HILLCREST SCHOOL DISTRICT



2025-2026 STUDENT HANDBOOK

HANDBOOK
HILLCREST SCHOOL DISTRICT
2025-2026

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Mickel Smith
Superintendent

*****

Mike Nunnally, High School Principal
Shawn Rose, Elementary Principal

*****

HILLCREST BOARD OF EDUCATION

David Scott Durham * Braden Glenn * Phillip Penn
Blake Perkins * Tommy Pagan*
Roger Randolph * Jody Doyle

Hillcrest School District Phone Numbers

Hillcrest Administrative	**870-376-5416**
Building	
Hillcrest Elementary	**870-376-5416**
Hillcrest Elementary Fax	**501-421-9068**
Hillcrest High School	**870-376-5416**
Hillcrest High School Fax	**501-421-9068**

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PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance shall be recited during the first period of each school day. Students who choose to participate shall do so by facing the flag with their right hands over their hearts, or in an appropriate salute if in uniform, while reciting the Pledge. Students who choose not to participate shall be quiet while either standing or sitting at their desks.

Students shall not be compelled to recite the Pledge, but students who choose not to recite the Pledge shall not disrupt those students who choose to recite the Pledge.

Students who choose not to recite the Pledge shall not be subject to any comments, retaliation, or disciplinary action.

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Welcome to the 2025-2026 school year at Hillcrest School District. This handbook has been prepared for the purpose of outlining to you our expectations in regard to student behavior. From it, you will better understand the policies and procedures of the Hillcrest School District.

Students, parents/guardians, and teachers participate yearly in making revisions to the high school handbook. The Hillcrest School Board officially approved this handbook for the 2025-2026 school year. It is impossible to list all rules and guidelines for students; therefore, this is not meant to be an inclusive list. Hillcrest Schools reserve the right to pursue disciplinary or legal action for behaviors not covered inside which are subversive to good order and discipline in the school, even though such behaviors are not specified in this handbook.

The students of Hillcrest Schools are expected to follow the rules established by the Hillcrest Board of Education. Following the rules will help all students develop necessary and useful skills for the future.
Students, remember that success is proportional to effort. We challenge you to do your very best.

You are asked to read the handbook; then sign a statement of receipts to be returned and filed in the principal's office, where it will be kept on file. All parents/guardians are required to do so (Act 104 of 1983) in order to complete their child's registration.

Please visit with us whenever you can. The cooperation of school patrons, based upon knowledge of school policies and procedures, will result in a more efficient and successful program.

Hillcrest District Principals

PREFACE

The administration, board of education, students, and faculty have prepared or reviewed this handbook in an effort to assist students and parents/guardians in becoming more familiar with the policies, regulations, requirements, and activities of the Hillcrest School District. This handbook, when properly used, can help students enjoy more fully the school and the opportunity it affords.

To ensure that students and parents/guardians understand the contents of this handbook, each student and his/her parent or guardian are required to sign a receipt of this handbook, as well as the Internet agreement if you want your child to have access to the Internet at school. Both forms are located among the last pages of this handbook, and they were placed in your child's registration packet.

PHILOSOPHY

The Hillcrest School District is maintained to contribute to the general education of students and to prepare students for continuing successfully their education in institutions of higher learning. The school's aim is to provide students with specific skills, knowledge, and abilities needed on the job and to give students a general education in developing understanding, so they may live successfully in a democratic society. Hillcrest recognizes the rights and privileges of all people and tries to give fair and impartial treatment to everyone.

This school believes that every individual can contribute something worthwhile to the group. Therefore, we rely on the sound judgment of the faculty, student body, and parents/guardians to maintain and promote our school program.

HILLCREST SCHOOL DISTRICT
2025- 2026 SCHOOL CALENDAR

July 23rd - School Begins

Aug. 28th - Parent Teacher Conferences

Aug. 29th - No school

Sept 1st - No School (Labor Day)

Sept 26 - 1st Quarter Ends

Sept. 29th - Oct 13 - Fall Break

Oct. 14th - Second Quarter Begins

Nov. 24th -28th - Thanksgiving Break

Dec 19th - Second Quarter Ends

Dec 22nd- Jan 5th Christmas Break

Jan 6th - 3rd Quarter Begins

Jan 16th - No school (snow Day 1)

Jan 19th - MLK Day no school (snow day 2)

Feb 13th - No school (snow day 3)

Feb 16th – President Day (snow day 4)

Mar. 20th - End of 3rd Quarter

Mar. 23rd - April 3rd -Spring Break (Mar.30th -April 3rd Snow day 5-9)

April 6th - Fourth Quarter Begins

April 9th - Parent Teacher Conferences

April 10th- No School (snow day 10)
May 9th - Graduation
May 25th - No school Memorial Day
May 29th -End of fourth Quarter

STATEMENT OF DISCLOSURE

Hillcrest School District of Lawrence County, Arkansas, complies with and enforces all regulations of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Race), Title IX Educational Amendments of 1972 (Sex), and Section 504 Rehab. A (Handicap), concerning admission, treatment of students, and employment of personnel. As outlined in these entitlements, Hillcrest Public School does not discriminate and provides equal access and opportunity regardless of sex, race, religion, color, creed, or handicap in the educational programs and activities that it operates or administers.

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Students have the responsibility to pursue their education in a manner that shows respect for other students, school employees, parents/guardians, and other citizens. Each student is responsible for his or her own conduct at all times. Only through the combined efforts of everyone, can the schools operate in a smooth and most effective manner.

4.1—RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS

Definitions

"In loco parentis" means relating to the responsibility to undertake the care and control of another person in the absence of:

1. Supervision by the person's parent or legal guardian; and
2. Formal legal approval.

"Reside" means to be physically present and to maintain a permanent place of abode for an average of no fewer than four (4) calendar days and nights per week for a primary purpose other than school attendance.

"Resident" means a student whose parents, legal guardians, persons having lawful control of the student, or persons standing in loco parentis reside in the school district.

"Residential address" means the physical location where the student's parents, legal guardians, persons having lawful control of the student, or persons standing in loco parentis reside. A student may use the residential address of a parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis only if the student resides at the same residential address and if the guardianship or other legal authority is not granted solely for educational needs or school attendance purposes.

The schools of the District shall be open and free through the completion of the secondary program to all persons between the ages of five (5) and twenty one (21) years whose parents, legal guardians, persons having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis reside within the District[1] and to all persons between those ages who have been legally transferred to the District for educational purposes.

Any person eighteen (18) years of age or older may establish a residence separate and apart from his or her parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or a person standing in loco parentis for school attendance purposes.

In order for a person under the age of eighteen (18) years to establish a residence for the purpose of attending the District's schools separate and apart from his or her parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or a person standing in loco parentis, the student is required to reside in the District for a primary purpose other than that of school attendance; however, a student previously enrolled in the district whose parents move the student into another district or who is placed under the legal guardianship of a noncustodial parent living outside the district by a custodial parent on active military duty may continue to attend district schools.[2] A foster child who was previously enrolled in a District school and who has had a change in placement to a residence outside the District, may continue to remain enrolled in his/her current school unless the presiding court rules otherwise.[3]

Under instances prescribed in A.C.A. § 6-18-203, a child or ward of an employee of the district or of the education coop to which the district belongs may enroll in the district even though the employee and the employee's child or ward reside outside the district.[4]

Children whose parent or legal guardian relocates within the state due to a mobilization, deployment, or available military housing while on active duty in or serving in the reserve component of a branch of the United States Armed Forces or National Guard may continue attending school in the school district the children were attending prior to the relocation or attend school in the school district where the children have relocated. A child may complete all remaining school years at the enrolled school district regardless of mobilization, deployment, or military status of the parent or guardian.

Notes: [1] Residency requirements of homeless students is governed by policy 4.40—HOMELESS STUDENTS. Residency requirements governing foster children are governed by policy 4.52—STUDENTS WHO ARE FOSTER CHILDREN. If a student's primary residence is on an undivided tract of land that is located partially in one (1) school district and partially in another school district or the student's principal place of residence is located partially in one (1) school district and partially in another school district, then the student shall be eligible to attend the school in either of the school districts in which the tract of land or principal place of residence is located regardless of the location of the home on the property.

[2] The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children and the ARKANSAS MILITARY CHILD SCHOOL TRANSITIONS ACT OF 2021 are the sources for this sentence. It is codified at A.C.A. § 6-4-302 and 6-28-108. The language allowing any student who moves from one district into another district to continue to attend the original district comes from A.C.A. § 6-18-203.

[3] This is a provision of A.C.A. § 9-28-113(a) and (b).

[4] Rather than duplicate the law on the attendance of children of employees who reside outside of the district into the policy which would make for a long policy affecting a relatively small number of students, we suggest you consult A.C.A. § 6-18-203 and have a copy handy for affected employees or potential employees.

Cross References: Policy 4.40—HOMELESS STUDENTS
Policy 4.52—STUDENTS WHO ARE FOSTER CHILDREN

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-4-302
A.C.A. § 6-18-202
A.C.A. § 6-18-203
A.C.A. § 6-28-108
A.C.A. § 9-28-113

4.2—ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

To enroll in a school in the District, the child must:

A. Be a resident of the District as defined in District Policy 4.1 Residence requirements
B. Meet the criteria outlined in Policy:
   4.40- Homeless Students or
   4.52- Students who are Foster Children
C. Be accepted as transfer students under the provisions of policy 4.4
D. Participate under a school choice option and submit the required paperwork as required by the voice option under Policy 4.5

A student may enter kindergarten if the student:

- Meets one of the requirements for school attendance of A through D above
- Falls under one of the following
- Will attain the age of five 5 on or before August 1 of the year in which the student is seeking initial enrollment: or
- Has been enrolled in a state-accredited or state-approved kindergarten program in another state for at least sixty 60 days and: will become five 5 during the year in which the student is enrolled in kindergarten and submits a written request for enrollment to the district or
- Was enrolled in a state-accredited or state-approved kindergarten program in another state or in a kindergarten program equivalent in another country and becomes a resident of the state as a direct result of active military orders or a court ordered change of custody, will become five 5 years of age during the year in which the student is enrolled in kindergarten and submits a written request to the district.

Any child who will be six (6) years of age on or before October 1 of the school year of enrollment and who has not completed a state-accredited kindergarten program shall be evaluated by the district and may be placed in the first grade if the results of the evaluation justify placement in the first grade and the child's parent or legal guardian agrees with placement in the first grade; otherwise the child shall be placed in kindergarten.

Any child may enter first grade in a District school if the child attains six (6) years of age during the school year in which the child is seeking enrollment and the child has successfully completed a kindergarten program in a public school in Arkansas.

Any child who has been enrolled in the first grade in a state-accredited or state-approved elementary school in another state for a period of at least sixty (60) days, who will become six (6) years of age during the school year in which the student is enrolled in grade one (1), and who meets the basic residency requirements for school attendance may be enrolled in the first grade.

Students who move into the District from an accredited school shall be assigned to the same grade as they were attending in their previous school (mid-year transfers) or as they would have

been assigned in their previous school. Private school students shall be evaluated by the District to determine their appropriate grade placement. Home school students enrolling or re-enrolling as a public school student shall be placed in accordance with policy 4.6—HOME SCHOOLING.

The district shall make no attempt to ascertain the immigration status, legal or illegal, of any student or the student's parent or legal guardian presenting for enrollment.[1]

Prior to the child's admission to a District school:[2]

1. The parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis shall furnish the child's social security number, or if they request, the district will assign the child a nine (9) digit number designated by the Division of Elementary and Secondary education.
2. The parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis shall provide the district with one (1) of the following documents indicating the child's age:
    a. A birth certificate;
    b. A statement by the local registrar or a county recorder certifying the child's date of birth;
    c. An attested baptismal certificate;
    d. A passport;
    a. An affidavit of the date and place of birth by the child's parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis;
    b. United States military identification; or
    c. Previous school records.
3. The parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis shall indicate on school registration forms whether the child has been expelled from school in any other school district or is a party to an expulsion proceeding. Any person who has been expelled from any other school district shall receive a hearing before the Board at the time the student is seeking enrollment in the District. The Board reserves the right to not allow the enrollment of such students until the time of the person's expulsion has expired following the hearing before the Board.[3]
4. In accordance with Policy 4.57—IMMUNIZATIONS, the child shall be age appropriately immunized or have an exemption issued by the Arkansas Department of Health.

Uniformed Services Member's Children

For the purposes of this policy:
"Activated reserve components" means members of the reserve component of the uniformed services who have received a notice of intent to deploy or mobilize under Title 10 of the United States Code, Title 32 of the United States Code, or state mobilization to active duty.

"Active duty"[4] means full-time duty status in the active, uniformed services of the United States, including without limitation members of The National Guard and Reserve on active duty orders under 10 U.S.C. chapters 1209 and 1211 or 42 U.S.C. § 204.

“Deployment” means a period of time extending from six (6) months before a member of the uniformed services' departure from their home station on military orders through six (6) months after return to his or her home station.

"Dual status military technician" means a federal civilian employee who is:

a. Employed under 5 U.S.C. § 3101 or 32 U.S.C. § 709(b);
b. Required as a condition of his or her employment to maintain membership in the Selected Reserve; and
c. Assigned to a civilian position as a technician in the organizing, administering, instructing, or training of the Selected Reserve or in the maintenance and repair of supplies or equipment issued to the Selected Reserve of the United States Armed Forces.

“Eligible child” means the children of:

- Active duty members of the uniformed services;
- Members of the active and activated reserve components of the uniformed services;
- Veterans of the uniformed services who are injured in the line of duty and medically separated or retired.
- Members of the uniformed services who die on active duty or as a result of injuries sustained on active duty.
- Dual status military technicians; and
- Traditional members of the National Guard and reserve components of the armed forces who are relocating to the state for employment or to serve as a member of an Arkansas-based reserve component unit.

"Traditional member of the National Guard or federal reserves" means an active member of the Selected Reserve subject to mobilization and deployment for which the member attends monthly and annual training periods.

“Transition” means the:

o Formal and physical process of transitioning from public school to public school; or
o Period of time in which a student moves from a sending district to a receiving district.

“Uniformed services”[4] means the United States Army, United States Navy, United States Air Force, United States Marine Corps, United States Space Force, United States Coast Guard, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps, the United States Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Services, and the state and federal reserve components of each of these bodies.

“Veteran” means an individual who served in the uniformed services and who was discharged or released from the uniformed services under conditions other than dishonorable.

The superintendent shall designate an individual as the District’s military education coordinator, who shall serve as the primary point of contact for an eligible child and for the eligible child’s parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the eligible child, or person standing in loco parentis. The individual the superintendent designates as the District’s military education

coordinator shall possess specialized knowledge regarding the educational needs and unique challenges faced by children of uniformed services families.

An eligible child as defined in this policy shall:

1. Be allowed to continue the student's enrollment at the grade level commensurate with the student's grade level the student was in at the time of transition from the student's previous school, regardless of age;
2. Be eligible for enrollment in the next highest grade level, regardless of age if the student has satisfactorily completed the prerequisite grade level in the student's previous school;
3. Enter the District's school on the validated level from the student's previous accredited school when transferring into the District after the start of the school year;
4. Be enrolled in courses and programs the same as or similar to the ones the student was enrolled in the student's previous school to the extent that space is available. This does not prohibit the District from performing subsequent evaluations to ensure appropriate placement and continued enrollment of the student in the courses/and/or programs;
5. Be provided services comparable to those the student with disabilities received in the student's previous school based on his/her previous Individualized Education Program (IEP). This does not preclude the District school from performing subsequent evaluations to ensure appropriate placement of the student;
6. Make reasonable accommodations and modifications to address the needs of an incoming student with disabilities, subject to an existing 504 or Title II Plan, necessary to provide the student with equal access to education. This does not preclude the District school from performing subsequent evaluations to ensure appropriate placement of the student;
7. Be enrolled by an individual who has been given the special power of attorney for the student's guardianship. The individual shall have the power to take all other actions requiring parental participation and/or consent;
8. Be eligible to continue attending District schools if the student has been placed under the legal guardianship of a noncustodial parent living outside the district by a custodial parent on active military duty.

Following the receipt of advanced notice and an enrollment application of an eligible student from a military family, the District shall:

Provisionally enroll, provide placement for, and enter academic course requests on behalf of the incoming student based on the student's education record provided by the student's family or the sending district;

- Provide the uniformed services family with information regarding:[6]
  a. Career-ready pathways and other academic or education programs offered;
  b. Required academic courses for each curriculum and elective course options;
  c. School and community-sponsored extracurricular activities, including without limitation individual and team sports, clubs, junior reserve officer training corps opportunities, and Purple Star School program ambassadors; and
  d. Contact information for the designated military family education coordinator and the Purple Star School program military family education facilitator, if applicable; and
  e. Other relevant information regarding the District.

In the event that official copies of an eligible child's education records are not available at the time the eligible child is transferring, then the District shall:

- Pre-register and place an eligible child based on the eligible child's unofficial education records pending receipt of the eligible child's official records; and
- Request the eligible child's official education records from the sending district.

The District shall not deny the enrollment of a Uniformed Service Member dependent unless the District has reached the maximum student-to-teacher ratio allowed under federal law; state law; the Standards for Accreditation for Public Schools and School Districts; state rules; or other applicable federal regulations, and the District timely notifies the parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis of the lack of capacity.

The District shall notify a prospective student's family in writing regarding whether the student's enrollment has been accepted or rejected within fifteen (15) calendar days of receiving the student's enrollment application and supporting documentation.

To facilitate a smooth transition between the student's previous coursework and the curriculum best suited to ensure educational success in the student's new school, the District may enroll an inbound transitioning eligible student in digital coursework, if available, at the request of the military family.

The District may request a waiver from the State Board as necessary to accommodate an eligible student.

International Exchange Students

"Host family" means the individual or family with whom an international exchange student is placed by an international student exchange visitor placement organization under the International Student Exchange Visitor Placement Organization Registration Act, § 6-18-1701 et seq..

"International exchange student" means a student who is placed with a host family by an international student exchange visitor placement organization under the International Student Exchange Visitor Placement Organization Registration Act, § 6-18-1701 et seq.

Before an international exchange student may attend a District school, the District requires all international student exchange visitor placement organizations that are placing international exchange students within the District to:

- Be certified by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel;
- Provide documented proof of the international exchange student's English proficiency; and

- Notify the District at least three (3) weeks before the beginning of the academic semester the international exchange student plans to enroll in the District.

The District shall admit for enrollment and attendance an international exchange student who has been placed with a host family who resides within the District boundaries. The international exchange student shall attend the school in the District based on the attendance zone where the host family resides.[7]

Upon an international exchange student's arrival, the international exchange student may be required to submit to quarantine to prevent the spread of infectious diseases as may be necessary, which shall not exceed seven (7) days unless otherwise recommended by the Arkansas Department of Health or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

International exchange students are expected to follow the District handbook and student code of conduct as the District has the authority to expel a student for violations of the school district's written student discipline policies or if the international exchange student presents a danger to the District's students or employees.

Statewide assessment results achieved by an international exchange student enrolled in the District shall be included in the District's results on the statewide assessments.[8]

The District shall provide English-language services to international exchange students as necessary.[9]

Notes: [1] The US Supreme Court has held that public schools may not use immigration status as a criterion for admitting and educating students.

[2] A.C.A. § 9-28-113 requires schools to "immediately" enroll foster children whether or not they produce "required clothing or required records" noted in #2 and #4. ASBA does not believe this means schools are required to admit students currently under expulsion from their previous school. See policies 4.4 and 4.5.

[3] A.C.A. § 6-18-510 requires that districts adopt this policy language, or similar, **AND** provide a hearing before the board for the student seeking to enroll in the district while currently serving an expulsion from another district in order for the district to exclude the student until the expiration of the student's expulsion. Districts who do not include this policy language, or similar, **AND** provide the hearing before the board may **NOT** prohibit the enrollment of a student who is currently serving an expulsion from another district.

[4] A.C.A. § 6-4-302 and 6-28-104 define both "uniformed services" and "active duty." Consult the statutes to determine if the student wishing to enroll in your district qualifies under the definitions.

[5] - All districts are required to appoint a military liaison, and DESE must be notified annually by September 15 of the appointment. In addition to other duties, the military liaison is also responsible to serve as a navigator for uniformed services families by:

- Connecting the uniformed services families to appropriate public school resources; and
- Connecting families with other uniformed services families in the public school upon request.

[6] A.C.A. § 6-28-108 allows districts to provide this information directly to the military family or it can be placed on the district website on a page titled "Military Families". A.C.A. § 6-28-301 requires the information to be placed on the "Military Families" page on the district website if the district has twenty (20) or more dependents of Uniformed Service Members enrolled in the district or a general student body of three thousand (3,000) or more.

[7] While A.C.A. § 6-18-234(c)(3) allows a district to limit the number of exchange students that the district is required to admit to a single school to one (1) exchange student for every fifty (50) traditional students enrolled in the school, we have not included such limiting language as we believe that to do so violates the intent that the public schools are open to all students between the ages of five (5) and twenty-one (21) who lawfully reside within the district.

[8] You are not required to include exchange student statewide assessment scores in your district results. The law requires that if you include or exclude exchange student assessment results to be done as a group rather than on an individual student basis.

[9] The law allows districts to opt-out of providing English language services.

Cross References:
4.1—RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS
4.4—STUDENT TRANSFERS
4.5—SCHOOL CHOICE
4.6—HOMESCHOOLING
4.34—COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND PARASITES
4.40—HOMELESS STUDENTS
4.52—STUDENTS WHO ARE FOSTER CHILDREN
4.57—IMMUNIZATIONS

Legal References:
A.C.A. § 6-4-302
A.C.A. § 6-15-504
A.C.A. § 6-18-201 (c)
A.C.A. § 6-18-207
A.C.A. § 6-18-208
A.C.A. § 6-18-234
A.C.A. § 6-18-510

A.C.A. § 6-18-702
A.C.A. § 6-28-101 et seq.
A.C.A. § 9-28-113
DESE Rules Governing Student Discipline and School Safety
Plyler v Doe 457 US 202,221 (1982)

Date Adopted:06/23/25
Last Revised06/23/25

4.3—COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

Every parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the child, or person standing in loco parentis of any child age five (5) through seventeen (17) years on or before August 1 of that year who resides, as defined by policy (4.1—RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS), within the District shall enroll the child and ensure the attendance of the child at a District school with the following exceptions:

1. The child is enrolled in private or parochial school.
2. The child is being home-schooled and the conditions of policy (4.6—HOMESCHOOLING) have been met.
3. The child will not be age six (6) on or before August 1 of that particular school year and the parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the child, or person standing in loco parentis of the child elects not to have the child attend kindergarten. A kindergarten waiver form prescribed by regulation of the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education must be signed and on file with the District administrative office.
4. The child has received a high school diploma, G.E.D., or its equivalent as determined by the State Board of Education.
5. The child is age sixteen (16) or above and is enrolled in a post-secondary vocational-technical institution, a community college, or a two-year or four-year institution of higher education.
6. The child is age sixteen (16) or seventeen (17) and has met the requirements to enroll in an adult education program as defined by A.C.A. § 6-18-201 (b).

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-18-201
A.C.A. § 6-18-207

Date Adopted: 6/23/25
Last Revised: 6/23/25

4.4—STUDENT TRANSFERS

Transfer applications received by the District shall be placed on the Board's next meeting agenda.[1] At least five (5) days before the meeting where the transfer application appears on the agenda, the superintendent shall notify the Board regarding:

- All transfer applications received since the last meeting; and

- The superintendent's recommendation concerning each transfer application.

Each transfer application shall be considered individually and receive a separate vote by the Board. The parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis to a student who submits a transfer application shall be given at least five (5) minutes to present the student's case for a transfer to the Board.

The Board may reject a non resident application for admission if its acceptance would necessitate the addition of staff or classrooms, exceed the capacity of a program, class, grade level, or school building, or cause the District to provide educational services not currently provided in the affected school.[2] The District shall reject applications that would cause it to be out of compliance with applicable laws and regulations regarding desegregation.

If the superintendent intends to recommend the Board deny the transfer application, the superintendent shall provide a written explanation of the reasons for the recommendation to the Board and the parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis to the student.

The parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of a student, or person standing in loco parentis to the student who submitted a transfer application that was rejected may appeal the decision of the Board to the State Board of Education.

Any student transferring from a school accredited by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to a school in this district shall be placed into the same grade the student would have been in had the student remained at the former school. Any grades, course credits, and/or promotions received by a student while enrolled in the Division of Youth Services system of education shall be considered transferable in the same manner as those grades, course credits, and promotions from other accredited Arkansas public educational entities.

Any student transferring from a school that is not accredited by the DESE to a District school shall be evaluated by District staff to determine the student's appropriate grade placement. A student transferring from homeschool will be placed in accordance with Policy 4.6—HOME SCHOOLING.

Any person who has been expelled from any other school district shall receive a hearing before the Board at the time the student is seeking enrollment in the District. The Board reserves the right to not allow the enrollment of such students until the time of the person's expulsion has expired following the hearing before the Board.[3]

Except as otherwise required or permitted by law,[4] the responsibility for transportation of any nonresident student admitted to a school in this District shall be borne by the student or the student's parents. The District and the resident district may enter into a written agreement with the student or student's parents to provide transportation to or from the District, or both.

Notes: [1] Applications are required to be placed at the earliest meeting following their receipt, whether that is the next regularly scheduled meeting or a special board meeting.

[2] If the board intends or has adopted a resolution authorizing the superintendent to accept transfer applications on behalf of the board, replace this paragraph and the bullets with the following:
The superintendent is authorized to accept transfer applications on behalf of the Board. At least five (5) days before a school board meeting, the superintendent shall notify the Board regarding:
· *All transfer applications the superintendent has accepted since the last meeting; and*
· *All transfer applications the District has received since the last meeting that the superintendent intends to recommend be denied.*

[3] If your board has authorized the superintendent to accept transfer applications on behalf of the district, add "the superintendent intends to recommend for denial" here.

[4] Your application of "capacity" should be consistent in order to avoid potential exposure to liability for unlawful discrimination against individuals with disabilities. For example, you should not choose to accept a student who requires no special services, but would require you to add an additional elementary teacher, but refuse to accept a student with a disability because it would require you to add an additional special education teacher. You may refuse to accept the transfer of a student with a disability whose acceptance would necessitate the hiring of an aide, interpreter, or other additional staff member.

[5] A.C.A. § 6-18-510 requires that districts adopt this policy language, or similar, **AND** provide a hearing before the board for the student seeking to enroll in the district while currently serving an expulsion from another district in order for the district to exclude the student until the expiration of the student's expulsion. Districts who do not include this policy language, or similar, **AND** provide the hearing before the board may **NOT** prohibit the enrollment of a student who is currently serving an expulsion from another district.

[6] A.C.A. § 9-28-113(b)(4) encourages districts to arrange for transportation for foster children who have had a change in placement to a new school, but have been kept in their previous school by a DHS or court ruling. The statute's language would permit the change in placement to be in a different district and the policy language would allow the district to arrange for the transportation at district expense.

Cross Reference: 4.6—HOMESCHOOLING

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-15-504
A.C.A. § 6-18-316
A.C.A. § 6-18-510

A.C.A. § 9-28-113(b)(4)
A.C.A. § 9-28-205

Date Adopted: 6/23/25
Last Revised: 6/23/25

4.5—SCHOOL CHOICE

Exemption

The District is under an enforceable desegregation court order/court-approved desegregation plan[1] that explicitly limits the transfer of students between school districts and has submitted the appropriate documentation to the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).[2] As a result of the desegregation order/desegregation plan[1], the District is exempt from the provisions of the Public School Choice Act of 2015 (Standard School Choice) and the Arkansas Opportunity Public School Choice Act (Opportunity School Choice). The District shall notify the superintendents of each of its geographically contiguous school districts of its exemption.[3] The exemption prohibits the District from accepting any school choice applications from students wishing to transfer into or out of the District through standard School Choice or Opportunity School Choi

"Lack of capacity" means, based on the maximum student to teacher ratio allowed under federal law; state law; the Rules Governing the Standards for Accreditation for Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts; state rules; or other applicable federal regulations, that ninety-five percent (95%) or more of the seats at the grade level in which the student would be assigned at the nonresident school are filled on the date the school choice application is made.

"Parent" includes parents, legal guardians, persons having lawful control of a student, and persons standing in loco parentis to a student

"Sibling" means each of two (2) or more children having a parent in common by blood, adoption, marriage, or foster care.

Annual Reporting[5]

The District shall report annually to the Secretary of the Department of Education the:

1. **Number of transfer applications received;**
2. **Number of applications accepted;**
3. **Number of applications rejected; and**
4. **Reason(s) for each rejection.**

The data for items one through four above shall be subdivided by whether the transfer application is to a non-resident:

- **School within the District under Standard School Choice;**
- **District under Standard School Choice;**
- **School within the District under Opportunity School Choice; or**

District under Opportunity School Choice

Standard School Choice

Transfers into or Within the District

Capacity Determination and Public Pronouncement

The Board of Directors will annually adopt a resolution containing the capacity standards for the District. The resolution will contain the acceptance determination criteria identified by academic program, class, grade level, and individual school. The school is not obligated to add any teachers, other staff, or classrooms to accommodate choice applications. The District may only deny a Standard School Choice application if the District or school has a lack of capacity.[5]

The District shall advertise in appropriate broadcast media and either print media or on the internet to inform students and parents in the District and adjoining districts of the range of possible openings available under the School Choice program. The public pronouncements shall state the application deadline; the requirements and procedures for participation in the program; and include contact information for the primary point of contact at the District for school choice questions. Such pronouncements shall be made no later than January 1.[6]

Application Process

The student's parent shall submit a school choice application on a form approved by DESE to:

- **This District and the student's resident district for students transferring into the District; or**
- **Only this District for students transferring to another school within the District.**

Except for students who are transferring under Uniformed Service Member Dependent School Choice, the transfer application must be postmarked, emailed, or hand delivered between January 1 and June 1. The District shall date and time stamp all applications the District receives as both the resident and nonresident district as they are received in the District's central office. Except for applications from students who are transferring under Uniformed Service Member Dependent School Choice, applications postmarked, emailed, or hand delivered on or after June 2 will not be accepted. Statutorily, preference is required to be given to siblings of students who are already enrolled in the District. Therefore, siblings whose applications fit the capacity standards approved by the Board of Directors may be approved ahead of an otherwise qualified non-sibling applicant who submitted an earlier application as identified by the application's date and time stamp.

Except for students who are transferring under Uniformed Service Member Dependent School Choice, no earlier than January 1 of each year, the Superintendent will consider all properly submitted applications for School Choice. By no later than the fifteenth (15th) calendar day following the receipt of an application, the Superintendent shall notify the following, in writing, of the decision to accept or reject the application:

- **For transfers within the District, the student's parent; or**
- **For transfers into the District, the student's parent and the student's resident district.**

Accepted Applications

Applications which fit within the District's stated capacity standards shall be provisionally accepted in writing. A student's acceptance shall be effective on the earlier of:

1. **The day the District provides notification to the student of the student's acceptance; or**
2. **The day the State Board grants an appeal of the student's application.**

The written notice of acceptance shall inform the student that the student has ten (10) school days[7] from when the notice is received to either:

A. Enroll in the district or in the other District school; or

B. Inform the district that the student intends to enroll in the district or the other District school at the start of the next school year.

The acceptance shall be null and void if the student fails to enroll within the ten (10) school day period or fails to inform the district within the ten (10) school day period of the student's intent to transfer at the start of the next school year.[7]

A student, whose application has been accepted and who has enrolled in the District or in another District school, is eligible to continue enrollment until completing the student's secondary education. Continued enrollment is conditioned upon the student meeting applicable statutory and District policy requirements. Any student who has been accepted under choice and who fails to initially enroll under the timelines and provisions provided in this policy; chooses to return to the student's resident district or assigned school; or enrolls in a home school or private school voids the transfer and must reapply if, in the future, the student seeks another school choice transfer. A subsequent transfer application will be subject to the capacity standards applicable to the year in which the application is considered by the District.

A present or future sibling of a student who continues enrollment in this District may enroll in the District by submitting a Standard School Choice application. Applications of siblings of presently enrolled choice students are subject to the provisions of this policy including the capacity standards applicable to the year in which the sibling's application is considered by the District. A sibling who enrolls in the District through Standard School Choice is eligible to remain in the District until completion of the student's secondary education.

Students whose applications have been accepted and who have enrolled in the district or another District school shall not be discriminated against on the basis of gender, national origin, race, ethnicity, religion, disability, or residential address.

Rejected Applications

The District may reject an application for a transfer into or within the District under Standard School Choice due to a lack of capacity. The District shall use the date and time stamp the District placed on a student's application to determine when the District has reached capacity. A student's application shall be used to determine capacity regardless of whether the student intends to transfer immediately or at the start of the next school year.

The decision to accept or reject an application shall not be based on the student's previous academic achievement; athletic or other extracurricular ability; English proficiency level; or previous disciplinary proceedings other than a current expulsion.[8]

An application may be provisionally rejected if it is for an opening that was included in the District's capacity resolution, but was provisionally filled by an earlier applicant. A

provisionally rejected applicant could be provisionally approved and would have to meet the acceptance requirements to be eligible to enroll in the District or another district school if:

- **A provisionally approved applicant subsequently does not enroll in the District;**
- **A provisionally approved applicant subsequently does not enroll in the District school the District student was seeking to transfer to; or**
- **A District student submits a school choice application to transfer to another district or another school within the District.**

The superintendent shall notify the previously provisionally rejected student within fifteen (15) days of the change in status and shall provide notice of all final rejections by July 1.

Rejection of applications shall be in writing and shall state the reason(s) for the rejection. Unless the student's application was rejected due to the application not being timely received by the student's resident district only for transfers within the District or both the resident and nonresident districts for transfers into the District or another district, a student whose application was rejected may request a hearing before the State Board of Education to reconsider the application. The request for a hearing must be submitted in writing to the State Board within ten (10) days of receiving the rejection letter from the District.

Transfers Out of the District

All Standard School Choice applications for transfers out of the District shall be granted.

Annual Reporting

The District shall report annually to the Secretary of the Department of Education:

- **The number of transfer applications received;**
- **The number of applications accepted;**
- **The number of applications rejected; and**
- **The reason(s) for each rejection.**

<u>Facilities Distress School Choice Applications</u>

There are a few exceptions from the provisions of the rest of this policy that govern choice transfers triggered by facilities distress. Any student attending a school district that has been identified as being in facilities distress may transfer under the provisions of this policy, but with the following four (4) differences:

- **The receiving district cannot be in facilities distress;**
- **The transfer is only available for the duration of the time the student's resident district remains in facilities distress;**
- **The student is not required to meet the June 1 application deadline; and**
- **The student's resident district is responsible for the cost of transporting the student to this District's school.**

<u>Opportunity School Choice</u>

Transfers Into or Within the District[9]

Unless there is a lack of capacity[5] at the District's school or the transfer conflicts with the provisions of a federal desegregation order applicable to the District, a student may transfer from the student's assigned school to another school in the District[9] or from the student's resident district into the District if:

- **Either:**
  - **The student's resident district has been classified by the state board as in need of Level 5 — intensive support; or**
  - **The student's assigned school has a rating of "F"; and or**
  - **The parent or the student, if the student is eighteen (18) years of age or older, believes it is in the best interest of the student to transfer to a nonresident school district or nonresident school; and**

- **Except for students who are transferring under Uniformed Service Member Dependents School Choice, the student's parent, guardian, or the student if the student is over eighteen (18) years of age has submitted an application of the student's request to transfer by no earlier than January 1 and no later than ~~May~~ June 1 of the school year before the school year the student intends to transfer to the District for students transferring within the District or both the sending and receiving school districts for students that are transferring into the District.**

Except for students who are transferring under Uniformed Service Members Dependent School Choice or seeking to transfer within the District, the Superintendent shall notify in writing the parent or guardian, or the student if the student is over eighteen (18) years of age, and the student's resident district whether the Opportunity School Choice application has been accepted or rejected by no later than July 1 of the school year the student is seeking to enroll. If the student is seeking a transfer within the District, the Superintendent shall notify in writing the parent or guardian, or the student if the student is over eighteen (18) years of age, whether the Opportunity School Choice application has been accepted or rejected within fifteen (15) days from receipt of the student's application. The notification shall be sent via First-Class Mail to the address on the application.

If the application is accepted, the notification letter shall state the deadline by which the student must enroll in the receiving school or the transfer will be null and void.

If the District rejects the application, the District shall state in the notification letter the specific reasons for the rejection.[10] Unless the student's application was rejected due to the application not being timely received by the District for students transferring within the District or both the resident and nonresident districts for students that are transferring into the District, a parent or guardian, or the student if the student is over eighteen (18) years of age, may appeal the District's decision to deny the application to the State Board of Education. The appeal must be in writing to the State Board of Education via hand delivery or certified mail, return receipt requested, no later than ten (10) calendar days, excluding weekends and legal holidays, after the notice of rejection was received from the District.

Except for students who are transferring under Uniformed Service Member Dependent School Choice, a student's transfer under Opportunity School choice is effective at the beginning of the next school year and the student's enrollment is irrevocable for the duration of the school year and is renewable until the student completes high school or is beyond the legal age of enrollment. This provision for continuing eligibility under Opportunity School Choice does not negate the student's right to apply for transfer to a district other than the student's assigned school or resident district under the Standard School Choice provisions of this policy.

The District may, but is not obligated to, provide transportation to and from the transferring district.[11]

Transfers out of, or within, the District[9]

If a District school receives a rating of "F" or the District has been classified by the State Board as in need of Level 5 Intensive Support, the District shall timely notify parents, guardians, or students, if over eighteen (18) years of age, as soon as practicable after the school or district designation is made of all options available under Opportunity School Choice. The District shall offer the parent or guardian, or the student if the student is over eighteen (18) years of age, an opportunity to submit an application to enroll the student in:

1. **A school district that has not been classified by the State Board as in need of Level 5 Intensive Support; or**
2. **If there is more than one school within the District covering the grade level of the student seeking to transfer that does not have a rating of "F", a public school within the District that is nearest to the student's legal residence that does not have a rating of "F"; or**
3. **If there is not more than one school within the District covering the grade level of the student seeking to transfer that does not have a rating of "F", a public school that does not have a rating of "F" within a School district that has not been classified by the State Board as in need of Level 5 Intensive Support.**

Additionally, the District shall request public service announcements to be made over the broadcast media and in the print media at such times and in such a manner as to inform parents or guardians of students in adjoining districts of the availability of the program, the application deadline, and the requirements and procedure for nonresident students to participate in the program.[12]

<u>Uniformed Service Member Dependent School Choice</u>

"Uniformed service member" means an active or reserve component member of the:

- **United States Army, United States Navy, United States Air Force, United States Marine Corps, United States Space Force, or United States Coast Guard;**
- **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps; or**
- **United States Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service.**

"Uniformed service veteran" means a former uniformed service member who has been discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.

A student shall be eligible for school choice under Uniformed Service Member Dependent School Choice if the student is a dependent of a:

- **Uniformed service member in full-time active-duty status;**
- **Surviving spouse of a uniformed service member;**
- **Reserve component uniformed service member during the period six (6) months before until six (6) months after a Title 10, Title 32, or state active duty mobilization and service; or**
- **Uniformed service veteran who is returning to civilian status at the conclusion of the uniformed service veteran's active duty status.**

A student's parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of a student, or person standing in loco parentis to the student shall submit a school choice application by mail, e-mail, or in person to the student's resident district only for transfers within the District or to both the student's nonresident district and resident district. The application shall be accompanied by:

a. A copy of the identification card of the student's parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis that qualifies the student under Uniformed Service Member Dependent School Choice; and

b. A copy of the official orders, assignment notification, or notice of mobilization of the student's parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis.

The application deadline required under Standard School Choice and Opportunity School Choice shall not apply to uniformed service member dependents.

The parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis of the student shall be notified in writing whether the student's application has been accepted or rejected within fifteen (15) days of the receipt of the application by:

a. The District superintendent for students transferring within the District; or

b. The superintendent of the nonresident district for student's transferring to a nonresident district.

A student's transfer under the Uniformed Services Member Dependent School Choice is effective immediately upon the written notification of an acceptance.

A student shall be permitted only one (1) school transfer per academic year.

A student's parent shall be responsible for transportation of the student.

<u>Unsafe School Choice Program</u>

Any student that becomes the victim of a violent criminal offense while in or on the grounds of a District school or who is attending a school classified by DESE as a persistently dangerous public school shall be allowed to attend a safe public school within the District.

Notes: [1] Select the version of the desegregation order that applies to your district.

[2] A.C.A. § 6-13-113 requires a district under a desegregation court order or court-approved desegregation plan to submit to DESE by January 1, 2016:

- **A copy of the desegregation order or desegregation-related order;**
- **The case heading and case number of each court case in which the order was entered;**
- **The name and location of each court that maintains jurisdiction over the order; and**
- **A description of the school choice student transfer desegregation obligations, if any, that the school district is subject to, related to the order.**

Should the district be released by the court, the district is responsible to promptly notify DESE. DESE will post all districts who have submitted the proper paperwork on its website.

In addition, A.C.A. § 6-18-1906 requires districts claiming an exemption based on a desegregation order/desegregation plan to submit documentation by January 1 of each year that contains the following:

- **Documentation that the desegregation order or court-approved desegregation plan is still active and enforceable; and**
- **Documentation showing the specific language the school district believes limits its participation in Standard School Choice.**

DESE will notify the district within thirty (30) calendar days of receipt of the submitted documentation whether or not it is required to participate in standard school choice. If DESE does not provide a written exemption to the district, then the district is required to participate in Standard School Choice. The district may submit a written petition to the State Board to review DESE's decision.

[3] If your district doesn't meet the provisions of this paragraph, delete it and, for your master copy of the policy, renumber the remaining footnotes accordingly.

While the policy language requiring the district to notify its contiguous districts that it is exempt from the school choice provisions is not statutorily required, it is advocated by Commissioner's Memo Com-13-061 and we believe it is necessary if potential receiving districts are going to be able to intelligently inform parents who have applied to their school.

[4] If the desegregation court order/court-approved desegregation plan your district is under would prohibit standard school choice but would not prohibit Opportunity

School Choice, remove the references to Opportunity Choice in this paragraph and add the following sentence:
While the District's desegregation court order/court-approved-desegregation-plan exempts the District from the provisions of Standard School Choice, the District's desegregation court order/court-approved-desegregation-plan does not exempt it from the transfer provisions of the Arkansas Opportunity Public School Choice Act (Opportunity School Choice).

We advise districts to consult with their attorney about the district's desegregation court order/court-approved-desegregation-plan applicability to the exemption provisions in A.C.A. § 6-18-1906 and A.C.A. § 6-18-227 and whether you will need to include both, either, or neither policy provisions on standard School Choice or Opportunity School Choice in your final version of this policy.

[5] The DESE Rules Governing Public School Choice include an additional reporting requirement if the total number of students seventeen (17) years of age and below who have transferred to a contiguous school district using a school choice or legal transfer provision is greater than twenty percent (20%) of the current number of students attending the district. In addition to the report required under this policy, a district would be required to report to DESE the following:

- **The total number of students who have transferred to a contiguous school district using a school choice or legal transfer provision;**
- **The number of students who have transferred to each contiguous school district using a school choice or legal transfer provision; and**
- **The age and approximate geographic area of each student who has transferred to a contiguous school district using a school choice or legal transfer provision**

[6] For the Resolution, see Form 4.5F. Districts may only deny a transfer if the transfer would place the district above the ninety-five percent (95%) maximum under law. Your application of a lack of capacity must be consistent; you can't choose to add a teacher due to accepting a student, but refuse to add a staff member because the applicant requires special education.

Once the resolution has been made, the Board's role in determining acceptance is finished and no further board action is required to accept school choice students.

[7] The statute does not stipulate a date and you can choose your own, but it should give parents a reasonable opportunity to submit their application. While the statute gives districts a choice between advertising in print or on the Internet, it also doesn't prohibit advertising in both. To help inform parents before they try to apply so they will know in advance if it's actually a possibility that their child could be accepted, we suggest either including your capacity resolution in the public announcements or state where the resolution can be found.

[8] The ten (10) school day window here is not required by the school choice statutes or rules. We opted to set the ten (10) school day window here due to the language at A.C.A. § 6-18-202(e)(1) prohibiting a district from allowing a student to be enrolled for more than ten (10) school days that the district knows to be a student of another district as well as the requirement from A.C.A. § 6-18-213(f)(1) that requires a student to be dropped from admittance after ten (10) consecutive absences.

[9] You are required to hold a hearing before the board of directors about the student's expulsion. (See A.C.A. § 6-18-510.) It is possible that the expulsion was for a disciplinary infraction that does not result in expulsion in your district. If this is the case, you have the choice of whether or not to admit the student under school choice due to the resident district's expulsion of the student, but you may NOT deny a student unless you hold a hearing.

[10] Only include "or within" if your district has more than one school with the same grade(s).

[11] The student or the student's parents may appeal to the State Board a decision to deny admission.

[12] Sending districts are required to spend up to four hundred dollars ($400) per year to transport the student. The statute and the Rules are unclear. They both state that receiving districts may transport opportunity choice students, but sending districts shall pay up to four hundred dollars ($400) per year to transport the student. The policy's language makes no attempt to settle the discrepancy. The financial responsibility of the transferring district goes away when the school no longer has a rating of "F" or the student's resident district is no longer classified by the state board as in need of Level 5 — intensive support. At that time the statute states that the receiving district may choose to pay for the transportation.

[13] Opportunity Choice does not give you the option contained in Standard Choice of advertising on the internet in place of print media.

Legal References: **A.C.A. § 6-1-106**
A.C.A. § 6-13-113
A.C.A. § 6-15-2915
A.C.A. § 6-18-202
A.C.A. § 6-18-213
A.C.A. § 6-18-227
A.C.A. § 6-18-233
A.C.A. §6-18-320
A.C.A. § 6-18-510
A.C.A. § 6-18-1901 et seq.
A.C.A. § 6-21-812
DESE Rules Governing Public School Choice

Date Adopted:06/23/25
Last Revised:06/23/25

4.5F—SCHOOL CHOICE CAPACITY RESOLUTION

Whereas:

- **The Board of Directors of the Hillcrest School District has approved by a vote of the Board, the following capacity resolution for school choice applicants for the ____ school choice cycle under the provisions of policy 4.5—SCHOOL CHOICE and applicable Arkansas law.**

- **Applicants, whose applications meet the provisions of policy 4.5—SCHOOL CHOICE, will be sent a provisional acceptance notification letter which will give instructions on the necessary steps and timelines to enroll in the District or a District school other than the student's assigned school. Provisional acceptance shall be determined, and notice provided, within fifteen (15) calendar days and shall be based on the district's available capacity for each academic program, class, grade level, and individual school. While provisional rejections shall be provided within fifteen (15) days of the receipt of the school choice application, the District shall finalize all rejections by July 1 to account for any changes in capacity between the day the application is received and the end of the school year.**

- **Applications will not be accepted if the applications:**
  - **Are received, electronically timestamped, or postmarked before January 1, unless the application is from a student who is transferring under Uniformed Service Member Dependent School Choice;**
  - **Are received, electronically timestamped, or postmarked after June 1, unless the application is postmarked before June 1 or is from a student who is transferring under Uniformed Service Member Dependent School Choice;**
  - **Are from a student whose resident district has been determined by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education to be exempt due to an existing desegregation order; or**
  - **The student is transferring under Uniformed Service Member Dependent School Choice and the application is not accompanied by relevant documentation.**

- **The district reserves to itself the ability to determine, based on an examination of student records obtained from the student's assigned school or the student's prior district, and other information, whether any student would require a different class, course or courses, program of instruction, or special services than originally applied for. If such an examination determines that capacity has been reached in the appropriate class, course or program of instruction, or that additional teaching staff would have to be hired for the applicant, the District shall**

rescind the original provisional acceptance letter and deny the Choice transfer for that student.

· **The district reserves to itself the ability to decline to accept under school choice any student whose acceptance would require the district to add additional staff to exceed** the maximum student to teacher ratio in any of the District's current grade, program, or building capacity.

