allergens,
- Retrieving items such as medicine or the telephone,
- Providing physical support and assistance with balance and stability to individuals with mobility disabilities, and
- Helping persons with psychiatric and neurological disabilities by preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors.

Excluded from the lists of acceptable tasks or work performed by a service animal are:

- The crime deterrent effects of an animal's presence, or
- The provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship.

When determining whether an animal qualifies as a service animal, school officials may ask the individual with a disability only two questions:

1. Whether the animal is required because of a disability; and
2. What task or work the animal has been trained to do.

These questions may not be asked if it is readily apparent that the individual has a disability or that the animal is trained to do work or perform tasks for the individual with a disability. School officials may not ask about the nature or extent of a person's disability, nor can a request be made to produce a certificate establishing the dog's qualification as a service animal.

The service animal must remain well-behaved and under control at all times at school. The service animal must have a harness, leash or other tether unless it cannot be used by the person in control because of a disability or if it would interfere with the service animal's performance. In either case, the animal must still be under control by way of voice controls, signals or other means.

Individuals with disabilities are permitted to be accompanied by a service animal in all areas of the district's facilities where members of the public, participants in services, programs, or activities are normally allowed to go. If the service animal has a separate handler, that individual shall also be allowed access to facilities. At events for which an attendance fee is charged, there shall be no additional fee for the service animal.

The district may remove or exclude a service animal from district facilities if:

1. The animal is out of control and the animal's handler does not take effective action to control it;
2. The animal is not housebroken;
3. The presence of the animal poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others;
- or
4. The presence of an animal would require a fundamental alteration to the service, program or activity of the district.

In the case of removal of a service animal from the premises, the individual with a disability shall still be provided with the opportunity to participate in the service, program, or activity without the service animal.

The person in control of the service animal, and not the school district, is responsible for caring for the dog's needs. This includes any feeding, exercising, and clean up. The district may charge for any property damage caused by the service animal provided the district normally charges individuals for damage they cause.

### Therapy Dogs

A therapy dog is one that is used to provide emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship to students. Such dogs are generally not intended for the personal use of district students or employees and will only be approved at the discretion of district administration and counselors for their intended purpose. Prior to the consideration of the use of a therapy dog by an individual student, administration and counselors shall consult with the student's parent/guardian and the student's health care provider.

In the case of considering the routine use of a therapy dog by an individual student, the limitations stated above for service animals will also apply to therapy dogs. In addition the school will require that the therapy dog's owner must provide to the district a proof of vaccinations received by the therapy dog as determined by and signed by a veterinarian, for the district's files. These records shall be maintained in the district's files. The therapy dog must be spayed or neutered. The therapy dog must show no aggression toward people or other animals and must not bark or make other distracting noises while in school. The therapy dog may not interfere with the educational process of any student.

The district may also require that the therapy dog has been obedience tested and certified as Canine Good Citizens by the American Kennel Club (“AKC”) and certified for temperament as a therapy dog with a specific handler by the AKC and supply supporting documentation of such certification satisfactory to the superintendent. The district shall maintain copies of current certifications in its files.

Legal Reference

ADA of 1990, 28 CFR Part 35

ADA of 1990, 42 USC Sec. 12101 et seq.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, 29 USC Sec. 794

## TEST OR ASSESSMENT SELECTION

A comprehensive testing program shall be established and maintained to evaluate the education program of the school district and to assist in providing guidance or counseling services to students and their families.

The program will lend itself to:

1. a qualitative assessment of the educational program of the district for purposes of reporting the overall status of the district and charting the growth of the pupils, grades, schools and areas from year to year.
2. appropriate reports to the board.
3. interpretation and use by the teachers, counselor and administrator so that the test findings will influence the guidance and counseling of individual children, and the development of a high quality curriculum.

The program will reflect the academic growth of pupils according to their own mental capacities and to local and national norms; minimize the workload of school personnel in terms of test administration, scoring, interpretation, and use; be adequately and financially feasible; require reasonable training for involved school personnel; and assess the growth of pupils in the basic skills and subjects in the elementary and secondary grades.

No student shall be required, as part of a program funded by the United States Department of Education, to submit, without prior written consent from the student's parent, to surveys, analysis or evaluation which reveals information concerning:

- political affiliations;
- mental and psychological problems potentially embarrassing to the student or the student's family;
- sex behavior and attitudes;
- illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating and demeaning behavior;
- critical appraisals of other individuals with whom students have close family relationships;
- legally recognized, privileged and analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians and ministers; or
- income, but not including income required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program.

It shall be the responsibility of the board to review and approve the evaluation and testing program.

Approved: May 2012 Reviewed: September 2014 Revised \_\_\_\_\_

Legal Reference: Goals 2000: Educate America Act, Pub. L. No. 103-227, 108 Stat.  
125 (1994).  
20 U.S.C. § 1232h (1994).