THEREFORE, let it be resolved that these shall constitute the School Choice openings at the beginning of the School Choice enrollment period for the_____ school choice cycle:

_____	_____
Board President	**Board Secretary**
_____	_____
Date	**Date**

4.5F2—SCHOOL CHOICE ACCEPTANCE LETTER - CAPACITY FOR IMMEDIATE TRANSFER AVAILABLE

Dear *Parent's name*,

The application you submitted for *Student's Name* has been accepted. While the *School's Name* looks forward to welcoming *Student's Name* as a student, the *School's Name* requires that you do one of the following within ten (10) days from the receipt of this letter:

· **If you intend for *Student's Name* to transfer to *School's Name* immediately, enroll *Student's Name* in *School's Name*; or**

· **If you intend for *Student's Name* to transfer to *School's Name* at the start of the next school year, provide notification of your intent for *Student's Name* to not start at *School's Name* until the next school year to *insert a contact person*.**

Failure to either enroll *Student's Name* or to provide notice of your intent for Student's *Name* to transfer to *School's Name* at the start of the next school year within ten (10) days from the receipt of this letter shall void and nullify this letter's acceptance.

If you intend for *Student's Name* to transfer to *School's name* at the start of the next school year, to better assist the district in determining the proper placement of *Student's Name*, please submit the information listed below to *district or school's address* by *insert date*. In addition to the information you submit, records may be requested from the student's current district/school, and final placement may depend on the content of those records as to appropriate grade placement, program placement or services required. A student who has not previously attended an Arkansas public school or did not attend an Arkansas public school in the previous academic year may be evaluated by the district prior to enrollment, and the results of that evaluation could impact final placement.

1. For students applying to enroll in first grade or higher: a copy of the student's transcript from the school where the student is currently enrolled. The student's permanent record, including the original transcript, will be requested from the school immediately following the student's actual enrollment in our district.

2. Proof of the student's age; This can be done by providing one of the following:

A. Birth certificate;

B. A statement by the local registrar or a county recorder certifying the child's date of birth;

C. An attested baptismal certificate;

D. A passport;

E. An affidavit of the date and place of birth by the child's parent or guardian;

F. United States military identification; or

G. Previous school records.

3. The student's health care needs at school.

4. *Student's name, age-appropriate* immunization record or an exemption granted for the previous school year and a statement of whether or not the parent is intending to continue the exemption for the upcoming school year.

Respectfully,

Insert name
Insert position/title

4.5F3—SCHOOL CHOICE ACCEPTANCE LETTER - IMMEDIATE TRANSFER NOT AVAILABLE

Dear *Parent's name*,

The application you submitted for *Student's Name* has been accepted. The *School's Name* does not have any openings in your student's grade, program, or building that would allow *Student's Name* to immediately transfer to *School's Name*; however, *School's Name* has openings in the grade, program, or building that *Student's Name* will be enrolling in next school year. *School's Name* looks forward to welcoming *Student's Name* as a student during the next school year.

To better assist the district in determining the proper placement of *Student's Name*, please submit the information listed below to the district *or school's address* by *insert date*. In addition to the information you submit, records may be requested from the student's current district/school, and final placement may depend on the content of those records as to appropriate grade placement, program placement or services required. A student who

has not previously attended an Arkansas public school or did not attend an Arkansas public school in the previous academic year may be evaluated by the district prior to enrollment, and the results of that evaluation could impact final placement.

1. **For students applying to enroll in first grade or higher: a copy of the student's transcript from the school where the student is currently enrolled. The student's permanent record, including the original transcript, will be requested from the school immediately following the student's actual enrollment in our district.**

2. **Proof of the student's age; This can be done by providing one of the following:**
   - **A. Birth certificate;**
   - **B. A statement by the local registrar or a county recorder certifying the child's date of birth;**
   - **C. An attested baptismal certificate;**
   - **D. A passport;**
   - **E. An affidavit of the date and place of birth by the child's parent or guardian;**
   - **F. United States military identification; or**
   - **G. Previous school records.**

3. **The student's health care needs at school.**

4. ***Student's name, age-appropriate*** **immunization record or an exemption granted for the previous school year and a statement of whether or not the parent is intending to continue the exemption for the upcoming school year.**

Failure to provide the information requested by the date indicated in this letter shall void and nullify this letter's acceptance.

Respectfully,

Insert name
Insert position/title

4.5F4—SCHOOL CHOICE PROVISIONAL REJECTION LETTER

Dear *Parent's Name*,

I am sorry, but the application you submitted for *Student's Name* has been provisionally rejected due to the District having a lack of capacity in your student's grade, program, or building by reaching the maximum teacher-to-student ratio in your student's grade, program, or building that is allowed under the Standards for Accreditation; State law and rules; or Federal law and regulations.

While the District may currently have a lack of capacity in your student's grade, program, or building, the District's capacity can change over the course of the semester. Any time a student leaves the District between January 1 and July 1, the District shall review the school choice applications the District has provisionally rejected for any applications in the relevant grade, program, or building. Any relevant application that was provisionally rejected shall be converted to an acceptance based on the date and timestamp placed on the application when the District received it. If there is an opening in your student's grade, program, or building that your student becomes eligible for based on the date and time stamp on your student's application, the District shall send you a written notice that your student's application has been changed from provisional rejection to acceptance.

As noted in your original application, you have ten (10) days from receipt of this notice in which to submit a written appeal of this decision to the State Board of Education.

Respectfully,

Insert name
Insert position/title

4.5F5—SCHOOL CHOICE REJECTION LETTER

Dear *Parent's Name*,

I am sorry, but the application you submitted for *Student's Name* has been rejected for the following reason(s):

____ Your child's resident district has been determined by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education to be exempt from the provisions of the School Choice Law due to it being under an enforceable desegregation order/plan.

____ Your child does not meet the openings identified for the coming school year identified in the Board of Directors Resolution adopted on *insert date* due to the District having a lack of capacity by having reached at least ninety-five percent (95%0 of the maximum teacher-to-student ratio in your student's grade, program, or building that is allowed under the Standards for Accreditation; State law and rules; or Federal law and regulations.

As noted in your original application, you have ten (10) days from receipt of this notice in which to submit a written appeal of this decision to the State Board of Education.

Respectfully,

Insert name
Insert position/title

4.6—HOMESCHOOLING

Enrollment in Home School

Parents or legal guardians desiring to provide a home school for their children shall give written notice to the Superintendent of their intent to homeschool. The notice shall be given:

1. At the beginning of each school year, but no later than August 15;
1. Five (5) school days prior to withdrawing the child (provided the student is not currently under disciplinary action for violation of any written school policy, including, but not limited to, excessive absences) and at the beginning of each school year thereafter; or
3. Within thirty (30) calendar days of the parent or legal guardian establishing residency within the district during the school year.

Written notice of the parent or legal guardian's intent to homeschool shall be delivered to the Superintendent through any of the following methods:

- Electronically, including without limitation by:
  - Use of the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education's (DESE) online system;
  - Email; or
  - Facsimile;
- By mail; or
- In person.

The notice shall include:

a. The name, sex, date of birth, grade level, and the name and address of the school last attended, if any;
b. The mailing address and telephone number of the home school;
c. The name of the parent or legal guardian providing the home school;
d. Indicate if the home-schooled student intends to participate in extracurricular activities during the school year;
e. A statement of whether the home-schooled student plans to seek a high school equivalency diploma during the current school year;
f. A statement that the parent or legal guardian agrees that the parent or legal guardian is responsible for the education of their children during the time the parents or legal guardians choose to homeschool; and
g. A signature of the parent or legal guardian.

To aid the District in providing a free and appropriate public education to students in need of special education services, the parents or legal guardians home-schooling their children shall provide information that might indicate the need for special education services.
A student who has been temporarily issued items, resources, supplies, materials, or other property belonging to the District is eligible for enrollment in a home school during the school year after:

- The items, resources, supplies, materials, or other property belonging to the District have been returned to the District;
- The items, resources, supplies, materials, or other property belonging to the District have been paid for; or
- The semester has ended.

The superintendent or the board of directors may waive the required five (5) school day waiting period for a student's enrollment in home school during a semester if the superintendent or the board of directors is satisfied with the return of temporarily issued items, resources, supplies, materials, or other District property.

Enrollment or Re-Enrollment in Public School

A home-schooled student who wishes to enroll or re-enroll in a District school shall submit:

- A transcript listing all courses taken and semester grades from the home school;
- Score of at least the thirtieth percentile on a nationally recognized norm-referenced assessment taken in the past year; and

- A portfolio of indicators of the home-schooled student's academic progress, including without limitation:
  - Curricula used in the home school;
  - Tests taken and lessons completed by the home-schooled student; and
  - Other indicators of the home-schooled student's academic progress.

If a home-schooled student is unable to provide a nationally recognized norm-referenced score, the District may either assess the student using a nationally recognized norm-referenced assessment or waive the requirement for a nationally recognized norm-referenced assessment score.

A home-schooled student who enrolls or re-enrolls in the District will be placed at a grade level and academic course level equivalent to or higher than the home-schooled student's grade level and academic course level in the home school:

1. As indicated by the documentation submitted by the home-schooled student;
2. By mutual agreement between the public school and the home-schooled student's parent or legal guardian; or
3. If the home-schooled student fails to provide the documentation required by this policy, with the exception of the nationally recognized norm-referenced assessment score, the District may have sole authority to determine the home-schooled student's grade placement and course credits. The District will determine the home-schooled student's grade placement and course credits in the same manner the District uses when determining grade placement and course credits for students enrolling or re-enrolling in the District who attended another public or private school.

The District shall afford a home-schooled student who enrolls or re-enrolls in a public school the same rights and privileges enjoyed by the District's other students. The District shall not deny a home-schooled student who enrolls or re-enrolls in the District any of the following on the basis of the student having attended a home school:

a. Award of course credits earned in the home school;
b. Placement in the proper grade level and promotion to the next grade level;
c. Participation in any academic or extracurricular activity;
d. Membership in school-sponsored clubs, associations, or organizations;
e. A diploma or graduation, so long as the student has enrolled or re-enrolled in the District to attend classes for at least the nine (9) months immediately prior to graduation; or
f. Scholarships.

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-15-503
A.C.A. § 6-15-504
A.C.A. § 6-41-103
DESE Rules Governing Home Schools

4.7—ABSENCES

If any student's Individual Education Program (IEP) or 504 Plan conflicts with this policy, the requirements of the student's IEP or 504 Plan take precedence.

Education is more than the grades students receive in their courses. Important as that is, students' regular attendance at school, whether in person or digitally, is essential to their social and cultural development and helps prepare them to accept responsibilities they will face as an adult. Interactions with other students and participation in the instruction within the classroom enrich the learning environment and promote a continuity of instruction which results in higher student achievement.

Absences for students enrolled in synchronous digital courses shall be determined in the same manner as for District students attending courses in person.[1]

Excused Absences

Excused absences are those where the student was on official school business or when the absence was due to one of the following reasons:

1. The student's illness or when attendance could jeopardize the health of other students. A maximum of six (6) such days are allowed per semester unless the condition(s) causing such absences is of a chronic or recurring nature, is medically documented, and approved by the principal.[2]
2. Death or serious illness in their immediate family;[3]
3. Observance of recognized holidays observed by the student's faith;
4. Attendance at an appointment with a government agency;
5. Attendance at a medical appointment;
6. Exceptional circumstances with prior approval of the principal;
7. Participation in an FFA, FHA, or 4-H sanctioned activity;[4]
8. Participation in the election poll workers program for high school students.
9. Absences granted to allow a student to visit his/her parent or legal guardian who is a member of the military and been called to active duty, is on leave from active duty, or has returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting. The number of additional excused absences shall be at the discretion of the superintendent or designee.
10. Absences granted, at the Superintendent's discretion, to seventeen (17) year-old students who join the Arkansas National Guard while in eleventh grade to complete basic combat training between grades eleven (11) and (12).
11. Absences for students excluded from school by the Arkansas Department of Health during a disease outbreak because the student has an immunization waiver or whose immunizations are not up to date.[5]
12. Absences due to conditions related to pregnancy or parenting, including without limitation:
    - Labor, delivery, and recovery;
    - Prenatal and postnatal medical appointments and other medically necessary, pregnancy-related absences;

- The illness or medical appointment of a child belonging to a parent who is enrolled at a District school;
- A legal appointment related to pregnancy or parenting, including without limitation:
  - Adoption;
  - Custody; and
  - Visitation;
- A reasonable amount of time to accommodate a lactating student's need to express breast milk or to breastfeed the student's child on the District's campus; and
- At least ten (10) school days of absences for both a parenting mother and a parenting father after the birth of a child.[6]

13.. Absences for a student who is the child of a fallen service member or fallen first responder:

- Due to a mental health concern; or
- To attend an event from a sponsoring organization that provides support to families of fallen service members or first responders or provides support for traumatic loss, grief, or resiliency.

14.. Upon the written consent of a student's parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis to the student, the District shall grant an excused absence for the following purposes:

- Social or public policy advocacy; or
- Attempts to influence legislation or other governmental policy-making at the local, state, or federal level.

Students who serve as pages for a member of the General Assembly shall be considered on instructional assignment and shall not be considered absent from school for the day the student is serving as a page.[7]

Up to one (1) time during each scheduled election, a student shall not be considered absent from school for the time the student accompanies the student's parent when the parent is exercising the parent's right to vote in a scheduled election.

In order for the absence to be considered excused, the student must:

a. Bring a written statement to the principal or designee upon the student's return to school from the student's parent, legal guardian, or treating physician stating the reason for the student's absence;
b. If the student is attending the District's courses digitally, upload a written statement from the student's parent, legal guardian, or treating physician stating the reason for the student's absence through the District's digital course management platform for review by the principal or designee; or
c. Provide documentation as proof of a student's participation in an activity or program scheduled and approved by the 4-H program that is provided by a 4-H county extension agent, 4-H educator, or other appropriate entity associated with the 4-H activity or program; or
d. The student's parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis to the student provides written documentation that the student's absence is to attend an event from a sponsoring organization that:

- Provides support to families of fallen service members or first responders or provides support for traumatic loss, grief, or resiliency; and
    - May be verified as an organization that provides support to the military and first responder community by reviewing the Resources Page for Military Family Engagement on the Department of Education website.

A written statement presented or uploaded for an absence having occurred more than five (5) school days prior to its presentation or upload will not be accepted.

A student shall not be eligible to receive an excused absence for #13 above if:

- The student is not in good academic standing;
- The student does not have a prior record of good attendance; or
- The absence occurs during a date on which standardized testing is administered.

The District shall annually provide a report by June 30 to the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education that contains the following:

- The number of absences requested under number 14;
- The number of absences granted under number 14; and
- The stated purposes of the absence.

Unexcused Absences

Absences that are not defined above; do not have an accompanying note from the parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, person standing in loco parentis, the student's treating physician, or a 4-H county extension agent, 4-H educator, or other appropriate entity associated with the 4-H activity or program; or have an accompanying note that is not presented or uploaded within the timeline required by this policy shall be considered as unexcused absences. Students with (*10*)[8] unexcused absences in a course in a semester may not receive credit for that course. At the discretion of the principal after consultation with persons having knowledge of the circumstances of the unexcused absences, the student may be denied promotion or graduation. Excessive absences shall not be a reason for expulsion or dismissal of a student.

When a student has (5) unexcused absences, his/her parents, legal guardians, persons with lawful control of the student, or persons standing in loco parentis shall be notified[9]. Notification shall be by telephone by the end of the school day in which such absence occurred or by regular mail with a return address sent no later than the following school day.

Whenever a student exceeds (*10* [8]) unexcused absences in a semester, the District shall notify the prosecuting authority and the parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or persons standing in loco parentis shall be subject to a civil penalty as prescribed by law.

It is the Arkansas General Assembly's intention that students having excessive absences be given assistance in obtaining credit for their courses. Therefore, at any time prior to when a student exceeds the number of unexcused absences permitted by this policy, the student, or his/her

parent, legal guardian, person with lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis may petition the school or district's administration for special arrangements to address the student's unexcused absences. If formal arrangements are granted, they shall be formalized into a written agreement which will include the conditions of the agreement and the consequences for failing to fulfill the agreement's requirements. The agreement shall be signed by the student; the student's parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis; and the school or district administrator or designee.[10]

Students who attend in-school suspension shall not be counted absent for those days.[11]

Days missed due to out-of-school suspension or expulsion shall be unexcused absences.[11]

The District shall notify the Department of Finance and Administration whenever a student fourteen (14) years of age or older is no longer in school. The Department of Finance and Administration is required to suspend the former student's operator's license unless the former student meets certain requirements specified in the statute.

Notes: If your district's penalties for absences include an impact on the student's grades, it is important to note that A.C.A. § 9-28-113(f) prohibits the lowering of grades of foster children for absences due to 1) a change in the student's school enrollment; 2) the student's attendance at a court ordered dependency-neglect court proceeding; or 3) the student's attendance at court-ordered counseling or treatment.

[1] If you have asynchronous digital courses in addition to or in place of synchronous digital courses, you will need to add to or replace this paragraph with the manner you will use to determine a student's attendance in such classes. The exact manner you use to determine the student's attendance will depend on the options within the digital course platform you are using. Be sure to note that a student who is taking an asynchronous course but who was assigned a class period during the school day for the course may be considered truant under your discipline policies for failure to be physically were they are assigned to be but would not be considered absent for the digital course itself if the student satisfied the attendance requirements for the asynchronous digital course.

[2] Limiting the number of excused absences for illness is an option which you can choose to include or not include. The number of absences can be changed as you feel appropriate.

[3] Your board may want to define the meaning of "immediate family." One source for a definition is A.C.A. § 6-17-1202.

[4] A.C.A. § 6-18-220 requires that a student be given an excused absence for attending a 4-H activity even if your district does not have a FFA or FHA program.

[5] The law is silent on how to treat absences for students excluded from school in this manner. While you may elect to have such absences treated as unexcused absences, we

do not recommend doing so due to the truancy requirements and the potential for a student to not be able to make up homework based on the language in Policy 4.8—MAKE-UP WORK.

[6] A.C.A. § 6-18-234 exempts the student parent from being dropped from the district enrollment for being absent for more than ten (10) consecutive days when the absences are related to pregnancy or the birth of the student's child.

[7] Statutorily, the day the student serves as a page cannot be counted as an absence, but the school may grant additional days (such as for travel time) in conjunction with the day as a page that would also not be counted as absences. The choice is up to the district.

[8] A.C.A. § 6-18-222(a)(1)(A)(i) requires school boards to adopt an attendance policy that includes a "certain number" of excessive unexcused absences. The code leaves the specific number up to the individual board's discretion. The number your board chooses determines the number of absences that triggers the notices being sent to the student's parents.
[9] If your district has a Community Truancy Board as defined in A.C.A. § 6-18-225 & 226, notification will also need to be sent to the chairman of the truancy board. The truancy board will then need to proceed as defined by A.C.A. § 6-18-222(a)(4)(A).

[10] Students are specifically permitted to initiate the agreement on their own; their parents may be unavailable or unwilling to meet with the administration.
[11] The statutes are silent on whether in-school-suspensions shall count as absences. You can choose to amend this sentence and make either or both forms of suspension count as unexcused absences. In making your decision, we suggest you consider the number of days of allowable unexcused absences you have chosen for this policy, the lower the number, the greater the consequences for including an in-school-suspension as an unexcused absence. A.C.A. § 6-18-507(g) requires districts to note on each student's attendance record if the student's absence was due to an out-of-school suspension.

Cross References: 4.8—MAKE-UP WORK
4.57—IMMUNIZATIONS
5.11—DIGITAL LEARNING COURSES
5.29—WELLNESS POLICY

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-4-302
A.C.A. § 6-18-209
A.C.A. § 6-18-237
A.C.A. § 6-18-239
A.C.A. § 6-18-213
A.C.A. § 6-18-220
A.C.A. § 6-18-222
A.C.A. § 6-18-229

A.C.A. § 6-18-231
A.C.A. § 6-18-234
A.C.A. § 6-18-235
A.C.A. § 6-18-507(g)
A.C.A. § 6-18-702
A.C.A. § 6-28-114
A.C.A. § 7-4-116
A.C.A. § 9-28-113(f)
A.C.A. § 27-16-701
Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Rules Governing Distance and Digital Learning

Date Adopted: 6/23/25
Last Revised: 6/23/25

4.8—MAKE-UP WORK

Students who miss school due to an excused absence shall be allowed to make up the work they missed during their absence under the following rules:[1]

1. Students are responsible for asking the teachers of the classes they missed what assignments they need to make up.[2]
2. Teachers are responsible for providing the missed assignments when asked by a returning student.[2]
3. Students are required to ask for their assignments on their first day back at school or their first class day after their return.[2]
4. Make-up tests are to be rescheduled at the discretion of the teacher, but must be aligned with the schedule of the missed work to be made up.
5. Students shall have one class day to make up their work for each class day they are absent.[3]
6. Make-up work which is not turned in within the make-up schedule for that assignment shall receive a zero.[4]
7. Students are responsible for turning in their make-up work without the teacher having to ask for it.[2]
8. Students who are absent on the day their make-up work is due must turn in their work the day they return to school whether or not the class for which the work is due meets the day of their return.
9. As required/permitted by the student's Individual Education Program or 504 Plan.

Work may not be made up for credit for unexcused absences **unless** the unexcused absences are part of a signed agreement as permitted by policy 4.7—ABSENCES.[5]

Work for students serving an out-of-school suspension or expulsion shall be in accordance with the District's programs, measures, or alternative means and methods to continue student engagement and access to education during the student's period of suspension or expulsion.[6]

In lieu of the timeline above, assignments for students who are excluded from school by the Arkansas Department of Health during a disease outbreak are to be made up as set forth in Policy 4.57—IMMUNIZATIONS.

In addition to the make-up work process above, at the conclusion of a pregnancy-related or parenting-related period of absence, a student may choose from various options to make up missed work, including without limitation:

a. Retaking a semester at the District school where the student is enrolled;
b. Participating in an online course credit recovery program;
c. Being granted six (6) weeks to continue at the same pace and finish the semester at a later date, provided that the student may:
    - Complete the student's coursework within the current school year; or
    - Attend previously scheduled summer school classes made available by the District Where the student is enrolled; and
d. Receiving home-based instruction services.

Notes: [1] Your district has the right to require students to make up work for both excused and unexcused absences; requiring work to be made up for all absences could serve as a deterrent for unexcused absences.

[2] This sentence should be modified for elementary school classes.

[3] Select the number of days your district deems reasonable and feasible.

[4] Your district may choose to adopt a different schedule such as docking the work a certain percentage for each day it is late.

[5] The contents of this paragraph are optional and can be adjusted to the extent it remains aligned with your personalization of policy 4.7. While the law requires that students be provided an opportunity and a process to maintain education services during the student's suspension or expulsion, whether or not a student receives credit for assignments as part of this process is dependent on the student completing the work and on whether or not you have adopted specific language prohibiting the student from receiving credit.

[6] The program and method(s) you provide for students to maintain their educational opportunity should be in accordance with the requirements from Policy 4.30 and Policy 4.31.

Cross References: 4.7—ABSENCES
4.30—SUSPENSION FROM SCHOOL
4.31—EXPULSION
4.57—IMMUNIZATIONS

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-16-1406
A.C.A. § 6-18-234
A.C.A. § 6-18-502
DESE Rules Governing Student Discipline and School Safety

Last Adopted: 06/23/25
Last Revised: 06/23/25

4.9—TARDIES

Promptness is an important character trait that District staff are encouraged to model and help develop in our schools' students. At the same time, promptness is the responsibility of each student. Students who are late to class show a disregard for both the teacher and their classmates which compromises potential student achievement.

4.10—CLOSED CAMPUS

All schools in the District shall operate closed campuses. Students are required to stay on campus from their arrival until dismissal at the end of the regular school day unless given permission to leave the campus by a school official. Students must sign out in the office upon their departure.

4.11—EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

No student in the Hillcrest School District shall be excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity sponsored by the District on the basis of color, religion, national origin, sex, age, or disability.[1] The District has a limited open forum granting equal access to the Boy Scouts of America and other youth groups.[2]

Inquiries on non-discrimination may be directed to The Superintendent, who may be reached at 870-376-5416[4].

Any person may report sex discrimination, including sexual harassment, to the Title IX Coordinator in person or by using the mailing address, telephone number, or email address provided above. A report may be made at any time, including during non-business hours, and may be on the individual's own behalf or on behalf of another individual who is the person alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sex discrimination or sexual harassment.

For further information on notice of non-discrimination or to file a complaint, visit https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/complaintintro.html; for the address and phone number of the office that serves your area, or call 1-800-421-3481.

Notes: A copy of this non-discrimination notification should be included in all district publications to students and parents.

[1] This language was amended to align with Attorney General Opinion 2023-059.

[2] A.C.A. § 6-10-132 requires that youth patriotic societies, such as the Boy Scouts of America, be provided access to students during the school day; as a result, all districts now have a limited open forum and are required to provide the same access to groups who follow the procedure set forth in the statute to request access to students regardless of the groups viewpoint.

[3] Insert the position(s) designated to be contacted on discrimination inquiries. If you have different positions designated to answer questions on disability discrimination (504 coordinator), religious discrimination (Title VI coordinator), and sex discrimination (Title IX coordinator), then you will need to include the position responsible for each area. Do not include the name(s) of the person(s) to be contacted in the policy; changing the name of the person (due to a staffing change) would necessitate amending the policy, which would require it to go through the entire adoption process.

[4] Insert the office address, phone number, and email address to be used to contact the designated position. If you have more than one position designated as set forth in footnote 3, you will need to include a contact number, email address, and office address for each position. The contact number and office address may be the school/district address and phone number. We recommend making the email address specific to the position, such as titleix@districtdomain.org, and having the emails sent to the coordinator's inbox to prevent having to amend the policy due to staff changes.

While 34 C.F.R. § 106.8 requires that an individual be able to submit a report, including by telephone, both inside and outside of business hours, we do not believe that this requires that the Title IX Coordinator must be on-call to receive phone calls at any time; instead, the number provided for individuals to use must allow individuals wanting to report sexual discrimination or sex-based harassment to the Title IX Coordinator to be able to leave a voice message for the Title IX Coordinator.

Legal References: **A.C.A. § 6-1-114**
A.C.A. § 6-10-132
A.C.A. § 6-16-2001 et seq.
A.C.A. § 6-18-514
A.C.A. § 14-1-403
28 C.F.R. § 35.106
34 C.F.R. § 100.6
34 C.F.R. § 104.8
34 C.F.R. § 106.8
34 C.F.R. § 106.9
34 C.F.R. § 108.9
34 C.F.R. § 110.25

Date Adopted:6/23/25
Last Revised:6/23/25

4.12—STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS/EQUAL ACCESS

Non-curriculum-related secondary school student organizations wishing to conduct meetings on school premises during non-instructional time shall not be denied equal access on the basis of the religious, political, philosophical, or other content of the speech at such meetings. Such meetings must meet the following criteria.

1. The meeting is to be voluntary and student initiated;
2. There is no sponsorship of the meeting by the school, the government, or its agents or employees;
3. The meeting must occur during non-instructional time;
4. Employees or agents of the school are present at religious meetings only in a non-participatory capacity;
5. The meeting does not materially and substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of educational activities within the school; and
6. Non-school persons may not direct, conduct, control, or regularly attend activities of student groups.

All meetings held on school premises must be scheduled and approved by the principal. The school, its agents, and employees retain the authority to maintain order and discipline, to protect the well-being of students and faculty, and to assure that attendance of students at meetings is voluntary.

Fraternities, sororities, and secret societies are forbidden in the District's schools. Membership to student organizations shall not be by a vote of the organization's members, nor be restricted by the student's race, religion, sex, national origin, or other arbitrary criteria. Hazing, as defined by law, is forbidden in connection with initiation into, or affiliation with, any student organization, extracurricular activity or sport program. Students who are convicted of participation in hazing or the failure to report hazing shall be expelled.[1]

Note: [1] A.C.A. § 6-5-202 requires the automatic expulsion of a student who is convicted of hazing.

Legal References:
A.C.A. § 6-5-201 et seq.
A.C.A. § 6-10-132
A.C.A. § 6-18-601 et seq.
A.C.A. § 6-21-201 et seq.
20 U.S.C. 4071 Equal Access Act
Board of Education of the Westside Community Schools v. Mergens, 496 U.S. 226 (1990)

4.13—PRIVACY OF STUDENTS' RECORDS/ DIRECTORY INFORMATION

Except when a court order regarding a student has been presented to the district to the contrary, all students' education records are available for inspection and copying by the parent of his/her student who is under the age of eighteen (18). At the age of eighteen (18), the right to inspect and copy a student's records transfers to the student. A student's parent or the student, if over the age of 18, requesting to review the student's education records will be allowed to do so within no more than forty five (45) days[1] of the request. The district forwards education records, including disciplinary records, to schools that have requested them and in which the student seeks or intends to enroll, or is already enrolled so long as the disclosure is for purposes related to the student's enrollment or transfer.

The district shall receive written permission before releasing education records to any agency or individual not authorized by law to receive and/or view the education records without prior parental permission. The District shall maintain a record of requests by such agencies or individuals for access to, and each disclosure of, personally identifiable information (PII) from the education records of each student. Disclosure of education records is authorized by law to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A personal record kept by a school staff member is **not** considered an education record if it meets the following tests:

- it is in the sole possession of the individual who made it;
- it is used only as a personal memory aid; and
- information contained in it has never been revealed or made available to any other person, except the maker's temporary substitute.

For the purposes of this policy a school official is a person employed by the school as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the school board; a person or company with whom the school has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.

For the purposes of this policy, a school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility, contracted duty, or duty of elected office.

In addition to releasing PII to school officials without permission, the District may disclose PII from the education records of students in foster care placement to the student's caseworker or to the caseworker's representative without getting prior consent of the parent (or the student if the student is over eighteen (18)). For the District to release the student's PII without getting permission:

- The student must be in foster care;
- The individual to whom the PII will be released must have legal access to the student's case plan; and

- The Arkansas Department of Human Services, or a sub-agency of the Department, must be legally responsible for the care and protection of the student.

The District discloses PII from an education record to appropriate parties, including parents, in connection with an emergency if knowledge of the information is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other individuals. The superintendent or designee shall determine who will have access to and the responsibility for disclosing information in emergency situations.

When deciding whether to release PII in a health or safety emergency, the District may take into account the totality of the circumstances pertaining to a threat to the health or safety of a student or other individuals. If the District determines that there is an articulable and significant threat to the health or safety of a student or other individuals, it may disclose information from education records to any person whose knowledge of the information is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other individuals.[2]

For purposes of this policy, the Hillcrest School District does not distinguish between a custodial and noncustodial parent, or a non-parent such as a person acting in loco parentis or a foster parent with respect to gaining access to a student's records. Unless a court order restricting such access has been presented to the district to the contrary, the fact of a person's status as parent or guardian, alone, enables that parent or guardian to review and copy his child's records.

If there exists a court order which directs that a parent not have access to a student or his/her records, the parent, guardian, person acting in loco parentis, or an agent of the Department of Human Services must present a file-marked copy of such order to the building principal and the superintendent. The school will make good-faith efforts to act in accordance with such court order, but the failure to do so does not impose legal liability upon the school. The actual responsibility for enforcement of such court orders rests with the parents or guardians, their attorneys and the court which issued the order.

A parent or guardian does not have the right to remove any material from a student's records, but such parent or guardian may challenge the accuracy of a record. The right to challenge the accuracy of a record does not include the right to dispute a grade, disciplinary rulings, disability placements, or other such determinations, which must be done only through the appropriate teacher and/or administrator, the decision of whom is final. A challenge to the accuracy of material contained in a student's file must be initiated with the building principal, with an appeal available to the Superintendent or his/her designee. The challenge shall clearly identify the part of the student's record the parent wants changed and specify why he/she believes it is inaccurate or misleading. If the school determines not to amend the record as requested, the school will notify the requesting parent or student of the decision and inform them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amending the record. The parent or eligible student will be provided information regarding the hearing procedure when notified of the right to a hearing.[3]

Unless the parent or guardian of a student (or student, if above the age of eighteen (18)) objects, "directory information" about a student may be made available to the public, military recruiters, post-secondary educational institutions, prospective employers of those students, as well as school publications such as annual yearbooks and graduation announcements.[4] "Directory

information" includes, but is not limited to, a student's name, address, telephone number, electronic mail address, photograph, date and place of birth, dates of attendance,[5] his/her placement on the honor roll (or the receipt of other types of honors), as well as his/her participation in school clubs and extracurricular activities, among others. If the student participates in inherently public activities (for example, basketball, football, or other interscholastic activities), the publication of such information will be beyond the control of the District. "Directory information" also includes a student identification (ID) number, user ID, or other unique personal identifier used by a student for purposes of accessing or communicating in electronic systems and a student ID number or other unique personal identifier that is displayed on a student's ID badge, provided the ID cannot be used to gain access to education records except when used in conjunction with one or more factors that authenticate the user's identity, such as a personal identification number (PIN), password or other factor known or possessed only by the authorized user.

A student's name and photograph will only be displayed on the district or school's web page(s) after receiving the written permission from the student's parent or student if over the age of 18.

The form for objecting to making directory information available is located in the back of the student handbook and must be completed and signed by the parent or age-eligible student and filed with the building principal's office no later than ten (10) school days after the beginning of each school year or the date the student is enrolled for school. Failure to file an objection by that time is considered a specific grant of permission. The district is required to continue to honor any signed-opt out form for any student no longer in attendance at the district.

The right to opt out of the disclosure of directory information under Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) does not prevent the District from disclosing or requiring a student to disclose the student's name, identifier, or institutional email address in a class in which the student is enrolled.[6]

Parents and students over the age of 18 who believe the district has failed to comply with the requirements for the lawful release of student records may file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education (DOE) at

Student Privacy Policy Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202

The District shall ensure that all contracts that disclose or make available student personally identifiable information to vendors, including school service contract providers, school service on-demand providers, and other third parties, including without limitation subcontractors of contract providers, include express provisions that safeguard the privacy and security of student personally identifiable information that meet the requirements under A.C.A. § 6-18-2601 et seq. The District shall maintain a list of the school service contract providers that the District contracts with for school services that include or make available student personally identifiable information. The list shall be

updated at least once at the beginning of each semester and provided to parents upon request.

Notes: With very few exceptions, Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) privacy requirements don't apply to public K-12 schools and, for that reason, ASBA has no model policy addressing HIPAA. An excellent explanation of the relation between FERPA and HIPAA is available at https://www.arsba.org/page/policy-resources.

Districts must annually notify parents or students if over the age of eighteen (18) of the provisions of this policy and "…shall effectively notify parents who have a primary or home language other than English." (34 CFR 99.7(b)(2)

Districts may release directory information (DI) (as presently defined by the district) of former students to the extent there is not a signed prohibition against such release. As the definition of DI changes over time (for example, the addition of email addresses to the definition of DI), districts may release DI according to the current definition. It also applies to the release of information that is now defined as DI for students who left the district prior to 1974, when there was no such thing as DI.

As stated in this policy, once a student turns eighteen (18), the rights to his/her educational records transfers to the student. The release of educational records to a parent becomes permissive and not a right. At that point, the school gets to decide if it wants to release educational records to parents. The student, however, doesn't have the right to object one way or the other. If the parents don't establish dependency, once the student turns eighteen (18), the parents don't have an absolute **right** to see their student's educational records. "Dependency" in this regard is defined according to the IRS; if the student is claimed by either of their parents (regardless of custody issues, or filing jointly or separately) as a dependent, then the rights of the parent once the student turns eighteen (18) is as described. Without dependency, the parents have no right to see their student's educational records once the student turns eighteen (18).

There are several areas of permissible release of students' PII that are not mentioned in this policy (it's not required and would make the policy very long), but that are listed in 34 CFR § 99.31. One of the areas that has been greatly elaborated on in the DOE Rules, released 12/2/11, relates to the district's release of PII to an "authorized representative" for the purpose conducting an audit or evaluation of federal or state education programs. This new area is covered in 34 CFR 99.35. Both documents are available by calling the ASBA office and requesting a copy. They could come in handy when answering parents' questions regarding the release of PII.

The Arkansas Supreme Court, Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, and ASBA collaborated in the creation of a form in an effort to aid juvenile intake and probation officers in acquiring necessary information for the officer to make more knowledgeable decisions/recommendations on a course of action for each juvenile's case. The Form allows for parents to authorize the officer to access certain portions of the

student's education records and the parent's ESchoolPLUS Home Access Center. The form, when completed by the parent and probation officer, will be sent to the district by the officer. A copy of the form, along with a background letter, may be found at https://www.arsba.org/page/policy-resources.

[1] You may choose a lesser number of days, but you may not exceed forty-five (45) days.

[2] This paragraph along with the preceding paragraph are added (and permitted) due to the amendments in the Code of Federal Regulations resulting from the Virginia Tech shootings in 2007. The paragraph can also apply to the release of PII to state health officials during outbreaks of communicable diseases. This would apply, for example, to immunization records to determine which students need to be removed from the school. (See Policy 4.34).

[3] The requirements for conducting a hearing are addressed in 34 CFR § 99.22. The district's obligations regarding the results of the hearing are covered in 34 CFR § 99.21. Both are available by calling the ASBA office and requesting a copy.

[4] The 12/2/11 DOE Rules now provide districts with the option of greater specificity in choosing to whom it will release DI. ASBA has not amended the model policy to include this expanded option because we feel it can result in unintentional restrictions for desired release of DI. The following is the language from 34 CFR § 99.37 governing this option:

> *In its public notice to parents and eligible students in attendance, … an educational agency or institution may specify that disclosure of directory information will be limited to specific parties, for specific purposes, or both. When an educational agency or institution specifies that disclosure of directory information will be limited to specific parties, for specific purposes, or both, the educational agency or institution must limit its directory information disclosures to those specified in its public notice.*

[5] Dates of attendance means the period of time during which a student attends or attend your district, e.g. an academic year or semester. It does not mean specific daily records of attendance.

[6] This paragraph is language from the amended 34 CFR § 99.37 and is included to help eliminate the potential problem of a student (who is in a class where the student really doesn't want to be - for example JAG), who has opted out of release of DI, refusing to give the information necessary for the class.

Cross References: Policy 4.34—Communicable Diseases and Parasites
Policy 5.20—District Website
Policy 5.20.1—Web Site Privacy Policy
Policy 5.20F1—Permission to Display Photo of Student on Web Site

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-18-2601 et seq.
A.C.A. § 9-28-113(b)(6)
20 U.S.C. § 1232g
20 U.S.C. § 7908
34 CFR §§ 99.3, 99.7, 99.21, 99.22, 99.30, 99.31, 99.32, 99.33, 99.34, 99.35, 99.36, 99.37, 99.63, 99.64

4.13F—OBJECTION TO PUBLICATION OF DIRECTORY INFORMATION
(Not to be filed if the parent/student has no objection)

I, the undersigned, being a parent of a student, or a student eighteen (18) years of age or older, hereby note my objection to the disclosure or publication by the Hillcrest School District of directory information, as defined in Policy No. 4.13 (Privacy of Students' Records), concerning the student named below. The district is required to continue to honor any signed opt-out form for any student no longer in attendance at the district.

I understand that the participation by the below-named student in any interscholastic activity, including athletics and school clubs, may make the publication of some directory information unavoidable, and the publication of such information in other forms, such as telephone directories, church directories, etc., is not within the control of the District.

I understand that this form must be filed with the office of the appropriate building principal within ten (10) school days from the beginning of the current school year or the date the student is enrolled for school in order for the District to be bound by this objection. Failure to file this form within that time is a specific grant of permission to publish such information.

I object and wish to deny the disclosure or publication of directory information as follows:

Deny disclosure to military recruiters ____

Deny disclosure to Institutions of postsecondary education ____

Deny disclosure to Potential employers ____

Deny disclosure to all public and school sources ____
Selecting this option will prohibit the release of directory information to the three categories listed above along with all other public sources (such as newspapers), **AND** result in the student's directory information **not** being included in the school's yearbook and other school publications.

Deny disclosure to all public sources ____

Selecting this option will prohibit the release of directory information to the first three categories listed above along with all other public sources (such as newspapers), but permit the student's directory information **to be included** in the school's yearbook and other school publications.

_____
Name of student (Printed)

_____
Signature of parent (or student, if 18 or older)

_____
Date form was filed (To be filled in by office personnel)

Note: your district does not have to include the separate options listed on this form, but students do have the right to opt out of either category separately.

4.14—STUDENT MEDIA AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF LITERATURE

The Superintendent and the student media advisors(s)[1] shall jointly develop administrative regulations for the implementation of this policy. The regulations shall include definitions of terms and the time(s), place(s), and manner(s) of the dissemination of student media, which shall include timelines for the review of materials.

Definitions

"School-sponsored media" means all student media that are:
- Supported financially by the school;
- Supported by the use of school facilities; or
- Produced in conjunction with a class.

"Student journalist" means a student who gathers, writes, edits, photographs, records, video tapes, or prepares information for dissemination in student media.

"Student media" means any means of communication that are:[2]
- o Prepared, substantially written, published, or broadcasted by a student;
- o Distributed or generally made available, either free of charge or for a fee, to members of the student body; and
- o Prepared under the direction of a student media advisor.

"Student media" does not include media that is intended for distribution or transmission solely in the classroom in which it is produced.

"Student media advisor" means an individual who is employed, appointed, or designated by the District to supervise or provide instruction with respect to student media.

Student Media

While the District recognizes a student's right of expression under the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States, school-sponsored media does not provide an open public forum for public expression. Student media, as well as the content of student expression in school-sponsored activities, shall be subject to the editorial review of the District's administration, whose actions shall be reasonably related to legitimate pedagogical concerns and adhere to the following limitations:

1. Advertising may be accepted for media that does not condone or promote products that are inappropriate for the age and maturity of the audience or that endorses such things as tobacco, alcohol, or drugs.
2. Media may be regulated to prohibit communications determined by the appropriate teacher, student media advisor, and/or administrator to be ungrammatical; poorly written; inadequately researched; biased or prejudiced; vulgar or profane; or unsuitable for immature audiences.
3. Media may be regulated to prohibit the dissemination of material that may reasonably be perceived to advocate drug or alcohol use; irresponsible sex; conduct that is otherwise

inconsistent with the shared values of a civilized social order; or to associate the school with any position other than neutrality on matters of political controversy.

4. Prohibited media includes those that:
   a. Are obscene as to minors;
   b. Are libelous or slanderous, including material containing defamatory falsehoods about public figures or governmental officials, and made with knowledge of their falsity or a reckless disregard of the truth;
   c. Constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy as defined by state law;
   d. Suggest or urge the commission of unlawful acts on the school premises;
   e. Suggest or urge the violation of lawful school regulations;
   f. Scurrilously attacks ethnic, religious, or racial groups; or
   g. Harass, threaten, or intimidate a student.

Student Media on School Web Pages

Student media displayed on school web pages shall follow the same guidelines as listed above and shall also:

1. Not contain any non-educational advertisements;
2. Adhere to the restrictions regarding use of Directory Information as prescribed in Policy 4.13 including not using a student's photograph when associated with the student's name unless written permission has been received from the student's parent or student if over the age of eighteen (18);
3. State that the views expressed are not necessarily those of the School Board or the employees of the district.

Student Distribution of Non-school Literature, Publications, and Materials

A student or group of students who distribute ten (10) or fewer copies of the same non-school-sponsored literature, publications, or materials shall do so in a time, place, and manner that does not cause a substantial disruption of the orderly education environment. A student or group of students wishing to distribute more than ten (10) copies of non-school-sponsored materials shall have school authorities[4] review their non-school-sponsored materials at least three (3) school days in advance of their desired time of dissemination. School authorities shall review the non-school-sponsored materials, prior to their distribution and will bar from distribution those non-school-sponsored materials that are obscene, libelous, pervasively indecent, or advertise unlawful products or services. Material may also be barred from distribution if there is evidence that reasonably supports a forecast that a substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school or educational environment will likely result from the distribution.[6] Concerns related to any denial of distribution by the principal shall be heard by the superintendent, whose decision shall be final.

The school principal or designee shall establish reasonable regulations governing the time, place, and manner of student distribution of non-school-sponsored materials. The regulations shall:

1. Be narrowly drawn to promote orderly administration of school activities by preventing disruption and may not be designed to stifle expression;
2. Be uniformly applied to all forms of non-school-sponsored materials;

3. Allow no interference with classes or school activities;
4. Specify times, places, and manner where distribution may and may not occur[7]; and
5. Not inhibit a person's right to accept or reject any literature distributed in accordance with the regulations.[8]

Students shall be responsible for the removal of excess literature that is left at the distribution point for more than ___ days.[9]

Notes: The goal of the footnotes is to assist principals in the implementation and enforcement of the policy by trying to improve the identification of the parameters of the policy. While the footnotes are not intended to be included in the distributed version of the policy, they should be helpful in adapting the policy for inclusion in the student handbook.

In accordance with A.C.A. § 6-18-1203, expression made by a student journalist in student media is not the expression of a school district's policy and school district officials and members of the school district board of directors are not to be held responsible in any civil or criminal action for any expression made or published by a student journalist in student media unless the individual interfered with, altered, or made substantial decisions with respect to the content of the student expression.

[1] In addition to being included in reviewing any amendments to the regulations resulting from this policy, A.C.A. § 6-18-1202 and Policy 1.9 require that the student media advisors are included when reviewing any proposed updates to this policy.

[2] When developing your regulations, be sure to include provisions for all of the different school-sponsored dissemination methods your district makes available to your student journalists. The procedures should be sure to align with the timelines and methods from the course(s) relevant to the dissemination method (print publication, posted to district site, covered in district television broadcast, etc.)

[3] You may change this number, but the inclusion of a number below which prior inspection is not required permits the exchange of such items as personal notes between students, CDs, party invitations, or birthday cards. The review requirement also applies to materials distributed at extracurricular events that are not intended primarily for adults.

[4] Consider naming the specific school authority (i.e. Superintendent, assistant superintendent, etc.) responsible for the review.

[5] You may change this length of time to suit your district, but it may not exceed three (3) days without putting the district at risk of facing a legal challenge that you are inhibiting free speech.

[6] While you can prohibit material for the stated reasons, you may not do so merely because it contains a controversial message or content the district disagrees with.

[7] The time, place, and manner of distribution may vary by the age of the students attending the school. For example, elementary schools may wish to have more narrowly tailored times and places for the distribution and restrict how the materials are made available. It is more difficult for elementary students to tell the difference between school-sponsored and non-school-sponsored materials, which could affect who would be appropriate distributors of the materials. Schools also have the option of putting up a notice at the distribution site such as a designated table in a foyer or hallway that the materials do not represent the viewpoint of the school. You might also choose to add a qualifier permitting the principal to impose additional requirements when deemed appropriate to avoid disruption, congestion, or other problems that could be associated with the distribution.

[8] Students are not to be coerced into taking non-school-sponsored materials.

[9] If you choose to include this optional sentence, select a reasonable amount of time for any specific item to be available at one stretch. Some materials could conceivably be appropriately left for distribution for significantly longer periods of time than other materials. You may also choose to add an additional sentence requiring the student(s) who distribute the materials to be responsible for picking up any materials thrown on school grounds.

Cross References: 1.9—POLICY Formulation
4.13—PRIVACY OF STUDENTS' RECORDS/ DIRECTORY INFORMATION
4.43—BULLYING

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-18-514
A.C.A. § 6-18-1201 et seq.
Tinker v. Des Moines ISD, 393 U.S. 503 (1969)
Bethel School District No. 403 v. Fraser, 478 U.S. 675 (1986)
HazelwoodSchool District v. Kuhlmeier, 484 U.S. 260 (1988)

4.15—CONTACT WITH STUDENTS WHILE AT SCHOOL

CONTACT BY PARENTS

Parents wishing to speak to their children during the school day shall register first with the office.

CONTACT BY NON-CUSTODIAL PARENTS

If there is any question concerning the legal custody of the student, the custodial parent shall present documentation to the principal or the principal's designee establishing the parent's custody of the student. It shall be the responsibility of the custodial parent to make any court ordered "no contact" or other restrictions regarding the non-custodial parent known to the principal by presenting a copy of a file-marked court order. Without such a court order on file, the school will release the child to either of his/her parents. Non-custodial parents who file with the principal a date-stamped copy of current court orders granting unsupervised visitation may eat lunch, volunteer in their child's classroom, or otherwise have contact with their child during school hours and the prior approval of the school's principal. Such contact is subject to the limitations outlined in Policy 4.16, Policy 6.5, and any other policies that may apply.

Arkansas law provides that, in order to avoid continuing child custody controversies from involving school personnel and to avoid disruptions to the educational atmosphere in the District's schools, the transfer of a child between his/her custodial parent and non-custodial parent, when both parents are present, shall not take place on the school's property on normal school days during normal hours of school operation. The custodial or non-custodial parent may send to/drop off the student at school to be sent to/picked up by the other parent on predetermined days in accordance with any court order provided by the custodial parent or by a signed agreement between both the custodial and non-custodial parents that was witnessed by the student's building principal.[1] Unless a valid no-contact order has been filed with the student's principal or the principal's designee, district employees shall not become involved in disputes concerning whether or not that parent was supposed to pick up the student on any given day.

CONTACT BY LAW ENFORCEMENT, SOCIAL SERVICES, OR BY COURT ORDER

State Law requires that Department of Human Services employees, local law enforcement, or agents of the Crimes Against Children Division of the Division of Arkansas State Police may interview students without a court order for the purpose of investigating suspected child abuse. In instances where the interviewers deem it necessary, they may exercise a "72-hour hold" without first obtaining a court order. Except as provided below, other questioning of students by non-school personnel shall be granted only with a court order directing such questioning, with permission of the parents of a student (or the student if above eighteen (18) years of age), or in response to a subpoena or arrest warrant.

If the District makes a report to any law enforcement agency concerning student misconduct or if access to a student is granted to a law enforcement agency due to a court order, the principal or the principal's designee shall make a good faith effort to contact the student's parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis. The principal or the principal's designee shall not attempt to make such contact if presented documentation by the investigator that notification is prohibited because a parent, legal guardian,

person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis is named as an alleged offender of the suspected child maltreatment. This exception applies only to interview requests made by a law enforcement officer, an investigator of the Crimes Against Children Division of the Division of Arkansas State Police, or an investigator or employee of the Department of Human Services.

In instances other than those related to cases of suspected child abuse, principals must release a student to either a police officer who presents a subpoena for the student, or a warrant for arrest, or to an agent of state social services or an agent of a court with jurisdiction over a child with a court order signed by a judge. Upon release of the student, the principal or designee shall give the student's parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis notice that the student has been taken into custody by law enforcement personnel or a state's social services agency. If the principal or designee is unable to reach the parent, he or she shall make a reasonable, good faith effort to get a message to the parent to call the principal or designee, and leave both a day and an after-hours telephone number.

CONTACT BY PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE STANDARDS BOARD INVESTIGATORS

Investigators for the Professional Licensure Standards Board may meet with students during the school day to carry out the investigation of an ethics complaint.

Note: [1] This sentence is based on language in A.C.A. § 9-13-104 (b) and is **NOT** required. School administration should ALWAYS decline any involvement in the fight between parents over whose day it is to pick up the student. The school's interest is that A PARENT or an individual authorized by a PARENT checks the child out or picks the child up, not that the "right" parent checks the child out on the "right" day.

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-18-513
A.C.A. § 9-13-104
A.C.A. § 12-18-609, 610, 613
A.C.A. § 12-18-1001, 1005

4.16—STUDENT VISITORS

The board strongly believes that the purpose of school is for learning. Social visitors, generally, disrupt the classroom and interfere with learning that should be taking place. Therefore, visiting with students at school is strongly discouraged, unless approved by the principal and scheduled in advance. This includes visits made by former students, friends, and/or relatives of teachers or students. Any visitation to the classroom shall be allowed only with the permission of the school principal and all visitors must first register at the office.

Note: For adult visits see Policy 4.15—CONTACT WITH STUDENTS WHILE AT SCHOOL and Policy 6.5—VISITORS TO THE SCHOOLS

4.17—STUDENT DISCIPLINE

The Hillcrest Board of Education has a responsibility to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the District's students and employees. To help maintain a safe environment conducive to high student achievement, the Board establishes policies necessary to regulate student behavior to promote an orderly school environment that is respectful of the rights of others and ensures the uniform enforcement of student discipline. Students are responsible for their conduct that occurs:

- At any time on the school grounds;
- Off school grounds at a school sponsored function, activity, or event; and
- Going to and from school or a school activity.

The District's administrators may also take disciplinary action against a student for off-campus conduct occurring at any time that would have a detrimental impact on school discipline, the educational environment, or the welfare of the students and/or staff. A student who has committed a criminal act while off campus and whose presence on campus could cause a substantial disruption to school or endanger the welfare of other students or staff is subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion. Such acts could include, but are not limited to:

1. A felony or an act that would be considered a felony if committed by an adult:
2. An assault or battery:
3. Drug law violations: or
4. Sexual Misconduct of a serious nature

The District shall incorporate the District's multi-tiered behavioral intervention procedures in accordance with Policy 4.60 in the application of student discipline.

The District's personnel policy committees shall annually review the District's student discipline policies, including State and District student discipline data, and may recommend changes in the policies to the Hillcrest School Board. The Board has the responsibility of determining whether to approve any recommended changes to student discipline policies.

The District's student discipline policies shall be distributed to each student during the first week of school each year and to new students upon their enrollment. Each student's parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis shall sign and return to the school an acknowledgement form documenting that they have received the policies.

The District shall develop and provide programs, measures, or alternative means and methods for continued student engagement and educational access during periods of suspension or expulsion.

The superintendent is authorized to modify the penalties set forth in the District's student discipline policies on a case-by-case basis.

It is required by law that the principal or the person in charge report to the police any incidents the person has personal knowledge of or has received information leading to a reasonable belief that a person has committed or threatened to commit an act of violence or any crime involving a deadly weapon on school property or while under school supervision. If the person making the report is not the Superintendent, that person shall also inform the Superintendent of the incident. Additionally, the principal shall inform any school employee or other person who initially reported the incident that a report has been made to the appropriate law enforcement agency. The Superintendent or designee shall inform the Board of Directors of any such report made to law enforcement.

The superintendent shall make a report annually to the Board of Directors on student discipline data, which shall include, without limitation: the number of incidents of bullying reported and the actions taken regarding the reported incidents of bullying.

Note: [1] To satisfy a student's due process rights, for events both on and off campus, make sure that all special education requirements are met when those requirements apply.

Cross References: 1.9—POLICY FORMULATION
4.60—STUDENT BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTION AND RESTRAINT

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-17-113
A.C.A. § 6-18-502
A.C.A. § 6-18-514
A.C.A. § 6-18-2401 et seq.
DESE Rules Governing Student Discipline and School Safety

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Last Revised: 6/23/25

4.18—PROHIBITED CONDUCT

Students and staff require a safe and orderly learning environment that is conducive to high student achievement. Certain student behaviors are unacceptable in such an environment and are hereby prohibited by the Board. Prohibited behaviors include, but shall not be limited to the following:

1. Disrespect for school employees and failing to comply with their reasonable directions or otherwise demonstrating insubordination;
2. Disruptive behavior that interferes with orderly school operations;
3. Willfully and intentionally assaulting or threatening to assault or physically abusing any student or school employee;
4. Possession of any weapon that can reasonably be considered capable of causing bodily harm to another individual;
5. Possession or use of tobacco in any form on any property owned or leased by any public school;
6. Willfully or intentionally damaging, destroying, or stealing school property;
7. Possession and use of a personal electronic device except as authorized by Policy 4.47 or by the student's IEP or 504 Plan:
8. Possession, selling, distributing, or being under the influence of an alcoholic beverage, any illegal drug, unauthorized inhalants, or the inappropriate use or sharing of prescription or over the counter drugs, or other intoxicants, or anything represented to be a drug;
9. Sharing, diverting, transferring, applying to others (such as needles or lancets), or in any way misusing medication or any medical supplies in their possession;
10. Inappropriate public displays of affection;
11. Cheating, copying, or claiming another person's work to be his/her own;
12. Gambling;
13. Inappropriate student dress;
14. Use of vulgar, profane, or obscene language or gestures;
15. Truancy;
16. Excessive tardiness;
17. Engaging in behavior designed to taunt, degrade, or ridicule another person on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability;
18. Possess, view, distribute or electronically transmit sexually explicit or vulgar images or representations, whether electronically, on a data storage device, or in hard copy form;
19. Hazing, or aiding in the hazing of another student;
20. Gangs or gang-related activities, including belonging to secret societies of any kind, are forbidden on school property. Gang insignias, clothing, "throwing signs" or other gestures associated with gangs are prohibited;
21. Sexual harassment;
22. Bullying;
23. Operating a vehicle on school grounds while using a wireless communication device;
24. Theft of another individual's personal property; and
25. Antisemitism.

The Board directs each school in the District to develop implementation regulations for prohibited student conduct consistent with applicable Board policy, State and Federal laws, and judicial decisions.

Cross References: Prohibited Conduct #2— Policy # 4.20
Prohibited Conduct #3— Policy # 4.21, 4.26
Prohibited Conduct #4— Policy # 4.22
Prohibited Conduct #5— Policy # 4.23
Prohibited Conduct #7—Policy 4.47
Prohibited Conduct #8— Policy # 4.24
Prohibited Conduct # 13— Policy # 4.25
Prohibited Conduct # 14— Policy # 4.21
Prohibited Conduct # 15— Policy # 4.7
Prohibited Conduct # 16 — Policy # 4.9
Prohibited Conduct # 17— Policy # 4.43
Prohibited Conduct # 20— Policy # 4.26
Prohibited Conduct # 21—Policy # 4.27
Prohibited Conduct # 22— Policy # 4.43
Prohibited Conduct # 23— Policy # 4.47
Prohibited Conduct # 25— Policy # 4.65

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-5-201
A.C.A. § 6-15-1005
A.C.A. § 6-16-2001 et seq.
A.C.A. § 6-18-222
A.C.A. § 6-18-502
A.C.A. § 6-18-514
A.C.A. § 6-18-515
A.C.A. § 6-18-707
A.C.A. § 6-21-609
A.C.A. § 27-51-1602
A.C.A. § 27-51-1603
A.C.A. § 27-51-1609
DESE Rules Governing Student Discipline and School Safety

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4.19—CONDUCT TO AND FROM SCHOOL AND TRANSPORTATION ELIGIBILITY

The District's Student Code of conduct applies to students while traveling to and from school or to and from a school activity to the same extent as if the students were on school grounds. Appropriate disciplinary actions may be taken against commuting students who violate the District's Student Code of Conduct.

The preceding paragraph also applies to student conduct while on school buses. Students shall be instructed in safe riding practices.[1] The driver of a school bus shall not operate the school bus until every passenger is seated. In addition to other disciplinary measures provided for violations of the District's Student Code of Conduct, the student's bus transportation privileges may be suspended or terminated for violations of the Student Code of Conduct related to bus behavior.

Students are eligible to receive district bus transportation if they meet the following requirements.[2] The transportation to and from school of students who have lost their bus transportation privileges is the responsibility of the student's parent or guardian.

Notes: [1] The Rules don't specify who is responsible for instructing the students in safe riding practices.

[2] Insert your district's policy for student bus eligibility here. In Arkansas, there is no requirement that the district provide bus transportation for any of its students, but whatever criteria you establish have to be rational and consistently applied throughout the district. It can be as simple as stating that every student is eligible to ride the bus, or you can establish parameters such as a minimum distance from school. You can have different criteria for transporting elementary students to their school than you have for high school students to their school. Both general eligibility rules as well as possible disciplinary measures must take into account the district's responsibility to meet federal requirements for students with disabilities. If you choose to mention bus route configurations, don't list them in the policy. Instead, state that the superintendent, or designee(s), shall annually establish the routes and may modify them as needed. You may choose to stipulate criteria, such as length of the routes, or snow routes that the superintendent shall use in establishing the routes.

Legal References: A.C.A. § 5-60-122
A.C.A. § 6-19-119 (b)
Ark. Division of Academic Facilities and Transportation Rules Governing Maintenance and Operations of Ark. Public School Buses and Physical Examinations of School Bus Drivers 4.0

4.20—DISRUPTION OF SCHOOL

Definitions

"Appropriate interim learning environment" means an appropriate learning environment that is used for a period of time not to exceed ten (10) days.

"Appropriate learning environment" means a setting within the District that provides a similar structure to the following, without limitation:

1. A classroom; or
2. In-school suspension.

"Violent or abusive behavior" means, without limitation:

a. Using threatening language;
b. Throwing an item that risks or causes:
   - Harm to another individual;
   - Injury to another individual; or
   - Damage to property;
c. Physically abusing a teacher or another student; or
d. Any other similar action that presents a physical danger or a threat of physical danger to a teacher or another student.

No student shall by the use of violence, force, noise, coercion, threat, intimidation, fear, passive resistance, or any other conduct, intentionally cause the disruption of any lawful mission, process, or function of the school, or engage in any such conduct for the purpose of causing disruption or obstruction of any lawful mission, process, or function. Nor shall any student encourage any other student to engage in such activities.

Disorderly activities by any student or group of students that adversely affect the school's orderly educational environment shall not be tolerated at any time on school grounds.

A teacher may, but is not required to, remove a student from class:

- Who has been documented by the teacher as repeatedly interfering with the teacher's ability to teach the students in the class or with the ability of the student's classmates to learn; or
- Whose behavior is so unruly, disruptive, violent, or abusive that it seriously interferes with the teacher's ability to teach the students, the class, or with the ability of the student's classmates to learn.

A student who is removed from class shall:

- Be sent to the office of the principal or the principal's designee;
- Be escorted from the classroom by the school administration if the student refuses to leave the classroom voluntarily;
- Not be returned to the teacher's class until a conference is held; and
- Be placed in another appropriate classroom learning environment until the conference is completed.

The conference shall be held for the purpose of:

1. Determining the causes of the problem that led to the student's removal and possible solutions;
2. Serving as a manifestation determination review if the student removed from the class is a student with a disability;
3. Determining if a behavioral threat assessment is necessary for the student who was removed from the class due to violent behavior.

The following individuals shall be present at the conference:

a. The principal or the principal's designee;
b. The teacher;
c. The school counselor;
d. A 504/special education representative (if applicable);
e. The parents, legal guardians, persons having lawful control of the student, or persons standing in loco parentis; and
f. The student, if appropriate.

The failure of the parents, legal guardians, persons having lawful control of the student, or persons standing in loco parentis to attend the conference shall not prevent the conference from being held nor prevent any action from being taken as a result of that conference.

Following the conclusion of the conference, the principal or the principal's designee may take any of the following actions against a student who was removed from class:

§ Place the student into another appropriate learning environment or into in-school suspension;
§ Except for a student who was removed for violent or abusive behavior, return the student to the class; or
§ Take other appropriate action consistent with the District's discipline policy, state law, and federal law.

A student who is removed from class three (3) times during the same school year shall be placed in another appropriate learning environment for the remainder of the school year.

The District shall follow all requirements under the IDEA and 504 for students with a disability, including those surrounding a change in placement.

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-18-511
DESE Rules Governing Student Discipline and School Safety

Date Adopted: 6/23/25
Last Revised: 6/23/25

4.21—STUDENT ASSAULT OR BATTERY

A student shall not threaten, physically abuse, attempt to physically abuse, or behave in such a way as to be perceived to threaten bodily harm to any other person (student, school employee, or school visitor). Any gestures; vulgar, abusive, or insulting language; taunting, threatening, harassing, or intimidating remarks by a student toward another person that threatens their well-being is strictly forbidden. This includes, but is not limited to, fighting, racial, ethnic, religious, or sexual slurs.

Furthermore, it is unlawful, during regular school hours, and in a place where a public school employee is required to be in the course of his or her duties, for any person to address a public school employee using language which, in its common acceptation, is calculated to:

a. Cause a breach of the peace;
b. Materially and substantially interfere with the operation of the school; or
c. Arouse the person to whom it is addressed to anger, to the extent likely to cause imminent retaliation.

Students guilty of such an offense may be subject to legal proceedings in addition to any student disciplinary measures.

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-17-106
DESE Rules Governing Student Discipline and School Safety

4.22—WEAPONS AND DANGEROUS INSTRUMENTS

Definitions

“Firearm" means any device designed, made, or adapted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or any device readily convertible to that use.

“Possession” means having a weapon on the student’s body or in an area under the student’s control.

“Weapon” means any:

- Firearm;
- Knife;
- Razor;
- Ice pick;
- Dirk;
- Box cutter;
- Nunchucks;
- Pepper spray, mace, or other noxious spray;
- Explosive;

- Taser or other instrument that uses electrical current to cause neuromuscular incapacitation; or
- Any other instrument or substance capable of causing bodily harm.

No student, except for Military personnel (such as ROTC cadets) acting in the course of their official duties or as otherwise expressly permitted by this policy, shall possess a weapon, display what appears to be a weapon, or threaten to use a weapon before or after school while:

- In a school building;
- On or about school property;
- At any school sponsored activity or event;
- On route to or from school or any school sponsored activity; or
- Off the school grounds at any school bus stop.

If a student discovers prior to any questioning or search by any school personnel that he/she has accidentally brought a weapon, other than a firearm, to school on his/her person, in a book bag/purse, or in his/her vehicle on school grounds, and the student informs the principal or a staff person immediately, the student will not be considered to be in possession of a weapon unless it is a firearm. The weapon shall be confiscated and held in the office until such time as the student's parent/legal guardian shall pick up the weapon from the school's office. Repeated offenses are unacceptable and shall be grounds for disciplinary action against the student as otherwise provided for in this policy.

Except as permitted in this policy, students found to be in possession on the school campus of a firearm shall be recommended for expulsion for a period of one (1) year. The superintendent shall have the discretion to modify such expulsion recommendation for a student on a case-by-case basis.[1]

Parents or legal guardians of students expelled under this policy shall be given a copy of the current laws regarding the possibility of parental responsibility for allowing a child to possess a firearm on school property.[2] Parents or legal guardians shall sign a statement acknowledging that they have read and understand said laws prior to readmitting the student. Parents or legal guardians of a student enrolling from another school after the expiration of an expulsion period for a firearm policy violation shall also be given a copy of the current laws regarding the possibility of parental responsibility for allowing a child to possess a firearm on school property. The parents or legal guardians shall sign a statement acknowledging that they have read and understand said laws prior to the student being enrolled in school.

The mandatory expulsion requirement for possession of a firearm does not apply to a firearm brought to school for the purpose of participating in activities approved and authorized by the district that include the use of firearms. Such activities may include ROTC programs; hunting safety or military education; or before or after-school hunting or rifle clubs. Firearms brought to school for such purposes shall be brought to the school employee designated to receive such firearms. The designated employee shall store the firearms in a secure location until they are removed for use in the approved activity.

The district shall report any student who brings a firearm to school to the criminal justice system or juvenile delinquency system by notifying local law enforcement.

Notes: [1] The exemption is for IDEA purposes where the possession can reasonably be associated with the student's disability. To be eligible for ESEA funds, the federal Department of Education requires an assurance that the district:

1) is in compliance with the State law requiring the one-year expulsion; and
2) a description of the circumstances surrounding expulsions imposed under the one-year expulsion requirement, including:
   A. The name of the school concerned;
   B. The number of students expelled from the school; and
   C. The type of firearms concerned.

This requirement applies even in the instances where the district exercised its option to modify the expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis. The DOE Guidance on the Gun Free Schools Act prohibits the use of the case-by-case option to avoid "over-all compliance with the one-year expulsion requirement. In order to modify the expulsion recommendation, the superintendent must provide a written explanation behind the modification under the Federal law.

[2] The statute that specifies the parents' penalties is A.C.A. § 5-27-210, but it is also helpful to have A.C.A. § 5-4-201 and A.C.A. § 5-4-401 available which spell out the fines and possible imprisonment for a class B misdemeanor offense.

Cross Reference: Policy 4.31—EXPULSION

Legal References: A.C.A. § 5-4-201
A.C.A. § 5-4-401
A.C.A. § 5-27-210
A.C.A. § 5-73-119(b) (e)(8), (9), (10)
A.C.A. § 5-73-133
A.C.A. § 6-18-502
A.C.A. § 6-18-507
A.C.A. § 6-21-608
DESE Rules Governing Student Discipline and School Safety
20 USC § 7961

4.23—TOBACCO, ELECTRONIC NICOTINE DELIVERY SYSTEMS, AND RELATED PRODUCTS

Smoking or use of tobacco or products containing tobacco in any form (including, but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, and snuff) in or on any real property owned or leased by a District school, including school buses owned or leased by the District, is prohibited. Students who violate this policy may be subject to legal proceedings in addition to student disciplinary measures.

With the exception of recognized tobacco cessation products, this policy's prohibition includes any tobacco or nicotine delivery system or product. Specifically, the prohibition includes any product that is manufactured, distributed, marketed, or sold as e-cigarettes, e-cigars, e-pipes, or under any other name or descriptor.

Notes: The statute requires the statute's posting "…in a conspicuous location at every entrance to each building owned or leased by a public school district and every school bus used to transport students"
Law enforcement officers and employees of a school are immune from civil liability for the confiscation from a minor on a school campus or at a school-sponsored event of:

- Nicotine, tobacco products, vapor products, alternative nicotine products, e-liquid products, or cigarette papers; or
- A product that the individual reasonably believes to be a vapor product.

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-21-609
A.C.A. § 20-65-103

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4.24—DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

An orderly and safe school environment that is conducive to promoting student achievement requires a student population free from the deleterious effects of alcohol and drugs. Their use is illegal, disruptive to the educational environment, and diminishes the capacity of students to learn and function properly in our schools.

Therefore, no student in the Hillcrest School District shall possess, attempt to possess, consume, use, distribute, sell, buy, attempt to sell, attempt to buy, give to any person, or be under the influence of any substance as defined in this policy, or what the student represents or believes to be any substance as defined in this policy. This policy applies to any student who:

1.Is on or about school property:
2. Is in attendance at school or any school sponsored activity:

3. Has left the school campus for any reason and returns to the campus: or
4. Is on route to or from school or any school sponsored activity.

Prohibited substances shall include, but are not limited to:

1. Alcohol, or any alcoholic beverages:
2. 2. Inhalants or any ingestible matter that alter a student's ability to act, think, or respond:
3. LSD or any other hallucinogen:
4. Marijuana
5. Cocaine, heroin, or any other narcotic drug:
6. PCP:
7. Amphetamines:
8. Steroids:
9. Designer drugs:
10. Look-alike drugs or
11. Any controlled substance

The sale, distribution, or attempted sale or distribution of over-the-counter (OTC) medications, dietary supplement or other perceived health remedy not regulated by the US Food and Drug Administration, or prescription drugs is prohibited. The possession or use of OTC medications, dietary supplement or other perceived health remedy not regulated by the US Food and Drug Administration, or prescription drugs is prohibited except as permitted under Policy 4.35—STUDENT MEDICATIONS.

Note: The possession or use of marijuana on school campus is prohibited even if a student has a medical marijuana patient card. The arkansas constitution amendment 98 6 states:

(a) The amendment does not permit a person to:

Cross Reference: 4.35—STUDENT MEDICATIONS

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-18-502
DESE Rules Governing Student Discipline and School Safety

4.25 STUDENT DRESS AND GROOMING

The Hillcrest Board of Education recognizes that dress can be a matter of personal taste and preference. At the same time, the district has a responsibility to promote an environment conducive to student learning. This requires limitations to student dress and grooming that could be disruptive to the educational process because they are immodest, disruptive, unsanitary, unsafe, could cause property damage, or are offensive to common standards of decency. The following regulations have been established:

1. **No clothing which is considered SKIN TIGHT or transparent will be allowed. Shorts will be allowed if they are no shorter than three (3) inches from the**

knee.

2. **Halters, tank tops, sleeveless T-shirts, and other scanty attire will not be permitted in Grades 4-6.**
3. **Clothing with any vulgar language, pictures, or liquor advertisements will not be permitted.**
4. **Sunglasses are not to be worn in the buildings.**
5. **Hair must be kept clean and hygienically safe. The administration has the right to question or inspect a student for cleanliness or health reasons at any time.**
6. **Students are prohibited from wearing, while on the school grounds during the school day and at school-sponsored events, clothing that exposes underwear, buttocks, or the breast of a female. This prohibition does not apply, however, to a costume or uniform worn by a student while participating in a school-sponsored activity or event. Legal References: A.C.A. 6-18-502(c)(1) and A.C.A. 6-18-503(c).**

A student shall not be disciplined or discriminated against based upon the student's natural, protective, or cultural hairstyle.Astudent's natural, protective, or cultural hairstyle includes without limitation afros, dreadlocks, twists, locs, braids, cornrow braids, Bantu knots, curls, and hairstyles to protect hair texture or for cultural significance. A.C.A. § 6-10-138

4.26—GANGS AND GANG ACTIVITY

The Board is committed to ensuring a safe school environment conducive to promoting a learning environment where students and staff can excel. An orderly environment cannot exist where unlawful acts occur causing fear, intimidation, or physical harm to students or school staff. Gangs and their activities create such an atmosphere and shall not be allowed on school grounds or at school functions.

The following actions are prohibited by students on school property or at school functions:

1. Wearing or possessing any clothing, bandanas, jewelry, symbol, or other sign associated with membership in, or representative of, any gang;
2. Engaging in any verbal or nonverbal act such as throwing signs, gestures, or handshakes representative of membership in any gang;
3. Recruiting, soliciting, or encouraging any person through duress or intimidation to become or remain a member of any gang; and/or
4. Extorting payment from any individual in return for protection from harm from any gang.

Students found to be in violation of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.

Students arrested for gang related activities occurring off school grounds shall be subject to the same disciplinary actions as if they had occurred on school grounds.

Legal References: A.C.A. § 5-74-201 et seq.
A.C.A. § 6-15-1005(b)(2)

4.27—STUDENT SEXUAL HARASSMENT

The Hillcrest School District is committed to providing an academic environment that treats all students with respect and dignity. Student achievement is best attained in an atmosphere of equal educational opportunity that is free of discrimination. Sexual harassment is a form of discrimination that undermines the integrity of the educational environment and will not be tolerated.

The District believes the best policy to create an educational environment free from sexual harassment is prevention; therefore, the District shall provide informational materials and training to students, parents/legal guardians/other responsible adults, and employees on sexual harassment. The informational materials and training on sexual harassment shall be age appropriate and, when necessary, provided in a language other than English or in an accessible format. The informational materials and training shall include, but are not limited to:

- **The nature of sexual harassment;**
- **The District's written procedures governing the formal complaint grievance process;[1]**
- **The process for submitting a formal complaint of sexual harassment;**
- **That the district does not tolerate sexual harassment;**
- **That students can report inappropriate behavior of a sexual nature without fear of adverse consequences;**
- **The supports that are available to individuals suffering sexual harassment; and**
- **The potential discipline for perpetrating sexual harassment.**

Definitions

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

"Education program or activity" includes locations, events, or circumstances where the District exercised substantial control over both the respondent and the context in which the sexual harassment occurs.

"Formal complaint" means a document filed by a complainant or signed by the Title IX Coordinator alleging sexual harassment against a respondent and requesting an investigation of the allegation of sexual harassment.

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

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

1. **A District employee:**
   a. **Conditions the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of the District on an individual's participation in sexual conduct;[2] or**
   b. **Uses the rejection of sexual conduct as the basis for academic decisions affecting that individual;[2]**
2. **The conduct is:**
   a. **Unwelcome; and**
   b. **Determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the District's education program or activity; or**
3. **Constitutes:**
   a. **Sexual assault;**
   b. **Dating violence**
   c. **Domestic violence; or**
   d. **Stalking.**

"Supportive measures" means individualized services that are offered to the complainant or made available to the respondent designed to restore or preserve equal access to the District's education program or activity without unreasonably burdening the other party. The supportive measures must be non-disciplinary and non-punitive in nature; offered before or after the filing of a formal complaint or where no formal complaint has been filed; and offered to either party as appropriate, as reasonably available, and without fee or charge. Examples of supportive measures include, but are not limited to: measures designed to protect the safety of all parties or the District's educational environment, or deter sexual harassment; counseling; extensions of deadlines or other course-related adjustments; modifications of work or class schedules; campus escort services; mutual restrictions on contact between the parties; changes in work or class locations; leaves of absence; and increased security and monitoring of certain areas of the campus.

Within the educational environment, sexual harassment is prohibited between any of the following: students; employees and students; and non-employees and students.

Actionable sexual harassment is generally established when an individual is exposed to a pattern of objectionable behaviors or when a single, serious act is committed. What is, or is not, sexual harassment will depend upon all of the surrounding circumstances and may occur regardless of the sex(es) of the individuals involved. Depending upon such circumstances, examples of sexual harassment include, but are not limited to:

- **Making sexual propositions or pressuring for sexual activities;**
- **Unwelcome touching;**
- **Writing graffiti of a sexual nature;**

- **Displaying or distributing sexually explicit drawings, pictures, or written materials;**
- **Performing sexual gestures or touching oneself sexually in front of others;**
- **Telling sexual or crude jokes;**
- **Spreading rumors related to a person's alleged sexual activities;**
- **Discussions of sexual experiences;**
- **Rating other students or employees as to sexual activity or performance;**
- **Circulating or showing e-mails or Web sites of a sexual nature;**
- **Intimidation by words, actions, insults, or name calling; and**
- **Teasing or name-calling related to sexual characteristics or the belief or perception that an individual is not conforming to expected gender roles or conduct or is homosexual, regardless of whether or not the individual self-identifies as homosexual or transgender.**

Students who believe they have been subjected to sexual harassment, or the parent/legal guardian/other responsible adult of a student who believes their student has been subjected to sexual harassment, are encouraged to bring their concerns to any District staff member, including a counselor, teacher, Title IX coordinator, or administrator. If the District staff member who received a report of alleged sexual harassment is not the Title IX Coordinator, then the District staff person shall inform the Title IX Coordinator of the alleged sexual harassment. As soon as reasonably possible after receiving a report of alleged sexual harassment from another District staff member or after receiving a report directly through any means, the Title IX Coordinator shall contact the complainant to:

- **Discuss the availability of supportive measures;**
- **Consider the complainant's wishes with respect to supportive measures;**
- **Inform the complainant of the availability of supportive measures with or without the filing of a formal complaint; and**
- **explain to the complainant the process for filing a formal complaint.**

Supportive Measures

The District shall offer supportive measures to the complainant and make supportive measures available to the respondent that are designed to restore or preserve equal access to the District's education program or activity without unreasonably burdening the other party before or after the filing of a formal complaint or where no formal complaint has been filed. The District shall provide individualized supportive measures to the complainant unless declined in writing by the complainant and shall provide individualized supportive measures that are non-disciplinary and non-punitive to the respondent. A complainant who initially declined the District's offer of supportive measures may request supportive measures at a later time and the District shall provide individualized supportive measures based on the circumstances when the subsequent request is received.

Formal Complaint

A formal complaint may be filed with the Title IX Coordinator in person, by mail, or by email. Upon receipt of a formal complaint, a District shall simultaneously provide the following written notice to the parties who are known:

- **Notice of the District's grievance process and a copy of the procedures governing the grievance process;**
- **Notice of the allegations of sexual harassment including sufficient details known at the time and with sufficient time to prepare a response before any initial interview. Sufficient details include:**
  - **The identities of the parties involved in the incident, if known;**
  - **The conduct allegedly constituting sexual harassment; and**
  - **The date and location of the alleged incident, if known;**
- **A statement that the respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged conduct and that a determination regarding responsibility is made at the conclusion of the grievance process;**
- **That the parties may have an advisor of their choice, who may be, but is not required to be, an attorney;**
- **That the parties may inspect and review evidence relevant to the complaint of sexual harassment; and**
- **That the District's code of conduct prohibits knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during the grievance process.**

If, in the course of an investigation, the District decides to investigate allegations about the complainant or respondent that are not included in the previous notice, the District shall simultaneously provide notice of the additional allegations to the parties whose identities are known.

The District may consolidate formal complaints of allegations of sexual harassment where the allegations of sexual harassment arise out of the same facts or circumstances and the formal complaints are against more than one respondent; or by more than one complainant against one or more respondents; or by one party against the other party. When the District has consolidated formal complaints so that the grievance process involves more than one complainant or more than one respondent, references to the singular "party", "complainant", or "respondent" include the plural, as applicable.

When investigating a formal complaint and throughout the grievance process, a District shall:

- **Ensure that the burden of proof and the burden of gathering evidence sufficient to reach a determination regarding responsibility rest on the District and not on the parties;**
- **Not require, allow, rely upon, or otherwise use questions or evidence that constitute, or seek disclosure of, information protected under a legally recognized privilege or access, consider, disclose, or otherwise use a party's records that are made or maintained by a physician, psychiatrist, psychologist, or other recognized professional or paraprofessional acting in the professional's or paraprofessional's capacity, or assisting in that capacity, and which are made and maintained in connection with the provision of treatment to the party unless the District obtains the parent, legal guardian, or other responsible adult of that party's voluntary, written consent or that party's voluntary, written consent if the party is over the age of eighteen (18) to do so for the grievance process;**

- **Provide an equal opportunity for the parties to present witnesses, including fact and expert witnesses, and other inculpatory and exculpatory evidence;**
- **Not restrict the ability of either party to discuss the allegations under investigation or to gather and present relevant evidence;**
- **Provide the parties with the same opportunities to have others present during any grievance proceeding, including the opportunity to be accompanied to any related meeting or proceeding by the advisor of their choice, who may be, but is not required to be, an attorney, and not limit the choice or presence of advisor for either the complainant or respondent in any meeting or grievance proceeding;**
- **Provide, to a party whose participation is invited or expected, written notice of the date, time, location, participants, and purpose of all hearings, investigative interviews, or other meetings, with sufficient time for the party to prepare to participate;**
- **Provide both parties an equal opportunity to inspect and review any evidence obtained as part of the investigation that is directly related to the allegations raised in the formal complaint so that each party can meaningfully respond to the evidence prior to the conclusion of the investigation; this includes evidence:**
  - **Whether obtained from a party or other source;**
  - **The District does not intend to rely upon in reaching a determination regarding responsibility; and**
  - **That is either Inculpatory or exculpatory; and**
- **Create an investigative report that fairly summarizes relevant evidence.**

At least ten (10)[3] days prior to completion of the investigative report, the District shall send to each party and the party's advisor, if any, the evidence subject to inspection and review in an electronic format or a hard copy. The parties shall have at least ten (10)[3] days to submit a written response to the evidence. The investigator will consider the written responses prior to completion of the investigative report. All evidence subject to inspection and review shall be available for the parties' inspection and review at any meeting to give each party equal opportunity to refer to such evidence during the meeting.

After the investigative report is sent to the parties, the decision-maker shall:

- **Provide each party the opportunity to submit written, relevant questions that a party wants asked of any party or witness;**
- **Provide each party with the answers;**
- **Allow for additional, limited follow-up questions from each party; and**
- **Provide an explanation to the party proposing the questions any decision to exclude a question as not relevant. Specifically, questions and evidence about the complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant, unless such questions and evidence about the complainant's prior sexual behavior are offered to prove that someone other than the respondent committed the conduct alleged by the complainant, or if the questions and evidence concern specific incidents of the complainant's prior sexual behavior with respect to the respondent and are offered to prove consent.**

No earlier than ten (10) days following the completion of the investigation period, the decision-maker, who cannot be the same person as the Title IX Coordinator or the investigator, shall issue a written determination regarding responsibility. The written determination shall include—

1. **Identification of the allegations potentially constituting sexual harassment;**
2. **A description of the procedural steps taken from the receipt of the formal complaint through the determination, including:**
    a. **Any notifications to the parties;**
    b. **Interviews with parties and witnesses;**
    c. **site visits;**
    d. **Methods used to gather other evidence; and**
    e. **Hearings held;**
3. **Findings of fact supporting the determination;**
4. **Conclusions regarding the application of the District's code of conduct to the facts;**
5. **A statement of, and rationale for, the result as to each allegation, including:**
    a. **A determination regarding responsibility;**
    b. **Any disciplinary sanctions imposed on the respondent; and**
    c. **Whether remedies designed to restore or preserve equal access to the District's education program or activity will be provided by the District to the complainant; and**
6. **The procedures and permissible bases for the complainant and respondent to appeal.**

The written determination shall be provided to the parties simultaneously. The determination regarding responsibility shall become final on the earlier of:

- **If an appeal is not filed, the day after the period for an appeal to be filed expires; or**
- **If an appeal is filed, the date the written determination of the result of the appeal is provided to the parties.**

The District shall investigate the allegations in a formal complaint. If the conduct alleged in the formal complaint would not constitute sexual harassment as defined in this policy even if proved; did not occur in the District's education program or activity; or did not occur against a person in the United States, then the District shall dismiss the complaint as not meeting the definition of sexual harassment under this policy. A dismissal for these reasons does not preclude action under another provision of the District's code of conduct.

The District may dismiss the formal complaint or any allegations therein, if at any time during the grievance process:

- **The complainant notifies the Title IX Coordinator in writing that the complainant would like to withdraw the formal complaint or any allegations therein;**
- **The respondent is no longer enrolled at the District; or**
- **Specific circumstances prevent the District from gathering evidence sufficient to reach a determination as to the formal complaint or allegations therein.**

Upon the dismissal of a formal complaint for any reason, the District shall promptly send written notice of the dismissal and reason(s) for the dismissal simultaneously to the parties.

The District may hire an individual or individuals to conduct the investigation or to act as the determination-maker when necessary.

Appeals

Either party may appeal a determination regarding responsibility or from a dismissal of a formal complaint or any allegations therein, on the following bases:

a. The existence of a procedural irregularity that affected the outcome of the matter;

b. Discovery of new evidence that was not reasonably available at the time the determination regarding responsibility or dismissal was made, that could affect the outcome of the matter;

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

d. An appeal of the disciplinary sanctions from the initial determination.[4]

For all appeals, the District shall:

1. Notify the other party in writing when an appeal is filed;

2. Simultaneously Provide all parties a written copy of the District's procedures governing the appeal process;

3. Implement appeal procedures equally for both parties;

4. Ensure that the decision-maker[5] for the appeal is not the same person as the decision-maker that reached the original determination regarding responsibility or dismissal, the investigator, or the Title IX Coordinator;

5. Provide all parties a reasonable, equal opportunity to submit a written statement in support of, or challenging, the outcome;

6. Issue a written decision describing the result of the appeal and the rationale for the result; and

7. Provide the written decision simultaneously to both parties.

Confidentiality

Reports of sexual harassment, both informal reports and formal complaints, will be treated in a confidential manner to the extent possible. Limited disclosure may be provided to:

§ Individuals who are responsible for handling the District's investigation and determination of responsibility to the extent necessary to complete the District's grievance process;

§ Submit a report to the child maltreatment hotline;

§ Submit a report to the Professional Licensure Standards Board for reports alleging sexual harassment by an employee towards a student; or

§ The extent necessary to provide either party due process during the grievance process.[5]

Except as listed above, the District shall keep confidential the identity of:

Any individual who has made a report or complaint of sex discrimination;

Any individual who has made a report or filed a formal complaint of sexual harassment;

Any complainant;

Any individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of sex discrimination;

Any respondent; and

Any witness.

Any supportive measures provided to the complainant or respondent shall be kept confidential to the extent that maintaining such confidentiality does not impair the ability of the District to provide the supportive measures.

Emergency removal[6]

The District may remove a respondent from the District's education program or activity on an emergency basis only after the completion of an individualized safety and risk analysis that determines that an immediate threat to the physical health or safety of any student or other individual arising from the allegations of sexual harassment justifies removal. A removed student will be provided with notice and an opportunity to challenge the removal decision immediately following the removal.

Retaliation Prohibited

Students, or the parents/legal guardians/ other responsible adult of a student, who submit a report or file a formal complaint of sexual harassment,; testified; assisted; or participate or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing on sexual harassment shall not be subjected to retaliation or reprisal in any form, including threats; intimidation; coercion; discrimination; or charges for code of conduct violations that do not involve sex discrimination or sexual harassment, arise out of the same facts or circumstances as a report or formal complaint of sex discrimination, and are made for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege under this policy. The District shall take steps to prevent retaliation and shall take immediate action if any form of retaliation occurs regardless of whether the retaliatory acts are by District officials, students, or third parties.

Disciplinary Sanctions

It shall be a violation of this policy for any student to be subjected to, or to subject another person to, sexual harassment. Following the completion of the District's grievance process, any student who is found by the evidence to more likely than not[7] have engaged in sexual harassment will be subject to disciplinary action up to, and including, expulsion. No disciplinary sanction or other action that is not a supportive measure may be taken against a respondent until the conclusion of the grievance process.

Students who knowingly fabricate allegations of sexual harassment or purposely provide inaccurate facts shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion. A determination that the allegations do not rise to the level of sexual harassment alone is not

sufficient to conclude that any party made a false allegation or materially false statement in bad faith.

Records

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

- **Each sexual harassment investigation including:**
- **Any determination regarding responsibility;**
- **any disciplinary sanctions imposed on the respondent;**
- **Any remedies provided to the complainant designed to restore or preserve equal access to the District's education program or activity;**
- **Any appeal and the result therefrom;**
- **All materials used to train Title IX Coordinators, investigators, and decision-makers;**
- **Any actions, including any supportive measures, taken in response to a report or formal complaint of sexual harassment, which must include:**
  - **The basis for the District's conclusion that its response was not deliberately indifferent; and**
  - **Document:**

    § If supportive measures were provided to the complainant, the supportive measures taken designed to restore or preserve equal access to the District's education program or activity; or

    § If no supportive measures were provided to a complainant, document the reasons why such a response was not clearly unreasonable in light of the known circumstances.

Notes: [1] 34 C.F.R. § 106.44 requires that a district have procedures governing the grievance process and the appeals process to accompany this policy. The procedures are required to cover all of the following:

- **Direct that complainants and respondents shall be treated equitably by:**
  - **Offering supportive measures to the complainant;**
  - **Completing the District's grievance process before the imposition of any disciplinary sanctions or other actions that are not supportive measures against a respondent.**
  - **Providing remedies to a complainant where a determination of responsibility for sexual harassment has been made against the respondent that are designed to restore or preserve equal access to the District's education program or activity, which may include the same individualized supportive measures;**
  - **Require an objective evaluation of all relevant evidence – including both inculpatory and exculpatory evidence;**
  - **Provide that credibility determinations may not be based on a person's status as a complainant, respondent, or witness;**
  - **Require that any individual designated by the District as a Title IX Coordinator, investigator, or decision-maker not have a conflict of**

interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or an individual complainant or respondent;

- **Indicate that individuals selected by the District as Title IX Coordinators, investigators, and decision-makers have received training on:**
  - **The definition of sexual harassment;**
  - **The scope of the District's education program or activity;**
  - **How to conduct an investigation and the grievance process, including appeals;**
  - **How to serve impartially, including by avoiding prejudgment of the facts at issue, conflicts of interest, and bias; and**
  - **Issues of relevance of questions and evidence, including when questions and evidence about the complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant; and**
  - **Issues of relevance to create an investigative report that fairly summarizes relevant evidence;**
- **Provide the District webpage where the materials used to train the District's Title IX Coordinators, investigators, and decision-makers is located;**
- **Include a presumption that the respondent is not responsible for the alleged conduct until a determination regarding responsibility is made at the conclusion of the grievance process;**
- **Include reasonably prompt time frames for conclusion of the grievance process, including reasonably prompt time frames for filing and resolving appeals;[3]**
- **A process that allows for the temporary delay of the grievance process or the limited extension of time frames for good cause with written notice to the complainant and the respondent of the delay or extension and the reasons for the action, which may include:**
  - **The absence of a party, a party's advisor, or a witness;**
  - **Concurrent law enforcement activity; or**
  - **The need for language assistance or accommodation of disabilities;**
- **Describe the range of possible disciplinary sanctions and remedies or list the possible disciplinary sanctions and remedies that the District may implement following any determination of responsibility;**
- **State whether the standard of evidence to be used to determine responsibility is the preponderance of the evidence standard or the clear and convincing evidence standard;[7]**
- **Include the procedures and permissible bases for the complainant and respondent to appeal;**
- **Describe the range of supportive measures available to complainants and respondents; and**
- **Indicate that the District shall not require, allow, rely upon, or otherwise use questions or evidence that constitute, or seek disclosure of, information protected under a legally recognized privilege or use a party's records that are made or maintained by a physician, psychiatrist, psychologist, or other recognized professional or paraprofessional acting in**

the professional's or paraprofessional's capacity, or assisting in that capacity, and which are made and maintained in connection with the provision of treatment to the party unless the District obtains the parent, legal guardian, or other responsible adult of that party's voluntary, written consent or that party's voluntary, written consent if the party is over the age of eighteen (18) to do so for the grievance process.

[2] While the definition for sexual harassment from 34 C.F.R. § 106.30 includes that the sexual conduct with an employee must be "unwelcome", we have removed the word "unwelcome" from the student policy as A.C.A § 12-18-103 prohibits sexual conduct between district employees and students regardless of whether the student considers the sexual conduct to be welcome or unwelcome.

[3] The minimum number of days you are required to provide for the parties to review the evidence is ten (10) days. Make sure that the number of days you include here matches with the time frame included in your procedures governing the grievance process.

[4] A.C.A. § 6-18-502(c)(1)(B) provides that the superintendent has the authority to "modify the prescribed penalties for a student on a case-by-case basis". 34 C.F.R. § 106.45 requires that either party must have an equal opportunity to appeal for the stated reasons; therefore, both the complainant and respondent have the right to appeal the initial determination-maker's disciplinary sanctions.

[5] While the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) ordinarily requires that documents containing information about more than one student be redacted so that a student may only view the portion of the educational record that is relevant to that particular student, 34 C.F.R. § 106.6 provides that FERPA does not apply to the extent necessary to provide due process to both parties involved in the grievance process; this includes allowing either party to review the names of the other party as well as any witnesses who have provided evidence relevant to the investigation.

[6] The language here does not change an individual's rights under the IDEA, Section 504, or the ADA.

[7] We have opted to use the preponderance of the evidence standard for determination of responsibility. If you choose to use the clear and convincing evidentiary standard instead, change the language here to indicate so and make sure that your procedures indicate so as well. 34 C.F.R. § 106.45 requires that you use the same evidentiary standard for both students and employees.

Cross References: 3.26—LICENSED PERSONNEL SEXUAL HARASSMENT
4.11—EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY
5.20—DISTRICT WEBSITE

7.15—RECORD RETENTION AND DESTRUCTION
8.20—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Legal References: **20 USC 1681 et seq.**
34 C.F.R. Part 106
A.C.A. § 6-15-1005
A.C.A. § 6-18-502
A.C.A. § 12-18-102

Date Adopted:06/23/25
Last Revised:06/23/25

4.28—LASER POINTERS

Students shall not possess any hand held laser pointer while in school; on or about school property, before or after school; in attendance at school or any school-sponsored activity; on route to or from school or any school-sponsored activity; off the school grounds at any school bus stop or at any school-sponsored activity or event. School personnel shall seize any laser pointer from the student possessing it and the student may reclaim it at the close of the school year, or when the student is no longer enrolled in the District.

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-18-512
DESE Rules Governing Student Discipline and School Safety

4.29—INTERNET SAFETY and ELECTRONIC DEVICE USE POLICY

Definition

For the purposes of this policy, "electronic device" means anything that can be used to transmit or capture images, sound, or data.

The District makes electronic device(s) and/or electronic device Internet access available to students, to permit students to perform research and to allow students to learn how to use electronic device technology. Use of district electronic devices is for educational and/or instructional purposes only. Student use of electronic device(s) shall only be as directed or assigned by staff or teachers; students are advised that they enjoy no expectation of privacy in any aspect of their electronic device use, including email, and that monitoring of student electronic device use is continuous.

No student will be granted Internet access until and unless an Internet and electronic device -use agreement, signed by both the student and the parent or legal guardian (if the student is under the age of eighteen [18]) is on file. The current version of the Internet and Electronic Device use agreement is incorporated by reference into board policy and is considered part of the student handbook.