Cross Reference: 507 Student Records  
608.02 Student Health Services  
611 Academic Achievement

## TEST OR ASSESSMENT ADMINISTRATION

The district shall assess the progress of students through a district-wide assessment system to provide for a fair and adequate measurement of each student's progress and accomplishments. Administrators and staff shall select a valid and reliable system of assessments aligned with the curriculum and essential learner outcomes.

The superintendent, in directing the assessment system, shall hold administrators and staff accountable to:

1. follow appropriate security procedures;
2. use the assessments identified within applicable curriculum guides;
3. use assessment data to monitor student learning;
4. use assessment data to differentiate instruction where appropriate;
5. provide students and parents with information about student progress;
6. use assessment data for school improvement planning; and
7. use assessment data to adjust, improve, or terminate ineffective teaching practices.

Cross Reference:      611      Academic Achievement  
                                 1005.02    Parent Relations Goals

Approved: May 2012    Reviewed: September 2014    Revised \_\_\_\_\_

## Instruction

### Curriculum - Assessments

#### 1. State Assessments.

Scribner-Snyder Community Schools has adopted an assessment plan and has aligned the curriculum with the state approved content standards. The assessment plan includes a schedule and procedures for assessing success in achieving state standards.

Teachers are to clearly articulate the learning targets and align instruction to the learning targets within each of the content standards. Teachers are to give students instruction on the content prior to students being assessed on each content standard in order to provide learning opportunities for all students.

The assessments are to be conducted in accordance with the assessment plan schedule. Teachers are to conduct the assessments in a manner that assures it accurately assesses whether or not students are meeting the targets outlined by the content standards.

Assessment results are to be reported by the teachers in the manner and within the time directed by the administration or designee. The assessment data is to be used to meet state standards, to provide students and parents with information about student progress, to enhance school improvement planning, and to improve instruction. The assessment data is to be evaluated by teachers to monitor student learning and to improve instruction or terminate ineffective teaching practices to ensure students are being given the opportunity to meet the standards.

#### 2. Achieving Valid Assessments.

Educators are responsible for maintaining the integrity of the assessments to ensure that assessments provide a valid measure of student progress and accomplishments. Educators are not to engage in any practice that may result in assessment results that do not reflect student learning, knowledge, skills or abilities in the area assessed.

For purposes of this policy, student assessments include both “standardized assessments” (including state assessments, norm referenced tests, and evaluations conducted for special education eligibility) and “coursework assessments” (e.g., classroom tests, quizzes, and other evaluative tools used to assign grades).

The following specific assessment expectations and rules apply:

- a. Integrity of the Assessment Instrument. The integrity of the assessment instrument is to be maintained.
  - i. Standardized Assessments. Standardized assessment instruments are not to be made available to students at any time before the student takes the

assessment. The assessment instrument is to be maintained in a secure manner.

- ii. Coursework Assessments. Coursework assessment instruments are to be periodically modified to keep the assessments current and prevent students from effectively using “test banks.” For coursework assessments that are given on a repeat basis to students at different times (e.g., a test that is given to students throughout the school day), the educator is to remind students to not share the content of the assessment with students who will be taking the assessment later.

b. Teaching for Success on Assessments.

It is appropriate for educators to prepare students to do well on assessments. This is to be accomplished in a manner that assures the assessment accurately reflects the student’s knowledge, and not simply test preparation.

- i. Teach the Content. Educators are to prepare students to do well on assessments by teaching the subject content. Educators are not to “teach to the test” by teaching based solely on the content of the assessment. The content is to be taught to the students over an appropriate amount of time prior to the assessment. “Cramming” assessment content just before the assessment is to be taken is not appropriate. Review of content previously taught is appropriate.
- ii. Practice Tests. Educators are to prepare students by teaching test taking skills independent of the subject matter being assessed. Educators are not to conduct reviews (drills) using earlier (no longer published) versions of the same test, using alternate (parallel) forms of the same published test, or using actual items from the current form of a standardized test that will be administered to students. Educators are not to conduct reviews (drills) using items of identical format (for example, multiple choice) to the exclusion of other formats.

c. Conditions for Successful Assessments.

- i. Communications. Educators are to communicate to students and parents when assessments will be administered, the purpose of the assessment and how the assessment results will be used. Educators are to motivate students to do their best on assessments. Educators are to read and be familiar with assessment administration directions in advance and communicate the rules to students accurately and clearly.
- ii. Climate. Educators are to have sufficient assessment materials available (e.g., No. 2 pencils, if needed). The classroom is to be arranged to allow comfortable seating. Distractions are to be eliminated. Educators in nearby classrooms are to be informed that the assessment is to be administered so noises from neighboring classrooms are kept at a minimum. Activities or arrangements are to be made for students who

finish early so such students do not cause a distraction to other students still taking the assessment.