Technology Protection Measures

The District is dedicated to protecting students from materials on the Internet or world wide web that are inappropriate, obscene, or otherwise harmful to minors[1]; therefore, it is the policy of the District to protect each electronic device with Internet filtering software that is designed to prevent students from accessing such materials. For purposes of this policy, “harmful to minors" means any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that:
(a) taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion;
(b) 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
(c) taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors.

Internet Use and Safety

The District is dedicated to ensuring that students are capable of using the Internet in a safe and responsible manner. The District uses technology protection measures to aid in student safety and shall also educate students on appropriate online behavior and Internet use[3] including, but not limited to:

- Interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms;
- Cyberbullying awareness; and
- Cyberbullying response.

Misuse of Internet

The opportunity to use the District’s technology to access the Internet is a privilege and not a right. Students who misuse electronic devices or Internet access in any way will face disciplinary action, as specified in the student handbook[4] and/or Internet safety and electronic device use agreement. Misuse of the Internet includes:

- The disabling or bypassing of security procedures, compromising, attempting to compromise, or defeating the district’s technology network security or Internet filtering software;
- The altering of data without authorization;
- Disclosing, using, or disseminating passwords, whether the passwords are the student’s own or those of another student/faculty/community member, to other students;
- Divulging personally identifying information about himself/herself or anyone else either on the Internet or in an email unless it is a necessary and integral part of the student's

academic endeavor. Personally identifying information includes full names, addresses, and phone numbers.

- Using electronic devices for any illegal activity, including electronic device hacking and copyright or intellectual property law violations;
- Using electronic devices to access or create sexually explicit or pornographic text or graphics;
- Using electronic devices to violate any other policy or is contrary to the Internet safety and electronic device use agreement.

Notes: The Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act (PL 106-554, 47 USC 254 (h) (l)) requires districts to hold at least one public hearing on its proposed technology safety measures and Internet safety policy as well as any changes to the policy with reasonable notice given to the community and the media. This notice requirement would be met by the regular notification requirements for a board meeting. The regulations do not require this to be a special meeting and it is allowable for it to be part of a regular school board meeting. The requirement also includes retaining the meeting's agenda and minutes as well as the Tech Plans, Acceptable Use Policy, and Internet Safety Policy for a period of five (5) years. This timeline isn't quite as straightforward as it sounds. To help clarify the retention requirements, the 8/11 Rules cited in the Legal References include the following note:
We conclude that a school or library should be required to retain its Internet safety policy documentation for a period of five (5) years after the funding year in which the policy was relied upon to obtain E-rate funding. For example, if a school adopted an Internet safety policy in 2002 and used that same policy to make its certification in funding year 2009, the school must retain its Internet safety policy documentation for five years after the last day of service for funding year 2009.

[1] The FCC's Rules have been amended to align with the statute's provision which allow local determination of what material is harmful to minors. 47 CFR 54.520(c)(4) states:
Local determination of content. A determination regarding matters inappropriate for minors shall be made by the school board, local educational agency, library, or other authority responsible for making the determination. No agency or instrumentality of the United States Government may establish criteria for making such determination; review the determination made by the certifying school, school board, school district, local educational agency, library, or other authority; or consider the criteria employed by the certifying school, school board, school district, local educational agency, library, or other authority in the administration of the schools and libraries universal service support mechanism.
Therefore, districts must decide on their definition of "harmful to minors." The definition included in the policy is that which is used in the law and Code of Regulations. You may, but you do not have to, change it.

[2] The designated District Technology Administrator or designee may authorize the disabling of the filter to enable access by an adult for a bona fide research or other lawful purpose.

[3] It is important for future Tech Plan approval by the DESE that you have and retain documented proof of such education such as time, place, and materials presented.

[4] For your student handbook, add progressive discipline – first offense consequence, second offense consequence, etc.

Legal References: Children's Internet Protection Act; PL 106-554
FCC Final Rules 11-125 August 11, 2011
20 USC 6777
47 USC 254(h)(l)
47 CFR 54.520
47 CFR 520(c)(4)
A.C.A. § 6-21-107
A.C.A. § 6-21-111

4.29F—STUDENT ELECTRONIC DEVICE and INTERNET USE AGREEMENT

Student's Name (Please Print)_____ Grade Level_____

School_____
Date_____

The Hillcrest School District agrees to allow the student identified above ("Student") to use the district's technology to access the Internet under the following terms and conditions which apply whether the access is through a District or student owned electronic device (as used in this Agreement, "electronic device" means anything that can be used to transmit or capture images, sound, or data):

1. Conditional Privilege: The Student's use of the district's access to the Internet is a privilege conditioned on the Student's abiding to this agreement. No student may use the district's access to the Internet whether through a District or student owned electronic device unless the Student and his/her parent or guardian have read and signed this agreement.

2. Acceptable Use: The Student agrees that he/she will use the District's Internet access for educational purposes only. In using the Internet, the Student agrees to obey all federal laws and regulations and any State laws and rules. The Student also agrees to abide by any Internet use rules instituted at the Student's school or class, whether those rules are written or oral.

3. Penalties for Improper Use: If the Student violates this agreement and misuses the Internet, the Student shall be subject to disciplinary action. [**Note: A.C.A. § 6-21-107 requires the district**

to have "…provisions for administration of punishment of students for violations of the policy with stiffer penalties for repeat offenders, and the same shall be incorporated into the district's written student discipline policy." You may choose to tailor your punishments to be appropriate to the school's grade levels.]

4. "Misuse of the District's access to the Internet" includes, but is not limited to, the following:
   a. Using the Internet for other than educational purposes;
   b. Gaining intentional access or maintaining access to materials which are "harmful to minors" as defined by Arkansas law;
   c. Using the Internet for any illegal activity, including computer hacking and copyright or intellectual property law violations;
   d. Making unauthorized copies of computer software;
   e. Accessing "chat lines" unless authorized by the instructor for a class activity directly supervised by a staff member;
   f. Using abusive or profane language in private messages on the system; or using the system to harass, insult, or verbally attack others;
   g. Posting anonymous messages on the system;
   h. Using encryption software;
   i. Wasteful use of limited resources provided by the school including paper;
   j. Causing congestion of the network through lengthy downloads of files;
   k. Vandalizing data of another user;
   l. Obtaining or sending information which could be used to make destructive devices such as guns, weapons, bombs, explosives, or fireworks;
   m. Gaining or attempting to gain unauthorized access to resources or files;
   n. Identifying oneself with another person's name or password or using an account or password of another user without proper authorization;
   o. Invading the privacy of individuals;
   p. Divulging personally identifying information about himself/herself or anyone else either on the Internet or in an email unless it is a necessary and integral part of the student's academic endeavor. Personally identifying information includes full names, address, and phone number.
   q. Using the network for financial or commercial gain without district permission;
   r. Theft or vandalism of data, equipment, or intellectual property;
   s. Attempting to gain access or gaining access to student records, grades, or files;
   t. Introducing a virus to, or otherwise improperly tampering with the system;
   u. Degrading or disrupting equipment or system performance;
   v. Creating a web page or associating a web page with the school or school district without proper authorization;
   w. Providing access to the District's Internet Access to unauthorized individuals;
   x. Failing to obey school or classroom Internet use rules;
   y. Taking part in any activity related to Internet use which creates a clear and present danger of the substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the district or any of its schools; or
   z. Installing or downloading software on district computers without prior approval of the technology director or his/her designee.

5. Liability for debts: Students and their cosigners shall be liable for any and all costs (debts) incurred through the student's use of the computers or access to the Internet including penalties for copyright violations.

6. No Expectation of Privacy: The Student and parent/guardian signing below agree that if the Student uses the Internet through the District's access, that the Student waives any right to privacy the Student may have for such use. The Student and the parent/guardian agree that the district may monitor the Student's use of the District's Internet Access and may also examine all system activities the Student participates in, including but not limited to e-mail, voice, and video transmissions, to ensure proper use of the system. The District may share such transmissions with the Student's parents/guardians.

7. No Guarantees: The District will make good faith efforts to protect children from improper or harmful matters which may be on the Internet. At the same time, in signing this agreement, the parent and Student recognize that the District makes no guarantees about preventing improper access to such materials on the part of the Student.

8. Signatures: We, the persons who have signed below, have read this agreement and agree to be bound by the terms and conditions of this agreement.

Student's Signature: _____Date _____

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature: _____Date_____

4.30—SUSPENSION FROM SCHOOL

Students who are not present at school cannot benefit from the educational opportunities the school environment affords. Administrators, therefore, shall strive to find ways to keep students in school as participants in the educational process. There are instances, however, when the needs of the other students or the interests of the orderly learning environment require the removal of a student from school. The Board authorizes school principals or their designees to suspend students for disciplinary reasons for a period of time not to exceed ten (10) school days,[1] including the day upon which the suspension is imposed. The suspension may be in school or out of school. Students are responsible for their conduct that occurs:

- At any time on the school grounds;
- Off school grounds at a school-sponsored function, activity, or event; and
- Going to and from school or a school activity.

A student may be suspended for behavior including, but not limited to, that:

1. Is in violation of school policies, rules, or regulations;
2. Substantially interferes with the safe and orderly educational environment;
3. School administrators believe will result in the substantial interference with the safe and orderly educational environment; and/or
4. Is insubordinate, incorrigible, violent, or involves moral turpitude.

Out-of-school suspension (OSS) shall not be used to discipline a student in kindergarten through fifth (5^{th}) grade unless the student's behavior:

a. Poses a physical risk to himself or herself or to others;
b. Causes a serious disruption that cannot be addressed through other means; or
c. Is the act of bringing a firearm on school campus.

OSS shall not be used to discipline a student for skipping class, excessive absences, or other forms of truancy.

The school principal or designee shall proceed as follows in deciding whether or not to suspend a student:

1. The student shall be given written notice or advised orally of the charges against him/her;
2. If the student denies the charges, he/she shall be given an explanation of the evidence against him/her and be allowed to present his/her version of the facts; and
3. If the principal finds the student guilty of misconduct, he/she may be suspended.

When possible, notice of the suspension, its duration, and any stipulations for the student's re-admittance to class will be given to the parent(s), legal guardian(s), person(s) with lawful control of the student, person(s) standing in loco parentis, or to the student if age eighteen (18) or older prior to the suspension. Such notice shall be handed to the parent(s), legal guardian(s), person(s) having lawful control of the student, person(s) standing in loco parentis, or to the student if age eighteen (18) or older or mailed to the last address reflected in the records of the school district.

Generally, notice and hearing should precede the student's removal from school, but if prior notice and hearing are not feasible, as where the student's presence endangers persons or property or threatens disruption of the academic process, thus justifying immediate removal from school, the necessary notice and hearing should follow as soon as practicable.

It is the responsibility of a student's parents, legal guardians, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis to provide current contact information to the district, which the school shall use to immediately notify the parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of a student, or person standing in loco parentis upon the suspension of a student. The notification shall be by one of the following means, listed in order of priority:[2]

- A primary call number;
  - The contact may be by voice, voice mail, or text message.
- An email address;
- A regular first class letter to the last known mailing address.

The district shall keep a log of contacts attempted and made to the parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis.

The District shall establish programs, measures, or alternative means and methods to continue student engagement and access to education during a student's period of OSS.

During the period of their suspension, students serving OSS are not permitted on campus except to attend a student/parent/administrator conference or when necessary as part of the District's engagement or access to education program.[3]

During the period of their suspension, students serving in-school suspension shall not attend or participate in any school-sponsored activities during the imposed suspension.[3]

Suspensions initiated by the principal or his/her designee may be appealed to the Superintendent, but not to the Board.

Suspensions initiated by the Superintendent may be appealed to the Board.

Notes: To satisfy a student's due process rights, make sure that all the IDEA requirements are met for students receiving special education services.

[1] The ten (10) school days are on a traditional school calendar. If your district uses a 4x4 block schedule, the number of days of suspension will need to be modified accordingly.

[2] A.C.A. § 6-18-507(f)(3) requires attempts at contacting parents be made first by phone. If such contact fails, then contact may be by email, and if that is unsuccessful, contact may be by regular first class mail.

[3] Your final language needs to match the language you have chosen for suspensions in policy 4.7.

Cross Reference: 4.7—ABSENCES

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-18-507
DESE Rules Governing Student Discipline and School Safety
Goss v Lopez, 419 U.S. 565 (1975)

4.31—EXPULSION

The Board of Education may expel a student for a period longer than ten (10) school days for violation of the District's written discipline policies. The Superintendent may make a recommendation of expulsion to the Board of Education for student conduct:

- Deemed to be of such gravity that suspension would be inappropriate;
- Where the student's continued attendance at school would disrupt the orderly learning environment; or
- Would pose an unreasonable danger to the welfare of other students or staff.

Expulsion shall not be used to discipline a student in kindergarten through fifth (5th) grade unless the student's behavior:

a. Poses a physical risk to himself or herself or to others;
b. Causes a serious disruption that cannot be addressed through other means; or
c. Is the act of bringing a firearm on school campus.

The Superintendent or his/her designee shall give written notice to the parents, legal guardians, persons having lawful control of the student, or persons standing in loco parentis (mailed to the address reflected on the District's records) that he/she will recommend to the Board of Education that the student be expelled for the specified length of time and state the reasons for the recommendation to expel. The notice shall give the date, hour, and place where the Board of Education will consider and dispose of the recommendation.

The hearing shall be conducted not later than ten (10) school days[1] following the date of the notice, except that representatives of the Board and student may agree in writing to a date not conforming to this limitation.

The President of the Board, Board attorney, or other designated Board member shall preside at the hearing. The student may choose to be represented by legal counsel. Both the district administration and School Board also may be represented by legal counsel. The hearing shall be conducted in open session of the Board unless the parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, person standing in loco parentis, or student if age eighteen (18) or older, requests that the hearing be conducted in executive session. Any action taken by the Board shall be in open session.

During the hearing, the Superintendent, or designee, or representative will present evidence, including the calling of witnesses, who gave rise to the recommendation of expulsion. The student, or his/her representative, may then present evidence including statements from persons with personal knowledge of the events or circumstances relevant to the charges against the student. Formal cross-examination will not be permitted; however, any member of the Board, the Superintendent, or designee, the student, or his/her representative may question anyone making a statement and/or the student. The presiding officer shall decide questions concerning the appropriateness or relevance of any questions asked during the hearing.

Except as permitted by policy 4.22, the Superintendent shall recommend the expulsion of any student for a period of one (1) year for possession of any firearm prohibited on school campus by law. The Superintendent shall, however, have the discretion to modify the expulsion recommendation for a student on a case-by-case basis. Parents, legal guardians, persons having lawful control of a student, or persons standing in loco parentis of a student enrolling from another school after the expiration of an expulsion period for a weapons policy violation shall be given a copy of the current laws regarding the possibility of parental responsibility for allowing a child to possess a weapon on school property.[2] The parents, legal guardians, persons having lawful control of the student, or persons standing in loco parentis shall sign a statement acknowledging that they have read and understand said laws prior to the student being enrolled in school.

The Superintendent and the Board of Education shall complete the expulsion process of any student that was initiated because the student possessed a firearm or other prohibited weapon on school property regardless of the enrollment status of the student.

The District shall establish programs, measures, or alternative means and methods to continue student engagement and access to education during a student's period of expulsion.

Notes: To satisfy a student's due process rights, make sure that all the IDEA requirements are met for students receiving special education services.

[1] The ten (10) school days are on a traditional school calendar. If your district uses a 4x4 block schedule, the number of days of suspension will need to be modified accordingly.

[2] The current law governing parental responsibility is A.C.A. § 5-27-210

Cross Reference: Policy 4.22—WEAPONS AND DANGEROUS INSTRUMENTS

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-18-502
A.C.A. § 6-18-507
DESE Rules Governing Student Discipline and School Safety

4.32—SEARCH, SEIZURE, AND INTERROGATIONS

The District respects the rights of its students against arbitrary intrusion of their person and property. At the same time, it is the responsibility of school officials to protect the health, safety, and welfare of all students enrolled in the District in order to promote an environment conducive to student learning. The Superintendent, principals, and their designees have the right to inspect and search school property and equipment. They may also search students and their personal property in which the student has a reasonable expectation of privacy, when there is reasonable and individualized suspicion to believe such student or property contains illegal items or other items in violation of Board policy or dangerous to the school community.[1] School authorities may seize evidence found in the search and disciplinary action may be taken. Evidence found which appears to be in violation of the law shall be reported to the appropriate authority.

School property shall include, but not be limited to, lockers, desks, and parking lots, as well as personal effects left there by students. When possible, prior notice will be given and the student will be allowed to be present along with an adult witness; however, searches may be done at any time with or without notice or the student's consent. A personal search must not be excessively intrusive in light of the age and sex of the student and the nature of the infraction.

The Superintendent, principals, and their designees may request the assistance of law enforcement officials to help conduct searches. Such searches may include the use of specially trained dogs.

A school official of the same sex shall conduct personal searches with an adult witness of the same sex present.

State Law requires that Department of Human Services employees, local law enforcement, or agents of the Crimes Against Children Division of the Division of Arkansas State Police, may interview students without a court order for the purpose of investigating suspected child abuse. In instances where the interviewers deem it necessary, they may exercise a "72-hour hold" without first obtaining a court order. Other questioning of students by non-school personnel shall be granted only with a court order directing such questioning, with permission of the parents of a student (or the student if above eighteen [18] years of age), or in response to a subpoena or arrest warrant.

If the District makes a report to any law enforcement agency concerning student misconduct or if access to a student is granted to a law enforcement agency due to a court order, the principal or the principal's designee shall make a good faith effort to contact the student's parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis. The principal or the principal's designee shall not attempt to make such contact if presented documentation by the investigator that notification is prohibited because a parent, guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis is named as an alleged offender of the suspected child maltreatment. This exception applies only to interview requests made by a law enforcement officer, an investigator of the Crimes Against Children Division of the Division of Arkansas State Police, or an investigator or employee of the Department of Human Services.

In instances other than those related to cases of suspected child abuse, principals must release a student to either a police officer who presents a subpoena for the student, or a warrant for arrest, or to an agent of state social services or an agent of a court with jurisdiction over a child with a court order signed by a judge. Upon release of the student, the principal or designee shall give the student's parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis notice that the student has been taken into custody by law enforcement personnel or a state's social services agency. If the principal or designee is unable to reach the parent, he or she shall make a reasonable, good faith effort to get a message to the parent to call the principal or designee, and leave both a day and an after-hours telephone number.

Note: [1] Staff are strongly cautioned and advised that to search a student requires **individualized** suspicion, which requires the staff member(s) involved to have:

1. A good reason to believe that a specific student likely possesses an illegal or forbidden item in violation of Board policy; and
2. The belief that the student possesses the item exists both prior to and at the time of the search.

Searches lacking such good faith belief about a particular student are not permitted; this includes routine suspicionless personal searches of all students and random suspicionless personal searches of students or groups of students. (This is distinct and different from random, suspicionless drug testing of students who participate in extracurricular or athletic events, which the United States Supreme Court permits.) Using a metal detector or "wanding" a student constitutes a search. Extraordinary circumstances must exist for a large group of students to be justifiably subjected to a personal or electronic search, such as a credible belief that any one of a number of students might possess something very dangerous (e.g. a gun or a knife). Searching all students to ensure that non-lethal contraband, such as an electronic device, is not possessed would certainly not pass legal muster; this is true regardless of whether or not testing is occurring. Failure to meet these constitutional requirements could lead to serious legal liability on the part of the district.

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-18-513
A.C.A. § 9-13-104
A.C.A. § 12-18-608, 609, 610, 613
A.C.A. § 12-18-1001, 1005

4.33—STUDENTS' VEHICLES

A student who has presented a valid driver's license and proof of insurance to the appropriate office personnel, may drive his/her vehicle to school. Vehicles driven to school shall be parked in the area designated for student parking. Parking on school property is a privilege which may be denied to a student for any disciplinary violation, at the discretion of the student's building principal.

Students are not permitted to loiter in parking areas and are not to return to their vehicles during the school day for any reason unless given permission to do so by school personnel.

It is understood that there is no expectation of privacy in vehicles in parking areas. Drivers of vehicles parked on a school campus will be held accountable for illegal substances or any other item prohibited by District policy found in their vehicle. The act of a student parking a vehicle on campus is a grant of permission for school or law enforcement authorities to search that vehicle.

4.34—COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND PARASITES

Students with communicable diseases or with human host parasites that are transmittable in a school environment shall demonstrate respect for other students by not attending school while they are capable of transmitting their condition to others. Students whom the school nurse determines are unwell or unfit for school attendance or who are believed to have a communicable disease or condition will be required to be picked up by their parent or guardian. Specific examples include, but are not limited to: Varicella (chicken pox), measles, scabies,

conjunctivitis (Pink Eye), impetigo/MRSA (Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus), streptococcal and staphylococcal infections, ringworm, mononucleosis, Hepatitis A, B, or C, mumps, vomiting, diarrhea, and fever (100.4 F when taken orally).[1] A student who has been sent home by the school nurse will be subsequently readmitted, at the discretion of the school nurse, when the student is no longer a transmission risk. In some instances, a letter from a health care provider may be required prior to the student being readmitted to the school.

To help control the possible spread of communicable diseases, school personnel shall follow the District's exposure control plan when dealing with any bloodborne, foodborne, and airborne pathogens exposures. Standard precautions shall be followed relating to the handling, disposal, and cleanup of blood and other potentially infectious materials such as all body fluids, secretions and excretions (except sweat).

In accordance with 4.57—IMMUNIZATIONS, the District shall maintain a copy of each student's immunization record and a list of individuals with exemptions from immunization which shall be education records as defined in policy 4.13. That policy provides that an education record may be disclosed to appropriate parties in connection with an emergency if knowledge of the information is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other individuals.

A student enrolled in the District who has an immunization exemption may be removed from school at the discretion of the Arkansas Department of Health during an outbreak of the disease for which the student is not vaccinated. The student may not return to school until the outbreak has been resolved and the student's return to school is approved by the Arkansas Department of Health.

The parents or legal guardians of students found to have live human host parasites that are transmittable in a school environment will be asked to pick their child up at the end of the school day. The parents or legal guardians will be given information concerning the eradication and control of human host parasites. A student may be readmitted after the school nurse or designee has determined the student no longer has live human host parasites that are transmittable in a school environment.

Each school may conduct screenings of students for human host parasites that are transmittable in a school environment as needed. The screenings shall be conducted in a manner that respects the privacy and confidentiality of each student.

Note: [1] Consult your school nurse for input on potential modifications of this listing. Hepatitis A is more contagious by casual contact than B or C, but B and C have been left in the model policy to err on the side of caution.

Cross References: 4.2—ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS
4.7—ABSENCES

4.13—PRIVACY OF STUDENTS' RECORDS/ DIRECTORY INFORMATION

4.57—IMMUNIZATIONS

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-18-702
Arkansas State Board of Health Rules Pertaining To Immunization Requirements
Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Rules Governing Kindergarten Through 12th Grade Immunization Requirements

4.35—STUDENT MEDICATIONS

Prior to the administration of any medication, including any dietary supplement or other perceived health remedy not regulated by the US Food and Drug Administration, to any student under the age of eighteen (18), written parental consent is required. The consent form shall include authorization to administer the medication and relieve the Board and its employees of civil liability for damages or injuries resulting from the administration of medication to students in accordance with this policy. All signed medication consent forms are to be maintained by the school nurse.

Unless authorized to self-administer or otherwise authorized by this policy, students are not allowed to carry any medications, including over-the-counter (OTC) medications or any dietary supplement or other perceived health remedy not regulated by the US Food and Drug Administration while at school. The parent or legal guardian shall bring the student's medication to the school nurse. The student may bring the medication if accompanied by a written authorization from the parent or legal guardian. When medications are brought to the school nurse, the nurse shall document, in the presence of the parent, the quantity of the medication(s). If the medications are brought by a student, the school nurse shall ask another school employee to verify, in the presence of the student, the quantity of the medication(s). Each person present shall sign a form verifying the quantity of the medication(s).

Medications, including those for self-administration, must be in the original container and be properly labeled with the student's name, the ordering provider's name, the name of the medication, the dosage, frequency, and instructions for the administration of the medication (including times). Additional information accompanying the medication shall state the purpose for the medication, its possible side effects, and any other pertinent instructions (such as special storage requirements) or warnings. Schedule II medications that are permitted by this policy to be brought to school shall be stored in a double locked cabinet.

Students with an individualized health plan (IHP) may be given OTC medications to the extent that such medications are included in the student's IHP.

The district's supervising registered nurse is responsible for creating procedures for the administration of medications on and off campus.

The school shall not keep outdated medications or any medications past the end of the school year. Parents shall be notified ten (10) days in advance of the school's intention to dispose of any medication. Medications not picked up by the parents or legal guardians within the ten (10) day period shall be disposed of by the school nurse in accordance with current law and rules.[1]

Schedule II Medications

Option 1: The only Schedule II medications that shall be allowed to be brought to the school are methylphenidate (e.g. Ritalin or closely related medications as determined by the school nurse), dextroamphetamine (Dexedrine), and amphetamine sulfate (e.g. Adderall or closely related medications as determined by the school nurse).

For the student's safety, no student will be allowed to attend school if the student is currently taking any other Schedule II medication than permitted by this policy.[3] Students who are taking Schedule II medications which are not allowed to be brought to school shall be eligible for homebound instruction if provided for in their IEP or 504 plans.[4]

Option 2: Students taking Schedule II medications methylphenidate (e.g. Ritalin or closely related medications as determined by the school nurse), dextroamphetamine (Dexedrine), and amphetamine sulfate (e.g. Adderall or closely related medications as determined by the school nurse) shall be allowed to attend school.

Students taking Schedule II medications not included in the previous sentence[3] shall be allowed to bring them to school under the provisions of this policy and shall be permitted to attend and participate in classes **only** to the extent the student's doctor has specifically authorized such attendance and participation.[5] A doctor's prescription for a student's Schedule II medication is **not** an authorization. Attendance authorization shall specifically state the degree and potential danger of physical exertion the student is permitted to undertake in the student's classes and extracurricular activities. Without a doctor's written authorization, a student taking Schedule II medications, other than those specifically authorized in this policy, shall **not** be eligible to attend classes, but shall be eligible for homebound instruction if provided for in their IEP or 504 plans.[4]

Self-Administration of Medication

Students who have written permission from their parent or guardian and a licensed health care practitioner on file with the District may:

1) Self-administer either a:
   - Rescue inhaler; or
   - Auto-injectable or nasal spray epinephrine;
2) Perform the student's own blood glucose checks;
3) Administer insulin through the insulin delivery system the student uses;
4) Treat the student's own hypoglycemia and hyperglycemia; or
5) Possess on the student's person:

A. A rescue inhaler;
B. Auto-injectable or nasal spray epinephrine; or
C. The necessary supplies and equipment to perform the student's own diabetes monitoring and treatment functions.

A student may be authorized to self-administer a stress dose medication to treat the student's adrenal insufficiency with:

1. The written authorization of the student's parent, legal guardian, or person standing in loco parentis; and
2. A written order from the student's treating physician stating that the student:
   a. Is capable of completing the proper method of self-administration of the stress dose medication,; and
   b. Has been instructed on the details of the student's medical condition and the events that may lead to an adrenal crisis.

The parent, legal guardian, or person standing in loco parentis of a student who is authorized to self-administer a stress dose medication shall sign an IHP developed by the school nurse for the school where the student is enrolled. The IHP shall include a requirement for the notification of appropriate staff following the self-administration of a stress dose medication, which shall include the school nurse, teacher of the classroom where the stress dose medication was administered, and a school administrator.

Students who have a current consent form on file shall be allowed to carry and self-administer such medication while:

- In school;
- At an on-site school sponsored activity;
- While traveling to or from school; or
- At an off-site school sponsored activity.

A student is prohibited from sharing, transferring, or in any way diverting the student's medications to any other person. The fact that a student with a completed consent form on file is allowed to carry a rescue inhaler,; auto-injectable or nasal spray epinephrine,; diabetes medication,; stress dose medication,; or combination does not require the student to have such on the student's person. The parent or guardian of a student who qualifies under this policy to self-carry a rescue inhaler,; auto-injectable or nasal spray epinephrine,; diabetes medication,; stress dose medication,; or any combination on the student's person shall provide the school with the appropriate medication, which shall be immediately available to the student in an emergency.

Students may possess and use a topical sunscreen that is approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for OTC use to avoid overexposure to the sun without written authorization from a parent, legal guardian, or healthcare professional while the student is on school property or at a school-related event or activity. The parent or guardian of a student may provide written documentation authorizing specifically named District employee(s), in addition to the school nurse, to assist a student in the application of sunscreen. The District employee(s) named in the

parent or legal guardian's written authorization shall not be required to assist the student in the application of sunscreen.

Emergency Administration of Glucagon and Insulin

Students may be administered Glucagon, insulin, or both in emergency situations by the school nurse or, in the absence of the school nurse, a trained volunteer school employee designated as a care provider, provided the student has:

1. An IHP that provides for the administration of Glucagon, insulin, or both in emergency situations; and
2. A current, valid consent form on file from their parent or guardian.

When the nurse is unavailable, the trained volunteer school employee who is responsible for a student shall be released from other duties during:

A. The time scheduled for a dose of insulin in the student's IHP; and
B. Glucagon or non-scheduled insulin administration once other staff have relieved him/her from other duties until a parent, guardian, other responsible adult, or medical personnel has arrived.

A student shall have access to a private area to perform diabetes monitoring and treatment functions as outlined in the student's IHP.

Emergency Administration of Epinephrine

The school nurse or other school employees designated by the school nurse as a care provider who have been trained and certified by a licensed physician may administer epinephrine, either through an auto-injector or nasal spray, auto-injector in emergency situations to students who have an IHP that provides for the administration of epinephrine in emergency situations.

The parent of a student who has an authorizing IHP, or the student if over the age of eighteen (18), shall annually complete and sign a written consent form provided by the student's school nurse authorizing the nurse or other school employee(s) certified to administer epinephrine to administer auto-injector or nasal spray epinephrine to the student when the employee believes the student is having a life-threatening anaphylactic reaction.

Students with an order from a licensed health care provider to self-administer epinephrine, either through an auto-injector or nasal spray, and who have written permission from their parent or guardian shall provide the school nurse either an auto-injector or nasal spray epinephrine. This epinephrine will be used in the event the school nurse, or other school employee certified to administer epinephrine, in good faith professionally believes the student is having a life-threatening anaphylactic reaction and the student is either not self-carrying /epinephrine or the nurse is unable to locate it.

The school nurse for each District school shall keep epinephrine on hand that are suitable for the students the school serves. The school nurse or other school employee designated by the school nurse as a care provider who has been trained and certified by a licensed physician may

administer epinephrine to those students who the school nurse, or other school employee certified to administer auto-injector epinephrine, in good faith professionally believes is having a life-threatening anaphylactic reaction.

Emergency Administration of Albuterol

The school nurse or other school employees designated by the school nurse as a care provider who have been trained and certified by a licensed physician, advanced practice registered nurse, or physician assistant may administer albuterol in emergency situations to students who have an IHP that provides for the administration of albuterol in emergency situations.

The parent of a student who has an authorizing IHP, or the student if over the age of eighteen (18), shall annually complete and sign a written consent form provided by the student's school nurse authorizing the nurse or other school employee(s) certified to administer albuterol to administer albuterol to the student when the employee believes the student is in perceived respiratory distress.

The school nurse for each District school shall keep albuterol on hand. The school nurse or other school employee designated by the school nurse as a care provider who has been trained[6] and certified by a licensed physician, advanced practice registered nurse, or physician assistant may administer albuterol to those students who the school nurse, or other school employee certified to administer albuterol, in good faith professionally believes is in perceived respiratory distress.

Emergency Administration of Anti-opioid

The school nurse for each District school shall keep anti-opioid injectors on hand and the school nurse and school resource officer shall possess an anti-opioid at all times when on duty. The school nurse, other school employee, volunteer, or student may administer anti-opioid in accordance with the District’s procedures to a student who the school nurse, or other observer, in good faith believes is having an opioid overdose.

An opioid overdose rescue kit shall be placed within all storage locations in the District high school buildings that currently contain an automated external defibrillator for public use. The opioid overdose rescue kits shall be located where it is readily available to the public, be visually free of advertisement, and contain an anti-opioid.

Emergency Administration of Emergency Adrenal Insufficiency Medication

The school nurse or other school employees designated by the school nurse as a care provider who have been trained and certified by a licensed physician may administer an injectable emergency dose medication in emergency situations to students who have an IHP that provides for the administration of an injectable emergency dose medication in emergency situations.

The parent of a student who has an authorizing IHP, or the student if over the age of eighteen (18), shall annually complete and sign a written consent form provided by the student's school nurse authorizing the nurse or other school employee(s) certified to administer an injectable

emergency dose medication to administer an injectable emergency dose medication to the student when the employee believes the student is having an adrenal crisis due to adrenal insufficiency.

Students who have met the requirements to be authorized to self-administer a stress dose medication under this policy shall provide the school nurse an emergency injectable dose of the student's medication. This emergency injectable dose will be used in the event the school nurse, or other school employee certified to administer an injectable emergency dose medication, in good faith professionally believes the student is having an adrenal crisis due to adrenal insufficiency.

Seizure Disorder Medications

Students who have been diagnosed with a seizure disorder shall have a seizure action plan that shall be a written IHP designed to acknowledge and prepare for the healthcare needs of the student. The student's seizure action plan shall be created in collaboration between District staff and the student's Parents, legal guardians, persons having lawful control of the student, or persons acting in loco parentis or the student if over eighteen (18). As part of the creation of the student's seizure action plan, the student's Parents, legal guardians, persons having lawful control of the student, or persons acting in loco parentis shall:

1. Provide the school with written authorization to administer the seizure medication at school;
2. Provide a written statement from the student's healthcare provider that shall contain the following information:
    - The student's name;
    - The name and purpose of the medication;
    - The prescribed dosage;
    - The route of administration;
    - The frequency that the medication should be administered; and
    - The circumstances under which the medication should be administered;
1. Provide the prescribed medication to the school in its unopened, sealed package with the label affixed by the dispensing pharmacy intact, which shall be stored in a safe and secure location accessible only by District personnel or volunteers with training to administer seizure medication.

The written authorization, written statement, and seizure action plan shall be kept on file in the office of the school nurse or school administrator and distributed to any school personnel or volunteers responsible for the supervision or care of the student.

Notes: A.C.A. § 17-87-103(11) provides for the administration of Glucagon, insulin, or both to students suffering from diabetes.

Districts are not under any obligation to "recruit" volunteers and 4.11 of the Rules explicitly states that no employee shall be pressured into volunteering.

A.C.A. § 6-18-711(d) requires that, if a school district provides educational information on immunizations, infectious diseases, medications, or other school health issues to

parents and guardians of students, then the following educational information that is created by the Department of Education, in cooperation with the Department of Health, about Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes shall be provided to parents as well:

· A description of Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes;

· A description of the risk factors and warning signs associated with Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes;

· A recommendation to the parent or guardian of a student displaying warning signs associated with Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes that the parent or guardian consult with the student's primary care provider to determine if immediate screening for Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes is appropriate;

· A description of the screening processes for both Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes and of the significance of the stages of Type 1 diabetes;

· A recommendation that, following a Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes diagnosis, the parent or guardian consult with the student's primary care provider to develop an appropriate treatment plan; and

· A statement that the diabetes-related educational information is solely for the purposes of educational information and shall not be considered or construed to be for the purposes of providing a medical diagnosis.

[1] The time frame in this paragraph is not statutorily mandated and may be changed to better suit your district and the employment contract of the school nurse. Any changes you make, however, need to address the need for students to have their medications through the last day of school and the reality of parents' work schedules.

[2] This policy offers two different options regarding permissibility of students attending and participating in classes while taking Schedule II medications. Be sure only one option is included in the adopted policy and delete the "Option One" or "Option Two" language after your selection along with the language for the unchosen option in the final version. Be sure to consult with your school nurse when selecting an option.

[3] Here is a helpful, but not all-inclusive, list of prohibited Schedule II medications: Opium, morphine, codeine, hydromorphone (Dilaudid), methadone, meperidine (Demerol), cocaine, oxycodone (Percodan), amobarbital, pentobarbital, sufentanil, etorphine hydrochloride, phenylacetone, dronabinol, secobarbital, and fentanyl.

[4] A student who has surgery or is in an accident may be taking a Schedule II medication outside of those a student may take and be permitted to attend classes under Option 1 or may have been told by the student's doctor to not attend class during the time the student is taking the Schedule II medication. In such cases, a 504 plan can be developed to cover the duration of the student's recovery, which could include homebound instruction.

[5] The specific authorization should be provided on the doctor's letterhead along with the completed Medication Administration Consent Form (4.35F).

[6] The certification may be received through training that is provided by a nationally recognized organization experienced in training laypersons in emergency health treatment or other persons approved by the Department of Health. Examples of National programs are those provided by the American Heart Association and the American Red Cross.

Legal References: Ark. State Board of Nursing: School Nurse Roles and Responsibilities
Division of Elementary and Secondary Education and Arkansas State Board of Nursing Rules Governing the Administration of Insulin, Glucagon, and Medication for Adrenal Insufficiency or Adrenal Crisis to Arkansas Public School Students
A.C.A. § 6-18-701
A.C.A. § 6-18-707
A.C.A. § 6-18-711
A.C.A. § 6-18-714
A.C.A. § 6-18-717
A.C.A. § 6-18-720
A.C.A. § 6-18-721
A.C.A. § 17-87-103 (11) and (14)
A.C.A. § 20-13-405

Date adopted: 6/23/25
Last Revised: 6/23/25

4.35F—MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION CONSENT FORM

Student's Name (Please Print)
_____

This form is good for the school year _____. This consent form must be updated anytime the student's medication order changes and renewed each year and/or anytime a student changes schools.

Medications, including those for self-administration, must be in the original container and be properly labeled with the student's name, the ordering provider's name, the name of the medication, the dosage, frequency, and instructions for the administration of the medication (including times). Additional information accompanying the medication shall state the purpose for the medication, its possible side effects, and any other pertinent instructions (such as special storage requirements) or warnings.

I hereby authorize the school nurse, or designee, to administer the following medication to my student:

Name of medication _____

Name of physician or dentist (if applicable)

_____

Dosage

_____

Instructions for administering the medication _____

_____

____

Other instructions

_____

I hereby authorize _____ to administer the above medication to my student in the unavailability of the school nurse at school in accordance with the above medication administration instructions.

I authorize the school nurse to take a photograph of my student to be used to verify my student's identification before the school nurse or an authorized individual administers medications to my student.[1]

I acknowledge that the District, its Board of Directors, and its employees shall be immune from civil liability for damages resulting from the administration of medications in accordance with this consent form.

Parent or legal guardian signature _____ Date _____

Note: [1] While this language is optional, we recommend retaining the language unless your supervising school nurse determines it to be unnecessary.

4.35F2—MEDICATION SELF-ADMINISTRATION CONSENT FORM

Student's Name (Please Print)

_____

This form is good for the school year _____. This consent form must be updated anytime the student's medication order changes and renewed each year and/or anytime a student changes schools.

The following must be provided for the student to be eligible to self-administer rescue inhalers and/or auto-injectable epinephrine. Eligibility is **only** valid for this school for the current academic year.

- A written statement from a licensed health-care provider who has prescriptive privileges that the health care provider has prescribed the rescue inhaler, auto-injectable epinephrine, and/or nasal spray epinephrine for the student and that the student needs to carry the medication on the student's person due to a medical condition;
- The specific medications prescribed for the student;
- An individualized health care plan developed by the prescribing health-care provider containing the treatment plan for managing asthma and/or anaphylaxis episodes of the student and for medication use by the student during school hours; and
- A statement from the prescribing health-care provider that the student possesses the skill and responsibility necessary to use and administer the asthma inhaler, auto-injectable epinephrine, and/or nasal spray epinephrine.

If the school nurse is available, the student shall demonstrate the student's skill level in using the rescue inhaler, auto-injectable epinephrine, and/or nasal spray epinephrine to the nurse.

Rescue inhalers, auto-injectable epinephrine, and/or nasal spray epinephrine for a student's self-administration shall be supplied by the student's parent or guardian and be in the original container properly labeled with the student's name, the ordering provider's name, the name of the medication, the dosage, frequency, and instructions for the administration of the medication (including times). Additional information accompanying the medication shall state the purpose for the medication, its possible side effects, and any other pertinent instructions (such as special storage requirements) or warnings.

Students who self-carry a rescue inhaler, an epinephrine auto-injector, or nasal spray epinephrine shall also provide the school nurse with a rescue inhaler, an epinephrine auto-injector, and/or nasal spray epinephrine to be used in emergency situations.

I understand this form authorizes my student to possess and use the medication(s) included on this form while on school grounds and at school sponsored events but that distribution of the medication(s) included on this form to other students may lead to disciplinary action against my student.

My signature below is an acknowledgment that I understand that the District, its Board of Directors, and its employees shall be immune from civil liability for injury resulting from the self-administration of medications by the student named above.

Parent or legal guardian signature

_____

Date _____

4.35F3—GLUCAGON AND/OR INSULIN ADMINISTRATION CONSENT FORM

Student’s Name (Please Print)

_____

This form is good for the school year _____. This consent form must be updated anytime the student's medication order changes and renewed each year and/or anytime a student changes schools.

The school has developed an individual health plan (IHP) acknowledging that my child has been diagnosed as suffering from diabetes. The IHP authorizes the school nurse to administer Glucagon or insulin to my child in an emergency situation.

In the absence of the nurse, trained volunteer district personnel may administer to my child in an emergency situation:

Glucagon _____

Insulin _____

I hereby authorize the school nurse to administer Glucagon and insulin to my child, or, in the absence of the nurse, trained volunteer district personnel designated as care providers, to administer the medication(s) I selected above to my child in an emergency situation. I will supply the medication(s) I selected above to the school nurse in the original container properly labeled with the student’s name, the ordering provider’s name, the name of the medication, the dosage, frequency, and instructions for the administration of the medication (including times). Additional information accompanying the medication shall state the purpose for the medication, possible side effects, and any other pertinent instructions (such as special storage requirements) or warnings.

I acknowledge that the District, its Board of Directors, its employees, or an agent of the District, including a healthcare professional who trained volunteer school personnel designated as care providers shall not be liable for any damages resulting from his/her actions or inactions in the administration of Glucagon or insulin in accordance with this consent form and the IHP.

Parent or legal guardian signature

_____

Date _____

4.35F4—EPINEPHRINE EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATION CONSENT FORM

Student's Name (Please Print)

_____

This form is good for the school year _____. This consent form must be updated anytime the student's medication order changes and renewed each year and/or anytime a student changes schools.

My child has an IHP that provides for the administration of epinephrine in emergency situations. I hereby authorize the school nurse or other school employee certified to administer auto-injectable or nasal spray epinephrine to administer epinephrine in emergency situations when the individual believes my child is having a life-threatening anaphylactic reaction.

The medication must be in the original container and be properly labeled with the student's name, the ordering provider's name, the name of the medication, the dosage, frequency, and instructions for the administration of the medication (including times). Additional information accompanying the medication shall state the purpose for the medication, its possible side effects, and any other pertinent instructions (such as special storage requirements) or warnings.

Date of Health care Provider order _____

Circumstances under which Epinephrine may be administered

_____

_____

Other instructions

_____

_____

I acknowledge that the District, its Board of Directors, and its employees shall be immune from civil liability for damages resulting from the administration of auto-injector epinephrine in accordance with this consent form, District policy, and Arkansas law.

Parent or legal guardian signature

_____

Date _____

Date adopted: 6/23/25

Last Revised: 6/23/25

4.35F5—ALBUTEROL EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATION CONSENT FORM

Student's Name (Please Print)

_____

This form is good for the school year _____. This consent form must be updated anytime the student's medication order changes and renewed each year and/or anytime a student changes schools.

My child has an IHP that provides for the administration of albuterol in emergency situations. I hereby authorize the school nurse or other school employee certified to administer albuterol to administer albuterol in emergency situations when he/she believes my child is in perceived respiratory distress.

The medication must be in the original container and be properly labeled with the student's name, the ordering provider's name, the name of the medication, the dosage, frequency, and instructions for the administration of the medication (including times). Additional information accompanying the medication shall state the purpose for the medication, its possible side effects, and any other pertinent instructions (such as special storage requirements) or warnings.

Date of physician's order _____

Circumstances under which albuterol may be administered

_____

_____

Other instructions

_____

_____

I acknowledge that the District, its Board of Directors, and its employees shall be immune from civil liability for damages resulting from the administration of albuterol in accordance with this consent form, District policy, and Arkansas law.

Parent or legal guardian signature

_____

Date _____

4.35F6—STRESS AND EMERGENCY DOSE MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION CONSENT FORM

Student's Name (Please Print)

_____

This form is good for the school year _____. This consent form must be updated anytime the student's medication order changes and renewed each year and/or anytime a student changes schools.

The school has developed an individual health plan (IHP) acknowledging that my child has been diagnosed as suffering from adrenal insufficiency. The IHP authorizes the school nurse to administer a stress or emergency dose medication to my child in an emergency situation.

Date of physician's order _____

Circumstances under which the stress or emergency dose medication may be administered

_____

_____

_____

Other instructions

_____

_____

_____

In the absence of the nurse, trained volunteer district personnel may administer a stress dose or emergency dose medication to my child in an emergency situation.

I hereby authorize the school nurse to administer a stress or emergency dose medication to my child, or, in the absence of the nurse, trained volunteer district personnel designated as care providers, to administer the stress or emergency dose medication to my child in an emergency situation. I will supply the stress or emergency dose medication to the school nurse in the original container properly labeled with the student's name, the ordering provider's name, the name of the medication, the dosage, frequency, and instructions for the administration of the medication (including times). Additional information accompanying the medication shall state the purpose for the medication, possible side effects, and any other pertinent instructions (such as special storage requirements) or warnings.

I acknowledge that the District, its Board of Directors, its employees, or an agent of the District, including a healthcare professional who trained volunteer school personnel designated as care

providers shall not be liable for any damages resulting from his/her actions or inactions in the administration of the stress or emergency dose medication in accordance with this consent form and the IHP.

Parent or legal guardian signature _____ Date _____

4.35F7—STRESS DOSE MEDICATION SELF-ADMINISTRATION CONSENT FORM

Student's Name (Please Print)

_____

This form is good for the school year _____. This consent form must be updated anytime the student's medication order changes and renewed each year and/or anytime a student changes schools.

The following must be provided for the student to be eligible to self-administer a stress dose medication. Eligibility is **only** valid for this school for the current academic year.

- a written statement from a licensed health-care provider who has prescriptive privileges that he/she has prescribed the stress dose medication for the student and that the student needs to carry the medication on his/her person due to a medical condition;
- the specific medications prescribed for the student;
- an individualized health care plan developed by the prescribing health-care provider containing the treatment plan for managing adrenal insufficiency of the student and for medication use by the student during school hours; and
- A statement from the prescribing health-care provider that the student:
    - Possesses the skill and responsibility necessary to use and administer the stress dose medication; and
    - Has been instructed on the details of his or her medical condition and the events that may lead to an adrenal crisis.

If the school nurse is available, the student shall demonstrate his/her skill level in administering the stress dose medication to the nurse.

Stress dose medication for a student's self-administration shall be supplied by the student's parent or guardian and be in the original container properly labeled with the student's name, the ordering provider's name, the name of the medication, the dosage, frequency, and instructions for the administration of the medication (including times). Additional information accompanying the medication shall state the purpose for the medication, its possible side effects, and any other pertinent instructions (such as special storage requirements) or warnings.

Students who self-carry stress dose medication shall also provide the school nurse with a dose of the stress dose medication to be used in emergency situations.

I understand this form authorizes my student to possess and use the medication included on this form while on school grounds and at school sponsored events but that distribution of the medication included on this form to other students may lead to disciplinary action against my student.

My signature below is an acknowledgment that I understand that the District, its Board of Directors, and its employees shall be immune from civil liability for injury resulting from the self-administration of medications by the student named above.