- iii. Security. Educators are to monitor students while administering assessments to ensure students are complying with standards of academic integrity. Students who violate standards of academic integrity are to be reported to the administration.
- d. Full Participation. Educators are to make efforts to have all eligible students take the assessments. The educator should develop a list of students who will be exempted from assessment and the reason for the exemption and submit the list for review and approval by the Principal.
- e. Assistance During Assessments.
  - i. Standardized Assessments. Educators are not to provide assistance to students while a standardized assessment is being administered except as provided for in a student's 504 Plan or IEP. This includes giving "hints," giving extra time, reading the tests to students or defining or pronouncing words for students, allowing students access to instructional material related to the content of the assessment (e.g., displaying a map during a social studies assessment) or allowing students access to mechanical aids (e.g., calculators).
  - ii. Coursework Assessments. For coursework assessments, students may be allowed access to instructional materials or mechanical aids only when all students being given the assessment are given the aids and use of the aids does not hinder the students from learning the content of the lesson.
- f. Student Answers. Assessments are to reflect the students' work as submitted by the students. During the assessments, educators are to monitor students to make sure directions are being followed (e.g., students are using a No. 2 pencil on all "bubble" sheet assessments and completely erase mistaken answers and extra marks on "bubble" sheet assessments). Educators are not to change answers on a student's assessment sheet or otherwise participate in the submission of false or misleading assessment results.

Violations of the rules and expectations set forth in this policy will be considered to be a breach of the District's standard of ethics and may result in disciplinary consequences. Educators are to report suspected violations of the expectation to the administration. The administration is to investigate and appropriately respond to violations of the expectations.

Legal Reference: NDE Rule 10.05; NDE Rule 27.004.02H and 004.03D

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## STUDENT PROGRESS REPORTS

Students shall receive a progress report at the end of each grading period. Students who are doing poorly, and their parents, shall be notified prior to the end of the semester in order to have an opportunity to improve their grade. The board encourages the notification of students who have made marked improvement prior to the end of the semester.

Cross Reference:     507     Student Records

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## STUDENT PROMOTION, RETENTION OR ACCELERATION

Students will be promoted to the next grade level at the end of each school year based on the student's achievement, age, maturity, emotional stability, and social adjustment.

Students will normally progress annually from grade to grade. Exceptions may be made when, in the judgement of the teachers and the principal, such exceptions are in the best educational interest of the students involved. Exceptions will always be made after prior notification and explanation to the student's parents, but the final decision will rest with school authorities.

When it becomes apparent a secondary student will be unable to meet the minimum credit requirements for the year, both the student and parents will be informed. Students who cannot demonstrate proficiency at their grade levels will also be considered for retention. Teachers must notify the principal of these students, make a recommendation to the principal concerning their promotion or retention, and hold a conference with parents.

Students who fail to pass a required class as a graduation requirement will retake said class to meet graduation requirements. Students may also opt to take a correspondence course at their own expense to meet the requirements of the required class that they failed. The correspondence study is subject to the approval of the school administration.

The principal may require remediation at the parents' expense as a condition of promotion to the next grade level. Such remediation may include, but shall not necessarily be limited to, a mandatory summer school program focused on the areas of deficiency or other such alternatives conducted by the district outside of the regular school day.

The parents will be requested to indicate in writing their agreement or disagreement with the recommendation for retention. The final decision will rest with the school administration. Parents may request retention if they believe it to be in the best interest of their student. The principal will confer with the teachers and parents to determine appropriate action.

More than one retention during the elementary school years will receive special consideration and require the approval of the superintendent based on the recommendation of the principal, teacher and parent or guardian.

Students with exceptional talents may, with the permission of the principal and parents, take classes beyond their current grade level. Enrichment opportunities outside the school district may be allowed when they do not conflict with the school district's

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graduation requirements. Acceleration ahead in a grade level should be approached with caution and should only occur with the joint approval of the superintendent, the principal and the parent or guardian.

Eight semesters of attendance is required to graduate from the Scribner-Snyder Community High School. All courses will be taken in proper sequence and student will not be allowed to enroll in a course if they have not successfully completed any and all prerequisite classes.

#### Scribner-Snyder Community School Class Requirements

1. Freshmen: Must take – English 9  
Pre-Algebra or Algebra I  
Physical Science  
Physical Education and Health  
Other recommended classes required for graduation:  
Keyboarding I  
Geography or World History
2. Sophomores: Must take – English 10  
Biology  
Algebra I (if Pre-Algebra is taken first year)  
Geometry or Algebra II (if Algebra I is taken first year)  
Other recommended classes required for graduation:  
Speech (2 semesters)  
Keyboarding
3. Juniors: Must take – American History  
English II  
Other recommended classes required for graduation:  
Speech (2 semesters)
4. Seniors: Must take – Life Skills English or College English  
Modern Problems or American Government  
Other recommended classes for graduation:  
Speech (2 semesters)

Legal Reference: Nebraska Statute 79-526

## STUDENT RETENTION PROCEDURES

For all possible retentions, an assistance team will be formed consisting of:

1. Classroom teacher;
2. Title I teacher or Resource (SPED) teacher, if applicable;
3. Teacher above current grade level;
4. Teacher below current grade level, if applicable;
5. Elementary principal.