Parent or legal guardian signature _____ Date _____

4.36—STUDENT ILLNESS/ACCIDENT

If a student becomes too ill to remain in class and/or could be contagious to other students, the principal or designee will attempt to notify the student's parent or legal guardian. The student will remain in the school's health room or a place where he/she can be supervised until the end of the school day or until the parent/legal guardian can check the student out of school.[1]

If a student becomes seriously ill or is injured while at school and the parent/legal guardian cannot be contacted, the failure to make such contact shall not unreasonably delay the school's expeditious transport of the student to an appropriate medical care facility. The school assumes no responsibility for treatment of the student. When available, current, and applicable, the student's emergency contact numbers and medical information will be utilized. Parents are strongly encouraged to keep this information up to date.

Note: [1] Students who are eighteen (18) years of age or older are considered to be legal adults, and as such have the right to check themselves out of school.

4.37—EMERGENCY DRILLS

All schools in the District shall conduct fire drills at least monthly. Tornado drills shall also be conducted not fewer than three (3) times per year.[1] Students who ride school buses,[2] shall also participate in emergency evacuation drills at least twice each school year.

The District shall annually conduct a lockdown drill at all schools in the District in collaboration with local law enforcement, medical professionals, fire department officials, and emergency management personnel. The lockdown drill training will include use of the District's emergency communication method with law enforcement.[3,4] Students will be included in the drills to the extent that is developmentally appropriate for the age of both the students and grade configuration of the school.[5]

Drills may be conducted during the instructional day or during non-instructional time periods.

Other types of emergency drills may also be conducted to test the implementation of the District's emergency plans in the event of violence, terrorist attack, natural disaster, other

emergency, or the District's emergency communication with law enforcement method[3]. Students shall be included in the drills to the extent practicable.[5]

Notes: Districts are required to conduct a comprehensive school safety assessment to assess the safety, security, accessibility, and emergency preparedness of district buildings and grounds in collaboration with local law enforcement, fire, and emergency management officials. The school safety assessment must be conducted at least once every three (3) years, with the initial school safety assessment being completed by no later than August 1, 2024. The comprehensive school safety assessment shall be conducted by more than one (1) individual, which must include at least one (1) individual who is not assigned to the district facility being assessed. The comprehensive school safety assessment shall include at least all of the following:

- Safety and security of the site and exterior of buildings;
- Access control;
- Safety and security of the interior of buildings;
- Monitoring and surveillance, including without limitation type and extent;
- Communication and information security;
- Review of emergency operation plans; and
- School climate and culture.

When developing your school safety plan, be sure to review and address the items set forth in A.C.A. § 6-15-1303(j).

When updating your emergency response plan, include the cardiac emergency response plan requirements from A.C.A. § .

[1] If your district is determined to be within an area susceptible to earthquakes, add the following:
Earthquake safety drills shall be conducted in accordance with the District's safety plan.

[2] Students who only ride buses occasionally, such as to go to and/or from a field trip will also have to participate in the evacuation drills.

[3] Due to the State opting to not appropriate funding for an emergency communication method with law enforcement, including a panic button alert system, districts are no longer required to have an emergency communication method with law enforcement, such as a panic button alert system, but may continue to do so if they choose. If you choose not to continue to provide an emergency communication method with law enforcement, remove references to it from this policy. If you choose to continue to provide a panic button alert system as your emergency communication method with law enforcement, A.C.A. § 6-15-1302 requires that a district's Panic Button Alert System meet the following requirements:

a) Connect the caller with 911 while simultaneously notifying designated on-site personnel;

b) Directly integrated into the existing statewide Smart911 system.
c) Be available for use as a smartphone application and have a mechanism for panic notifications to be triggered by non-smartphone wireless callers and landline callers; and
d) Be limited to users designated, approved, and confirmed by school administrators.

Smart911 is required to provide a way for schools to geo-fence the school campus and provide and manage floor plans and other documents to assist emergency responders when they automatically display during a 911 call. Districts are responsible for keeping the floor plans and pertinent emergency contact information for the statewide Smart911 system up to date, which must be done at least annually or if substantial building modifications or changes are made.

[4] The purpose of the training is to allow participants to:

- Assess the plan and ability of the district to prevent and respond to a threat on campus;
- Clarify the roles and responsibilities of each individual when an emergency occurs;
- Discuss the logistics of handling an emergency on the school campus;
- Identify areas in which the school safety plan should be modified; and
- Collaborate with local law enforcement, fire, and emergency management officials.

[5] Student involvement will need to be worked out school by school and determined relative to grade and age considerations in conjunction with the actual content of the drill. There may be drills conducted that do not include any students due to the explicit nature of the drill and the age of the students while a drill in another school would include students. There are so many facets of responding to a school intruder/shooting incident that it's difficult to know when your planning has dealt with all the contingencies. A good resource on active shooter drills is the "I Love You Guys" Foundation, which was created by the parents of the victim of the school shooting at Platte Canyon High School in Colorado to develop a protocol to advance school safety. The Foundation has **free** materials for districts that can be a big help when developing protocols and training for both personnel and students. A description of the Foundation's recommended protocol and the materials can be found at http://iloveuguys.org/srp.html. An additional resource is the Federal government's "Federal School Safety Clearinghouse", which is located at schoolsafety.gov. Some of these sites' information could also be applied to the other emergency plans required by statute and this policy.

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-10-110
A.C.A. § 6-10-121
A.C.A. § 6-15-1302
A.C.A. § 6-15-1303
A.C.A. § 6-15-1304

A.C.A. § 6-18-713
A.C.A. § 12-13-109

Ark. Division of Academic Facilities and Transportation Rules Governing Maintenance and Operations of Ark. Public School Buses and Physical Examinations of School Bus Drivers 4.03.1

Date adopted: 6/23/25
Last Revised: 6/23/25

4.38—PERMANENT RECORDS

Permanent school records, as required by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), shall be maintained for each student enrolled in the District until the student receives a high school diploma or its equivalent or is beyond the age of compulsory school attendance[1]. A copy of the student's permanent record shall be provided to the receiving school district within ten (10) school days after the date a request from the receiving school district is received[2].

Notes: [1] The legal requirement for retention of student records is as written. ASBA strongly advises districts, however, to retain the records of graduates indefinitely due to the potential for future need of the records by students for college admissions, security clearances, background checks, etc.

[2] The law prohibits districts from refusing to provide the records to receiving schools due to a student owing money to the district.

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-18-901
A.C.A. § 6-28-107
DESE Rules Governing Student Permanent Records

4.39—CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

Option 1

The Hillcrest School Board authorizes the use of corporal punishment to be administered in accordance with this policy by the Superintendent or the superintendent's designated staff members who are required to have a state-issued license as a condition of their employment.[1]

Prior to the administration of corporal punishment, the student receiving the corporal punishment shall be given an explanation of the reasons for the punishment and be given an opportunity to refute the charges.

All corporal punishment shall be administered privately, i.e. out of the sight and hearing of other students, shall not be excessive, or administered with malice, and shall be administered in the presence of another school administrator or designee who shall be a licensed staff member employed by the District.

Corporal punishment shall not be used as a form of discipline for a student who is intellectually disabled, non-ambulatory, non-verbal, or autistic.[2]

4.40—HOMELESS STUDENTS

The Hillcrest School District will afford the same services and educational opportunities to homeless children as are afforded to non-homeless children. The Superintendent or his/her designee shall appoint an appropriate staff person to be the local educational agency (LEA) liaison for homeless children and youth whose responsibilities shall include, but are not limited to:

- Receive appropriate time and training in order to carry out the duties required by law and this policy;
- Coordinate and collaborate with the State Coordinator, community, and school personnel responsible for education and related services to homeless children and youths;
- Ensure that school personnel receive Professional development and other support regarding their duties and responsibilities for homeless youths;
- Ensure that unaccompanied homeless youths:
    - Are enrolled in school;
    - Have opportunities to meet the same challenging State academic standards as other children and youths; and
    - Are informed of their status as independent students under the Higher Education Act of 1965 and that they may obtain assistance from the LEA liaison to receive verification of such status for purposes of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid;
- Ensure that public notice of the educational rights of the homeless children and youths is disseminated in locations frequented by parents or guardians of such youth, and unaccompanied homeless youths, including schools, shelters, public libraries, and soup kitchens, in a manner and form that is easily understandable.

To the extent possible, the LEA liaison and the building principal shall work together to ensure no homeless child or youth is harmed due to conflicts with District policies solely because of the homeless child or youth's living situation; this is especially true for District policies governing fees, fines, and absences.[1]

Notwithstanding Policy 4.1, homeless students living in the district are entitled to enroll in the district's school that non-homeless students who live in the same attendance area are eligible to attend. If there is a question concerning the enrollment of a homeless child due to a conflict with Policy 4.1 or 4.2, the child shall be immediately admitted to the school in which enrollment is sought pending resolution of the dispute, including all appeals. It is the responsibility of the

District's LEA liaison for homeless children and youth to carry out the dispute resolution process.

For the purposes of this policy "school of origin" means:

- The school that a child or youth attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled, including a preschool; and
- The designated receiving school at the next grade level for all feeder schools when the child completes the final grade provided by the school of origin.

The District shall do one of the following according to what is in the best interests of a homeless child:

1. Continue the child's or youth's education in the school of origin for the duration of homelessness:
    - In any case in which a family becomes homeless between academic years or during an academic year; and
    - For the remainder of the academic year, if the child or youth becomes permanently housed during an academic year; or
1. Enroll the child or youth in any public school that non-homeless students who live in the attendance area in which the child or youth is actually living are eligible to attend.

In determining the best interest of the child or youth, the District shall:

- Presume that keeping the child or youth in the school of origin is in the child's or youth's best interest, except when doing so is contrary to the request of the child's or youth's parent or guardian, or (in the case of an unaccompanied youth) the youth;
- Consider student-centered factors related to the child's or youth's best interest, including factors related to the impact of mobility on achievement, education, health, and safety of homeless children and youth, giving priority to the request of the child's or youth's parent or guardian or (in the case of an unaccompanied youth) the youth.

If the District determines that it is not in the child's or youth's best interest to attend the school of origin or the school requested by the parent or guardian, or (in the case of an unaccompanied youth) the youth, the District shall provide the child's or youth's parent or guardian or the unaccompanied youth with a written explanation of the reasons for its determination, in a manner and form understandable to such parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth, including information regarding the right to appeal. For an unaccompanied youth, the District shall ensure that the LEA liaison assists in placement or enrollment decisions, gives priority to the views of such unaccompanied youth, and provides notice to such youth of the right to appeal.

The homeless child or youth must be immediately enrolled in the selected school regardless of whether application or enrollment deadlines were missed during the period of homelessness.

The District shall be responsible for providing transportation for a homeless child, at the request of the parent or guardian (or in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the LEA Liaison), to and from the child's school of origin.[2]

A homeless student shall be immediately eligible to participate in interscholastic activities at the school in which the student is enrolled.

For the purposes of this policy, students shall be considered homeless if they lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and:

a. Are:
   - Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason;
   - Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
   - Living in emergency or transitional shelters;
   - Abandoned in hospitals; or

b. Have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;

c. Are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and

d. Are migratory children who are living in circumstances described in clauses (a) through (c).

In accordance with Federal law, information on a homeless child or youth's living situation is part of the student's education record and shall not be considered, or added, to the list of directory information in Policy 4.13.[3]

Notes: LEA liaisons who receive appropriate training may now affirm that a child or youth who is eligible for and participating in a program provided by the LEA, or the immediate family of such a child or youth, is eligible for homeless assistance programs administered under Title IV of the McKinney – Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvements Act without further determinations from other governmental entities.

A.C.A. § 9-25-106 includes additional rights for unaccompanied youth who are certified by the district LEA to be homeless.

[1] 42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(1)(I) requires that SEAs and LEAs demonstrate they have developed policies to remove barriers to the identification, enrollment, and retention of homeless children and youths, including barriers to enrollment and retention due to outstanding fees or fines, or absences. The policy language is designed to provide as much flexibility as possible to allow a homeless student to succeed while still holding the homeless student responsible for circumstances that are unrelated to the student's living situation.

[2] The District's liability for transportation is more fully covered by 42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(1)(J)(iii)(I) and (II), which read as follows:
(I) If the child or youth continues to live in the area served by the local educational agency in which the school of origin is located, the child's or youth's transportation to and from the school of origin shall be provided or arranged by the local educational agency in which the school of origin is located.

(II) If the child's or youth's living arrangements in the area served by the local educational agency of origin terminate and the child or youth, though continuing the child's or youth's education in the school of origin, begins living in an area served by another local educational agency, the local educational agency of origin and the local educational agency in which the child or youth is living shall agree upon a method to apportion the responsibility and costs for providing the child or youth with transportation to and from the school of origin. If the local educational agencies are unable to agree upon such a method, the responsibility and costs for transportation shall be shared equally.

[3] The prohibition on the release of a student's homeless status is from 42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(3)(G).

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-18-114
A.C.A. § 9-25-106

42 U.S.C. § 11431 et seq.
42 U.S.C. § 11431 (2)
42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(1)(H)(I)
42 U.S.C. § 11432 (g)(1)(J)(i), (ii), (iii), (iii)(I), (iii)(II)
42 U.S.C. § 11432 (g)(3)(A), (A)(i), (A)(i)(I), (A)(i)(II), (A)(ii)
42 U.S.C. § 11432 (g)(3)(B)(i), (ii), (iii)
42 U.S.C. § 11432 (g)(3)(C)(i), (ii), (iii)
42 U.S.C. § 11432 (g)(3)(E)(i), (ii), (iii)
42 U.S.C. § 11432 (g)(3)(G)
42 U.S.C. § 11432 (g)(4) (A), (B), (C), (D), (E)
42 U.S.C. § 11434a
Commissioner's Memo COM-18-044

4.41—PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS OR SCREENINGS

The district conducts routine health screenings such as hearing, vision, and scoliosis due to the importance these health factors play in the ability of a student to succeed in school. The intent of the exams or screenings is to detect defects in hearing, vision, or other elements of health that would adversely affect the student's ability to achieve his/her full potential.

The rights provided to parents under this policy transfer to the student when he/she turns eighteen (18) years old.

Except in instances where a student is suspected of having a contagious or infectious disease, parents shall have the right to opt their student out of the exams or screenings by using form 4.41F or by providing certification from a physician that he/she has recently examined the student.

Note: This policy is not intended to and does not cover invasive physical examinations. "Invasive Physical Examinations" is defined in federal law as any medical examination that involves the exposure of private body parts, or any act during such examination that includes incision, insertion, or injection into the body. It is our understanding that most students who would receive an invasive physical examination would do so as part of the student's individual health plan (IHP) or while at a school based health clinic; neither situation is intended to be covered by this policy.

In the event a student did not fall under one of the above situations, districts should be aware that an invasive physical examination requires that the student's parent/legal guardian be "directly" notified of the specific or approximate dates (to the extent known) during the school year when the invasive physical examination is scheduled within a reasonable period of time that would provide the parent and opportunity to object. Parents of a student whose IHP covers an invasive physical examination have granted permission for that specific type of exam as part of the establishment of the IHP.

"Directly notified" means by mail or email; inclusion in the student handbook does not meet the law's requirements.

Districts with students who participate as athletes in the Arkansas Special Olympics programs should be aware that the student's physical examination for participation in the program must be signed by either an advanced practice nurse or a licensed physician. Many of the participating students often have multiple health challenges, which can sometimes be deadly in the right circumstances (These are often referred to as "co-morbidities".) As a result, it is important that the Special Olympics athlete medical form be completed by the parent and the qualified health care provider. A copy of the medical form can be found on the Policy Resources Page at https://www.arsba.org/page/policy-resources.

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 6-18-701

4.41F—OBJECTION TO PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS OR SCREENINGS

I, the undersigned, being a parent or guardian of a student, or a student eighteen (18) years of age or older, hereby note my objection to the physical examination or screening of the student named below.

Physical examination or screening being objected to:

____ Vision test

____ Hearing test

____ Scoliosis test

____ Other, please specify
_____

Comments:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____
Name of student (Printed)

_____
Signature of parent (or student, if 18 or older)

_____
Date form was filed (To be filled in by office personnel)

4.42—STUDENT HANDBOOK

It shall be the policy of the Hillcrest school district that the most recently adopted version of the Student Handbook be incorporated by reference into the policies of this district. In the event that there is a conflict between the student handbook and a general board policy or policies, the more recently adopted language will be considered binding and controlling on the matter provided the parent(s) of the student, or the student if 18 years of age or older have acknowledged receipt of the controlling language.

Principals shall review all changes to student policies and ensure that such changes are provided to students and parents, either in the Handbook or, if changes are made after the handbook is printed, as an addendum to the handbook.

Principals and counselors shall also review Policies 4.45—SMART CORE CURRICULUM AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS and the current DESE Standards for Accreditation Rules to ensure that there is no conflict. If a conflict exists, the Principal and/or Counselor shall notify the Superintendent and Curriculum Coordinator immediately, so that corrections may be made and notice of the requirements given to students and parents.

Notes: ASBA recommends making this page a "pocket" page and inserting your student handbook into the pocket.

The DESE Standards Assurance unit has said there has been a problem with some committees making changes out of alignment with board policy which can make them out of alignment with statutory and/or DESE Rules which creates a probationary cite in a Standards review. They suggest districts should make sure Handbook Committees' changes align with the student board policy changes. We have not changed the policy regarding the resolution of a conflict between a policy and the handbook because that is accepted legal prioritization.

4.43—BULLYING

Definitions

"Attribute" means an actual or perceived personal characteristic including without limitation race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, socioeconomic status, academic status, disability, gender, gender identity, physical appearance, health condition, or sexual orientation;

"Bullying" means the intentional harassment, intimidation, humiliation, ridicule, defamation, or threat or incitement of violence by a student against another student or public school employee by a written, verbal, electronic, or physical act that

1. May address an attribute of the other student, public school employee, or person with whom the other student or public school employee is associated;
2. Involves an actual or reasonably perceived power imbalance;
3. Is repeated or has a high likelihood of repetition; and
4. Causes or creates actual or reasonably foreseeable:

Physical harm to a public school employee or student or damage to the public school employee's or student's property;

- Substantial interference with a student's education or with a public school employee's role in education;
- A hostile educational environment for one (1) or more students or public school employees due to the severity, persistence, or pervasiveness of the act; or
- Substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school or educational environment;

Examples of "Bullying" include, but are not limited to, a pattern of behavior involving one or more of the following:

1. Cyberbullying;
2. Sarcastic comments "compliments" about another student's personal appearance or actual or perceived attributes,
3. Pointed questions intended to embarrass or humiliate,
4. Mocking, taunting or belittling,
5. Non-verbal threats and/or intimidation such as "fronting" or "chesting" a person,
6. Demeaning humor relating to a student's actual or perceived attributes,
7. Blackmail, extortion, demands for protection money or other involuntary donations or loans,
8. Blocking access to school property or facilities,
9. Deliberate physical contact or injury to person or property,
10. Stealing or hiding books or belongings,
11. Threats of harm to student(s), possessions, or others,
12. Sexual harassment, as governed by policy 4.27, is also a form of bullying, and/or
13. Teasing or name-calling related to sexual characteristics or the belief or perception that an individual is not conforming to expected gender roles or conduct or is homosexual, regardless of whether the student self-identifies as homosexual or transgender (Examples: "Slut", "You are so gay.", "Fag", "Queer").

"Cyberbullying" means any form of communication by electronic act that is sent with the purpose to:

- Harass, intimidate, humiliate, ridicule, defame, or threaten a student, school employee, or person with whom the other student or school employee is associated; or
- Incite violence towards a student, school employee, or person with whom the other student or school employee is associated.

Cyberbullying of School Employees includes, but is not limited to:

a. Building a fake profile or website of the employee;
b. Posting or encouraging others to post on the Internet private, personal, or sexual information pertaining to a school employee;
c. Posting an original or edited image of the school employee on the Internet;
d. Accessing, altering, or erasing any computer network, computer data program, or computer software, including breaking into a password-protected account or stealing or otherwise accessing passwords of a school employee;
e. Making repeated, continuing, or sustained electronic communications, including electronic mail or transmission, to a school employee;
f. Making, or causing to be made, and disseminating an unauthorized copy of data pertaining to a school employee in any form, including without limitation the printed or electronic form of computer data, computer programs, or computer software residing in, communicated by, or produced by a computer or computer network;
g. Signing up a school employee for a pornographic Internet site; or
h. Without authorization of the school employee, signing up a school employee for electronic mailing lists or to receive junk electronic messages and instant messages.

Cyberbullying is prohibited whether or not the cyberbullying originated on school property or with school equipment, if the cyberbullying results in the substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school or educational environment or is directed specifically at students or school personnel and maliciously intended for the purpose of disrupting school and has a high likelihood of succeeding in that purpose.

“Harassment” means a pattern of unwelcome verbal or physical conduct relating to another person's constitutionally or statutorily protected status that causes, or reasonably should be expected to cause, substantial interference with the other's performance in the school environment; and

“Substantial disruption” means without limitation that any one or more of the following occur as a result of the bullying:

- Necessary cessation of instruction or educational activities;
- Inability of students or educational staff to focus on learning or function as an educational unit because of a hostile environment;
- Severe or repetitive disciplinary measures are needed in the classroom or during educational activities; or
- Exhibition of other behaviors by students or educational staff that substantially interfere with the learning environment.

Respect for the dignity of others is a cornerstone of civil society. Bullying creates an atmosphere of fear and intimidation, robs a person of his/her dignity, detracts from the safe environment necessary to promote student learning, and will not be tolerated by the Board of Directors. Students who bully another person shall be held accountable for their actions whether they occur on school equipment or property; off school property at a school sponsored or approved function, activity, or event; going to or from school or a school activity in a school vehicle or school bus; or at designated school bus stops.

Students are encouraged to report behavior they consider to be bullying, including a single action which if allowed to continue would constitute bullying, to their teacher or the building principal. The report may be made anonymously. Teachers and other school employees who have witnessed, or are reliably informed that, a student has been a victim of behavior they consider to be bullying, including a single action which if allowed to continue would constitute bullying, shall report the incident(s) to the building principal, or designee, as soon as possible. Parents or legal guardians may submit written reports of incidents they feel constitute bullying, or if allowed to continue would constitute bullying, to the building principal, or designee.

The person or persons reporting behavior they consider to be bullying shall not be subject to retaliation or reprisal in any form.

A building principal, or designee, who receives a credible report or complaint of bullying shall:

1. As soon as reasonably practicable, but by no later than the end of the school day following the receipt of the credible report of bullying:
    a. Report to a parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of a student, or person standing in loco parentis of a student that their student is the victim in a credible report of bullying; and
    b. Prepare a written report of the alleged incident of bullying;
2. Promptly investigate the credible report or complaint of bullying, which shall be completed by no later than the fifth (5^{th}) school day following the completion of the written report.
3. Notify within five (5) days following the completion of the investigation the parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of a student, or person standing in loco parentis of a student who was the alleged victim in a credible report of bullying whether the investigation found the credible report or complaint of bullying to be true and the availability of counseling and other intervention services.
4. Notify within five (5) days following the completion of the investigation the parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person acting in loco parentis of the student who is alleged to have been the perpetrator of the incident of bullying:
    a. That a credible report or complaint of bullying against their student exists;
    b. Whether the investigation found the credible report or complaint of bullying to be true;
    c. Whether action was taken against their student upon the conclusion of the investigation of the alleged incident of bullying; and
    d. Information regarding the reporting of another alleged incident of bullying, including potential consequences of continued incidents of bullying;
5. Make a written record of the investigation, which shall include:

a. A detailed description of the alleged incident of bullying, including without limitation a detailed summary of the statements from all material witnesses to the alleged incident of bullying;
b. Any action taken as a result of the investigation; and

6. Discuss, as appropriate, the availability of counseling and other intervention services with students involved in the incident of bullying.

Students found to be in violation of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion. In determining the appropriate disciplinary action, consideration may be given to other violations of the student handbook which may have simultaneously occurred.[1] In addition to any disciplinary actions, the District shall take appropriate steps to remedy the effects resulting from bullying.

Notice of what constitutes bullying, the District's prohibition against bullying, and the consequences for students who bully shall be conspicuously posted in every classroom, cafeteria, restroom, gymnasium, auditorium, and school bus.[2] Parents, legal guardians, person having lawful control of a student, persons standing in loco parentis, students, school volunteers, and employees shall be given copies of the notice annually.[3]

The superintendent shall make a report annually to the Board of Directors on student discipline data, which shall include, without limitation, the number of incidents of bullying reported and the actions taken regarding the reported incidents of bullying.

To prevent multiple, simultaneous investigations into the same alleged conduct, if the facts that support an alleged incident of bullying may also constitute a violation of another District policy; State or Federal law; State rule; or Federal regulation, then the District shall investigate and dispose of the alleged incident of bullying in accordance with the other applicable District policy; State or Federal law; State rule; or federal regulation in lieu of the requirements of this policy.

Copies of this policy shall be available upon request.[4]

Notes: DESE has created a guidance document on bullying that could be useful in developing staff and student training on bullying. The document can be found at https://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/Offices/District-Operations/school-safety/bullying-and-violence-prevention.

Different consequences are permitted depending on the age or grade of the bullying student.

[1] Example: a student might be disciplined both for bullying and sexual harassment, in an appropriate situation, or bullying and assault.

[2] Suggestion for the posted notice: Create a circle with a line through it over the word Bullying (similar to a non-smoking logo). Beside the logo write: Mean talk or hurting other people is called bullying. Bullying is against the rules and can get you in trouble, suspended, or expelled. If someone bullies you, or you see someone being bullied, get help by telling an adult.

[3] Copies of the notices are required to be published in any district Publication that sets forth the comprehensive rules, procedures, and standards of conduct for the schools within the district as well as the student handbook.

[4] There should be a statement in the Student Handbook to this effect.

Legal References: A.C.A. § 5-71-217
A.C.A. § 6-18-514
DESE Rules Governing Student Discipline and School Safety
Last Adopted: 06/23/25
Last Revised: 06/23/25

4.44—NATIONAL ANTHEM

Each school in the District shall broadcast The Star-Spangled Banner at:

- The commencement of each school-sanctioned sporting event; however, if two (2) or more school-sanctioned sporting events occur on the same day at the same school, then the broadcast of The Star-Spangled Banner may be performed at only one (1) of the events; and
- At least one (1) time each week during school hours.

The broadcast of The Star-Spangled Banner shall be selected from any recording that adheres to the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Rules, or, when appropriate, performed from original sheet music that adheres to DESE rules by:

- A school-sanctioned band program;
- A school-sanctioned chorale program, vocal group, or vocalist; or
- The attendees of a school-sanctioned event led by a vocalist selected by the principal of the school hosting the school-sanctioned event.

Students shall not be compelled to participate in the performance of The Star-Spangled Banner, but students who choose not to participate in the performance of The Star-Spangled Banner shall not disrupt those students choosing to participate in the performance of The Star-Spangled Banner. Students choosing not to participate in the performance of The Star-Spangled Banner who do not disrupt the participation of performance of The Star-Spangled Banner shall not be subject to any comments, retaliation, or disciplinary action.

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-10-136
DESE Rules Governing the Star-Spangled Banner Act

4.45— GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CLASS OF 2026

Information regarding Graduation requirements will be sent home with students prior to their enrolling in seventh (7th) grade, or when a seventh (7th) through twelfth (12th) grade student enrolls in the district for the first time. This policy is to be included in student handbooks for grades six (6) through twelve (12) and both students and parents must sign an acknowledgement they have received the policy. All students are required to fulfill the Core curriculum or the Alternate Pathway to Graduation when required by their IEP to be eligible for graduation. Counseling by trained personnel shall be available to students and their parents or legal guardians as part of the creation of the student's Student Success Plan.

This policy and the courses necessary for graduation shall be reviewed by staff, students, and parents as part of the annual school district strategic plan development process[3][1] to determine if changes need to be made to better serve the needs of the district's students. The superintendent, or the superintendent's designee, shall select the composition of the review panel.

Sufficient information relating to the district's graduation requirements shall be communicated to parents and students to ensure their informed understanding ; this shall be accomplished through holding an informational meeting for parents, legal guardians, or persons standing in loco parentis to students enrolled in grades six through twelve (6-12) with the school counselor and may be accomplished through any or all of the additional following means:[2]

- **Inclusion in the student handbook of the graduation requirements;**
- **Discussion of the graduation requirements at the school's annual public meeting, PTA meetings, or a meeting held specifically for the purpose of informing the public on this matter; and/or**
- **Distribution of a newsletter(s) to parents or guardians of the district's students.**

Administrators, or their designees, shall train newly hired employees, required to be licensed as a condition of their employment, regarding this policy. The district's annual professional development shall include the training required by this paragraph.[3]

To the best of its ability, the District shall follow the requirements covering the transfer of course credit and graduation set forth in the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children and the Arkansas Military Child School Transitions Act of 2021 for all students who meet the definition of "eligible child" in Policy 4.2—ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS including the waiving of specific courses that are required for graduation if similar coursework has been satisfactorily completed.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The number of units students must earn to be eligible for high school graduation is to be earned from the categories listed below. A minimum of twenty-two (22) units is required for graduation. In addition to the twenty-two (22) units required for graduation by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), the district requires an additional __ units to graduate for a total of __ units. The additional required units may be taken from any electives offered by the district.[4] Accelerated learning courses or career education courses that are determined by DESE to be eligible for use in the place of a listed course may be substituted for the course as designated by DESE.

All students must receive a passing score on the Arkansas Civics Exam in order to graduate.

Students shall be trained in quality psychomotor skill bases in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of automated external defibrillators in order to graduate.

Personal and Family Finance

All students shall receive credit in a course covering the Personal and Family Finance Standards in order to graduate.

Computer Science

All students shall earn one (1) unit of credit in a computer science or computer science related career and technical education course in order to graduate.

English: four (4) units – 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th

Oral Communications: one-half (½) unit

Mathematics: four (4) units

- **Algebra or its equivalent* - 1 unit**
- **Geometry or its equivalent* - 1 unit**
- **All math units must build on the base of algebra and geometry knowledge and skills.**
- **(Comparable accelerated learning courses may be substituted where applicable)**
- **A computer science flex credit may be taken in the place of a math credit beyond Algebra I and Geometry.**

*** A two-year algebra equivalent or a two-year geometry equivalent may each be counted as two units of the four (4) unit requirement.**

Science: three (3) units

a. **DESE approved biology – 1 credit;**
b. **DESE approved physical science – 1 credit; and**
c. **A third unit that is either:**
    - **An additional science credit approved by DESE; or**

- **A computer science flex credit may be taken in the place of a third science credit.**

Social Studies: three (3) units

- **Civics one-half (½) unit**
- **World history, one (1) unit**
- **American History, one (1) unit**
- **Other social studies – one-half (½) unit**

Physical Education: one-half (½) unit
Note: While one-half (½) unit is required for graduation, no more than one (1) unit may be applied toward fulfilling the necessary units to graduate.

Health and Safety: one-half (½) unit

Economics – one half (½) unit – dependent upon the licensure of the teacher teaching the course, this can count toward the required three (3) social studies credits or the six (6) required Career Focus elective credits.[5]

Fine Arts: one-half (½) unit

CAREER FOCUS: - Six (6) units
All career focus unit requirements shall be established through guidance and counseling based on the student's contemplated work aspirations. Career focus courses shall conform to the curriculum policy of the district and reflect state curriculum frameworks through course sequencing and career course concentrations where appropriate.

A student who enlists in a branch of the United States Armed Forces or the National Guard through the military delayed entry program, the National Guard Split Training Option, or other similar early entry program and completes basic training before graduating from high school shall receive two (2) units of the Career Focus graduation requirements.

a student who completes at least seventy-five (75) clock hours of documented community service in grades nine (9) through twelve (12) at any certified service agency or a part of a service-learning school program shall receive one (1) Career Focus credit.[6]

Notes:
[1] We recommend including the review of this policy in the school district strategic plan process so that the resources intended to be provided from the district level are in alignment with your graduation requirements (including any changes to the state level graduation requirements).

[2] Schools are required to retain documentation procedures and methods used.

[3] The Guidelines require the policy to include the training "procedure." If you prefer a different procedure than inclusion in your district's annual professional development process, change this sentence accordingly.

[4] This sentence is necessary if your district requires more than twenty-two (22) units to graduate; without the sentence and you substitute a number greater than twenty-two (22), it appears that the DESE requires more than twenty-two (22) units to graduate. If you have specific requirements for the additional units, change the sentence's wording to reflect those requirements.

[5] The Rules specify the option is dependent upon the licensure of the teacher. Specifically, if the course is taught by a licensed social studies teacher, both options exist. If the course is taught by a licensed business education teacher, the credit must be applied toward the career focus requirement.

[6] In order for students to receive the community service learning (CLS) credit, the district must have completed and submitted a CLS plan to DESE. In addition, a partner site application must be approved by the district's board of directors if an organization the District has partnered with, rather than a District employee, is responsible for certifying a student's hours of service. Districts who do not intend to submit a CLS plan should not include this language.

Cross References: **4.55—STUDENT PROMOTION AND RETENTION**
5.2—PLANNING FOR EDUCATIONAL IMPROVEMENT
5.12—COMPUTER SCIENCE INTERNSHIPS AND INDEPENDENT STUDIES
5.16—COMPUTER SCIENCE COURSE PREREQUISITES AND PROGRESSION

Legal References: **Standards for Accreditation 1-C.2, 1-C.2.1, 1-C.2.2, 1-C.2.3**
DESE Rules Governing Distance and Digital Learning
Commissioner's Memo LS-18-082
A.C.A. § 6-4-302
A.C.A. § 6-15-2906
A.C.A. § 6-15-2911
A.C.A. § 6-16-122
A.C.A. § 6-16-143
A.C.A. § 6-16-149
A.C.A. § 6-16-150
A.C.A. § 6-16-152
A.C.A. § 6-28-115

Date Adopted:06/23/25

Last Revised:06/23/25

4.45.1—GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CLASS OF 2027 AND THEREAFTER

Information regarding Graduation requirements will be sent home with students prior to their enrolling in seventh (7th) grade, or when a seventh (7th) through twelfth (12th) grade student enrolls in the district for the first time. This policy is to be included in student handbooks for grades six (6) through twelve (12) and both students and parents must sign an acknowledgement they have received the policy. All students are required to fulfill the Core curriculum or the Alternate Pathway to Graduation when required by their IEP to be eligible for graduation. Counseling by trained personnel shall be available to students and their parents or legal guardians as part of the creation of the student's Student Success Plan.

This policy and the courses necessary for graduation shall be reviewed by staff, students, and parents as part of the annual school district strategic plan development process[1] to determine if changes need to be made to better serve the needs of the district's students. The superintendent, or the superintendent's designee, shall select the composition of the review panel.

Sufficient information relating to the district's graduation requirements shall be communicated to parents and students to ensure their informed understanding ; this shall be accomplished through holding an informational meeting for parents, legal guardians, or persons standing in loco parentis to students enrolled in grades six through twelve (6-12) with the school counselor and may be accomplished through any or all of the additional following means:[2]

- Inclusion in the student handbook of the graduation requirements;
- Discussion of the graduation requirements at the school's annual public meeting, PTA meetings, or a meeting held specifically for the purpose of informing the public on this matter; and/or
- Distribution of a newsletter(s) to parents or guardians of the district's students.

Administrators, or their designees, shall train newly hired employees, required to be licensed as a condition of their employment, regarding this policy. The district's annual professional development shall include the training required by this paragraph.[3]

To the best of its ability, the District shall follow the requirements covering the transfer of course credit and graduation set forth in the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children and the Arkansas Military Child School Transitions Act of 2021 for all students who meet the definition of "eligible child" in Policy 4.2—ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS including the waiving of specific courses that are required for graduation if similar coursework has been satisfactorily completed.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The number of units students must earn to be eligible for high school graduation is to be earned from the categories listed below. A minimum of twenty-two (22) units is required for graduation In addition to the twenty-two (22) units required for graduation by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), the district requires an additional __ units to graduate for a total of __ units. The additional required units may be taken from any electives offered by the district.[4] Accelerated learning courses or career education courses that are determined by DESE to be eligible for use in the place of a listed course may be substituted for the course as designated by DESE.

All students must receive a passing score on the Arkansas Civics Exam in order to graduate.

Students shall be trained in quality psychomotor skill bases in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of automated external defibrillators in order to graduate.

Personal and Family Finance

All students shall receive credit in a course covering the Personal and Family Finance Standards in order to graduate.

Computer Science

All students shall earn one (1) unit of credit in a computer science or computer science related career and technical education course in order to graduate.

Community Service

Except as otherwise provided by this policy or the student's IEP, each student must receive seventy-five (75) hours of community service that is certified by the service agency or organization where the student volunteers or the student's parent. The community service must be in programs or activities, either in Arkansas or outside of Arkansas, that meet the requirements established by the State Board and the District Board of Directors and include preparation, action, and reflection components. A student who transfers into the District after ninth (9th) grade must receive at least the following documented clock hours of community service each year:

- Fifteen (15) hours for students in grade nine (9);
- Twenty (20) hours for students in grade ten (10);
- Twenty (20) hours for students in grade eleven (11); and
- Twenty (20) hours for students in grade twelve (12).

Students transferring into the District after grade nine (9) or students who are graduating early may receive a diploma provided that the minimum requirement for each year the student attends the District is met. The District Board of Directors may grant a waiver of the community service requirement for extenuating circumstances on a case-by-case basis, which may include without limitation:

- A major illness associated with a student or a family member of a student;
- Student homelessness or housing insecurity; and
- Notice to the public school district board of directors if the student is a major contributor to family income.

English: four (4) units – 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th

Oral Communications: one-half (½) unit

Mathematics: four (4) units

- Algebra or its equivalent* - 1 unit
- Geometry or its equivalent* - 1 unit
- All math units must build on the base of algebra and geometry knowledge and skills.
- (Comparable accelerated learning courses may be substituted where applicable)
- A computer science flex credit may be taken in the place of a math credit beyond Algebra I and Geometry.

* A two-year algebra equivalent or a two-year geometry equivalent may each be counted as two units of the four (4) unit requirement.

Science: three (3) units

a. DESE approved biology – 1 credit;
b. DESE approved physical science – 1 credit; and
c. A third unit that is either:
    - An additional science credit approved by DESE; or
    - A computer science flex credit may be taken in the place of a third science credit.

Social Studies: three (3) units

- Civics one-half (½) unit
- World history, one (1) unit
- American History, one (1) unit
- Other social studies – one-half (½) unit

Physical Education: one-half (½) unit
Note: While one-half (½) unit is required for graduation, no more than one (1) unit may be applied toward fulfilling the necessary units to graduate.

Health and Safety: one-half (½) unit

Economics – one half (½) unit – dependent upon the licensure of the teacher teaching the course, this can count toward the required three (3) social studies credits or the six (6) required Career Focus elective credits.[5]

Fine Arts: one-half (½) unit

CAREER FOCUS: - Six (6) units
All career focus unit requirements shall be established through guidance and counseling based on the student's contemplated work aspirations. Career focus courses shall conform to the

curriculum policy of the district and reflect state curriculum frameworks through course sequencing and career course concentrations where appropriate.

A student who enlists in a branch of the United States Armed Forces or the National Guard through the military delayed entry program, the National Guard Split Training Option, or other similar early entry program and completes basic training before graduating from high school shall receive two (2) units of the Career Focus graduation requirements.

Notes: [1] We recommend including the review of this policy in the school district strategic plan process so that the resources intended to be provided from the district level are in alignment with your graduation requirements (including any changes to the state level graduation requirements).

[2] Schools are required to retain documentation procedures and methods used.

[3] The Guidelines require the policy to include the training "procedure." If you prefer a different procedure than inclusion in your district's annual professional development process, change this sentence accordingly.

[4] This sentence is necessary if your district requires more than twenty-two (22) units to graduate; without the sentence and you substitute a number greater than twenty-two (22), it appears that the DESE requires more than twenty-two (22) units to graduate. If you have specific requirements for the additional units, change the sentence's wording to reflect those requirements.

[5] The Rules specify the option is dependent upon the licensure of the teacher. Specifically, if the course is taught by a licensed social studies teacher, both options exist. If the course is taught by a licensed business education teacher, the credit must be applied toward the career focus requirement.

Cross References: 4.55—STUDENT PROMOTION AND RETENTION
5.2—PLANNING FOR EDUCATIONAL IMPROVEMENT
5.12—COMPUTER SCIENCE INTERNSHIPS AND INDEPENDENT STUDIES
5.16—COMPUTER SCIENCE COURSE PREREQUISITES AND PROGRESSION

Legal References: Standards for Accreditation 1-C.2, 1-C.2.1, 1-C.2.2, 1-C.2.3
DESE Rules Governing Distance and Digital Learning
Commissioner's Memo COM-24-021
Commissioner's Memo LS-18-082
A.C.A. § 6-4-302
A.C.A. § 6-15-2906

A.C.A. § 6-15-2911
A.C.A. § 6-16-122
A.C.A. § 6-16-143
A.C.A. § 6-16-149
A.C.A. § 6-16-150
A.C.A. § 6-16-152
A.C.A. § 6-16-1901 et seq.
A.C.A. § 6-28-115

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Last Revised:06/23/25

4.46—PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

The Pledge of Allegiance shall be recited:

1. During the first class period of each school day;
2. At the commencement of each school-sanctioned after-school assembly; and
3. At the commencement of each school-sanctioned sporting event; however, if two (2) or more school-sanctioned sporting events occur on the same day at the same school, then the Pledge may be recited at only one (1) of the school-sanctioned sporting events.

Students choosing to participate in the recitation of the Pledge shall do so by facing the flag with their right hands over their hearts, or in an appropriate salute if in uniform, while reciting the Pledge. Students choosing not to participate shall either stand or sit quietly while the other students recite the Pledge.

Students shall not be compelled to recite the Pledge, but students who choose not to recite the Pledge shall not disrupt those students choosing to recite the Pledge. Students choosing not to recite the Pledge who do not disrupt those students who choose to recite the Pledge shall not be subject to any comments, retaliation, or disciplinary action.

Following the recitation of the Pledge, there shall be an observance of one (1) minute of silence. During the one (1) minute of silence, each student may reflect, pray, meditate, or engage in any other silent activity that is not likely to interfere with or distract another student. Students who do not disrupt the one (1) minute of silence shall not be subject to any comments, retaliation, or disciplinary action.

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-10-115
A.C.A. § 6-16-108

4.47- POSSESSION AND USE OF PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Definitions

"Emergency" means a serious, unexpected, and dangerous situation that requires immediate action, including without limitation:

- An active fire;
- An active tornado or earthquake;
- An active shooter;
- An evacuation of school grounds; or
- A medical emergency

"Personal electronic device" means without limitation a:

a. Cellular telephone;
b. Paging device;
c. Beeper;
d. Mobile telephone that offers advanced computing and internet accessibility;
e. Digital media player;
f. Portable game console;
g. Tablet, notebook, or laptop computer;
h. Digital camera;
i. Digital video or audio recorder;
j. Smart watch; and
k. Device that can connect and transmit data through Bluetooth technology.

"School day" means from the time students are required to be at school until the time students are dismissed from school.

Possession of Personal Electronic Device

Except as permitted under this policy, a student shall not be in possession of a personal electronic device during the school day. A student may possess a personal electronic device during the school day if:

- The personal electronic device is required by the student's individual education plan (IEP), 504 Plan, or Individual Health Plan for health reasons;[1]
- The possession of the personal electronic device is during an emergency as defined by this policy;
- The personal electronic device is issued by the District for the student's use during the school day; or
- The possession of the personal electronic device is during a special event during the school day.

A student shall be deemed to not be in possession of a personal electronic device if:[2]

Use Of Personal Electronic Device

Except as permitted by this policy, a student shall not use a personal electronic device during the school day. A student may use a personal electronic device during the school day if:

- The personal electronic device is required by the student's individual education plan (IEP), 504 Plan, or Individual Health Plan for health reasons;[1]
- The use of the personal electronic device is during an emergency as defined by this policy;
- The personal electronic device is issued by the District for the student's use during the school day; or
- The use of the personal electronic device is during a special event during the school day.

A student may possess and use a personal electronic device at a special school event for the purpose of taking photographs. The District shall inform the students and students' parents, legal guardians, persons having lawful control of the student, and persons standing in loco parentis the following before a special school event takes place:

- When and where the special school event will take place;
- Whether or not personal electronic devices shall be allowed at the special school event; and
- Where personal electronic devices may be used at the special school event.

The use of personal electronic devices at school sponsored functions outside the regular school day is permitted to the extent and within the limitations allowed by the event or activity the student is attending.

Misuse of Personal Electronic Devices

Even if a student is allowed to possess or use a personal electronic device under this policy, the misuse of a personal electronic device is prohibited. Misuse of personal electronic devices includes, but is not limited to:

1. Using personal electronic devices issued by the District during class time in any manner other than specifically permitted by the classroom instructor;
2. Permitting any audible sound to come from the personal electronic device when not being used for reason #1 above;
3. Engaging in academic dishonesty, including cheating, intentionally plagiarizing, wrongfully giving or receiving help during an academic examination, or wrongfully obtaining test copies or scores;
4. Using the personal electronic device to record audio or video or to take photographs in areas where a general expectation of personal privacy exists, including but not limited to locker rooms and bathrooms;
5. Creating, sending, sharing, viewing, receiving, or possessing an indecent visual depiction of oneself or another person regardless of whether the image is real or created through the use of artificial intelligence;

6. Using a personal electronic device issued by the District in a manner that violates the Electronic Device and Internet Use Agreement regardless of whether the violation occurred on or off campus;
7. Using a personal electronic device at an event during the school day that was not designated as a special school event or in a manner or location that was not authorized as part of the special school event;
8. Using personal electronic devices issued by the District while driving any vehicle at any time;[3] or
9. Using a personal electronic device for the purposes of browsing the internet; composing or reading emails and text messages; or making or answering phone calls while driving a motor vehicle that is in motion and on school property.[4]

Discipline

A student may have a personal electronic device confiscated if:

§ The student is found to possess or use a personal electronic device when the use or possession is not authorized by this policy and the personal electronic device was not issued by the District;
§ The student misuses a personal electronic device as defined by this policy; or
§ The student's parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis uses the remote recording or listening capabilities of a personal electronic device, either through an app installed on the personal electronic device or the built-in capacity of the personal electronic device, except when authorized by the District.[1, 5]

Confiscated personal electronic devices may be picked up at the school's administration office by the student's parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis .[2] Students have no right of privacy as to the content contained on any personal electronic devices that have been confiscated.[3] A search of a confiscated device shall meet the reasonable individualized suspicion requirements of Policy 4.32—SEARCH, SEIZURE, AND INTERROGATIONS.[6]

A student and the student's parents, legal guardians, persons having lawful control of the student, or persons standing in loco parentis expressly assume any risk associated with a student's possession or use of a student's personal electronic device that is not issued by the District. The District shall not be liable for a personal electronic device that is confiscated if the personal electronic device is lost, stolen, or damaged.

In addition to the confiscation of a personal electronic device for a violation of this policy, a student may be subject to the following discipline:[7]

To protect the integrity of the administration of the assessments under the Arkansas Educational Support and Accountability Act, a student who is found to be in possession of or to use a personal electronic device during the administration of a statewide assessment that is not

required by the student's IEP, 504 Plan, or issued by the District shall have the discipline the student is subject to increased by an additional level.

Notes: [1] A student-tracking safety device is prohibited under A.C.A. § 6-18-515 without the device being included in the student's IEP. Part of the agreement of the inclusion of the device in the student's IEP should be that either the device does not have recording or listen-in capability or that the device's recording and listen-in technology is disabled while the device is on the campus or at the school-sponsored event because of student privacy concerns. The student's parent should agree in writing to the requirement for the device's recording and listening-in technology to be disabled and that the District may prohibit future use of the device on campus or at a school-sponsored activity if it is determined that the device's recording or listening-in capabilities were used.

[2] Include where a student may have a personal electronic device during the school day that would not be considered to be in their possession. Examples include: their bag, as long as they are not reaching into the bag to access it during the school day except as permitted by law when removing it from the bag to access; the student's locker; the student's vehicle; or if the district is going to provide storage in classrooms specifically for devices. If you provide electronic device pouches for your students, include the process to be used for placing and removing devices from the pouches.

[3] This sentence is included because insurance companies have ruled that injuries occurring while driving and talking on school issued cell phones are subject to workers comp awards.