After the first nine weeks, if a child has been having difficulty with the educational expectations or social development, the parents will be informed of these difficulties as well as will be elementary principal and the appropriate teachers above and/or below grade level.

This communication will be written and will be followed at the subsequent quarters.

If after the third quarter the student has not made adequate progress to predict academic success in the next grade, then the assistance team will meet and make the decision of promotion or retention. All members will be asked for their input with greatest responsibility or decision weight given to the classroom teacher's professional opinion. The decision to advance or retain the student will be finalized by May 1 of the current school year.

The assistance team will meet with the parents to discuss and verify the retention of the student.

### Parental Appeal Process

If, after discussing the retention of said student, the parents or guardians wish to appeal the retention decision, they shall follow the process outlines as such:

1. Parents or guardians shall officially appeal to the superintendent of the Scribner-Snyder Community Schools within five (5) school days.
2. The superintendent will review the particulars from the individual case. The parents or guardians shall present their reasons for appeal. At the discretion of the superintendent, he may or may not, hear from the parents or guardians and the assistance team at one meeting. The decision will be given within three (3) school days following the meeting with the parents and/or guardians.
3. If the superintendent's decision is to affirm the elementary teacher and principal's recommendation of retention, then the parents or guardians may request the final step

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of appeal. This is to be heard before the board of education. This request is to be made in the office of the superintendent by the Thursday prior to the June board meeting. The appeal will be heard before the board at the normal June meeting. The decision, in writing, will be given within three (3) days following the board meeting. All decisions given will thus be final.

## STUDENT HONORS AND AWARDS

The school district shall provide a program that establishes honors and awards including, but not limited to, academic letters, scholarships and good citizenship awards for students to assist them in setting goals. Students shall be made aware of honors and awards and the action necessary on the part of the student to achieve them. Students who have not attended the school district for their entire high school education or have not attended an accredited public or private school may not be eligible for some honors and awards.

### Honor Roll

Honor roll is a distinction given to students who maintain high percentages on all school work. Students that have a 93% or better average will be eligible for Honor Roll. One stipulation is that they must not have a grade lower than 85% in any one class.

Honorable Mention may also be given to a student who maintains an average between 86% and 92%, the stipulation is that they must not have a grade lower than 78% in any one class.

Cross Reference:     506     Student Activities

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## GRADING GUIDELINES

The superintendent shall develop and implement student grading guidelines. The objectives of grading guidelines shall be to quantify, report and record the academic progress of each student. Grades should fairly reflect the level of student achievement in the knowledge and skills specified by grade level or course objectives and outcomes.

### 1. Grading.

The grading system for Scribner-Snyder High School is as follows:

A -----	93-100
B -----	86-92
C -----	78-85
D -----	70-77
F -----	Below 70

### 2. Pass/Fail.

Pass/fail classes include: Student Assistance and Physical Education. Students enrolled in the academic classes of Junior High Industrial Arts, Home Economics, Art, Physical Education, Introduction to Spanish, and Introduction to Computer Operations will be graded on a pass/fail basis.

### 3. Special Grades.

Student grades on permanent records coded with an asterisk (\*) are grades that reflect an individual program based on the ability of the student with the implementation of an IEP.

Cross Reference:                   507.01 Student Records Access  
  1003 Public Examination of District Records

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## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Students must successfully complete the courses required by the board and Nebraska Department of Education in order to graduate.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to ensure that students complete grades one through twelve and that high school students complete 230 credits prior to graduation. The following credits will be required:

Language Arts	50	credit hours
Science	30	credit hours
Mathematics	30	credit hours
Social Studies	40	credit hours
Physical Education	10	credit hours
Fine Arts	10	credit hours
Total Elective Hours	<u>80</u>	credit hours
Total Required Hours for Graduation	250	credit hours

The required courses of study will be reviewed by the board annually.

All students shall meet the minimum graduation requirements established by the board of education. Any students who do not meet the minimum graduation requirements either through “regular instruction” or “special education instruction” shall not receive a diploma or graduation certificate.

The requirements enumerated herein shall be constructed as minimum standards and shall not preclude any administrative rules and regulations imposed upon student relative to graduation eligibility. Under certain circumstances the board may, at its discretion, opt to waive a specific requirement or requirements. However, a waiver must be approved by a majority vote of the board of education at a regular monthly board meeting.

### Credits and Instructional Units

The board of education believes that the amount of credit awarded for the successful completion of any course should not exceed nor be less than 25% of the instructional unit value of the course. For example – an English class which meets 50 minutes per day, five days per week for 36 weeks would total 9000 minutes; 9000 divided by 900 would equal 10 instructional units. The amount of credits awarded for this class could be as little as 7 ½ credits or as much as 12 ½ credits.

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Definitions:

**Instructional Unit:** The term “instructional unit” means fifteen clock hours of classroom instruction in a course offered in the secondary school.

**Credit Hour:** The term “credit hour” means credits awarded for the successful completion of the work required in one instructional unit. The number of credit hours given for a course may be more or less than the number of instructional units.

Graduation Requirements are detailed in student handbooks.

Graduation requirements for special education students will be in accordance with the prescribed course of study as described in their Individualized Education Program (IEP). Each student's IEP will include a statement of the projected date of graduation at least 18 months in advance of the projected date and the criteria to be used in determining whether graduation will occur. Prior to the special education student's graduation, the IEP team shall determine whether the graduation criteria have been met.

State-Wide Proficiency Examinations And Equivalency High School Diploma

The school will provide transcripts and other information for any person who wishes to apply to the Department of Education for a certificate of high school equivalency.

The General Educational Development tests will not be accepted in lieu of high school credit to be applied for graduation, except where pupils were drafted while in high school and denied the privilege of completing their high school work.

## COMMENCEMENT

Students who have met the requirements for graduation will be allowed to participate in the commencement proceedings provided they abide by the proceedings organized by the school district. It shall be the responsibility of the principal to solicit input from each graduating class regarding the proceedings for their commencement.

High school seniors of the school district shall be allowed to participate in graduation ceremonies if he/she fulfills the following requirements satisfactorily:

1. Complete all graduation requirements state in school district policy;
2. Fulfill all financial obligations to the school district;
3. Receive the recommendation of the school administration.

Failure to comply with the above will disqualify a student from participation in graduation ceremonies.

Failure of a student to participate in commencement will not be a reason for withholding the student's final progress report or diploma certifying the student's completion of high school.

## FREE APPROPRIATE PUBLIC EDUCATION

The district ensures that a free appropriate public education is available to all children with disabilities residing in the district from date of diagnosis through the school year in which the student reaches 21 years of age, including children with disabilities who have been suspended or expelled.

NDE document “Supporting Document to Checklist of Required Special Education Policies, Procedures and practices for Part B of the IDEA” shall serve as an administrative procedure to this policy. The entire document can be found at <http://www.education.ne.gov/sped/regulations.html>.

## FULL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY GOAL

The district has a goal of providing a full educational opportunity to all children with disabilities and a detailed timetable for accomplishing that goal.

NDE document “Supporting Document to Checklist of Required Special Education Policies, Procedures and practices for Part B of the IDEA” shall serve as an administrative procedure to this policy. The entire document can be found at <http://www.education.ne.gov/sped/regulations.html>.

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## CHILDFIND

All children with disabilities residing in the district, including children with disabilities who are homeless children or wards of the state and children with disabilities attending non-public schools, regardless of the severity of their disabilities, and who are in need of special education and related services, are identified, located, and evaluated and a practical method is developed and implemented to determine which children with disabilities are currently receiving needed special education and related services.

NDE document “Supporting Document to Checklist of Required Special Education Policies, Procedures and practices for Part B of the IDEA” shall serve as an administrative procedure to this policy. The entire document can be found at <http://www.education.ne.gov/sped/regulations.html>.

## EVALUATION PROCEDURES

The district ensures that children with disabilities are evaluated in accordance with 92 NAC 51-006.

Procedures to ensure that testing and evaluation materials and procedures utilized for the purposes of evaluation and placement of children with disabilities will be selected and administered so as not to be racially or culturally discriminatory. Such materials or procedures shall be provided and administered in the child's native language or mode of communication, unless it is clearly not feasible to do so, and no single procedure shall be the sole criterion for determining an appropriate educational program for a child.

NDE document "Supporting Document to Checklist of Required Special Education Policies, Procedures and practices for Part B of the IDEA" shall serve as an administrative procedure to this policy. The entire document can be found at <http://www.education.ne.gov/sped/regulations.html>.

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## INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM AND FAMILY SERVICES PLAN

The district ensures that an Individualized Education Program (IEP), or an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) is developed, reviewed, and revised for each child with a disability in accordance with 92 NAC 51-007.

NDE document “Supporting Document to Checklist of Required Special Education Policies, Procedures and practices for Part B of the IDEA” shall serve as an administrative procedure to this policy. The entire document can be found at <http://www.education.ne.gov/sped/regulations.html>.