[4] A.C.A. § 27-51-1603 makes it illegal for anyone under the age of eighteen (18) to use a wireless communication device for any purpose while operating a motor vehicle. Additionally, A.C.A. § 27-51-1609 prohibits the use of a "wireless handheld telephone" while in a school zone for any purpose when that use is not hands free. While the policy language exceeds the statutory prohibitions, we believe the language is important for the protection of students, employees, and the public.

[5] In addition to those devices referenced in footnote 1, there have been instances where parents have installed remote listening apps onto their student's phone and accessed the app while the student was in school.

[6] To perform a search of an electronic device, an administrator would have to possess individualized suspicion that an examination of the device would reveal evidence of student misconduct, **and** the search itself would have to be tailored to the suspicion. For instance, if there were an allegation that harassing text messages had been sent from Student A to Student B during lunch, individualized suspicion would exist as to the text message history contained on Student A's phone; however, viewing pictures or files unrelated to the suspected misconduct would be inappropriate and a violation of the student's rights under the 4th Amendment of the US Constitution. Merely confiscating a

cell phone because the student received a call on it does not give individualized suspicion to justify a search.

[7] It is recommended that you specify increasing severity of the penalty for repeat offenders. Given the severity of a breach of assessment security, you might consider entirely separate penalties for such action instead of simply increased penalties.

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-15-2907
A.C.A. § 6-18-515
A.C.A. § 27-51-1602
A.C.A. § 27-51-1603
A.C.A. § 27-51-1609
DESE Test Administration Manual
DESE Rules Governing Student Discipline and School Safety

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Last Revised:6/23/25

4.48—VIDEO SURVEILLANCE AND OTHER STUDENT MONITORING

The Board of Directors has a responsibility to maintain discipline, protect the safety, security, and welfare of its students, staff, and visitors while at the same time safeguarding district facilities, vehicles, and equipment. As part of fulfilling this responsibility, the board authorizes the use of video/audio surveillance cameras,[1] automatic identification technology, data compilation devices, and technology capable of tracking the physical location of district equipment, students, and/or personnel.

The placement of video surveillance cameras shall be based on the presumption and belief that students, staff and visitors have no reasonable expectation of privacy anywhere on or near school property, facilities, vehicles, or equipment, with the exception of places such as rest rooms or dressing areas where an expectation of bodily privacy is reasonable and customary.[2]

Signs shall be posted on campus buildings and in district vehicles to notify students, staff, and visitors that video cameras may be in use.[3] Parents and students shall also be notified through the student handbook that cameras may be in use in school buildings, on school grounds and in school vehicles.[4] Students will be held responsible for any violations of school discipline rules caught by the cameras and other technologies authorized in this policy.

The district shall retain copies of video recordings until they are erased[5] which may be accomplished by either deletion or copying over with a new recording. Other than video recordings being retained under the provisions of this policy's following paragraph, the district's video recordings may be erased any time greater than __ after they were created.[6]

Videos,[7] automatic identification, or data compilations containing evidence of a violation of student conduct rules and/or state or federal law shall be retained until the issue of the misconduct is no longer subject to review or appeal as determined by board policy or student handbook[8, 9] any release or viewing of such records shall be in accordance with current law.

Students who vandalize, damage, disable, or render inoperable (temporarily or permanently) surveillance cameras and equipment,[1] automatic identification, or data compilation devices shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action and referral to appropriate law enforcement authorities.

> Notes: This policy is similar to policies 3.41 and 8.29. If you change this policy, review 3.41 and 8.29 at the same time to ensure applicable consistency between the policies.
>
> While 34 CFR 99.3 exempts records of law enforcement units (which for the purposes of this policy would include School Resource Officers (SROs), 34 CFR 99.8(b) effectively negates that exemption in relation to this policy with the following language:
> *(2) Records of a law enforcement unit does not mean--*
> *(i) Records created by a law enforcement unit for a law enforcement purpose that are maintained by a component of the educational agency or institution other than the law enforcement unit; or*

(ii) Records created and maintained by a law enforcement unit exclusively for a non-law enforcement purpose, such as a disciplinary action or proceeding conducted by the educational agency or institution.
The law goes on to say that education records retain their status as such even when in the possession of a law enforcement unit and thus remain subject to the restrictions on the release of education records contained in the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). In short, you cannot deny access to the video recordings that may be used for student or staff disciplinary purposes by "hiding" them in your school's law enforcement unit.

[1] You may recycle your videos on whatever schedule works for your district (insert the length of time you choose to retain the videos in the paragraph's following sentence), but you may not destroy any recordings as long as there is an outstanding request to inspect and review them (34 CFR 99.10). The right to inspect is triggered only for those parents whose students are the cause for the retention of the video recordings. Parents of students "inadvertently" caught in the video do not have the right to inspect them. **Please note, however,** that if a student was not 'involved" in the altercation prompting the disciplinary action, but happened to get pushed by one of the students in the fight, the pushed student's parents have the right to review the video. You must permit viewing of education records within a "reasonable" period of time, but in no case may it be longer than 45 days. (34 CFR 99.10)

[2] The issues involved in parental rights to viewing videos are complicated, but the Student Privacy Policy Office of FERPA, has recently simplified the matter. A video of, for example, a fight between two (or even several) students in which other students happen to have been incidentally included in the background of the video generates the following viewing conditions:

a. Either or both of the students' parents may view the video **without** first having to receive permission from the other student's parent(s). None of the parents of the "incidental" students have to give their permission for the viewing of the video by the "involved" students' parents.
b. If a student's parent lives beyond a reasonable distance to physically come to view the video, your district may mail the video to a "receiving" school near to the parent, where the parent may view the video and then the receiving school will mail the video back to your district. The personnel at the receiving school should not view the video, but merely arrange for the parent to view it by himself/herself.
c. The district is **not** obligated to give a copy of the video to the parent or their lawyer. If, however, you choose to give the parent a video, you are obligated to go through all of the hoops that used to be the case for simply viewing the video. Specifically, faces of the "involved" students other than that of the parent's student must be redacted or else you will have to receive written permission from the parents of the other involved students.
d. Remember that the rights of the parents transfer to the students once the student turns 18.

e. Once the video has been viewed by the parties requesting to view it, the law does not require you to keep the video. Common sense would suggest, however, retaining the video at least until the disciplinary process is completed.

Legal References: 20 USC 1232g
20 U.S.C. 7115
34 CFR 99.3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12, 31

Date Adopted:6/23/25
Last Revised:6/23/25

4.49—SPECIAL EDUCATION

In accordance with the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans With Disabilities Act, and Arkansas Statutes, the district shall provide a free appropriate public education and necessary related services to all children with disabilities who reside:

- Within the district boundaries; or
- Outside of the District boundaries but are enrolled in the District.

It is the intent of the district to ensure that students who are disabled within the definition of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are identified, evaluated and provided with appropriate educational services. Students may be disabled within the meaning of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act even though they do not require services pursuant to the IDEA.

For students eligible for services under IDEA, the District shall follow procedures for identification, evaluation, placement, and delivery of services to children with disabilities provided in the state and federal statutes governing special education. Implementation of an Individualized Education Program (IEP) in accordance with the IDEA satisfies the district's obligation to provide a free and appropriate education under Section 504.

The Board directs the superintendent to ensure procedures are in place for the implementation of special education services and that programs are developed to conform to the requirements of state and federal legislation. The superintendent is responsible for appointing a district coordinator for overseeing district fulfillment of its responsibilities regarding students with disabilities.[1] Among the coordinator's responsibilities shall be ensuring district enforcement of the due process rights of students with disabilities and their parents.

Note: [1] The Office of Civil Rights prefers that the name of the coordinator, or at least a contact person or phone number to call to get the name of the coordinator, is made readily available to the public. 34CFR104.32 stipulates that as part of "child find"

responsibilities, districts take appropriate steps to notify individuals with disabilities and their parents or guardians of the district's child find duty.

Cross Reference: 6.7—COMPLAINTS

Legal References: 34 C.F.R. part 300
20 U.S.C. §1400 et seq.
29 U.S.C. § 794
42 U.S.C. §12101 et seq.
A.C.A. § 6-41-102
A.C.A. § 6-41-103
A.C.A. § 6-41-201 et seq.

4.50—SCHOOL MEAL MODIFICATIONS

Except for requests to receive "lactose free" milk[1], the district only provides modified meal components on menus to accommodate students with a disability. A parent/guardian wishing to request dietary accommodations for their student with a disability must submit to the district's Director of Child Nutrition[1][2] a medical statement completed by a State licensed healthcare professional, which includes:[2][3]

- **Physicians, including those licensed by:**
  - **The Arkansas State Medical Board;**
  - **The Arkansas State Board of Chiropractic Examiners (Chiropractors);**
  - **The Arkansas Board of Podiatric Medicine (Podiatrists);**
- **Nurse Practitioners (APRNs in family or pediatric practice with prescriptive authority);**
- **Physician Assistants (PAs who work in collaborative practice with a physician); and**
- **Dentists.**

The medical statement should include:

1. **A description of the student's disability that is sufficient to understand how the disability restricts the student's diet;**
2. **An explanation of what must be done to accommodate the disability, which may include:**
   - **a. Food(s) to avoid or restrict;**
   - **b. Food(s) to substitute;**
   - **c. Caloric modifications; or**
   - **d. The substitution of a liquid nutritive formula.**

If the information provided in the medical statement is unclear, or lacks sufficient detail, the district's Director of Child Nutrition[2] shall request additional information so that a proper and safe meal can be provided.

When choosing an appropriate approach to accommodate a student's disability, the District will consider the expense and efficiency of the requested accommodations. The District will offer a reasonable modification that effectively accommodates the child's disability and

provides equal opportunity to participate in or benefit from the program, which may include a generic version of a product.

Parents may submit a written request for their student to be provided "lactose free" milk. The parent's request is not required to be accompanied by a medical statement in order for it to be granted.[1]

Parents may file a grievance regarding the request for modifications with the District's 504 Coordinator[4], who will schedule a hearing on the grievance to be held as soon as possible. The 504 coordinator shall provide a copy of the procedures governing the hearing, including that the parent has the right to be accompanied by counsel, and the appeal process upon request.

Except for requests to receive "lactose free" milk[1], the district will not prepare meals outside the normal menu to accommodate a family's religious or personal health beliefs.

Notes: [1] The USDA does not consider requests for "lactose free" milk to be a meal modification that requires medical documentation as it is still dairy milk; this is not true for "non-dairy" milks, such as oat milk or soy milk.

[2] Insert the title of the person handling this responsibility for your district.

[3] A Registered Dietitian Nutritionist may make recommendations for alternate foods for children whose disability restricts their diet, but the medical statement must be signed by one of the professionals listed in this policy.

[4] You are not required to have parents file grievances directly to the 504 coordinator, but we believe the 504 coordinator would be the most knowledgeable about the process and in the best position to handle any grievances.

Legal References: Commissioner's Memo FIN-09-044
Commissioner's Memo FIN-15-122
Commissioner's Memo CNU-17-051
Commissioner's Memo CNU-18-008
Commissioner's Memo CNU-18-023
Commissioner's Memo CNU-18-025
7 CFR 210.10(g)

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4.51—FOOD SERVICE PREPAYMENT

Meal Charges[1]

The Hillcrest School District allows students to charge meals. Students who have any accumulated charges will be given reminders at the end of each month and a letter will be sent home to parents requesting payment.

The district does not provide credit for staff to charge for meals, a la carte, or other food and beverage items available for purchase in the school food service areas. Meals, a la carte, or other food and beverage items may be purchased by either providing payment for the items at the time of receipt or by having a prepaid account with the District that may be charged for the items. Staff choosing to do so, may pay in advance for meals, a la carte, or other food and beverage items through any of the following methods:[2]

- Submitting cash or check payment at any office[3];
- Depositing funds through the District's online service;

Free Breakfast

In accordance with A.C.A. § 6-18-722, a student shall be provided one (1) breakfast at no cost during each school day upon the student's request regardless of whether the student qualifies for a federally funded free or reduced-price meal.

A student's parents will be contacted by authorized District personnel regarding a student's prepaid account balance at the following times :[4]

Option 2: The District participates in _____[5] and provides meals to all students at no charge. The District does not provide credit for students to charge for a la carte or other food and beverage items available for purchase in the school food service areas. A la carte or other food and beverage items may be purchased by either providing payment for the items at the time of receipt or by having a prepaid account with the District that may be charged for the items. Parents, or students choosing to do so, may pay in advance for a la carte or other food and beverage items through any of the following methods:[2]

- Submitting cash or check payment to _____[3];
- Depositing funds through the District's online service;

Unpaid Meal Access[6]

In accordance with Arkansas law, the District allows students whose accounts do not have enough funds to purchase a meal to receive an unpaid reimbursable meal at no charge. The District will notify a student's parents:[7]

- When the student's prepaid account balance has dropped to the point that the student will begin receiving unpaid meals;
- Each time the student receives the first unpaid meal after money has been deposited into the student's prepaid account; and

o After the student has received five (5) unpaid meals.

Students who have submitted proper documentation to receive a meal modification in accordance with Policy 4.50—SCHOOL MEAL MODIFICATIONS shall receive the same type of modification for an unpaid meal.

Notes: This policy is similar to policy 7.17. If you change this policy, please review 7.17 at the same time to ensure applicable consistency between the two.

While districts have the option to allow students to charge for meals and a la carte items, we have not provided any options that would allow students to do so because Chapter 3 of the federal Fair and Accurate Credit Transaction Act of 2007 (15 U.S.C. § 1681 *et seq*.), along with its accompanying regulations (16 C.F.R. part 681), requires "creditors" to implement an Identity Theft Protection Program. We see the establishment and maintenance of an identity theft protection program to be a financial and potentially time-consuming burden. Districts can avoid this burden by not having practices deemed to make them "creditors", such as through the language in this policy.

A copy of this policy must be communicated in writing at least once to all households at the start of each school year and to households of students who transfer to the school during the school year. Some suggestions on communication methods are to include a copy of the policy in:

- Student enrollment materials;
- Print versions of student handbooks; or
- Notification methods on applying for free or reduced price meals.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) does not consider providing a copy of this policy only in electronic format to satisfy the communication requirement.

A written copy of this policy must be provided to all staff responsible for policy enforcement. This includes:

A. School food service professionals;
B. Staff involved in notifying families of low prepaid account balances;
C. School social workers;
D. School nurses; and
E. The LEA homeless student liaison.

[1] While the options provided in this section are written as though they will apply to the district as a whole and that you will only need to select one option, the circumstances at your district may require you to select an option at the individual school level. As an example: if your elementary and middle school both participate in the USDA's Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) while the high school is a traditional school, then you would need to adopt Option 2 for both the elementary and middle school and Option 1 for the high school.

[2] Insert the methods here that parents and students may use to put money into the student's account. If you do not have an online method for parents to place money in a student's account, then remove it from this list. If you have an online prepayment system, the USDA requires that an option for the parent or student to provide funds through a cash or check system continue to be provided as not all families may have easy access to the internet. In addition, if there are any fees associated with your online prepayment system, or any other prepayment system, which are not covered by the district, you are required to inform district parents of the fees.

[3] Insert the place where parents and students may go to submit money for the student's account. Examples include, but are not limited to: the district's central office, the school's central office, or the food service office.

[4] Insert the times and methods an authorized person will attempt to contact a student's parents to inform them the student's account is low. As an example, you may choose to have the parents be contacted by phone when the student's account has five dollars ($5) left and to send a letter along with a copy of the policy if the student's account becomes empty. The goal is to try and prevent a student from showing up with too few funds to purchase a meal.

[5] Insert the applicable USDA Special Assistance Provision. Examples include, but are not limited to, the USDA's CEP or Provision 2.

[6] While the language provided in this section is written as though it applies to the district as a whole, the circumstances at your district may require you to include or not include the language at the individual school level. As an example: if your elementary and middle school both participate in USDA's CEP while the high school is a traditional school, then you would not need the language to be included in the handbooks for the elementary and middle schools but would need to include the language for the high school. The Hunger-Free Students Bill of Rights (A.C.A. § 6-18-715) requires that a student be allowed to receive the same reimbursable meal as other students even if the student has no funds in the student's prepaid account or is unable to pay at the time of service.

[7] Insert a number of unpaid meals a student may receive before you will contact a student's parents. Law requires that you inform the parents that the student has received unpaid meals no later than when the student has received the fifth (5^{th}) unpaid meal. While the only times we have included in the policy for a student's parents to be notified that their student has received an unpaid meal to each time the student's prepaid account is low enough that a student ends up receiving an unpaid meal and after a student receives five (5) unpaid meals, you may add additional times the student's parents will be notified.

Legal References: Commissioner's Memo CNU-17-003
Commissioner's Memo CNU-17-024
A.C.A. § 6-18-715
A.C.A. § 6-18-722

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4.52—STUDENTS WHO ARE FOSTER CHILDREN

The District will afford the same services and educational opportunities to foster children that are afforded other children and youth. The District shall work with the Department of Human Services (DHS), the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), and individuals involved with each foster child to ensure that the foster child is able to maintain the foster child's continuity of educational services to the fullest extent that is practical and reasonable.

The Superintendent or the superintendent's designee shall appoint an appropriate staff person to be the local educational liaison for foster children and youth whose responsibilities shall include ensuring the timely school enrollment of each foster child and assisting foster children who transfer between schools by expediting the transfer of relevant educational records.[1]

The District, working with other individuals and agencies shall, unless the presiding court rules otherwise or DHS grants a request to transfer under Foster Child School Choice, ensure that the foster child remains in the foster child's school of origin, even if a change in the foster child's placement results in a residency that is outside the district. In such a situation, the District will work with DHS to arrange for transportation to and from school for the foster child to the extent it is reasonable and practical.[2]

Upon notification to the District's foster care liaison by a foster child's case worker that a foster child's school enrollment is being changed to one of the District's schools, the school receiving the child must immediately enroll the foster child. Immediate enrollment is required even if a child lacks the required clothing, academic or medical records, or proof of residency.[3]

A foster child's grades shall not be lowered due to absence from school that is caused by a change in the child's school enrollment, the child's attendance at dependency-neglect court proceedings, or other court-ordered counseling or treatment.

Any course work completed by the foster child prior to a school enrollment change shall be accepted as academic credit so long as the child has satisfactorily completed the appropriate academic placement assessment.[4]

If a foster child was enrolled in a District school immediately prior to completing the foster child's graduation requirements while detained in a juvenile detention facility or while committed to the Division of Youth Services of DHS, the District shall issue the child a diploma.

Foster Child School Choice
If DHS approves a request from a foster parent, or the foster child if the foster child is eighteen (18) years of age, to transfer to another school in the District or into the district as being in the best interest of the foster child, the District shall allow the foster child to transfer to another

school in the District or into the District if the foster parent, or the foster child if the foster child is eighteen (18) years of age, submits a request to transfer on a form approved by DESE that is postmarked by no later than June 1 of the year the student seeks to begin the fall semester at another school in the District or in the District.

By July 1 of the school year in which the student seeks to transfer under this section, the superintendent shall notify the foster parent, or the foster child if the foster child is eighteen (18) years of age, in writing whether the application has been accepted or rejected. If the application is accepted, the superintendent shall state in the notification letter a reasonable deadline for the foster child to enroll in the new school or the District and that failure to enroll by the date shall void the school choice acceptance. If the application is rejected, the superintendent shall state in the notification letter the reason for the rejection and that the foster parent, or the foster child if the foster child is eighteen (18) years of age, may submit a written appeal of the rejection to the State board within ten (10) days of receiving the notification letter.

The District shall only reject a Foster Child School Choice application if:[5]

1. The public school or District has reached the maximum student-to-teacher ratio allowed under federal law; state law; the standards for accreditation; or other applicable State rule or Federal regulation; or
2. Approving the transfer would conflict with a provision of an enforceable desegregation court order or a public school district's court-approved desegregation plan regarding the effects of past racial segregation in student assignment.

A foster child whose application is rejected by the District may submit a written request within ten (10) days following the receipt of the rejection letter from the superintendent to the State Board of Education for the State Board to reconsider the transfer.

A Foster Child School Choice transfer shall remain in effect until the foster child:

- Graduates from high school; or
- Transfers to another school or school district under:
  - The Foster Child School Choice Act;
  - Opportunity Public School Choice Act;
  - The Public School Choice Act of 2015; or
  - Any other law that allows a transfer.

The District shall accept credits toward graduation that were awarded by another public school district.

When a foster child transfers from the foster child's school of origin to another school in the District or into the District, the foster child or the foster parent is responsible for the foster child's transportation to and from the school the foster child transferred to. The District and the foster parent, or the foster child if the foster child is eighteen (18) years of age, may enter into a written agreement for the District to provide the transportation to and from the school the foster child transferred to.

Notes: Additional guidance documents and training materials on students in foster care may be found on the DESE website at: https://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/Offices/public-school-accountability/federal-programs/Foster%20Care%20Liaison.

[1] The name and contact information of the liaison must be sent to the Special Education Section of DESE at the beginning of each school year. A.C.A. § 9-28-113 contains additional requirements/duties of the liaison.

[2] While A.C.A. § 9-28-113(b)(4) encourages districts to "arrange for transportation," there is no explanation of costs or methods.

[3] A.C.A. § 9-28-113 does not address a district's right to refuse enrollment following a hearing before the board for a student that has been expelled from another school, but we believe that right is retained even in this circumstance.

[4] This language is from A.C.A. § 9-28-113(g). You may add a sentence defining how you interpret its meaning or you may make it a procedural issue which would leave you more latitude for case-by-case implementation.

[5] If the district is not under an enforceable desegregation court order or a court-approved desegregation plan, remove it as an option for denial of a Foster Child School Choice application.

If a foster child application is denied due to the district's enforceable desegregation court order or court-approved desegregation plan, the law requires that the district immediately submit proof from a federal court to DESE that the public school district has a genuine conflict under an active desegregation order or active court-approved desegregation plan with the provisions of A.C.A. § 6-18-233.

Cross References: 4.1—RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS
4.2—ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS
4.5—SCHOOL CHOICE
4.7—ABSENCES

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-18-233
A.C.A. § 9-28-113

Date Adopted: 6/23/25
Last Revised: 6/23/25

4.53— PLACEMENT OF MULTIPLE BIRTH SIBLINGS

The parent, guardian or other person having charge or custody of multiple birth siblings in grades pre-K through 6 may request that the multiple birth siblings are placed in either the same or separate classrooms. The request shall be in writing not later than the 14th calendar day prior to the first day of classes at the beginning of the academic year. The school shall honor the request unless it would require the school to add an additional class to the sibling's grade level. If one parent of multiple birth siblings requests a placement that differs from that of the other parent of the same multiple birth siblings, the school shall determine the appropriate placement of the siblings.

The school may change the classroom placement of one or more of the multiple birth siblings if:

- There have been a minimum of 30 instructional days since the start of the school year; and
  - After consulting with each classroom teacher in which the siblings were placed, the school determines the parent's classroom placement request is:
    - Detrimental to the educational achievement of one or more of the siblings;
    - Disruptive to the siblings' assigned classroom learning environment; or
    - Disruptive to the school's educational or disciplinary environment.

If a parent believes the school has not followed the requirements of this policy, the parent may appeal the multiple birth siblings' classroom placement to the Superintendent. The Superintendent's decision regarding the appeal shall be final.

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 6-18-106

4.54 - STUDENT ACCELERATION

The Board believes that acceleration is an effective and research-based intervention for the academic growth of students who are ready for an advanced or faster-paced curriculum. Acceleration can allow a student to move through the traditional educational setting more rapidly, based on assessed readiness, capability, and motivation. At the same time, the Board understands that acceleration is not a replacement for gifted education services or programs.

Generally, acceleration can occur through one of two broad categories: content based and grade based. Grade based acceleration shortens the number of years a student would otherwise spend in K-12 education, while content based acceleration occurs within the normal K-12 time span. Either form of acceleration can be triggered by either a parent/guardian, student, or community member's request or by the referral of school personnel. In either case, the process of determining the appropriateness of the request shall be under the direction of the district/school[1] Gifted and Talented Program Coordinator. The district/school[1] Gifted and Talented Program Coordinator shall convene the Acceleration Placement Committee[2] and communicate with the

individuals necessary for the Acceleration Placement Committee to make an informed decision, which shall include the student's parents or guardians.[3]

While the needs of the student should dictate when acceleration decisions are considered, the Board believes the optimal time for referrals is in the spring, which gives adequate time for working through the determination process and for preparing those concerned for a smooth transition to the acceleration beginning in the following school-year.

The District's Gifted and Talented (GT) Program Coordinator[1] will create a written format to govern the referral and determination process, which shall be made available to any parent or staff member upon request.

The parents/guardians of any student whose request for acceleration has been denied may appeal the decision, in writing to the District's GT Coordinator[1]. The Districts GT Coordinator[1] and the Acceleration Placement Committee will again thoroughly review the case study that was completed on the student. Upon completion of the review, the Committee will either request additional new testing be conducted to help the Committee make its determination or it will uphold the initial decision. The Committee's decision may not be further appealed.

Notes: [1] Choose the appropriate designation/option. In a large district with more than one GT Coordinator responsible for the determination process, insert "school." In districts with only one GT Coordinator insert "district." It is conceivable that in districts with more than one GT Coordinator, the choice of inserting district and school will not always be the same.

[2] The DESE Rules require that the acceleration placement committee be made up of at least five (5) professional educators (including administrators, teachers, and/or counselors) and chaired by a gifted education specialist. Suggestions for individuals to be included on the committee include, but are not limited to:

- Building Principal;
- Counselor;
- Teachers (This may include both the student's current teacher(s) as well as teacher(s) that the student would have if the acceleration is granted.)

[3] The student's parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control, or person standing in loco parentis must be provided an opportunity to provide input into the possible acceleration of their student; however, the parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control, or person standing in loco parentis of the student does not have a vote in the determination on whether the acceleration request will be granted as only the acceleration placement committee may make that determination.

Legal Reference: DESE Gifted and Talented Rules

4.55—STUDENT PROMOTION AND RETENTION

A disservice is done to students through social promotion and is prohibited by state law. The District shall, at a minimum, evaluate each student annually in an effort to help each student who is not performing at grade level. Parents, legal guardians, persons having lawful control of the student, or persons acting in loco parentis shall be kept informed concerning the progress of their student(s). Notice of a student's possible retention or required retaking of a course shall be included with the student's grades sent home to each parent/guardian or the student if 18 or older. Parent-teacher conferences are encouraged and may be held as necessary in an effort to improve a student's academic success.

Each time a student is assessed by use of a high-quality literacy screener, with results at least once each semester, the Parents, legal guardians, persons having lawful control of the student, or persons acting in loco parentis, and teacher(s) of a student in kindergarten through eighth (8^{th}) grade shall be notified in writing of the student's independent grade-level-equivalency in reading and, in a parent friendly manner, the student's reading progress.

Any grades, course credits, and/or promotions received by a student while enrolled in the Division of Youth Services system of education shall be considered transferable in the same manner as those grades, course credits, and promotions from other accredited Arkansas public educational entities.

Promotion or retention of students, or their required retaking of a course shall be primarily based on the following criteria.[1] If there is doubt concerning the promotion or retention of a student or his/her required retaking of a course, a conference shall be held before a final decision is made that includes the following individuals:

a. The building principal or designee;
b. The student's teacher(s);
c. School counselor;
d. A 504/special education representative (if applicable); and
e. The student's parents, legal guardians, persons having lawful control of the student, or persons standing in loco parentis.

The conference shall be held at a time and place that best accommodates those participating in the conference. The school shall document participation or non-participation in required conferences. If the conference attendees fail to agree concerning the student's placement or receipt of course credit, the final decision shall rest with the principal or the principal's designee.

Each student shall have a student success plan (SSP) developed by school personnel in collaboration with the student's parents and the student that is reviewed and updated annually. A student's SSP shall use multiple academic measures to personalize learning in order for students to achieve their grade-level expectations and individual growth. The SSP will identify if the student is in need of additional support or acceleration. Academic measures to be used in creating and updating a student's SSP shall include, but are not limited to:

- Statewide student assessment results;
- Subject grades;
- Student work samples; and

- Local assessment scores.

The SSP for a student in kindergarten through grade three (K-3) who does not meet the reading standard As set by the state board and determined by a high-quality literacy screener or the statewide assessment shall include an individual reading plan for each student. An individual reading plan shall include:

1. The student's specific, diagnosed reading skill needs, including without limitation:
   - Phonemic awareness;
   - Phonics decoding;
   - Text reading fluency;
   - Vocabulary-building strategies; and
   - Self-regulated use of reading comprehension strategies, as identified by high-quality literacy screener data;
2. The goals and benchmarks for the student's growth;
3. How the student's progress will be monitored and evaluated;
4. The type of additional instructional services and interventions the student may receive;
5. The intensive, evidence-based literacy intervention program aligned to the science of reading the student's teacher will use to address the areas of phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension;
6. The strategies the student's parents, legal guardians, or persons standing in loco parentis to the student are encouraged to use in assisting the student to achieve the student's reading goal; and
7. Any additional services the student's teacher determines are available and appropriate to accelerate the student's reading skill development.

All parents, legal guardians, or persons standing in loco parentis shall be notified in writing:

a. Of the content of their child's independent reading plan and progress on the independent reading plan throughout the year; and
b. By no later than October 1 of each year, or as soon as practicable if a student's reading need is identified after October 1:
   - Of their student’s eligibility to participate in the literacy tutoring grant program;
   - The process for applying for the literacy tutoring grant program; and
   - Other information provided by DESE.

For each student who does not meet the reading standard established by the state board by the end of third (3rd) grade, including students who are promoted to the fourth (4th) grade under a good cause waiver, the District, during the subsequent summer and school year, shall:

a. Provide at least ninety (90) minutes of evidence-based literacy instruction aligned to the science of reading during each school day;
b. Assign the student to:
   - If the District has a teacher with a value-added model score in the top quartile statewide in English language arts for the past three (3) years, a teacher with a value-added model score in the top quartile statewide in English language arts for the past three (3) years; or

- If the District is unable to identify a teacher with a value-added model score in the top quartile statewide in English language arts for the past three (3) years, a teacher:
    - With a highly-effective rating according to the Teacher Excellence and Support System, when possible; or
    - Deemed to be a high-performing teacher as defined by a Master Professional Educator designation.

c. Provide parents, legal guardians, or persons standing in loco parentis to students with a "read-at-home" plan to support student early literacy growth, which shall include evidence-based science of reading strategies and tools that are aligned to a student's individual reading plan for parents, legal guardians, or persons standing in loco parentis to use with their student;
d. Notify parents, legal guardians, or persons standing in loco parentis to a student regarding their student's eligibility for a literacy tutoring grant;
e. Be given priority to receive a literacy tutoring grant; and
f. Be given the option to participate in additional intensive, evidence-based literacy intervention programs aligned to the science of reading.

The SSP of a student in kindergarten through grade eight (K-8) who is not performing at or above grade level on the state assessment, as defined by the State Board of Education shall include a math intervention plan. The math intervention plan may include the:

1. Provision of each student with access to high-dosage, targeted math tutoring in the subsequent school year, which shall include three (3) or more tutoring sessions a week in a one-on-one or small-group setting;
2. Assignment to:
    - if the District has a teacher with a value-added model score in the top quartile statewide in math for the previous three (3) years, a teacher, with a value-added model score in the top quartile statewide in math for the previous three (3) years; or
    - if the District is unable to find a teacher with a value-added model score in the top quartile statewide in math for the previous three (3) years, a teacher:
        - With a highly-effective rating in the Teacher Excellence and Support System, when possible; or
        - Deemed to be a high-performing teacher as defined by a Master Professional Educator designation; and
3. Provision of each student with extended time on math instruction during or after school.

All parents, legal guardians, or persons standing in loco parentis shall receive written notification of their student's math intervention plan and progress on the student's math intervention plan throughout the school year.

By the end of grade eight (8), the student's SSP shall:[4]

- Guide the student along pathways to graduation;
- Address accelerated learning opportunities;
- Address academic deficits and interventions; and
- Include college and career planning components.

Based on a student's score on the college and career assessment:

- The student's SSP will be updated in order to assist the student with college and career readiness skills, course selection in high school, and improved academic achievement; and
- Provide a basis for counseling concerning postsecondary preparatory programs.

A student's SSP shall include the recommended sequence of courses for successful completion of the diploma pathway selected by the student but be sufficiently flexible to allow the student to change the student's selected diploma pathway. The school counselor shall meet with the student's parent, legal guardian, or persons standing in loco parentis and the student to review the student's SSP annually and to revise the student's SSP as necessary to identify the courses to be taken each year until all required core courses are completed. Part of the review shall include an explanation of the possible impacts the revisions to the plan might have on the student's graduation requirements and postsecondary education goals. Any change made to a student's SSP as part of the review that amends the student's diploma pathway shall be structured to ensure that the student will meet the high school graduation requirements for the student's chosen diploma pathway and be qualified for admission to a postsecondary educational institution or to enter the workforce. After each review, the student's SSP shall be signed by the student; student's parent, legal guardian, or person standing in loco parentis to the student; and the school counselor.

An SSP shall be created:

1. By no later than the end of the school year for a student in grade eight (8) or below[2] who enrolls in the District during the school year; or
2. As soon as reasonably possible for a student in grade nine (9) or above who enrolls in the District at the beginning or during the school year.

A student's individualized education program (IEP) may act in the place of the student's SSP if the IEP addresses academic deficits and interventions for the student's failure to meet standards-based academic goals at an expected rate or level and includes a transition plan that addresses college and career planning components. Promotion or retention of students with an IEP shall be based on their successful attainment of the goals set forth in their IEP.

Students who either refuse to sit for a Statewide assessment or attempt to boycott a Statewide assessment by failing to put forth a good faith effort on the assessment as determined by the assessment administrator/proctor, or whose parents do not send their student to school on the dates the assessments are originally administered or scheduled as make-up days shall not be permitted to participate in any non-curriculum related extracurricular activity, including school dances, prom, homecoming, senior events, and may be prevented from walking or participating in graduation exercises. The student shall remain ineligible to participate until the student takes the same or a following Statewide assessment, as applicable. The Superintendent or designee may waive this paragraph's provisions when the student's failure was due to exceptional or extraordinary circumstances.[5] Students falling under the provisions of this paragraph shall be permitted to attend curriculum related field trips occurring during the school day.[6]

Notes: [1] Insert the criteria your district uses for promotion/retention. The criteria must include the following for students in kindergarten through grade four (k-4):

- A student who has not met the third-grade reading standard as defined by the state board shall not be promoted to fourth(4^{th}) grade unless the student has a good cause waiver. The following students may receive a good cause waiver:
- Limited English Proficiency students who have had less than three (3) years of instruction in an English language learner program;
- Students with a disability who are not eligible for the alternate assessment and who have an individualized education program or a 504 plan that reflects that the individual student:
  - Has received an intensive, evidence-based literacy intervention program aligned to the science of reading for more than two (2) years; and
  - Still demonstrates a need in reading proficiency or previously was retained in kindergarten, grade one (1), grade two (2), or grade three (3);
- Students who:
  - Have received an intensive, evidence-based literacy intervention program aligned to the science of reading for two (2) or more years;
  - Still demonstrate a need in reading proficiency and who previously were retained in kindergarten, grade one (1), grade two (2), or grade three (3);
  - Have received a special education referral and a full comprehensive evaluation; and
  - Have not met exceptional education criteria;
- Students who have already been retained in kindergarten, grade one (1), grade two (2), or grade three (3) for one (1) year;
- Students who can demonstrate that they are successful and independent readers and can perform at or above grade level by use of subsequent student assessments or alternative assessments; or
- Other students with necessary, justifiable good-cause exemptions identified as appropriate by the state board, in consultation with reading experts.

[2] The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Rules Governing the Arkansas Educational Support and Accountability Act only requires that an SSP be created for students in eighth (8^{th}) grade and beyond and DESE will only cite a district if a student does not have an SSP by the end of eighth (8^{th}) grade and beyond. We have opted to have the default language in the policy be for an SSP to be created for every student, with additional information reviewed and added starting in eighth (8^{th}) grade, for a couple of reasons:

First, we believe requiring an SSP for all grades allows for improved communication between parents, teachers, and students. The creation and existence of an SSP at all levels allows for the use of common terminology (such as a parent who has more than one student simultaneously enrolled at a district would not have to know to ask to review and discuss the SSP for the student in eighth (8^{th}) grade or above and also have to know to ask for the Response to Intervention plan for the student who is below the eighth (8^{th}) grade.) In addition, requiring teachers, parents, and the student (when appropriate) to meet to create an SSP at all grades will help to foster channels of communications between parents and teachers, increase parental engagement, and help prepare parents for the more formal planning process when the student is in eighth (8^{th}) grade and beyond.

Second, the creation, evaluation, and updating of the SSP at the lower levels should help to establish a student focused learning system by helping to ensure each student is receiving the educational support(s) necessary for his/her individual educational development, whether the supports are through a Response to Intervention system, the Gifted and Talented program, or anywhere in between.

[3] While students in kindergarten through grade three (k-3) are not required to have an SSP, students who are not reading at grade level are required to have an individual reading plan and students in kindergarten through grade eight (K-8) are required to have a math intervention plan. You are required to report to DESE the types of interventions used and the number of students receiving each type of intervention.

[4] Subsections 6.05.1 through 6.05.4 of the Arkansas Educational Support and Accountability Act rules include additional recommendations for consideration when creating and updating a student's SSP on each of the items in this list.

[5] This paragraph is optional. The paragraph originated with the movement for students to opt out of state assessments. A.C.A. § 6-15-2907(e) requires all students participate in the statewide assessments and this paragraph is intended to add local incentive for students to participate. While the entire paragraph is optional, the last sentence is important as it would keep the policy from having "zero tolerance" (which we do not support) and give you latitude to accommodate instances beyond the student's control such as a car accident, serious illness, or other acts of God. If you choose to include the sentence, you may change "Superintendent" to "Principal" if that would work better for your district. Keep in mind that the decision on who is responsible for deciding whether or not to grant an exception for extraordinary circumstances is a different and separate issue than deciding whether or not to promote or retain a student, which is left in the hands of the school principal earlier in the policy. Be sure to align your decision for this footnote with the decision you made concerning footnote #5.

[6] This paragraph is optional. Participation in graduation or extracurricular activities is not a right, and districts may legally place conditions on a public school student's eligibility for participation (such as testing compliance), but districts cannot deny a diploma to an otherwise qualified student or deny a student the ability to attend school. If you choose to include the paragraph, the third to the last sentence may be amended to apply to a timeline of your choice. Be sure to align the staff position responsible for deciding whether or not to grant an exception with the decision you made for footnote #4.

Cross References: 3.30—PARENT-TEACHER COMMUNICATION
4.56—EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES - SECONDARY SCHOOLS
4.56.1—EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES – ELEMENTARY
5.13—STUDENT INTERVENTION SERVICES AND SUMMER SCHOOL

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-15-2001
A.C.A. § 6-15-2005
A.C.A. § 6-15-2006
A.C.A. § 6-15-2907
A.C.A. § 6-15-2911
A.C.A. § 6-17-429
A.C.A. § 6-17-431
A.C.A. § 9-28-205
DESE Rules Governing the Arkansas Educational Support and Accountability Act
DESE Rules Governing Grading and Course Credit
Murphy v. State of Ark., 852 F.2d 1039 (8th Cir. 1988)

Last Adopted: 06/23/25
Last Revised: 06/23/25

4.56—EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES – SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Definitions:

"Academic Courses" are those courses for which class time is scheduled, which can be credited to meet the minimum requirements for graduation, which is taught by a teacher required to have State licensure in the course or is otherwise qualified under Arkansas statute, and has a course content guide which has been approved by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). Any of the courses for which concurrent high school credit is earned may be from an institution of higher education recognized by DESE. If a student passes an academic course offered on a block schedule, the course can be counted twice toward meeting the requirement for students to pass four (4) academic courses per semester as required by this policy.

"Extracurricular activities" are defined as: any school sponsored program where students from one or more schools meet, work, perform, practice under supervision outside of regular class time, or are competing for the purpose of receiving an award, rating, recognition, or criticism, or qualification for additional competition. Examples include, but are not limited to, inter/interscholastic athletics, cheerleading, band, choral, math, or science competitions, field trips, and club activities.

"Field Trips" are when individual students or groups of students are invited to programs or events when there is no competition and the students are not interacting with each other for the purpose of planning, qualifying, or arranging for future programs or for the purpose of receiving recognition.

"Interscholastic Activities" means athletic or non-athletic/academic activities where students compete on a school vs. school basis.[1]

"Interscholastic Activities" means athletic or non-athletic/academic activities where students compete with students from within the same school.[1]

"Supplemental Improvement Program (SIP)" is an additional instructional opportunity for identified students outside of their regular classroom and meets the criteria outlined in the current Arkansas Activities Association (AAA) Handbook.

Extracurricular Eligibility

The Board believes in providing opportunities for students to participate in extracurricular activities that can help enrich the student's educational experience. At the same time, the Board believes that a student's participation in extracurricular activities cannot come at the expense of the student's classroom academic achievement. Interruptions of instructional time in the classroom are to be minimal and absences from class to participate in extracurricular activities shall not exceed one (1) per week per extracurricular activity (tournaments excepted)[2]. Additionally, a student's participation in, and the District's operation of, extracurricular activities shall be subject to the following policy. All students are eligible for extracurricular activities unless specifically denied eligibility on the basis of criteria outlined in this policy.

Any student who refuses to sit for a Statewide assessment or attempts to boycott a Statewide assessment by failing to put forth a good faith effort on the assessment as determined by the assessment administrator/proctor, or whose parents do not send their student to school on the dates the assessments are administered or scheduled as make-up days shall not be permitted to participate in any non-curriculum related extracurricular activity. The student shall remain ineligible to participate until the student takes the same or a following statewide assessment, as applicable. The superintendent or designee may waive this paragraph's provisions when the student's failure was due to exceptional or extraordinary circumstances.[3] Students falling under the provisions of this paragraph shall be permitted to attend curriculum related field trips occurring during the school day.[4]

A student who enrolls in the district and meets the definition of "eligible child" in Policy 4.2—ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS shall be eligible to try out for an extracurricular activity regardless of the date the student enrolls in the District so long as the student meets all other eligibility requirements and the extracurricular activity is still ongoing.

A student and the parent or legal guardian of the student shall sign and return an acknowledgement of receipt and review of an information sheet regarding signs and symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest before the student may participate in an athletic activity and before each school year the student participates in an athletic activity.

No student shall be required to pay for individual or group instruction in order to participate in an extracurricular activity.

Interscholastic Activities

Each school in the District shall post on its website its schedule of interscholastic activities, including sign-up, tryout, and participation deadlines, at least one semester in advance of those activities. A hard copy of the schedule shall be available upon request.[5]

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS: Junior High

A student promoted from the sixth to the seventh grade automatically meets scholarship requirements. A student promoted from the seventh to the eighth grade automatically meets scholarship requirements for the first semester. The second semester eighth-grade student meets the scholarship requirements for junior high if the student has successfully passed four (4) academic courses the previous semester.

The first semester ninth-grade student meets the scholarship requirements for junior high if the student has successfully passed four (4) academic courses the previous semester.

The second semester ninth-grade student meets the scholarship requirements for junior high if the student has successfully passed (4) academic courses the previous semester which count toward the student's high school graduation requirements.

Ninth-grade students must meet the requirements of the senior high scholarship rule by the end of the second semester in the ninth grade in order to be eligible to participate in the fall semester of their tenth-grade year.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS: Senior High

In order to remain eligible for competitive interscholastic activity, a student must have passed (4) academic courses the previous semester and either:

1. Have earned a minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.0 from all academic courses the previous semester; or
2. If the student has passed four (4) academic courses the previous semester but does not have a 2.0 GPA the student must be enrolled and successfully participating in an SIP to maintain their competitive interscholastic extracurricular eligibility.

STUDENTS WITH AN INDIVIDUAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

In order to be considered eligible to participate in competitive interscholastic activities, students with disabilities must pass at least four (4) courses per semester as required by their individual education program (IEP).

Homeless Students

Students who are determined to be experiencing homelessness by the school's homeless LEA shall be eligible for participation in interscholastic activities.

ARKANSAS ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

In addition to the foregoing rules, the district shall abide by the rules of AAA governing interscholastic activities. AAA provides catastrophic insurance coverage for students participating in AAA governed extracurricular activities who are enrolled in school. As a matter of District policy, no student may participate in a AAA governed extracurricular activity unless

the student is enrolled in a district school, to ensure all students are eligible for AAA catastrophic insurance.[6]

Interscholastic Activities

AAA Governed Activities

Students participating in interscholastic extracurricular activities that would be governed by AAA if they were to occur between students of different schools shall meet all interscholastic activity eligibility requirements to be eligible to participate in the comparable interscholastic activity. The District will abide by the AAA Handbook for such activities to ensure District students are not disqualified from participating in interscholastic activities.[7]

Non-AAA Governed Activities

Unless made ineligible by District policies, all students shall be eligible to participate in non-AAA governed interscholastic extracurricular activities. Interscholastic activities designed for a particular grade(s) or course(s) shall require the student to be enrolled in the grade(s) or course(s).

School Choice Transfers

A student who transfers under a legal school choice option shall not be denied participation in an extracurricular activity where the student transfers based exclusively on the student's decision to transfer. A student who transfers after June 1 of the year the student enters grades seven through ten (7-10) shall complete a Changing Schools/Athletic Participation form as defined by AAA, which must be signed by the:

- Superintendent of the student's resident school district;
- Superintendent of the nonresident school district to which the student transfers; and
- Parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis to the student.

The completed Changing Schools/Athletic Participation form shall be filed with the non-resident school district where the student transfers and the AAA. The Changing Schools/Athletic Participation form shall be signed by the superintendent of a student's resident school district and the superintendent of the nonresident school district to which a student transfers unless there is demonstrable evidence of recruiting by the receiving school district personnel or that the student is transferring to the nonresident school district solely for athletic purposes.

A student who transfers into the District and is enrolled in the District by June 1 of the school year the transfer student will be enrolled in grade seven (7), eight (8), nine (9), or ten (10) shall be immediately eligible to participate in an extracurricular activity that is an athletic activity. If a transfer student is not enrolled in the District by June 1 of the school year the student will be enrolled in grade seven (7), eight (8), nine (9), or ten (10), then the transfer student shall not be eligible to participate in an extracurricular activity that is a varsity athletic activity for up to three hundred sixty-five (365) days.

NOTES: The standards as outlined above are minimum standards and can be raised locally if desired. If your district does not offer a SIP, delete the references to it in your policy.

AAA standards allow a student to participate in an SIP for a maximum of two (2) consecutive semesters and require the student to improve the student's GPA by at least 10% by the end of the first semester to remain eligible for the second semester. By the end of the second semester, the student must have attained a 2.0 GPA to be eligible for competitive interscholastic activities. Following one or more semesters where the student has attained a 2.0 GPA, this cycle may be repeated.

[1] The definition for **inter**scholastic activities is effectively taken from the AAA Handbook and is the origin for the extrapolated definition of **interscholastic** activities. When it comes to implementing this policy, it may be important/helpful to keep in mind that the Handbook also points out the following: Performance activities such as band, speech, drama, etc. may be viewed as competitive arenas both internally (ratings by individual schools) and externally (comparisons of individual or school ratings with a view toward determining an ultimate winner). Additionally, both inter and intra scholastic activities may be curricular if the activity is required as part of the course.

[2] While the Standards for Accreditation no longer expressly requires a policy that "shall limit and control interruptions of instructional time in the classroom and the number of absences for such activities", we believe that restrictions on the interruption of instructional time to be a best practice. You could replace "one (1) per week per extracurricular activity" with a specific number of days per semester that could also allow the student to "bank" or accumulate days in anticipation of a major event.

[3] This sentence is optional, but it would keep the policy from having "zero tolerance" (which we do not support) and give you latitude to accommodate instances beyond the student's control such as a car accident, serious illness, or other acts of God. If you choose to include the sentence, you may change "Superintendent" to "Principal" if that would work better in your district. Be sure to align your decision for this footnote with the decision you have made on the same issue that exists in policies 4.55 and 4.56.1.