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## TRANSITION OF CHILDREN FROM PART C TO PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

The district ensures that children participating in early intervention programs under Part C of IDEA and who will participate in preschool programs assisted under Part B experience a smooth and effective transition to those preschool programs in a manner consistent with 92 NAC 51-007.16. By the third birthday of such a child, an individualized education program or an individualized family service plan has been developed and is being implemented for the child. The local educational agency will participate in transition planning conferences arranged by the designated lead agency.

NDE document “Supporting Document to Checklist of Required Special Education Policies, Procedures and practices for Part B of the IDEA” shall serve as an administrative procedure to this policy. The entire document can be found at <http://www.education.ne.gov/sped/regulations.html>.

## PARTICIPATION IN STATE AND DISTRICT WIDE ASSESSMENTS

The district ensures that children with disabilities are included in all general state and district wide assessment programs, including assessments described under section 1111 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, with appropriate accommodations and alternate assessments where necessary and as indicated in their respective individualized education programs.

NDE document “Supporting Document to Checklist of Required Special Education Policies, Procedures and practices for Part B of the IDEA” shall serve as an administrative procedure to this policy. The entire document can be found at <http://www.education.ne.gov/sped/regulations.html>.

## LEAST RESTRICTIVE ENVIRONMENT

To the maximum extent appropriate, children with disabilities, including children in public and nonpublic institutions or other care facilities, are educated with children who are not disabled, and special classes, separate schooling, or other removal of children with disabilities from the regular education environment occurs only when the nature or severity of the disability of a child is such that education in regular classes with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily.

NDE document “Supporting Document to Checklist of Required Special Education Policies, Procedures and practices for Part B of the IDEA” shall serve as an administrative procedure to this policy. The entire document can be found at <http://www.education.ne.gov/sped/regulations.html>.

## CHILDREN IN NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS

To the extent consistent with the number and location of children with disabilities who are enrolled by their parents in nonpublic elementary and secondary schools, provision is made for the participation of those children in special education and related services in accordance with the requirements contained in 92 NAC 51.

NDE document “Supporting Document to Checklist of Required Special Education Policies, Procedures and practices for Part B of the IDEA” shall serve as an administrative procedure to this policy. The entire document can be found at <http://www.education.ne.gov/sped/regulations.html>.

## PROCEDURAL SAFEGUARDS

The district ensures that children with disabilities and their parents are afforded the procedural safeguards required in 92 NAC 51-009.

NDE document “Supporting Document to Checklist of Required Special Education Policies, Procedures and practices for Part B of the IDEA” shall serve as an administrative procedure to this policy. The entire document can be found at <http://www.education.ne.gov/sped/regulations.html>.

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## TRANSPORTATION

The district will provide for the transportation expenses of children with disabilities who are residents of the school district.

NDE document “Supporting Document to Checklist of Required Special Education Policies, Procedures and practices for Part B of the IDEA” shall serve as an administrative procedure to this policy. The entire document can be found at <http://www.education.ne.gov/sped/regulations.html>.

## PERSONNEL QUALIFICATIONS

The district ensures that personnel necessary to carry out IDEA requirements are appropriately and adequately prepared and trained, including that those personnel have the content knowledge and skills to serve children with disabilities.

NDE document “Supporting Document to Checklist of Required Special Education Policies, Procedures and practices for Part B of the IDEA” shall serve as an administrative procedure to this policy. The entire document can be found at <http://www.education.ne.gov/sped/regulations.html>.

CONFIDENTIALITY OF PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION

The district complies with the requirements contained in 92 NAC 51-003.16, 003.20 and 009.03 relating to the confidentiality of student records and information.

NDE document “Supporting Document to Checklist of Required Special Education Policies, Procedures and practices for Part B of the IDEA” shall serve as an administrative procedure to this policy. The entire document can be found at <http://www.education.ne.gov/sped/regulations.html>.

## SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION RATES

The district examines data, including data disaggregated by race and ethnicity, to determine if significant discrepancies are occurring in the rate of long-term suspensions and expulsions of children with disabilities.

NDE document “Supporting Document to Checklist of Required Special Education Policies, Procedures and practices for Part B of the IDEA” shall serve as an administrative procedure to this policy. The entire document can be found at <http://www.education.ne.gov/sped/regulations.html>.

## ACCESS TO INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

A school district or approved cooperative that chooses to coordinate with the National Instructional Materials Access Center (NIMAC) when purchasing print instructional materials shall enter into a written contract with the publisher of the print instructional materials to:

1. Require the publisher to prepare and, on or before the delivery of the print instructional materials, provide to the National Instructional Materials Access Center, electronic files containing the contents of the print instructional materials using the Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard (NIMAS); or
2. Purchase instructional materials from a publisher that are produced in or may be rendered in specialized formats.

Nothing in this policy shall be construed to require a school district or approved cooperative to coordinate with the National Instructional Materials Access Center. If a school district or approved cooperative chooses not to coordinate with the National Instructional Materials Access Center, the school district or approved cooperative shall provide an assurance to the Nebraska Department of Education that the school district or approved cooperative will provide instructional materials to students with blindness or other students with print disabilities at the same time as other students.

NDE document “Supporting Document to Checklist of Required Special Education Policies, Procedures and practices for Part B of the IDEA” shall serve as an administrative procedure to this policy. The entire document can be found at <http://www.education.ne.gov/sped/regulations.html>.

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## OVER-IDENTIFICATION AND DISPROPORTIONALITY

The district has a goal of preventing the inappropriate over identification or disproportionate representation by race and ethnicity of children as children with disabilities, including children with disabilities with a particular impairment as described in 92 NAC 51-003.10.

“Child with a disability” means a child who has been verified as per 92 NAC 51-006 as a child with autism, a behavior disorder, deaf-blindness, a developmental delay, a hearing impairment including deafness, a mental handicap, multiple impairment, an orthopedic impairment, an other health impairment, a specific learning disability, a speech-language impairment, a traumatic brain injury or a visual impairment including blindness, who because of this impairment needs special education and related services. If, under 92 NAC 51-003.63, it is determined, through an appropriate evaluation under 92 NAC 51-006, that a child has one of the disabilities identified above, but only needs a related service and not special education, the child is not a child with a disability under this Chapter. If the related service required by the child is considered special education rather than a related service, the child would be determined to be a child with a disability.

NDE document “Supporting Document to Checklist of Required Special Education Policies, Procedures and practices for Part B of the IDEA” shall serve as an administrative procedure to this policy. The entire document can be found at <http://www.education.ne.gov/sped/regulations.html>.

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## PROHIBITION ON MANDATORY MEDICATION

The school districts, approved cooperatives and special education and related services providers are prohibited from requiring parents to obtain a prescription for substances identified under Schedules I, II, III, IV or V in section 202(c) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 812(c)) for the child as a condition of attending school, receiving an evaluation under 92 NAC 51-006, or receiving services under Chapter 51.

Nothing in this policy shall be construed to create a prohibition against teachers and other school personnel consulting or sharing classroom-based observations with parents or guardians regarding a student's academic and functional performance, or behavior in the classroom or school, or regarding the need for evaluation for special education or related services.

NDE document "Supporting Document to Checklist of Required Special Education Policies, Procedures and practices for Part B of the IDEA" shall serve as an administrative procedure to this policy. The entire document can be found at <http://www.education.ne.gov/sped/regulations.html>.

## **Special Education Policies**

Scribner-Snyder Community Schools adopts this special education policy with the intent that the policy maintain the District's compliance with all applicable laws affecting special education services and programs. The Superintendent or designees shall develop regulations or procedures to implement these policies. Employees and contractors of the District are expected to comply with these policies and all regulations, guidelines and procedures related to this policy in all respects.

The District will abide by all state and federal laws relating to special education. The District's special education policy and regulations, guidelines and procedures related to this policy are to be interpreted so as to be in compliance with such laws. In the event of changes in law, the school administration shall be authorized to implement modifications of practice to comply with such changes (whether the changes impose more or less stringent procedural or substantive requirements) until such time as amended policies are adopted by the Board of Education. References herein to 92 NAC 51 citations are made to Rule 51 as in effect on the date of the adoption of these policies. In the event of renumbering or other revisions to Rule 51, the policy shall be interpreted and implemented consistent with such renumbering or revisions.

### **1. Free Appropriate Public Education**

A free appropriate public education shall be made available to all children with disabilities residing in the District from date of diagnosis through the school year in which the student reaches 21 years of age, including children with disabilities who have been suspended or expelled.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-004.01 through 004.03A and 007.07C2 through 007.07C6

### **2. Full Educational Opportunity Goal**

The District shall take steps to ensure that its children with verified disabilities have available to them the variety of educational programs and services available to children without disabilities in the areas served by the District, including art, music, industrial arts, family consumer science education, and vocational education.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-004.11A

### **3. Child Find**

All children with disabilities residing in the District, including children with disabilities who are homeless or are wards of the state or attending nonpublic schools, regardless of the severity of their disabilities, who are in need of special education and related services, will be identified, located and evaluated and a practical method shall be developed and implemented by the administration to determine which children with disabilities are currently receiving needed special education and related services.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-006.01 through 006.01A2

### **4. Individualized Education Program (IEP)**

An individualized education program, or an individualized family service plan, is to be developed, reviewed, and revised for each child with a disability in accordance with 92 NAC 51-007.