[4] This paragraph is entirely optional. Participation in extracurricular activities is not a right, and districts may legally place conditions on a public school student's eligibility for participation (such as testing compliance), but districts cannot deny a diploma to an otherwise qualified student or deny a student the ability to attend school. If you choose to include the paragraph, the third to the last sentence may be amended to apply to a timeline of your choice.

[5] This paragraph is not statutorily required, but has been added to align with Policies 4.56.2—EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY ELIGIBILITY FOR HOME SCHOOLED STUDENTS and 4.56.3- EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY ELIGIBILITY FOR PRIVATE SCHOOL STUDENTS with the belief that such information will benefit all students.

[6] This also applies to home schooled and private school students and is cleverly accommodated by an adjustment to APSCN reporting outlined in Commissioner's Memo FIN-14-11 or Commissioner's Memo COM-18-009 if the student is also taking courses in accordance with Policy 4.59.

[7] Districts should be aware that the AAA handbook contains rules prohibiting students who participate on school sponsored teams of the following interscholastic activities from being permitted to participate in practices and competitions for the same sport during the same season of the interscholastic activity:

a. Football;
b. Basketball;
c. Baseball;
d. Softball; and
e. Volleyball.

Cross References: 4.40—HOMELESS STUDENTS
4.55—STUDENT PROMOTION AND RETENTION
4.56.1—EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES - ELEMENTARY

Legal References: Arkansas Activities Association Handbook
A.C.A. § 6-4-302
A.C.A. § 6-15-2907
A.C.A. § 6-16-151
A.C.A. § 6-18-114
A.C.A. § 6-18-115
A.C.A. § 6-18-227
A.C.A. § 6-18-713
A.C.A. § 6-18-1904
A.C.A. § 6-28-108
Commissioner's Memo COM-18-009
Commissioner's Memo LS-18-015

Date adopted: 6/23/25
Last Revised: 6/23/25

4.56.1—EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES - ELEMENTARY

Definitions

"Extracurricular activities" are defined as: any school sponsored program where students from one or more schools meet, work, perform, practice under supervision outside of regular class time, or are competing for the purpose of receiving an award, rating, recognition, or criticism, or qualification for additional competition. Examples include, but are not limited to,

inter/interscholastic athletics, cheerleading, band, choral, math, or science competitions, field trips, and club activities.

"Field Trips" are when individual students or groups of students are invited to programs or events when there is no competition and the students are not interacting with each other for the purpose of planning, qualifying, or arranging for future programs or for the purpose of receiving recognition.

"Interscholastic Activities" means athletic or non-athletic/academic activities where students compete on a school vs. school basis.

"Interscholastic Activities" means athletic or non-athletic/academic activities where students compete with students from within the same school.

Extracurricular Eligibility

The Board believes in providing opportunities for students to participate in extracurricular activities that can help enrich the student's educational experience. At the same time, the Board believes that a student's participation in extracurricular activities cannot come at the expense of his/her classroom academic achievement. Interruptions of instructional time in the classroom are to be minimal and absences from class to participate in extracurricular activities shall not exceed one per week per extracurricular activity[1] (tournaments or other similar events excepted with approval of the _____).[2] All students are eligible for extracurricular activities unless specifically denied eligibility on the basis of criteria outlined in this policy.

A student may lose his/her eligibility to participate in extracurricular activities when, in the opinion of the school's administration, the student's participation in such an activity may adversely jeopardize his/her academic achievement. Students may also be denied permission to participate in extracurricular activities as a consequence of disciplinary action taken by the administration for inappropriate behavior.[3]

Any student who refuses to sit for a Statewide assessment or attempts to boycott a Statewide assessment by failing to put forth a good faith effort on the assessment as determined by the assessment administrator/proctor, or whose parents do not send their student to school on the dates the assessments are administered or scheduled as make-up days shall not be permitted to participate in any non-curriculum related extracurricular activity. The student shall remain ineligible to participate until the student takes the same or a following statewide assessment, as applicable. The superintendent or designee may waive this paragraph's provisions when the student's failure was due to exceptional or extraordinary circumstances.[4] Students falling under the provisions of this paragraph shall be permitted to attend curriculum related field trips occurring during the school day.[5]

A student who enrolls in the district and meets the definition of "eligible child" in Policy 4.2—ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS shall be eligible to try out for an extracurricular activity regardless of the date the student enrolls in the District so long as the student meets all other eligibility requirements and the extracurricular activity is still ongoing.

No student shall be required to pay for individual or group instruction in order to participate in an extracurricular activity.

A student and the parent or legal guardian of the student shall sign and return an acknowledgement of receipt and review of an information sheet regarding signs and symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest before the student may participate in an athletic activity and before each school year the student participates in an athletic activity.

Notes: [1] While the Standards for Accreditation no longer expressly requires a policy that "shall limit and control interruptions of instructional time in the classroom and the number of absences for such activities", we believe that restrictions on the interruption of instructional time to be a best practice. You could replace "one per week per extracurricular activity" with a specific number of days per semester that could also allow the student to "bank" or accumulate days in anticipation of a major event.

[2] Fill in the blank with the position of the person you wish to make responsible for the decision, e.g. principal or superintendent.

[3] Make sure your student handbook matches this language.

[4] This sentence is optional but it would keep the policy from having "zero tolerance" (which we do not support) and give you latitude to accommodate instances beyond the student's or parent's control such as a car accident, serious illness, or other acts of God. If you choose to include the sentence, you may change "Superintendent" to "Principal" if that would work better in your district. Be sure to align your decision for this footnote with the decision you have made on the same issue that exists in policies 4.55 and 4.56.

[5] This paragraph is entirely optional. Participation in extracurricular activities is not a right, and districts may legally place conditions on a public school student's eligibility for participation (such as testing compliance), but districts cannot deny a diploma to an otherwise qualified student or deny a student the ability to attend school. If you choose to include the paragraph, the third to the last sentence may be amended to apply to a timeline of your choice.

Cross References: 4.55—STUDENT PROMOTION AND RETENTION
4.56—EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES – SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-4-302
A.C.A. § 6-15-2907
A.C.A. § 6-16-151
A.C.A. § 6-18-713
A.C.A. § 6-28-108
Commissioner's Memo LS-18-015

4.56.2—EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY ELIGIBILITY FOR HOME SCHOOLED STUDENTS

Home-schooled student means a student legally enrolled in an Arkansas home school and who meets or has met the criteria for being a home-schooled student, as established by A.C.A. § 6-15-503.

Interscholastic activity means an activity between schools subject to rules of the Arkansas Activities Association that is outside the regular curriculum of the school district, such as an athletic activity, fine arts program, or a special interest group or club.

Each school in the District shall post on its website its schedule of interscholastic activities, including sign-up, tryout, and participation deadlines, at least one semester in advance of those activities. A hard copy of the schedule shall be available upon request.[1]

Home-schooled students whose parents or guardians are legal residents of the school district will be permitted to pursue participation in an interscholastic activity in the student's resident school zone[2] as permitted by this policy.

Home-schooled students whose parent or legal guardian are not residents of the school district will be permitted to pursue participation in an interscholastic activity in the District if:

- The superintendent of the student's resident district and the superintendent of the District both agree in writing to allow the student to participate in interscholastic activities at the District; or
- The student's resident school does not offer the interscholastic activity and the superintendent of the non-resident district agrees to allow the student to enroll in the interscholastic activity.

Although not guaranteed participation in an interscholastic activity, home-school students who meet the provisions of this policy, AAA Rules, and applicable Arkansas statutes shall have an equal opportunity to try out and participate in interscholastic activities without discrimination. The District shall provide a reasonable alternative to any prerequisite for eligibility to participate in an interscholastic activity that the home-schooled student is unable to meet because of the student's enrollment in a home school.

No student shall be required to pay for individual or group instruction in order to participate in an interscholastic activity.

To be eligible to try out and participate in interscholastic activities, the student or the parent of a student shall mail or hand deliver the student's request to participate to the student's school's principal before the signup, tryout or participation deadline established for traditional students. Additionally, the student shall demonstrate academic eligibility by obtaining a minimum test score of the 30th percentile or better in the previous 12 months on the Stanford Achievement Test

Series, Tenth Edition; another nationally recognized norm-referenced test; or a minimum score on a test approved by the State Board of Education.

A student who meets the requirements for eligibility to participate in an interscholastic activity is required to register for no more than one non-academic course[3] in the District's school where the student is intending to participate in an interscholastic activity that coincides with the interscholastic activity in which the homeschooled student participates and shall be required to be at school only when participation in the interscholastic activity requires other students who participate in the interscholastic activity to be at school.

The student shall regularly attend the class in which the student is registered beginning no later than the eleventh (11^{th}) day of the semester in which the student's interscholastic activity participation is desired. The student must attend the practices for the interscholastic activity to the same extent as is required of traditional students.

A student and the parent or legal guardian of the student shall sign and return an acknowledgement of receipt and review of an information sheet regarding signs and symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest before the student may participate in an athletic activity and before each school year the student participates in an athletic activity.

A home-schooled student who has met the try out criteria and who has been selected to participate in the interscholastic activity shall meet the following criteria that also apply to traditional students enrolled in the school:

- standards of behavior and codes of conduct;
- attend the practices for the interscholastic activity to the same extent as is required of traditional students;
- required drug testing;[4]
- permission slips, waivers, physical exams; and
- participation or activity fees.

Students who participate in extracurricular or athletic activities under this policy will be transported to and from the interscholastic activities on the same basis as other students are transported.

A homeschooled student shall not be eligible to participate for up to three hundred sixty-five (365) days if:

1. The District is the homeschooled student’s resident district and the home schooled student is not approved to participate in an interscholastic activity at the District by June 1 of the school year the student will be enrolled in grade seven (7), eight (8), nine (9), or ten (10);
2. The District is not the homeschooled student’s resident district and the home schooled student is not approved to participate in an interscholastic activity that is a varsity athletic activity at the District by June 1 of the school year the student will be enrolled in grade seven (7), eight (8), nine (9), or ten (10); or
3. The home schooled student withdrew from an AAA member school and participated in an interscholastic activity that is a varsity athletic activity at the student’s

resident district during the previous three hundred sixty-five (365) days and is seeking to participate in an interscholastic activity that is a varsity athletic activity in the District.

A student who is prohibited from participation in an interscholastic activity due to number 1 shall not become eligible to participate in any interscholastic activity until the completion of the three hundred sixty-five (365) day period. A student who is prohibited from participation in an interscholastic activity that is a varsity athletic activity due to numbers 2 or 3 shall not be eligible for full participation in an interscholastic activity that is a varsity athletic activity until the completion of the three hundred sixty-five (365) day period. A student who is not eligible for full participation may participate in tryouts, practices, classes, or other endeavors associated with the interscholastic activity until the completion of the three hundred sixty-five (365) day period.

Notes: [1] This paragraph is not statutorily required, but without advance determination of the timelines, there will be no way for a parent to know when, or even for what semester, they will have to make their application to the district. Such information will benefit all students.

[2] Only include "or their applicable attendance zone's school" if your district has more than one school per grade configuration.

[3] You can only **require** one course, but a district may permit a student to register for more than one course.

[4] Include "drug testing" only if your district conducts such tests.

Cross Reference: 4.59—ACADEMIC COURSE ATTENDANCE BY PRIVATE SCHOOL AND HOME SCHOOL STUDENTS

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-15-509
A.C.A. § 6-16-151
A.C.A. § 6-18-232
A.C.A. § 6-18-713
Arkansas Activities Association Handbook
Commissioner's Memo COM-18-009
Commissioner's Memo LS-18-015
Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Rules Governing Home Schools

Date adopted: 6/23/25
Last Revised: 6/23/25

4.56.2F— HOME SCHOOLED STUDENTS' LETTER OF INTENT TO PARTICIPATE IN AN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY AT RESIDENT DISTRICT

Student's Name (Please Print)

_____

Parent or Guardian's Resident Address

Street _____ Apartment _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code_____

Student's date of birth __/__/__ Last grade level the student completed _____

Student has demonstrated academic eligibility by obtaining a verifiable minimum test score of the 30th percentile or better in the previous 12 months on the Stanford Achievement Test Series, Tenth Edition, or another nationally recognized norm-referenced test approved by the State Board of Education._____

Name of test, Date taken, and score achieved_____

Extracurricular activity(ies) the student requests to participate in

_____

Course(s) the student requests to take at the school

_____

Proof of identity ____

Date Submitted __/__/__

Parent's Signature _____

4.56.2F2— HOME SCHOOLED STUDENTS' LETTER OF INTENT TO PARTICIPATE IN AN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY AT NON-RESIDENT DISTRICT

Student's Name (Please Print)

_____

Parent or Guardian's Resident Address
Street _____ Apartment _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code_____

Student's date of birth __/__/__ Last grade level the student completed _____

Student has demonstrated academic eligibility by obtaining a verifiable minimum test score of the 30th percentile or better in the previous 12 months on the Stanford Achievement Test Series, Tenth Edition, or another nationally recognized norm-referenced test approved by the State Board of Education._____

Name of test, Date taken, and score achieved_____

Extracurricular activity(ies) the student requests to participate in

_____

Course(s) the student requests to take at the school

_____

Proof of identity ____

Date Submitted __/__/__

Parent's Signature _____

As the superintendent of the above student's resident district, I agree that the above student may participate in extracurricular activities at _____ School District.

Resident Superintendent's Signature: _____

As the superintendent of the _____ School district, where the above student desires to participate in extracurricular activities, I agree to allow the student to participate in extracurricular activities at _____ School District.

Non-resident Superintendent's Signature: _____

4.56.3—EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY ELIGIBILITY FOR PRIVATE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Interscholastic activity means an activity between schools subject to rules of the Arkansas Activities Association that is outside the regular curriculum of the school district, such as an athletic activity, fine arts program, or a special interest group or club.

"Private school" means a nonpublic elementary or secondary school that is a registered nonprofit and accredited or licensed by an accrediting association recognized by the State Board of Education.

“Private school student” means a student attending a private school.

Each school in the District shall post on its website its schedule of interscholastic activities, including signup, tryout, and participation deadlines, at least one semester in advance of those activities. A hard copy of the schedule shall be available upon request.[1]

Private school students whose parents, legal guardians, persons having lawful control of the student, or persons standing in loco parentis are legal residents of the school district will be permitted to pursue participation in an interscholastic activity in the student's resident school zone[2] if the private school the student attends does not offer the interscholastic activity.

Although not guaranteed participation in an interscholastic activity, private students who meet the provisions of this policy, AAA Rules, and applicable Arkansas statutes shall have an equal opportunity to try out and participate in interscholastic activities without discrimination. The District shall provide a reasonable alternative to any prerequisite for eligibility to participate in an interscholastic activity that the private school student is unable to meet because of his or her enrollment in a private school.

No student shall be required to pay for individual or group instruction in order to participate in an interscholastic activity.

To be eligible to try out and participate in interscholastic activities, the student or the parent of a student shall mail or hand deliver the student's request to participate to the student's school's principal before the signup, tryout or participation deadline established for traditional students.

A student who meets the requirements for eligibility to participate in an interscholastic activity is required to register for no more than one non-academic course[3] in the District's school where the student is intending to participate in an interscholastic activity that coincides with the interscholastic activity in which the private school student participates and shall be required to be at school only when participation in the interscholastic activity requires other students who participate in the interscholastic activity to be at school.

The student shall regularly attend the class in which the student is registered beginning no later than the eleventh (11th) day of the semester in which the student's interscholastic activity participation is desired. The student must attend the practices for the interscholastic activity to the same extent as is required of traditional students.

A student and the parent or legal guardian of the student shall sign and return an acknowledgement of receipt and review of an information sheet regarding signs and symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest before the student may participate in an athletic activity and before each school year the student participates in an athletic activity.

A private school student who has met the tryout criteria and who has been selected to participate in the interscholastic activity shall meet the following criteria that also apply to traditional students enrolled in the school:

- **Standards of behavior and codes of conduct;**
- **Attend the practices for the interscholastic activity to the same extent as is required of traditional students;**
- **Required drug testing;[4]**
- **Permission slips, waivers, physical exams; and**
- **Participation or activity fees.**

Students who participate in extracurricular or athletic activities under this policy will be transported to and from the interscholastic activities on the same basis as other students are transported.

Notes: [1] This paragraph is not statutorily required, but without advance determination of the timelines, there will be no way for a parent to know when, or even for what semester, they will have to make their application to the district. Such information will benefit all students.

[2] Only include "zone" if your district has more than one school per grade configuration.

[3] You can only require one course, but a district may permit a student to register for more than one course.

[4] Include "drug testing" only if your district conducts such tests.

Cross Reference: 4.59—ACADEMIC COURSE ATTENDANCE BY PRIVATE SCHOOL AND HOME SCHOOL STUDENTS

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-16-151
A.C.A. § 6-18-232
A.C.A. § 6-18-238

A.C.A. § 6-18-713
Arkansas Activities Association Handbook

Date Adopted:6/23/25
Last Revised:6/23/25

4.57—IMMUNIZATIONS

Definitions

"In process" means the student has received at least one dose of the required immunizations and is waiting the minimum time interval to receive the additional dose(s).

"Serologic testing" refers to a medical procedure used to determine an individual's immunity to Hepatitis B, Measles, Mumps, Rubella and Varicella.

General Requirements

Unless otherwise provided by law or this policy, no student shall be admitted to attend classes in the District who has not been age appropriately immunized against[1]:

- Poliomyelitis;
- Diphtheria;
- Tetanus;
- Pertussis;
- Red (rubeola) measles;
- Rubella;
- Mumps;
- Hepatitis A;
- Hepatitis B;
- Meningococcal disease;
- Varicella (chickenpox); and
- Any other immunization required by the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH).

The District administration has the responsibility to evaluate the immunization status of District students. The District shall maintain a list of all students who are not fully age appropriately immunized or who have an exemption provided by ADH to the immunization requirements based on medical, religious, or philosophical grounds. Students who are not fully age appropriately immunized when seeking admittance shall be referred to a medical authority for consultation.

The only types of proof of immunization the District will accept are immunization records provided by a:

A. Licensed physician;
B. Health department;
C. Military service;

D. Official record from another educational institution in Arkansas; or
E. An immunization record printed off of the statewide immunization registry with the Official Seal of the State of Arkansas.

The proof of immunization must include the vaccine type and dates of vaccine administration. Documents stating "up-to-date", "complete", "adequate", and the like will not be accepted as proof of immunization. No self or parental history of varicella disease will be accepted as a history of varicella disease must be documented by a licensed physician, advanced practice nurse, doctor of osteopathy, or physician assistant. Valid proof of immunization and of immunity based on serological testing shall be entered into the student's record.

In order to continue attending classes in the District, the student must have submitted:

1) Proof of immunization showing the student to be fully age appropriately vaccinated;
2) Written documentation by a public health nurse or private physician of proof the student is in process of being age appropriately immunized, which includes a schedule of the student's next immunization;
3) A copy of a letter from ADH indicating immunity based on serologic testing; and/or
4) A copy of the letter from ADH exempting the student from the immunization requirements for the current school year, or a copy of the application for an exemption for the current school year if the exemption letter has not yet arrived.

Students whose immunization records or serology results are lost or unavailable are required to receive all age appropriate vaccinations or submit number 4 above.

Temporary Admittance

While students who are not fully age appropriately immunized or have not yet submitted an immunization waiver may be enrolled to attend school, such students shall be allowed to attend school on a temporary basis only. Students admitted on a temporary basis may be admitted for a maximum of thirty (30) days (or until October 1st of the current school year for the tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis, and meningococcal vaccinations required at ages eleven (11) and sixteen (16) respectively if October 1st is later in the current school year than the thirty (30) days following the student's admittance). No student shall be withdrawn and readmitted in order to extend the thirty (30) day period. Students may be allowed to continue attending beyond the thirty (30) day period if the student submits a copy of either number 2 or number 4 above.

Students who are in process shall be required to adhere to the submitted schedule. Failure of the student to submit written documentation from a public health nurse or private physician demonstrating the student received the vaccinations set forth in the schedule may lead to the revocation of the student's temporary admittance; such students shall be excluded from school until the documentation is provided.

The District will not accept copies of applications requesting an exemption for the current school year that are older than two (2) weeks based on the date on the application. Students who submit a copy of an application to receive an exemption from the immunization requirements for the current year to gain temporary admittance have thirty (30) days from the admission date to submit either a letter from ADH granting the exemption or documentation demonstrating the

student is in process and a copy of the immunization schedule. Failure to submit the necessary documentation by the close of the thirty (30) days will result in the student being excluded until the documentation is submitted.

Exclusion From School

In the event of an outbreak, students who are not fully age appropriately immunized, are in process, or are exempt from the immunization requirements may be required to be excluded from school in order to protect the student. ADH shall determine if it is necessary for students to be excluded in the event of an outbreak. Students may be excluded for no fewer than twenty-one (21) days or even longer depending on the outbreak. No student excluded due to an outbreak shall be allowed to return to school until the District receives approval from ADH.

Students who are excluded from school are not eligible to receive homebound instruction unless the excluded student had a pre-existing IEP or 504 Plan and the IEP/504 team determines homebound instruction to be in the best interest of the student. To the extent possible, the student's teacher(s) shall place in the principal's office a copy of the student's assignments:

- for the remainder of the week by the end of the initial school day of the student's exclusion; and
- by the end of each school's calendar week for the upcoming week until the student returns to school.[2]

It is the responsibility of the student or the student's parent/legal guardian to make sure that the student's assignments are collected.

Students excluded from school shall have five (5) school days from the day the student returns to school to submit any homework and to make up any examinations. State mandated assessments are not included in "examinations" and the District has no control over administering state mandated make-up assessments outside of the state's schedule. Students shall receive a grade of zero for any assignment or examination not completed or submitted on time.[3]

Annually by December 1, the District shall create, maintain, and post to the District's website a report that includes the following for each disease requiring an immunization under this policy:

- The number of students in the District that were granted an exemption by the Department of Health from an immunization;
- The percentage of students in the District that were granted an exemption by the Department of Health from an immunization;
- The number of students within the District who have failed to provide to the public school proof of the vaccinations required and have not obtained an exemption from ADH;
- The percentage of students within the District who have failed to provide to the public school proof of the vaccinations required and have not obtained an exemption from ADH; and

o The percentage of a population that must receive an immunization for herd immunity to exist.

Notes: [1] The table showing the age appropriate immunizations is referred to as "Table I" in the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) rules and as "Table II" in ADH rules.

[2] You can amend this sentence to reflect your school's practice for when teachers are required to have their lesson plans ready in advance.

[3] Your district may choose to adopt a different schedule such as docking the work a certain percentage for each day it is late.

Cross References: 4.2—ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS
4.7—ABSENCES
4.8—MAKE-UP WORK
4.34—COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND PARASITES

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-4-302
A.C.A. § 6-18-702
A.C.A. § 6-28-110
DESE Rules Governing Immunization Requirements in Arkansas Public Schools
ADH Rules Pertaining to Immunization Requirements

4.58—FOOD SHARING AND ITS REMOVAL FROM FOOD SERVICE AREA

Food Sharing Table

Option 1: In an effort to reduce wasted food and to provide students access to healthy foods when possible, the District shall have in the district cafeteria a food sharing table located at the end of the service line. Prior to leaving the service line, students may place on or retrieve items from the table, at no additional charge, any of the following:

- Raw whole fruit traditionally eaten without the peel (e.g. bananas and oranges);
- Raw whole fruit traditionally eaten with the peel provided the fruit is wrapped to prevent contamination (e.g. apples and grapes);
- Raw whole vegetables provided the vegetable is wrapped to prevent contamination (e.g. carrot sticks);[1]
- Milk; and
- Juice.[2]

Fruit and vegetables to be shared are to be placed into a designated container on the table.[3] Milk and juice to be shared are to be placed in an ice-filled cooler. Milk and juice may not be taken by another student unless the carton is unopened and was completely covered by ice while in the cooler. A student may not return to the table to place an item for sharing after the student has left the service line.

At all times, the sharing table will be under the supervision of the food service staff. Remaining items should be discarded at the end of the meal period, and no item may remain on the table for longer than four (4) hours.

Option 2: The District has no food sharing system for food items other than milk and juice.[2] Students who do not intend to drink milk or juice received as part of a meal may place the milk/juice in a designated ice-filled cooler located at the end of the service line where another student may retrieve it at no charge. Milk and juice may not be taken by another student unless the carton is unopened and was completely covered by ice while in the cooler. A student may not return to the cooler to place for sharing or retrieve an item after the student has left the service line.

At all times, the cooler will be under the supervision of the food service staff. Remaining items should be discarded at the end of the meal period, and no item is to remain in the cooler for longer than four (4) hours.

Removing Food Items From the Food Service Area

Option A: At the end of the meal period, a student may leave the cafeteria with up to _____[4] school provided whole fruit or whole vegetable food items. Students may not remove from the cafeteria milk, juice, or any other item requiring a temperature controlled environment.

Except for food service workers as required by their job duties, District employees may only remove school provided food items from the food service area when required by a 504 plan or a student's IEP.

(*Insert protocol for food items removed from the food service area.*)[5]

Option B: No student shall remove school provided food items from the food service area at the end of the meal period, especially milk, juice, and other items requiring temperature controlled environments.

Except for food service workers as required by their job duties, District employees may only remove school provided food items from the food service area when required by a 504 plan or a student's IEP.

> Notes: Whether or not to have a food sharing table or to permit students to remove food items from the cafeteria are two distinct issues. Selecting Option 1 does not mean you are required to select Option A and vice versa; similarly, selecting Option 2 does not mean you have to select Option B or vice versa.

[1] The Arkansas Department of Health requires all manufacturers' instructions on temperature controls be followed. Most vegetables are manufactured in some way and are required to be kept cold. Items required to be kept cold that are allowed to be placed on the sharing table **MUST** be discarded no later than four (4) hours after being served.

[2] While Commissioner's Memo FIN 08-076 specifically applies to milk, similar procedures for juice are necessary. If you do not wish to use a formalized sharing method for juice, remove the uses of "juice" from the policy except for the prohibition on juice being removed from the cafeteria.

[3] The container(s) used for food sharing should be able to be washed, rinsed, and sanitized in the kitchen and must be cleaned at least daily, if not following each meal period.

[4] The number of district provided food items a student may remove from the cafeteria is up to the district. The purpose behind letting students take items outside the cafeteria is to allow the students additional time to finish eating rather than to provide students with extra food; therefore, the number of items should be low.

[5] Consider the following when developing your protocol for school provided food items removed from the food service area:

a) Will your district food service system need to establish a different protocol for elementary and high school or can it establish a standard protocol throughout the district?
b) Will you provide time in the afternoon for students to consume the removed food?
c) Will you provide a place for students to keep the removed food items until the student has time to consume them? If so, how will you make sure the student is the one who gets the food the student removed?
d) How will you make sure students take removed food items not consumed by the end of the day home with them instead of leaving them in desks/lockers?

Legal References: Commissioner's Memo FIN 08-076
Commissioner's Memo FIN 15-052

4.59—ACADEMIC COURSE ATTENDANCE BY PRIVATE SCHOOL AND HOME SCHOOLED STUDENTS

The District allows private school and home schooled students whose parents, legal guardians, or other responsible adult with whom the student resides are residents of the District to attend academic courses offered By the District. The District will place a list of courses that a private school or home schooled student may request to attend on its website by:[1]

1. June 1 for courses to be offered during the Fall semester; and
2. November 1 for courses to be offered during the Spring semester.

A private school or home schooled student who desires to attend one or more of the available academic courses shall submit a written request to attend the academic course(s) to the superintendent, or designee, no later than:[1]

a. August 1 for Fall semester courses; or
b. December 1 for Spring semester courses.

The superintendent, or designee, is authorized to waive the application deadline on a case by case basis.

The District permits a private school or home schooled student to attend a maximum of six (6) courses per semester.

The District may reject a private school or home schooled student's request for attendance if the District's acceptance would:[2]

- Require the addition of staff or classrooms;
- Exceed the capacity of a program, class, grade level, or school building;
- Cost the District more for the student to attend the academic course than the District receives for the student's attendance;
- Cause the District to provide educational services the District does not currently provide at a financial burden to the District; or
- Cause the District to be out of compliance with applicable laws and regulations regarding desegregation.

Requests to attend an academic course will be granted in the order the requests are received. Upon the receipt of a private or home schooled student's request to attend academic course(s), the District will date and time stamp the request for attendance. If a private school or home schooled student is denied attendance based on a lack of capacity and an opening in the requested course occurs prior to the start of the course, the District will use the date and time stamp on the request for attendance to determine the private school or home schooled student who will be notified of an opening in the requested course.

As part of the request to attend academic courses in the District, a private school or home schooled student shall:

- Indicate the course(s) the private school or home schooled student is interested in attending;
- If the course(s) the private school or home schooled student is interested in attending is being offered by the District in both a physical and a digital format, whether the private school or home schooled student intends to attend the physical course or the digital course;
    - Submit, along with the student's application, a copy of the student's transcript indicating that the student has received credit for the course(s), or equivalent course(s), that are a prerequisite to the course(s) the student desires to attend at the District;
- Agree to follow the District's discipline policies; and
- Submit immunization documentation required by Policy 4.57—IMMUNIZATIONS.

A private school or home schooled student who fails to attend an academic course by the eleventh (11) day of class or who is absent without excuse for eleven (11) consecutive days during the semester shall be dropped from the course; however, a private school or home

schooled student shall not be considered truant for unexcused absences from the course(s) the student is attending at the District.

Private school or home schooled students shall receive a final grade and transcript for each academic course the student completes.

The responsibility for transportation of any private school or home schooled student attending academic courses in the District shall be borne by the student or the student's parents.

The opportunity provided to home schooled students under this policy is in addition to the opportunity provided in Policy 4.56.2—EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY ELIGIBILITY FOR HOME SCHOOLED STUDENTS.

Notes: This is **NOT** an optional policy. Districts who do not wish to open academic course attendance to private school or home schooled students are required to receive a waiver from the provisions of A.C.A. § 6-18-232 from the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education.

[1] The dates provided here are only suggestions and are not set by statute. You may advertise your course offerings for a shorter or longer period of time; or set the deadline for applications to match the traditional student enrollment deadlines.

[2] Your application of "capacity" should be consistent in order to avoid potential exposure to liability for unlawful discrimination against individuals with disabilities. For example, you should not choose to accept a student who requires no special services, but would require you to add an additional elementary teacher, but refuse to accept a student with a disability because it would require you to add an additional special education teacher. You may refuse to accept the attendance of a student with a disability whose acceptance would necessitate the hiring of an aide, interpreter, or other additional staff member.

Cross References:
4.6—HOMESCHOOLING
4.56.2—EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY ELIGIBILITY FOR HOME SCHOOLED STUDENTS
4.57-- IMMUNIZATIONS

Legal References:
A.C.A. § 6-15-509
A.C.A. § 6-18-232
A.C.A. § 6-18-702
A.C.A. § 6-47-401 et seq.
DESE Rules Governing Distance and Digital Learning
DESE Rules Governing Kindergarten Through 12th Grade Immunization Requirements in Arkansas Public Schools
Commissioner's Memo COM-19-021

4.60—STUDENT BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTION AND RESTRAINT

Definitions

"Aversive behavioral intervention" means a physical or sensory intervention program that is intended to modify behavior through the use of a substance or stimulus that the intervention implementer knows will cause physical trauma, emotional trauma, or both, to a student, even when the substance or stimulus appears to be pleasant or neutral to others.
Examples of aversive behavioral interventions include, but are not limited to:

- Hitting;
- Pinching;
- Slapping;
- Using a water spray;
- Using noxious fumes;
- Requiring extreme physical exercise;
- Using loud auditory stimulus;
- Withholding meals; and
- Denying reasonable access to toileting facilities.

"Behavioral intervention" means the implementation of a service, support, or strategy to teach and increase appropriate behavior or substantially decrease or eliminate behavior that is dangerous, inappropriate, or otherwise impedes the learning of a student.

"Behavior Intervention Plan" (BIP) means a written plan that:

- Is developed by a problem-solving and intervention team and delineates emotional, social, or behavioral goals for a student and the steps that the school, student, parent of the student, and others will take to positively support the progress of the student towards the student's emotional, social, or behavioral goals;
- Is comprised of practical and specific strategies to increase or reduce a defined behavior or one (1) or more patterns of behavior exhibited by a student; and
- Includes the following at a minimum:
  - A definition or description of the desired target behavior or outcome in specific measurable terms;
  - A plan for preventing and eliminating inappropriate student behavior by changing a condition that is triggering, motivating, underlying, or supporting that behavior as determined through a FBA;
  - A plan for teaching a student to demonstrate appropriate social, emotional, or behavioral self-management, or a new method to address or meet the student's needs;
  - A description of how a specific incentive or consequence will be used as needed to decrease or eliminate inappropriate student behavior and increase appropriate behavior;
  - A plan for managing a crisis situation;
  - A system to collect, analyze, and evaluate data about the student;
  - The school personnel, resources, and training needed before implementation of the BIP; and

- The timeline for implementing different facets of an intervention, including without limitation when the intervention will be formally reviewed.

"Chemical restraint" means the use of a drug or medication to control the behavior of a student or restrict the free movement of the student; however, chemical restraint does not include the use of medication that is prescribed by a licensed physician, or other qualified health professional acting within the scope of the individual's professional authority under state law, for the standard treatment of a medical or psychiatric condition of a student and is administered as prescribed by the licensed physician or other qualified health professional acting within the scope of the individual's professional authority under state law.

"Crisis" means a situation in which a student engages in a behavior that threatens the health and safety of the student or others and includes without limitation a situation in which the student becomes aggressive or violent at school and is unable to regain self-control without posing a danger of injury to the student or others.

"Crisis intervention" means the implementation of a service, support, or strategy to immediately stabilize a crisis and prevent the crisis from recurring after the crisis ends.

"Dangerous behavior" means the behavior of a student that presents an imminent danger of serious physical harm to the student or others; however, dangerous behavior does not include the following:

- Disrespect;
- Noncompliance;
- Insubordination; or
- Destruction of property that does not create an imminent danger.

"De-escalation" means the use of a behavior management technique that helps a student increase the student's control over the student's emotions and behavior and results in a reduction of a present or potential level of danger that in turn reduces the level of imminent danger of serious physical harm to the student or others.

"Emergency" means a serious and unexpected situation that requires immediate action and which may be dangerous.

"Functional Behavior Assessment" (FBA) means a problem analysis step that:

- Occurs within the context of data-based problem-solving and involves:
  - The review of existing records and other sources of information;
  - Diagnostic or historical interviews;
  - Structured academic or behavioral observations; and
  - Authentic, criterion-referenced, or norm-referenced tests; and
- Is performed with the goal of determining why a specific problem or situation is occurring in order to directly link a strategic intervention to an assessment and solve or resolve the specific problem or situation.

"Imminent danger" means an existing dangerous situation that could reasonably be expected to immediately cause death or serious physical harm.

"Mechanical restraint" means the use of a device or equipment to restrict the free movement of a student; however, mechanical restraint does not include a device that is used by trained school personnel or a student for a specific and approved therapeutic purpose or safety purpose for which the device was designed or prescribed or a vehicle safety restraint that is appropriately used in the manner for which it was designed during the transport of a student in a moving vehicle.

"Physical escort" means a temporary touching or holding of the hand, wrist, arm, shoulder, or back of a student for the purpose of redirecting or inducing the student to move to a safe location.

"Physical restraint" means a personal restriction that immobilizes or reduces the ability of a student to move the student's torso, arm, leg, or head freely; however, physical restraint does not include a physical escort.

"Prone restraint" means restraining a student in a face-down position on the floor or another surface and applying physical pressure to the body of the student to keep the student in the prone position.

"Serious physical harm" means bodily injury that involves a substantial risk of death, extreme physical pain, protracted and obvious disfigurement, or protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member, organ, or mental faculty.

"Supine restraint" means the restraint of a student in a face-up position on the student's back on the floor or another surface and with physical pressure applied to the body of the student to keep the student in the supine position.

Multi-Tiered Behavioral Interventions

The District shall establish a multi-tiered system of behavioral interventions for each student who exhibits social, emotional, or behavioral difficulty that may escalate, if not addressed, to potentially dangerous behavior.

Behavior Intervention Team

Behavior intervention team (BIT) shall be established for each student who exhibits social, emotional, or behavioral difficulty that may escalate, if not addressed, to potentially dangerous behavior. The BIT shall include members who are academic and behavioral assessment and intervention professionals.

A student's BIT team shall:

a. Work with the teachers of a student to complete a FBA of the student and an assessment of any problematic situations involving the student;
b. Consider the need for a BIP with the goal of preventing or resolving the social, emotional, or behavioral difficulty of the student and developing a response that will de-escalate and stabilize a potential emergency situation that approaches the danger level; and
c. Regularly review the data on incidents involving the use of physical restraint on the student and adjust, as necessary, the procedures concerning the use of physical restraint on the student.

Special education procedures shall be followed if a student is suspected of having a disability that relates to behavioral concerns.

Physical Restraint

Except in the case of a clearly unavoidable emergency situation in which a trained member of school personnel is not immediately available due to the unforeseeable nature of the emergency situation, the physical restraint of a student shall only be used by a member of school personnel who is appropriately trained to administer physical restraint.

When using physical restraint on a student, school personnel shall:

- use the least restrictive technique necessary to end imminent danger or serious physical harm to a student and others;
- Use the safest method available and appropriate to the situation;
- Consider the health and safety of a student, including without limitation whether the student has an existing medical condition that makes the use of physical restraint inadvisable;
- Not restrict the ability of a student to communicate unless the use of a less restrictive technique will not prevent imminent danger of serious physical harm to the student or others;
- Use only the amount of force that is reasonably necessary to protect a student or others from imminent danger of serious physical harm to the student or others;
- Not verbally abuse, ridicule, humiliate, taunt, or engage in any other similar action towards the student; and
- continuously and visually observe and monitor the student while the student is under physical restraint.

Physical restraint of a student shall only be used for a limited period of time and shall not be used:

- When imminent danger or serious physical harm to the student or others dissipates;
- If a medical condition occurs that puts the student at risk of harm;
- Unless the behavior of the student poses an imminent danger of serious physical harm to the student or others;
- After the threat of imminent danger of serious physical harm to the student or others dissipates; or

- In the following manner:
  - To punish or discipline the student;
  - To coerce the student;
  - To force the student to comply;
  - To retaliate against the student;
  - To replace the use of an appropriate educational or behavioral support;
  - As a routine safety measure;
  - As a planned behavioral intervention in response to behavior of the student that does not pose an imminent danger of serious physical harm to the student or others;
  - As a convenience for school personnel; or
  - To prevent property damage unless the act of damaging property committed by the student poses an imminent danger or serious physical harm to the student and others.

Even in an emergency, supine restraint shall not be used on a student except by a staff person who has been certified by a crisis intervention training program and the certified staff person determines that supine restraint is required to provide safety for the student and others.

At no time shall school personnel use the following on a student:
- Mechanical restraint;
- Chemical restraint;
- Aversive behavioral interventions that compromise health and safety;
- Physical restraint that is life-threatening or medically contraindicated; or
- Prone restraint or other restraint that restricts the breathing of a student.

Following the first incident of physical restraint used on a student, an FBA shall be conducted unless a previous FBA was conducted for the same behavior that was at issue when the physical restraint was used.

The use of physical restraint on a student as a planned behavioral intervention shall not be included in a student's IEP, 504 Plan, BIP, individual safety plan, or other individual planning document but may be considered as a crisis intervention if appropriate for the student. A student's IEP team or 504 Plan team shall consider whether an FBA should be performed; if a BIP should be developed for the student or if a student's existing BIP should be revised; and if additional behavioral goals and interventions should be included in the student's existing IEP or 504 Plan.

Parents may submit complaints regarding an incident involving the use of physical restraint on their student. A complaint shall be referred for review to the appropriate school personnel:
- The student's BIT;
- The student's IEP team; or
- The student's 504 Plan team.

A complaint by a parent shall be handled by the appropriate District staff in the same manner as a debrief following the use of physical restraint on a student.[1]

Use of a physical restraint technique that is abusive shall be reported to the Child Abuse Hotline and law enforcement.

Reports and Debriefing

After the occurrence of an incident involving physical restraint of a student, the building principal, or the principal's designee, shall be notified of the incident as soon as possible but by no later than the end of the school day when the incident occurred.

The student's parent shall be notified of the incident of the use of physical restraint via verbal or electronic communication as soon as possible but by no later than the end of the school day when the incident occurred. In the event the student's parent is unable to be notified via verbal or electronic communication within twenty-four (24) hours after the incident occurred, then the parent shall be mailed written notification of the incident within forty-eight (48) hours after the incident occurred.

school personnel involved in the incident shall document the incident in a written report, which is to be completed within twenty-four (24) hours after the incident occurred. The written report of the incident shall:

1. Include all information contained in the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Physical Restraint or Seclusion Incident Record and Debriefing Report;
2. Be maintained in the student's education record; and
3. Be provided to the student's parent within one (1) school day of the completion of the report.

A debriefing meeting shall be held within two (2) school days after the incident occurred. The following school personnel shall be present at the debriefing meeting:[2]

a. A member of school personnel who was present during the incident;
b. A member of school personnel who was in the proximity of the student on whom physical restraint was used immediately before and during the time of the incident;
c. A school administrator; and
d. Any other member of school personnel determined to be appropriate by the District.

The purpose of the debriefing meeting shall be to:

- Determine whether the procedures used during the incident were necessary;
- Evaluate the use of any behavioral supports and de-escalation techniques by school personnel before and during the incident;
- Evaluate the school district's behavioral intervention procedures and prevention techniques in order to minimize future use of physical restraint; and
- If a trained member of school personnel was not immediately available due to the unforeseeable nature of the emergency situation when the incident occurred:
    - Reevaluate the training needs of school personnel;
    - Reevaluate the physical restraint policy and practices; and
    - Develop a plan to prevent a future incident.

At a debriefing meeting, school personnel shall:

1. Consider relevant information in the student's education record, including without limitation:

a. The concerns of the student's parent;
b. The student's social and medical history;
c. The student's FBA, if one exists; and
d. The student's BIP, if one exists;

2. Consider relevant information from the teachers, parents, and other District professionals;
3. Discuss whether the District's behavioral intervention procedures were appropriately implemented;
4. Discuss the duration and frequency of the use of physical restraint on the student;
5. Discuss appropriate action that may be taken to prevent and reduce the need for physical restraint;
6. Consider whether additional intervention and support is necessary for the student;
7. Consider whether additional intervention and support is necessary for school personnel; and
8. Consider how and when to debrief a person who was not present at the debriefing meeting, including without limitation:
   a. The student;
   b. The student's parent; and
   c. Other school personnel or students who witnessed the incident.

DESE's Physical Restraint or Seclusion Incident Record and Debriefing Report, or an alternative report that includes the same information, shall be completed during the debriefing meeting. A copy of the report shall be:

- Submitted to the building principal;[3]
- Mailed to the student's parent within two (2) days of the date on which the debriefing meeting was held; and
- Maintained as part of the student's education record along with other documents consulted during the debriefing meeting.

Notes: A copy of the DESE Guidance on the Use of Restraint along with the Physical Restraint or Seclusion Incident Record and Debriefing Report can be found at: https://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/Offices/special-education/policy-regulations/guidance-and-resources.

[1] There is nothing in the statute that requires the complaint to be handled in the same manner as a debriefing. This is intended only as a default method as you are required to have procedures governing the handling of a parental complaint. After consultation with appropriate staff, replace this language with your local procedures on how a complaint will be handled.

[2] While you can, and should, add additional staff members to the list of those required to attend a debriefing meeting, A.C.A. § 6-18-2307 requires these individuals be included at a minimum.

[3] A.C.A. § 6-18-2307 requires that the debriefing report be submitted to a designated district administrator. If you would rather have all debriefing reports provided to one

single individual at the district staff level instead of keeping them at the school level, replace this with the district level position to whom debriefing reports should be submitted.

Cross Reference: 3.6—LICENSED PERSONNEL EMPLOYEE TRAINING

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 6-18-2401 et seq.
Date adopted:6/23/25
Last Revised 6/23/25

4.61—STUDENT USE OF MULTIPLE OCCUPANCY ROOM

Definitions

"Multiple occupancy room" means an area in a District building that is designed or designated to be used by one (1) or more individuals at the same time and in which one (1) or more individuals may be in various stages of undress in the presence of other individuals, which includes, without limitation, a restroom, locker room, changing room, or shower room.

“Sex" means the physical condition of being male or female based on genetics and physiology, which may be demonstrated by the sex identified on a student’s original birth certificate.

Each multiple occupancy room in a District building shall be designated as either male or female. Except as permitted by this policy, a student shall not enter a multiple occupancy room that does not correspond to the student’s sex.

An individual who is unwilling or unable to use a multiple occupancy room designated for the individual's sex shall be granted a reasonable accommodation, which may include, without limitation, access to a single-occupancy restroom or changing area. A reasonable accommodation shall not include access to a restroom or changing area that is designated for use by members of the opposite sex to an individual while members of the opposite sex of the individual are present or may be present in the restroom or changing area.

The prohibitions in this policy do not apply to an individual who enters a multiple occupancy room designated for use by the opposite sex when the individual enters for any of the following reasons:

- custodial, maintenance, or inspection purposes;
- To render emergency medical assistance;
- To address an ongoing emergency, including without limitation a physical altercation;
- To accommodate individuals protected under the Americans with Disabilities Act; or
- To assist young children who are in need of physical assistance when using a restroom or changing facility that is located in the District.

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-21-120
Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Rules Governing Public School Policies Relating to Overnight Travel and Use of Public School Lavatories

Last Adopted: 06/23/25
Last Revised: 06/23/25

4.62—STUDENT NAME, TITLE, OR PRONOUN

Unless a District employee has the written permission of the parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis to the student or the student if the student is an emancipated minor or over eighteen (18) years of age, a District employee shall not address a student with a:

1. Name other than that listed on the student's birth certificate, except for a derivative of the name; or
2. Pronoun or title that is inconsistent with the student's biological sex.

A student shall not be subject to discipline for declining to address a person using a:

a. Name other than that listed on the student's birth certificate, except for a derivative of the name; or
b. Pronoun or title that is inconsistent with the person's biological sex.

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 6-1-108

Last Adopted: 06/23/25
Last Revised: 06/23/25

4.63—STUDENT RELIGIOUS EXPRESSION

The Hillcrest School District Board of Directors does not allow the discrimination against a student based on a student's voluntary religious expression, if any. At the same time, the District shall provide a process to eliminate any actual or perceived sponsorship or attribution to the District of a student's public voluntary expression of a religious viewpoint, if any.

Student Assignments

Student assignments include, but are not limited to:

- Homework;
- Classwork;
- Artwork; and
- Other written or oral assignments.

A student may express the student's religious viewpoint, if any, in the student's assignments without discrimination based on the religious content, if any. A student's assignments shall:

1. Be graded and judged:
   - By ordinary academic standards of substance and relevance; and
   - Against other conventional, pedagogical topics as identified by the District curriculum; and
2. Not be penalized or rewarded based on the religious content, if any, of the student's assignments.

Accommodation will be considered for those portions of instructional activities in the schools that unduly burden a student;s sincere religious belief provided such accommodation doesn't amount to a significant change in curriculum, program, or course of instruction and when it is possible that a substitution of equal rigorous material that advances the same as instructional goals can be arranged. Parents and Students are advised that such accommodations are easier to grant when the objection is to non-state mandated standards material than if the material is required by the standards.

A student or the student's parent can request the student's teacher to accommodate the student's objection based on a religious relief to an instructional activity. Any such request must be made at least twenty- five 25 school days prior to the assignment due date. Any objection must be raised in accordance with these policy requirements or it will be not considered.

Upon receiving such a request, the student's teacher shall determine within five 5 work days if an accommodation is possible under the provisions of this policy. If the teacher decides an accommodation can not be made or if the student or the student's parent believes the accommodation to be unreasonable, The student or the student's parent may request a conference with the teacher and the teachers principal. A requested conference will occur at a time of mutual convenience, but no later than five 5 working days following the request. The principal shall have five 5 working days in which to make a decision on the appeal. If the student, the student's parent or the teacher is unsatisfied with the principal's decision it may be appealed to the District Superintendent who shall convene a conference between the student, their parent and the teacher. The requested conference will occur at a time of mutual convenience but no later

than five 5 working days following the request. The superintendent shall have five 5 working days in which to make a decision on the appeal which shall be final with no further right of appeal.