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Reviewed \_\_\_\_\_ Revised \_\_\_\_\_

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-007

#### **5. Least Restrictive Environment**

To the maximum extent appropriate, children with disabilities, including children in public or private institutions or other care facilities, are to be educated with children who are not disabled, and special classes, separate schooling, or other removal of children with disabilities from the regular educational environment will occur only when the nature or severity of the disability of a child is such that education in regular classes with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-008.01 through 008.011

#### **6. Procedural Safeguards**

Children with disabilities and their parents shall be afforded the required procedural safeguards.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-009.01 through 009.07; 009.10 through 009.12; 009.14, 006.07 and 016.01

#### **7. Evaluation and Identification Procedures**

Children with disabilities shall be evaluated and identified in accordance with 92 NAC 51-006. The District will respond to a request for an Independent Educational Evaluation without unnecessary delay. Locations of any evaluator shall be within a reasonable distance of the District. A reasonable distance means within 100 miles of the school building the child attends and within Nebraska. In the event this geographic area restriction would prevent a parent from obtaining an Independent Educational Evaluation, the location of the evaluator may be outside the specified geographic area but must be within Nebraska. The District will provide the parent(s) with a list of qualified agencies/evaluators within the geographic area. The evaluators are to have their rates approved by the Nebraska Department of Education to be authorized to conduct the evaluation.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-006

#### **8. Confidentiality of Personally Identifiable Information**

The confidentiality of student records and information shall be maintained in accordance with law.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-003.16, 003.20, 009.03 through 009.03M3

#### **9. Transition of Children from Part C to Preschool Programs**

Children participating in early intervention programs under Part C of the IDEA (early intervention services) and who will participate in preschool programs assisted under Part B of the IDEA (services for school-aged children) shall experience a smooth and effective transition to those preschool programs in a manner consistent with 92 NAC 51-007.16. By the third birthday of such a child, an individualized education program or an individualized family service plan shall be developed and be implemented for the child. The District will participate in transition planning conferences arranged by the designated lead agency.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-007.16 through 007.16B1b

#### **10. Children in Nonpublic Schools**

To the extent consistent with the number and location of children with disabilities in the District who are enrolled by their parents in nonpublic elementary and secondary schools in the District, provision will be made for the participation of those children in the programs assisted or carried out under Part B of the IDEA (services for school-aged children) by providing them with special education and related services.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-012.08 and 015

#### **11. Personnel Standards and Personnel Development**

Personnel providing special education or related services to children with disabilities shall be appropriately and adequately in accordance with IDEA requirements and the District will take measurable steps to recruit, hire, train and retain personnel meeting the requirements of IDEA to provide such services.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-010

#### **12. Participation in and Reporting of State and District Wide Assessments**

All children with disabilities shall be included in all general state and district wide assessment programs, including assessments described under section 612(a)(16)(A) of the IDEA with appropriate accommodations and alternate assessments where necessary and as indicated in their respective individualized education programs. The District will make available to the Nebraska Department of Education the information necessary to carry out its duties relating to the reporting of children with disabilities participation in assessments.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-004.05

#### **13. Suspension and Expulsion Rates**

The District will examine data, including data disaggregated by race and ethnicity, to determine if significant discrepancies are occurring in the rate of long-term suspensions and expulsions of children with disabilities.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-004.06E

#### **14. Access to Instructional Materials**

As part of any print instructional materials adoption process, procurement contract, or other practice or instrument used for purchase of print instructional materials, the District will enter into a written contract with the publisher of the print instructional materials to:

1. Require the publisher to prepare and, on or before delivery of the print instructional materials, provide to the National Instructional Material Access Center, electronic files containing the contents of the print instructional materials using the National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard, or
2. Purchase instructional materials from the publisher that are produced in, or may be rendered in specialized formats.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-004.15

#### **15. Over-Identification and Disproportionality**

Procedures shall be in place to ensure that testing and evaluation materials and procedures utilized for the evaluation and placement of children with disabilities will be selected and administered so as not to be racially or culturally discriminatory. Such materials or procedures shall be provided and administered in the child's native language or mode of communication,

unless it is clearly not feasible to do so, and no single procedure shall be the sole criterion for determining an appropriate educational program for a child.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-003.10; 006.02C

**16. Prohibition on Mandatory Medication**

Children shall not be required to obtain a prescription for a controlled substance as a condition of attending school, receiving an evaluation to determine whether a child has a disability or the nature and extent of special education and related services the child needs, or receiving special education services.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-004.11D; 21 U.S.C. §812(c)

**17. Transportation**

Transportation will be provided for children with disabilities who are eligible for transportation and residents of the school district as required by law.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-014.01 through 014.02

**18. Surrogates**

A surrogate will be appointed and other action taken to ensure the rights of children with a disability as required by law.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-009.10

Legal Reference:

34 CFR Parts 300, 303 and 304  
Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-1110 to 79-1167  
92 NAC 51

Approved: May 2012 Reviewed: September 2014 Revised \_\_\_\_\_