Student Presenters

A student's expression of a religious viewpoint, if any, on an otherwise permissible subject shall not be excluded from a forum, whether oral or in writing, where students are allowed to speak.

The District has the right to restrict student speech that is inappropriate in the school setting by being obscene, vulgar, offensively lewd, or indecent.

Review of written student forums shall be handled in accordance with Policy 4.14—STUDENT MEDIA AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF LITERATURE.

If the forum is a scheduled event with designated student speakers, the building principal shall have an opportunity to review pre-written remarks prior to the student's presentation at the scheduled forum. The principal may require the student to amend the student's remarks to the extent necessary to address any portions that are determined to be inappropriate. A student's refusal to amend the remarks that were determined to be inappropriate may be prohibited from participation in the forum. A student who diverts from the approved pre-written remarks during a speech in such a manner that is determined to be inappropriate by the building principal or another present District staff member may be asked to return to the approved remarks. If a student refuses to return to the approved remarks or continues to divert from the approved remarks in a manner that is determined to be inappropriate may be escorted from the forum and disciplined in accordance with the District's Student Code of Conduct.

If the timing or format of the forum does not provide for pre-written remarks to be reviewed, then the building principal or other District staff shall have the authority to address a student whose remarks are determined to be inappropriate. The building principal or District staff member shall initially ask the student to cease the inappropriate remarks. If the student refuses or makes additional inappropriate remarks after being directed to cease such remarks, Then the building principal or District staff member may escort the student from the forum and the student may be disciplined in accordance with the District's Student Code of Conduct

There shall be a disclaimer that a student speaker's speech does not reflect the endorsement, sponsorship, position, or expression of the District. The disclaimer shall be provided at all forums where students speak and at all graduation ceremonies. The disclaimer shall be provided orally or in writing as most appropriately fits the format of the forum.

Information on how to participate in a student forum shall be provided to all students.[1]

In addition to the salutatorian and valedictorian selection process in Policy 5.17—HONOR ROLL AND HONOR GRADUATES, the following students may speak during the District's graduation ceremony:[2]

Notes: [1] Insert the process your district will use to notify students of upcoming forums, such as a student newsletter, posting to bulletin boards, or distribution to student emails.

[2] Insert the students in addition to the salutatorian and valedictorian that traditionally speak at your graduation ceremony. Be sure to include the process for how those students are designated if it is not due to that student's position, such as class president. If you have opted not to have salutatorians and valedictorians, you may remove them from this policy.

Cross References: 4.14—STUDENT MEDIA AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF LITERATURE
5.17—HONOR ROLL AND HONOR GRADUATES

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-10-138
A.C.A. § 6-18-101
A.C.A. § 6-18-1201 et seq.
Last Adopted: 06/23/25
Last Revised: 06/23/25

4.64—STUDENT USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Definitions

"Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools" means Software applications or platforms that utilize machine learning algorithms to perform tasks typically requiring human intelligence, such as generating content, providing recommendations, or solving problems. For purposes of this policy, AI tools do not include the use of spell check or grammar check.

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the responsible use of AI tools by District students. The policy applies to all students enrolled in the District and covers the use of AI tools when completing District assignments or projects.

The district shall provide teachers and students resources and education on AI literacy and digital citizenship. The District shall establish a committee who shall be responsible for the review and selection of AI tools that shall be available for students to use. All AI tools selected by the committee shall comply with applicable state and federal data privacy laws. Students shall only use AI tools that were approved by the District committee for classroom assignments or projects.

Teachers are responsible for providing instructions on when and how AI tools may be used for classroom assignments. Students may use AI tools as approved by their classroom teacher to enhance learning and develop future-ready skills.

Students should use AI tools ethically and responsibly, aligning with the district's educational objectives, and in a manner that does not harm themselves or others. As part of using AI tools responsibly, students should be cautious about the information they provide to AI tools and consult with a teacher if unsure. At no time shall Students share personal, sensitive, or confidential information with AI tools, especially AI tools requiring data input.

When a student uses AI tools, a student shall:

1. Review and verify the accuracy of content that is generated by an AI tool;
2. Cite AI tools used as part of an assignment or project as a source, following District citation guidelines; and
3. Be transparent about their use of AI in completing assignments.

Students must ensure all submitted work is their own and properly acknowledge or cite any assistance from AI tools. Students are encouraged to ask questions if they are unsure about the acceptable use of AI tools.

The following actions regarding AI tools are strictly prohibited:

- Misuse of AI tools for cheating, plagiarism, or any form of academic dishonesty, including the submission of assignments that were fully generated by an AI tool and presented as original student work;
- Altering or falsifying academic documents or records using AI tools;
- Using AI tools to:
  - Gain unauthorized access to District systems; or
  - Bypass District security measures;
- Using AI tools to produce misleading or false information, imagery, or any form of false outputs about themselves, other students, or staff members.

Students should report any inappropriate content or security concerns encountered while using AI tools to a teacher or administrator.

Violations of this policy shall be handled in accordance with the District's disciplinary procedures.

Cross References: 3.58—LICENSED PERSONNEL USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
4.13—PRIVACY OF STUDENTS' RECORDS/ DIRECTORY INFORMATION
5.10—ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
7.16—INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SECURITY

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-18-2601 et seq.
A.C.A. § 25-1-128
15 U.S.C. § 6501
20 U.S.C. § 1232g
34 C.F.R. Part 99

Date Adopted:06/23/25

Last Revised: 06/23/25

4.65—ANTISEMITISM PROHIBITED

"Antisemitism" means a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities. Antisemitism may be expressed in speech; writing; visual forms; and actions, and employs sinister stereotypes and negative character traits.

The following are examples of actions, when taken as a whole, that may constitute antisemitism:

- The targeting of the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity;
- Charging Jews with conspiring to harm humanity;
- Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion;
- Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as collective — such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions;
- Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews;
- Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust);

- Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust;
- Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations;
- Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavor;
- Applying double standards by requiring of Israel a behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation;
- Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g., claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterize Israel or Israelis;
- Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis; or
- Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel.

Antisemitism does not include criticism of Israel similar to the criticism leveled against any other country.

Discrimination and harassment based on antisemitism is expressly prohibited.

The District shall appoint an individual to act as the District's Title VI Coordinator, who shall be responsible for investigating any complaints of discrimination or harassment based on antisemitism. The District shall:

1. Include contact information for the Title VI Coordinator in information that is provided to staff, students, and parents; and
2. Provide the following on the District website that may be accessed through a link titled "Antisemitism/Title VI":
    a. The District's definition of antisemitism;
    b. A statement that antisemitism is prohibited in the District's educational programs and activities;
    c. A statement that complaints of discrimination or harassment based on antisemitism may be filed with the Title VI Coordinator;
    d. Contact information for the District's Title VI Coordinator; and
    e. Information on how to file a complaint of antisemitism with the Title VI Coordinator at the Arkansas Department of Education.

A student or a student's parent may contact the District Title VI Coordinator directly with any complaints of discrimination or harassment based on antisemitism. District employees are responsible for timely notifying the District Title VI Coordinator of any complaints they receive or incidents they witness of discrimination or harassment based on antisemitism.

Complaints of discrimination or harassment based on antisemitism shall be investigated and handled in accordance with Policy 6.7—COMPLAINTS.

A student who is found to have violated the provisions of this policy may be subject to discipline, up to and including expulsion.

The District Title VI Coordinator shall report an incident or complaint of discrimination or harassment under this policy to the Arkansas Department of Education Title VI Coordinator.

In addition to the filing of a complaint under this policy, complaints of discrimination or harassment based on antisemitism may be submitted directly to the Title VI Coordinator at the Arkansas Department of Education.

Nothing in this policy shall be construed to diminish or infringe upon any right protected under the First Amendment to the United States Constitution or Arkansas Constitution, Article 2, §§ 4, 6, and 24.

Notes: In accordance with A.C.A. § 6-16-2002(1), the definition for antisemitism is taken from the definition adopted on May 26, 2016, by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance.

A.C.A. § 6-16-2003 encourages schools to:

- Incorporate antisemitism awareness training into any required anti-bias training for students, employees, administrators, and campus police; and
- Integrate Jewish-American heritage curriculum for students that incorporates Jewish experiences in the United States pre- and post-American Revolution; pre- and post-World War II and the Holocaust; and in modern times.

Cross Reference: 6.7—COMPLAINTS

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 6-16-2001 et seq.

Date Adopted:6/23/25
Last Revised:6/23/25

4.66—ARKANSAS DIRECT ADMISSIONS PROGRAM

The District shall participate in the Arkansas Direct Admissions Program.[1] As part of the District's participation, the District shall provide data to the Division of Higher Education (DHE) that includes, without limitation:

1. A student's grade point average;
2. A student's assessment scores;
3. A student's course completion; and
4. Other information required by DHE.

The District shall inform all students about how the student may participate in the Arkansas Direct Admissions Program.[2]

The District shall not actively discourage or prohibit an eligible student from participating in the Arkansas Direct Admissions Program.[2]

Notes: A.C.A. § 6-60-1703 requires that the Program be in place for the graduating class of 2026-2027.

[1] Districts are not required to participate in the Program. If you choose not to participate in the Program, replace this paragraph and the following list with:
The District does not participate in the Arkansas Direct Admissions Program.

[2] Even if you choose not to participate in the Program, this language needs to be retained in the policy as A.C.A. § 6-60-1704 requires that districts, regardless of whether the district participates in the program, notify students about how the student may participate and may not discourage a student from doing so.

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 6-60-1701 et seq.

Date Adopted:6/23/25
Last Revised:6/23/25

5.1—EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

The Hillcrest School District assumes the responsibility of providing students attending its schools a high quality education that challenges each student to achieve their maximum potential. The District shall endeavor to create the environment within the schools necessary to attain this goal. The creation of the necessary climate shall be based on the following core beliefs:*****

1. The District's vision statement will be developed with input from students, parents, business leaders, and other community members.
2. All students can be successful learners.
3. Students learn at different rates and in different ways.
4. A primary goal shall be to give students the skills they need to be life-long learners.
5. The education of all citizens is basic to our community's well-being.
6. Student achievement is affected positively by the involvement of parents and the community in the schools.
7. The District is responsible for helping cultivate good citizenship skills in its students.
8. Students reflect the moral and ethical values of their environment.
9. All people have a right to a safe environment.
10. Each person is responsible for his/her own actions.
11. Innovation involves taking risks.
12. Schools are responsible for creating the conditions that promote success.
13. Each person is entitled to retain his/her dignity.
14. All people have the right to be treated with respect and the responsibility to treat others respectfully.
15. For teachers to succeed in cultivating high student achievement, they need to be given the materials, training, and environment necessary to produce such results.

***** *These are sample core beliefs and should serve only as an example. Your district should create its own list of core beliefs.*

Date Adopted:
Last Revised:

5.2—PLANNING FOR EDUCATIONAL IMPROVEMENT

Each school in the district, in collaboration with administrators, teachers, other school staff, parents, the community, and students, shall develop a school-level improvement plan (SLIP) to:

- Establish goals or anticipated outcomes based on an analysis of students' needs;
- Identify student supports and evidence-based interventions and practices to be implemented;
- Describe the professional learning necessary for adults to deliver the supports or interventions;
- Describe the implementation timeline for monitoring of the interventions and practices for effectiveness;
- Describe the timeline and procedures for evaluation of the interventions and practices for effectiveness; and
- Evaluate and modify a parent, family, and community engagement plan.[1]

Each SLIP shall include a literacy plan that includes a curriculum program and a professional development program that is aligned with the schools' literacy needs and is based on the science of reading.

Some of the data that shall be considered when developing the SLIP includes, but is not limited to:[2]

- Statewide assessment results;
- Interim assessment results;
- Similarly situated school's SLIPs; and
- Evaluation(s), including staff, student, and community feedback, of the existing SLIP.

The SLIP is to be reviewed on an ongoing basis with reports to the board on the implementation progress of the SLIP throughout the year of implementation. By May 1 of each year, the SLIP to be implemented in the upcoming school year shall be presented to the District Board of Directors for review and approval.[3] The District will post the District's SLIP(s) to the District's website under State-Required Information by August 1 of each year.

The District shall annually submit a District Strategic Plan (DSP) to the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education by June 30 for review for the upcoming school year. The DSP shall include, without limitation:

- A literacy and mathematics plan that addresses student supports and acceleration opportunities based on student data and outcomes;
- Information regarding the prioritization and intended use of funding, including, without limitation, Enhanced Student Achievement Funding;
- The support the District will provide to the District's schools identified as in need of targeted support, comprehensive support, or both; and
- Health and wellness goals.

The District shall post the District's DSP to the District's website under State-Required Information, including any updates to the District's DSP.[5]

The District's Board of Directors shall hold a meeting annually to provide a report that systematically explains the District's policies, programs, and goals to the community. The District's report shall detail the progress of the District and the District's schools toward accomplishing program goals, accreditation standards, and proposals to correct any deficiencies. The report shall be made available to the public, including by posting a copy on the District's website under State-Required Information no later than ten (10) days following the meeting, with the most recent annual report posted by September 1 of each year. The meeting shall provide parents and other members of the community the opportunity to ask questions and make suggestions concerning the District's program.

Notes: [1] See A.C.A. § 6-15-1702 for a detailed listing of required components of the parental involvement plan. The Model Policy Service has also provided a guide (See Supporting Information for Policies 6.11 and 6.12 located on the Policy Resources Page: https://arsba.org/policy-resources) for easier understanding of the language in the code. In

addition, the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education has created a parent, family, and community engagement toolkit that may be used in the creation of your plan. The toolkit is located at https://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/Offices/public-school-accountability/engagement.

[2] This is not intended to be an all-inclusive list. The only item specifically required to be included is the evaluation of the existing SLIP, which must be done at least annually.

[3] The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Rules Governing the Arkansas Educational Support and Accountability Act requires the board to approve the SLIP(s) and SDSP annually, which should be specifically noted in the board's minutes.

[4] Districts are required to post their DSP to the district website by October 1.

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-15-2914
A.C.A. § 6-15-2919
A.C.A. § 20-7-135
DESE Rules Governing the Arkansas Educational Support and Accountability Act
DESE Rules Governing Parental Involvement Plans and Family and Community Engagement
DESE Rules Governing Documents Posted To School District And Education Service Cooperative Websites
Standards for Accreditation 1-B.4, 3-B.1, 3-B.2, 3-B.2.1, 5-A.1
Commissioner's Memo COM-20-021

Last Adopted: 06/23/25
Last Revised: 06/23/25

5.3—CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

Sequential curricula should be developed for each subject area. Curricula are to be aligned with the curriculum frameworks and used to plan instruction leading to student proficiency on the Arkansas Academic Standards. Curricula should be in alignment with the District's vision, mission, goals, and educational philosophy. Student achievement is increased through an integrated curriculum that promotes continuity and a growth in skills and knowledge from grade to grade and from school to school. Therefore, the Board desires that unnecessary duplication of work among the various grades and schools be eliminated and that courses of study and their corresponding content guides be coordinated effectively.

The Board of Education is responsible for reviewing and approving all instructional programs offered by the District as well as approving significant changes to courses or course materials before they are implemented. The Superintendent is responsible for making curriculum recommendations.

Each school shall review each curriculum area annually to address the continued relevancy, adequacy, and cost effectiveness of individual courses and instructional programs and to ensure each area is aligned with the current curriculum frameworks and course content standards approved by the State Board of Education.[1] Each school's administration shall implement a monitoring process to ensure that the instructional content of each course offered is consistent with the content standards and curriculum frameworks approved by the State Board of Education.[2]

The District shall not purchase curriculum for the District's reading program that is not from the list of curricula approved by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education.[3]

No curriculum or classroom instruction shall be provided on the following topics before grade five (5):

- Sexually explicit materials;
- Sexual reproduction;
- Sexual intercourse;
- Gender identity; or
- Sexual orientation.

Notes: [1] A.C.A. § 6-15-101 requires school boards to adopt and implement the academic standards and expected outcomes that have been defined by the State Board, which should be indicated by the adoption being noted in the district's board minutes.

[2] A.C.A. § 6-15-1505(b) requires each district's superintendent to submit a letter of assurance to DESE each year that the content of each class and subject area is aligned to the academic standards and curriculum frameworks developed by the State Board under its plan developed pursuant to A.C.A. § 6-15-1502(a).

[3] While districts have the option to use a curriculum that is not on the list of curriculum approved by DESE for the District's reading program, Districts who choose to do so are required to receive prior approval of the curriculum from DESE. In order to receive approval of the curriculum from DESE, the District must submit to DESE the District's rationale for choosing the alternative curriculum program and evidence-based research regarding the alternative curriculum program. Districts that are using a curriculum that is not on the DESE approved list must inform all parents in writing and post on the district's website the curriculum that the district uses and that it is not on the DESE approved list.

A.C.A. § 6-17-429(i)(3) prohibits the use of a program of instruction or intervention for students in kindergarten through grade two (K-2) that utilizes:

- The three-cueing system model of reading;
- Visual memory as the primary basis for teaching word recognition; or
- The three-cueing system model of reading based on meaning, structure and syntax, and visual (MSV).

Legal References: Standards for Accreditation 1-A.1, 1-A.4
A.C.A. § 6-15-101

A.C.A. § 6-15-1505(a)
A.C.A. § 6-15-2906
A.C.A. § 6-16-157
A.C.A. § 6-17-429

5.4—SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT TEAMS

A team structure is officially incorporated into the school-level improvement plan. New school administrators shall receive a description of the teams' purposes and how each team is constituted; In addition, each new administrator shall receive training on methods for effective teams.

All teams shall create work plans for the year, which shall include specific work products for the team to produce. To aid in maintaining the work plan, all teams shall develop an agenda and keep minutes for each meeting. The school principal shall be responsible for maintaining a file of the agendas, work products, and minutes of all teams.

Team meetings shall take place outside of the student instructional day.[1]

Leadership Team

Each school shall have a Leadership Team that consists of members that include:[2]

1. The principal;
2. The chair of each Instructional Team;
3. The school guidance counselor;
4. An instructional facilitator; and
5. Other key professionals designated by the principal.

The Leadership Team shall meet for a minimum of one (1) hour at least two (2) times each month during the school year. Based on school performance data and aggregated classroom observation data, the Leadership Team shall make decisions and recommendations on curriculum, instruction, and professional development; in addition, the Leadership Team shall serve as a conduit of communication to the rest of the faculty and staff.

Instructional Teams

The teachers in each school shall belong to an Instructional Team. The instructional teams shall be organized by:

a. Grade level;
b. Grade level cluster; and/or
c. Subject area.

Each Instructional Team shall appoint a chair for the school year who shall conduct the team meetings and shall be part of the school Leadership Team. Each Instructional Team shall meet for a minimum of forty-five (45) minutes at least two (2) times a month during the school year.[3]

The purpose of the Instructional Teams is to develop and refine units of instruction and review student learning data.

Notes: This policy was created in collaboration with the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) School Improvement Team. The policy is not required but is recommended. The language in the policy is based on researched best practices but may be amended in entirety to conform with local practices, including, but not limited to, the number and length of team meetings.

Additional types of teams that your district may be interested in creating are:
- Student team, which consists of a diverse group of student leaders;
- Management team, which consists of campus administrators and other personnel as needed; and
- School Community Council, which consists of administrators, teachers, and parents.

[1] This language is optional; however, districts should be aware that if they require the instructional teams to meet during the student instructional day and do not also provide the minimum two hundred (200) minutes per week of individual prep time that the district would be required to compensate the members of the instructional team for the missed time. Teachers may voluntarily agree amongst each other to meet during the prep time, but the meeting during that time may not be required.

[2] The goal is to make sure all those who are necessary have a voice on the Leadership Team while keeping the number of members to a reasonable level; the recommendation is to have between five (5) and seven (7) members.

[3] In addition to the monthly meetings, you have the option to require the Instructional Teams to meet before or after the student instructional year. If you do, make sure that the days are scheduled on the school calendar since they will count against the number of days in the employee's contract. Here is our suggested language:
In addition to the regular monthly meetings during the school year, each Instructional Team shall meet for _____ days prior to the first student contact day and/or _____ days following the final student contact day.

Legal References: DESE Rules Governing the Arkansas Educational Support and Accountability Act
School-Level Improvement Plan Indicator 36
A.C.A. § 6-17-114
AG Opinion 2005-299

5.5—SELECTION/INSPECTION OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Definitions

"Curriculum" means the sequences of public school student learning expectations, pacing, materials, and resources that are used to teach the Arkansas academic standards and the processes for evaluating mastery of the Arkansas academic standards at particular points in time throughout the kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12) educational program.

“Gender identity" means the same as is used in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition, which defines it as a category of social identity and refers to an individual's identification as male, female, or, occasionally, some category other than male or female.

"Instructional material" means instructional content that is provided to a public school student, regardless of its format, that includes without limitation printed or representational materials, audio-visual materials, and materials in electronic or digital format, such as materials accessible through the internet; however, Instructional material does not include academic tests or academic assessments.

"Sexual orientation" means an individual's actual or perceived orientation as heterosexual, homosexual, or bisexual.

The use of instructional materials, including classroom events or activities associated with classroom instruction, beyond those approved as part of the curriculum/textbook program must be compatible with school and district policies. If there is uncertainty concerning the appropriateness of supplemental materials, the personnel desiring to use the materials shall get approval from the school’s principal prior to putting the materials into use.

All instructional materials, including classroom events or activities associated with classroom instruction, used as part of the educational curriculum of a student shall be available for inspection by the parents or guardians of the student.

Parents or guardians wishing to inspect instructional materials used as part of the educational curriculum for their child may schedule an appointment with the student’s teacher at a mutually agreeable time. Parents/guardians wishing to challenge the appropriateness of any instructional materials shall follow the procedures outlined in Policy 5.6—CHALLENGE OF INSTRUCTIONAL/SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS.

In addition to all other inspection rights under this policy, the following shall be made available for inspection regardless of whether any of the listed items are offered as part of a sex education class or program or as part of any other class, activity, or program:

a. Curricula;
b. Materials;
c. Tests;
d. Surveys;
e. Questionnaires;
f. Activities; and
g. Instruction of any kind.

Except when directly related to a requirement under the Arkansas academic standards; a District employee responding to questions posed by students during class regarding sex education, sexual orientation, or gender identity as it relates to a topic of instruction; or a District employee refers to the sexual orientation or gender identity of a historical person, group, or public figure when such information provides necessary context in relation to a topic of instruction, the District shall provide written notification to parents and legal guardians of their ability to exercise their rights under this policy to review items A-G above or to challenge and/or opt their student out of items under A-G above as permitted under Policy 5.6. The District's notification method shall ensure that the District receives a confirmation of the written notification receipt from parents and legal guardians.

The same notification requirements and opt out options as above for gender identity and sexual orientation shall apply to the sexual abuse and assault and human trafficking prevention education the District provides to students.

The rights provided to parents under this policy transfer to the student when he/she turns eighteen (18) years old.

Note: This policy is to be developed in conjunction with parents.

Cross Reference: 5.6—CHALLENGE TO INSTRUCTIONAL/SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

Legal References: 20 USC § 1232h
A.C.A. § 6-16-155
A.C.A. § 6-16-157
A.C.A. § 6-16-1006

5.6—CHALLENGE TO INSTRUCTIONAL/SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

Definitions

"Curriculum" means the sequences of public school student learning expectations, pacing, materials, and resources that are used to teach the Arkansas academic standards and the processes for evaluating mastery of the Arkansas academic standards at particular points in time throughout the kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12) educational program.

"Gender identity" means the same as is used in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition, which defines it as a category of social identity and refers to an individual's identification as male, female, or, occasionally, some category other than male or female.

"Instructional material" means instructional content that is provided to a public school student, regardless of its format, that includes without limitation printed or representational materials,

audio-visual materials, and materials in electronic or digital format, such as materials accessible through the internet; however, Instructional material does not include academic tests or academic assessments.

"Sexual orientation" means an individual's actual or perceived orientation as heterosexual, homosexual, or bisexual.

Instructional and supplemental materials, including classroom events or activities associated with classroom instruction, are selected for their compatibility with the District's educational program and their ability to help fulfill the District's educational goals and objectives. Individuals wishing to challenge or express concerns about instructional or supplemental materials, including classroom events or activities associated with classroom instruction, may do so by filling out a *Challenge to Instructional Material* form available in the school's office.

The contesting individual may present a copy of the form to the principal and request a conference be held at a time of mutual convenience. Prior to the conference, the principal shall consult with the teacher regarding the contested material. In the conference, the principal shall explain to the contesting individual the criteria used for the selection of the material and its relevance to the educational program as well as any other pertinent information in support of the use of the material.

Following the conclusion of the meeting, the principal shall have five (5) working days to submit a summary of the concerns expressed by the individual and the principal's response to those concerns to the Superintendent[1].

If the contesting individual is not satisfied with the principal's response, the individual may, after the five (5) working day period, request a meeting with the Superintendent where the individual shall present the same *Challenge to Instructional Material* form previously presented to the principal. The Superintendent shall explain to the contesting individual the criteria used for the selection of the material and its relevance to the educational program as well as any other pertinent information in support of the use of the material.[2]

Following the conclusion of the meeting, the Superintendent shall have five (5) working days to write a summary of the concerns expressed by the individual and the Superintendent's response to those concerns. The Superintendent shall create a file of his/her response along with a copy of the principal's response and a copy of the contesting individual's *Challenge to Instructional Material* form.

If, after meeting with the Superintendent, the contesting individual is not satisfied with the Superintendent's response regarding the appropriateness of the instructional or supplemental material, he/she may appeal the Superintendent's decision to the Board. The Superintendent shall present the contesting individual's *Challenge to Instructional Material* form to the Board at the next regularly scheduled meeting along with the written responses to the challenge. The Board may elect, if it so chooses, to hear brief verbal presentations from the parties involved in the challenge.

The Board shall decide at that meeting or their next regularly scheduled meeting whether to retain the material, limit the availability of the material, or remove the material from the school. The Board's

primary consideration in reaching its decision shall be if the instructional and supplemental materials, including classroom events or activities associated with classroom instruction, are:

- Misleading;
- Factually inaccurate; or
- Otherwise inappropriate for the intended educational use.

In addition to the notification requirements under Policy 5.5 and all other challenge rights under this policy, parents and legal guardians may opt their students out of any of the following by submission of form 5.6F2 regardless of whether any of the listed items are offered as part of a sex education class or program or as part of any other class, activity, or program except when the item is directly related to a requirement under the Arkansas academic standards; a District employee is responding to questions posed by students during class regarding sex education, sexual orientation, or gender identity as it relates to a topic of instruction; or a District employee refers to the sexual orientation or gender identity of a historical person, group, or public figure when such information provides necessary context in relation to a topic of instruction:

a. Curricula;
b. Materials;
c. Tests;
d. Surveys;
e. Questionnaires;
f. Activities; and
g. Instruction of any kind.

Students who are excused under this policy from participating in any or all portions of items A-G above shall not be penalized for grading purposes if the student satisfactorily performs alternative lessons related to health.

The same notification requirements and opt out options as above for gender identity and sexual orientation shall apply to the sexual abuse and assault and human trafficking prevention education the District provides to students.

The rights provided to parents under this policy transfer to the student when the student turns eighteen (18) years old.

Notes: This policy is to be developed in conjunction with parents.

[1] If your district has a curriculum coordinator or education director you might choose to have the process proceed to him/her if not resolved by the principal to the satisfaction of the contestant before having the appeal proceed to the Superintendent.

[2] Because the removal of instructional material can involve First Amendment Free Speech issues, ASBA advises the district to seek legal advice. This can be done at whatever challenge level you choose, but should certainly be done at least by the time it reaches the board.

Legal References: 20 USC 1232h

A.C.A. § 6-16-155
A.C.A. § 6-16-157
A.C.A. § 6-16-1006

5.6F—REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF INSTRUCTIONAL OR SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS, EVENTS, AND ACTIVITIES

Name: _____

Date submitted: level one _____ level two _____level three _____

Instructional material, event, or activity being contested:

_____

_____

Reasons for contesting the material, event, or activity (be specific):

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

What is your proposed resolution?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Signature of receiving principal_____

Signature of curriculum coordinator_____

Signature of Superintendent _____

5.6F2—STUDENT OPT OUT OF INSTRUCTION, EVENT, OR ACTIVITY REGARDING SEX ED, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, OR GENDER IDENTITY

Parent's Name: _____

Student's Name: _____

I have reviewed the list of curricula, materials, tests, surveys, questionnaires, activities, and instruction of any kind regarding sex ed, sexual orientation ,or gender identity and wish for my student to be excused from the following regarding sex ed, sexual orientation, or gender identity:

I understand that I may not opt my student out of curricula, materials, tests, surveys, questionnaires, activities, and instruction of any kind related to sex ed, sexual orientation, or gender identity if the curriculum, material, test, survey, questionnaire, activity, or instruction of any kind is directly related to a requirement under the Arkansas academic standards; a District employee responding to questions posed by students during class regarding sex education, sexual orientation, or gender identity as it relates to a topic of instruction; or a District employee refers to the sexual orientation or gender identity of a historical person, group, or public figure when such information provides necessary context in relation to a topic of instruction.

I understand that in order for my excused student to not be penalized for grading purposes due to my student being excused from the above instruction, instructional materials, events, or activities that my student must satisfactorily perform alternative lessons related to health.

Parent's Signature: _____ Date: _____

5.7—SELECTION OF LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER MATERIALS

The ultimate authority for the selection and retention of materials for the schools' media centers rests with the Board of Education, which shall serve as a final arbiter in resolving a challenge to any media center materials. Licensed media center personnel shall make the initial selections in consultation with school and district licensed staff. Materials selected shall be in accordance with the guidelines of this policy.

The purpose of the schools' libraries/media centers is to supplement and enrich the curriculum and instruction offered by the District. Promoting the dialogue characteristic of a healthy democracy necessitates the maintenance of a broad range of materials and information representing varied points of view on current and historical issues. In the selection of the materials and resources to be available in each library/media center consideration will be given to their age appropriateness. Materials should be available to challenge the different interests, learning styles, and reading levels of the school's students and that will help them attain the District's educational goals.

Selection Criteria

The criteria used in the selection of media center materials shall be that the materials:

a) Support and enhance the curricular and educational goals of the district;
b) Are appropriate for the ages, learning styles, interests, and maturity of the schools' students, or parents in the case of parenting literature;
c) Contribute to the examination of issues from varying points of view and help to broaden students understanding of their rights and responsibilities in our society;
d) Help develop critical thinking skills;
e) Are factually and/or historically accurate, in the case of non-fiction works and/or serve a pedagogical purpose;
f) Have literary merit as perceived by the educational community; and
g) Are technically well produced, physically sound (to the extent appropriate), and represent a reasonably sound economic value.

Retention and Continuous Evaluation

Media center materials shall be reviewed regularly to ensure the continued appropriateness of the center's collection to the school's curriculum and to maintain the collection in good repair. Those materials no longer meeting the selection criteria, have not been used for a long period of time, or are too worn to be economically repaired shall be withdrawn from the collection and disposed of. A record of withdrawn media materials including the manner of their disposal shall be maintained for a period of three (3) years.

Gifts

Gifts to the media centers shall be evaluated to determine their appropriateness before they are placed in any media center. The evaluation shall use the same criteria as for all other materials considered for inclusion in the media centers. Any items determined to be unacceptable shall be returned to the donor or disposed of at the discretion of the media specialist. The media centers shall have a list of desired items to give to prospective donors to aid them in their selection of materials to donate.

Kindergarten Through Grade Five (K-5) Libraries

The library media center located in a District elementary school that serves students in kindergarten through grade five (K-5) shall store non-age-appropriate sexual content, including without limitation a book or other resource that is located in the library media center that is available to the public, in a locked compartment.

For purposes of this policy, "non-age-appropriate sexual content" means any materials that include explicit instruction, promotion, or advocacy of sexual ideology, behaviors, or orientations that are not developmentally appropriate for kindergarten through grade five (K-5) students.

A student enrolled in the school shall not view or check out a book or other resource that concerns non-age-appropriate sexual content without the prior written approval from the student's parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis to the student.

District staff who are found to have knowingly violated the provisions of this section of the policy shall be disciplined in accordance with A.C.A. 6-25-107.

Challenges

The parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of a student, or person acting in loco parentis of a student affected by a media selection, or a District employee may formally challenge the appropriateness of a media center selection by following the procedure outlined in this policy. The challenged material shall remain available throughout the challenge process.

Before any formal challenge can be filed, the individual contesting (hereinafter complainant) the appropriateness of the specified item shall request a conference through the principal's office with a licensed media center employee. The complainant shall be given a copy of this policy and the *Request for Formal Reconsideration Form* prior to the conference. The meeting shall take place at the earliest possible time of mutual convenience, but in no case later than five (5) working days from the date of the request unless it is by the choice of the complainant.

In the meeting, the media specialist shall explain the selection criteria and how the challenged material fits the criteria. The complainant shall explain the complainant's reasons for objecting to the selected material. If, at the completion of the meeting, the complainant wishes to make a formal challenge to the selected material, the complainant may do so by completing the *Request for Formal Reconsideration Form* and submitting it to the principal's office.

To review the contested media, the principal shall select a committee of five (5) or seven (7) licensed personnel consisting of the principal as chair and at least one media specialist. The remaining committee members shall be licensed personnel with curriculum knowledge appropriate for the material being contested and representative of diverse viewpoints. The task of the committee shall be to determine if the challenged material meets the criteria of selection. No material shall be withdrawn solely for the viewpoints expressed within it and shall be reviewed in its entirety and not selected portions taken out of context.

The principal shall convene a meeting after a reasonable time for the committee members to adequately review the contested material and the *Request for Formal Reconsideration Form* submitted by the complainant. All meetings of the committee shall be open to the public. The complainant shall be allowed to present the complaint to the committee after which time the committee shall meet to discuss the material. The committee shall vote to determine whether the contested material shall be relocated within the media center's collection to an area that is not accessible to minors. A member from the voting majority shall write a summary of the reasons for their decision. A notice of the committee's decision and the summary shall be given (by hand or certified mail) to the complainant.

If the decision is to not relocate the material, the complainant may appeal the committee's decision to the district Board of Directors by filing a written appeal to the Superintendent within five (5) working days of the committee's decision or of written receipt of the decision. The Superintendent shall present the original complaint and the committee's decision along with the summary of its reasons for its position plus a recommendation of the administration, if so desired, to the Board within fifteen (15) days of the committee's decision. The Board shall review the material submitted to them by the Superintendent and make a decision within thirty (30) days of receipt of the information. The Board's decision is final.

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 6-25-101 et seq.
Date adopted:6/23/25
Last Revised: 6/23/25

5.7F—REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER MATERIALS

Name: _____

Date submitted: _____

Media Center material being contested:

_____

_____

Reasons for contesting the material. (Be specific about why you believe the material does not meet the selection criteria listed in policy *5.7—Selection of Library/Media Center Materials*):

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

What is your proposed resolution?

Signature of receiving principal_____

Signature of Superintendent (if appealed)

_____

5.8—USE OF COPYRIGHTED MATERIALS

Use of Copyrighted Work in Face-to-Face Classroom

The Board of Education encourages the enrichment of the instructional program through the proper use of supplementary materials. To help ensure the appropriate use of copyrighted materials, the Superintendent, or designee, will provide district personnel with information regarding the "fair use" doctrine of the U.S. Copyright Code as detailed in the "Agreement on Guidelines for Classroom Copying in Not-for-Profit Educational Institutions with Respect to Books and Periodicals" and "Guidelines for Educational Uses of Music."[1]

Use of Copyrighted Works in Digital Transmissions

Definitions

"Class session"[2] means the length of time provided for students to access the materials necessary for the completion of course assignments and tests. Depending on the copyrighted work's overall importance to the course, which can vary from a single assignment to an entire course focusing on the copyrighted work, the class session will end on:

- The date set by the teacher for an assignment to be submitted; or
- The date on the school calendar for the end of classes.

"Course packs" are premade compilations of book excerpts; newspaper, magazine, and journal articles; and instructor-authored materials.

"Mediated Instructional activities" includes textbooks, workbooks, and course packs.

"Transmission" is the remote accessing, whether on or off campus, by students of a copyrighted work by means of a closed circuit television, an educational television channel, or in a digital format on a password protected secure webpage.[3]

The District recognizes that advances in technology have resulted in the need for guidelines for the use of copyrighted materials that are transmitted to students through a digital network. While the requirements to use a copyrighted work in a digital transmission have many similarities to those required to use a copyrighted work in a face-to-face classroom, Federal law places several additional requirements on the District's teachers, IT staff, and librarians for the use of a digitally transmitted copyrighted work. The District is dedicated to providing the tools necessary for teachers, IT staff, and librarians to meet these additional Federal requirements.

The District shall make sure the server where materials are stored is secured, whether the server is located locally or remotely.

The District's Informational Technologies staff shall develop the proper protocols and train teachers on their use in order to ensure:

1. The transmission of the copyrighted work is limited to only the students enrolled in the course;
   - Each student shall have a unique ID and password for accessing digital courses/materials[4]; or
   - Each course shall have a unique password to access course materials; and
   - The password to access the course materials shall be changed immediately following the close of the course.
1. To prevent students from retaining or further disseminating the copyrighted work for more than one class session:
   - The print function will be disabled;
   - A transparency shall be placed over any literary work, sheet music, or photograph;
   - Audio and video transmissions will be set to be streamed; and
   - The link to the webpage with a copyrighted work shall be deactivated at the end of the applicable class session.

Teachers who wish to provide copyrighted works to students through a digital transmission as part of a digital course as well as teachers wishing to supplement a face-to-face classroom course with a digital transmission must meet applicable copyright statutes and policy 5.11—DIGITAL LEARNING COURSES as well as the following requirements in order to use a copyrighted work:

A. The use of the copyrighted work(s), whether in whole or in part, must be a part of regular classroom instruction and must be directly related and of material assistance to the course content;
B. The extent of a copyrighted work that is used must comply with one or more of the following criteria:
   - The entirety of a non dramatic literary or musical work may be used. A non dramatic literary work includes poems and short stories. A non dramatic musical work covers all

music that is not part of an opera or musical and does not cover the use of the music video format of a song.

- Dramatic literary and musical works as well as videos may only be used in limited portions. Dramatic literary and musical works may only be used in the same amount as set forth in the requirements for a face-to-face classroom while videos, including music videos, may only have the portion used that is directly related to the subject of the class session and may not be transmitted in their entirety.
- Still images or slides that a teacher would have used in the ordinary course of a face-to-face classroom session on a projector or a transparency may be used in a transmission.
- Works primarily produced or marketed for use in the digital education market may not be transmitted.
- Works the teacher had knowledge or reasonably believed to be unlawfully made or acquired may not be used.
- Mediated Instructional activities may not be transmitted.

A. A statement that works may be subject to copyright shall be placed in at least one of the following areas to provide notice to students of copyright status:[5]

- Course syllabus;
- Home webpage for the course;
- Webpage for the particular class session; and/or
- webpage with the copyrighted work.

The teacher and the District librarian shall work together when making digital copies of copyrighted work from physical or analog versions and shall fulfill the following requirements:

I. The amount converted is only the amount allowed by law; **and**
II. The District has no digital copy of the copyrighted work available; **or**
III. The District's digital copy of the copyrighted work that is available has technological protections that prevent the use of the copyrighted work in the manner prescribed by law.

The District will not be responsible for any employee violations of the use of copyrighted materials.

Notes: A useful checklist for Districts to use to help ensure compliance with Federal copyright laws can be found at http://library.uncc.edu/copyright/TEACH/teachtools.

[1] Copies of the documents are available on the Policy Resources page at https://www.arsba.org/page/policy-resources.

[2] No current law or regulation provides a definition for "class session". Unfortunately, the traditional meaning of a class session or a class period is impossible to apply to digital courses. Students have the option to digitally access course materials anytime during the day, may not be required to spend a certain period of time for a given course each day, and may complete course assignments at a time when the district is closed. Also, a class session cannot be based on a student's logging in to access course materials as there are many valid reasons that would require a student to log in multiple times to complete an assignment. For now, we don't know of any way to avoid the vagueness of the term and the intricacies of legally implementing it.

[3] While we recognize the definition of "transmission" appears backwards from a traditional definition, it has been used in this policy because that is its statutory meaning. It actually refers to when students **access** something instead of referring to something being **sent** to students.

There is an important distinction in this policy between a **website** and a **webpage**. A website consists of one or more web pages all kept on the same domain while a web page is a single place on a domain. Federal law requires reasonable measures be taken to prevent unauthorized access to copyrighted works. Therefore, districts have to ensure that any "transmission" in a digital format is by means of a password protected secure webpage. The easiest method for restricting access is by requiring users to enter a password; this does not mean that a password must be entered to access each copyrighted work. When the copyrighted work is accessed by selecting a particular webpage from a website, students should only be required to enter a password to access the website and not each individual webpage. If the webpage with the copyrighted work is reached from the district's website, then students should be required to enter a password to access the specific webpage. In short, the password should apply to the largest point of entry. Note that there are times when a non-district website would be a single webpage. Unfortunately, other than forbidding teachers from doing it, the district would have no control over the requiring of a password to access a website/webpage that is disconnected from both the district site and the digital course sites that is not a website created by the teacher. There would be nothing the school could do if someone disconnected from the school posted a copyrighted work to the web and the teacher provided a link to students.

[4] This does not require students to have a different ID or password for each digital course the student is enrolled in.

[5] It is not required that a posting of copyright notice appears in multiple places but is highly recommended. The more times the notice appears the harder it is for someone to claim to not have seen it.

Cross Reference: 5.11—DIGITAL LEARNING COURSES

Legal Reference: 17 USC § 101 to 1010(Federal Copyright Law of 1976)

5.9—COMPUTER SOFTWARE COPYRIGHT

The District shall observe copyright laws governing computer software reproduction. Unless specifically allowed by the software purchase agreement, the Copyright Act allows the purchaser of software to:

1. Make one copy of software for archival purposes in case the original is destroyed or damaged through mechanical failure of a computer. However, if the original is sold or given away, the archival copy must be destroyed;
2. Make necessary adaptations to use the program; and/or

3. Add features to the program for specific applications. These improvements may not be sold or given away without the copyright owner's permission.

The District shall abide by applicable licensing agreements before using computer software on local-area or wide-area networks.

Legal Reference: 17 USC § 117 Amended Dec. 12, 1980

5.10—ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Definitions

"Artificial Intelligence (AI)" means a machine-based system that -can, based on a given set of human-defined objectives, make predictions, recommendations, or decisions influencing a real or virtual environment.

"AI Tools" means Software, hardware, or cloud-based applications that use AI to aid in tasks like content creation, data analysis, and personalized learning. For purposes of this policy, AI tools do not include items such as spell check or grammar check.

"Automated decision tool" means an AI tool that has been specifically developed and marketed, or specifically modified, to make or to be a controlling factor in making consequential decisions.

The Hillcrest School District Board of Directors desires to provide guidance for the appropriate use of AI technologies in curriculum development, instruction, and related educational activities that is aligned with the Arkansas Academic Standards and safeguards student data and privacy while encouraging innovation.

Any AI tools or programs utilized by the District must adhere to State and federal laws; State rules; and Federal regulations governing data use, privacy, and security. Any AI tool used must comply with the District's policies on data privacy and security, especially concerning student information.

The superintendent shall establish a committee who shall be in charge of reviewing and approving any AI tools, including automated decision tools, before they may be used. The committee shall establish the procedures the committee shall use for approving AI tool selection. The District shall provide resources to support the integration of approved AI tools.

All curriculum and instructional materials that were created with AI tools shall align with the Arkansas Academic Standards and District educational goals.

Staff shall document the extent and manner AI tools were used in the creation of curriculum or instructional materials. Staff shall ensure the content created with the assistance of AI tools is accurate and free from bias.

The District shall regularly review the impact AI tools have on the District's educational outcomes and shall update this policy as necessary following the review.

Cross References: 3.58—LICENSED PERSONNEL USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
4.13—PRIVACY OF STUDENTS' RECORDS/ DIRECTORY INFORMATION
4.64—STUDENT USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
7.16—INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SECURITY
8.49—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-18-2601 et seq.
A.C.A. § 25-1-128
15 U.S.C. § 6501
20 U.S.C. § 1232g
34 C.F.R. Part 99

Date Adopted:06/23/25
Last Revised:06/23/25

5.11—DIGITAL LEARNING COURSES

Definitions

For the purposes of this policy:
"Blended Learning" is education in which instruction and content are delivered through supervised instruction in a classroom and online delivery of instruction with some element of student control over time, place, path, or pace.

"Digital Learning" means a digital technology or internet-based educational delivery model that does not rely exclusively on compressed interactive video (CIV). Digital learning includes online and blended learning.

"Instructional Materials" means:

1. Traditional books, textbooks, and trade books in printed and bound form;
2. Activity-oriented programs that may include:
   a. Manipulatives;
   b. Hand-held calculators;
   c. Other hands-on materials; and
1. Technology-based materials that require the use of electronic equipment in order to be used in the learning process.

"Online Learning" is education in which instruction and content are delivered primarily over the Internet. The term does not include print-based correspondence education, broadcast television or radio, videocassettes, compact disks and stand-alone educational software programs that do not have a significant Internet-based instructional component.

"Public School Student Accessing Courses at a Distance" means a student who is scheduled for a full course load through the District and attends all classes virtually.

Digital Course Offerings

The District shall offer one or more digital learning course(s) through one or more District approved provider(s) as either a primary or supplementary method of instruction. The courses may be in a blended learning, online-based, or other technology-based format and shall be tailored to meet the needs of each student.

All digitally offered courses shall meet or exceed the State Board of Education's curriculum standards and requirements and be capable of being assessed and measured through standardized or local assessments. Additionally, the District shall ensure there is sufficient infrastructure to handle and facilitate a quality digital learning environment.

The District shall annually determine what District created digital learning courses it will provide to our students.[1] The District may also choose to provide digital learning courses by contracting with outside providers of such courses, who have been pre-approved as part of the Arkansas Course Choice Program by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). The School Board shall determine the provider method or combination of methods for the District. The Superintendent shall ensure that all digital learning courses provided to District students, regardless of the source of the course, have been approved by DESE.

District created digital courses and any digital courses the district purchases from outside providers shall adhere to the guidelines for the use of digitally transmitted copyrighted materials set forth in Policy 5.8—USE OF COPYRIGHTED MATERIALS as well as applicable statutory requirements.

The District shall require all outside providers to incorporate Policy 5.8 as a condition of the service contract. Failure of the outside provider to abide by Policy 5.8 shall constitute a breach of contract and the outside provider shall be responsible for any costs resulting from such breach.

A student may elect to take any scheduled courses digitally if offered digitally by the District or, if applicable, through the Arkansas Course Choice Program. The student's attendance in the student's digital course(s) shall be determined in accordance with Policy 4.7—ABSENCES.[2]

The District is responsible for providing all instructional materials for each student who enrolls in a District approved digital learning course.[3]

Except as required by Policy 5.19, the District may restrict a student's access to digital courses when the student's building principal determines the student's participation in such a course would not be academically appropriate based on the student's past performance in digital courses. Furthermore, the student's building principal may revoke a student's eligibility to continue taking a digital learning course if the student's performance during the semester indicates the student is not succeeding in the course.[4]

Notes: [1] The district is NOT required to provide its own digital learning courses, but doing so affords the most oversight of what content such courses contain and how the courses are taught. Note that should the district choose to offer digital courses to non-district students, the district will have to go through the same provider approval process as is required for all "outside" providers.

[2] Attendance in a synchronous digital course must be tracked in the same manner as for students attending an in-person course. Students attending an asynchronous digital corse should have their attendance tracked in a manner that best works with your digital course platform. It is possible for a student who is assigned a period to complete the asynchronous digital course who fails to be physically present may be considered truant but may not be absent for the digital course if they meet the attendance requirements for the asynchronous attendance method.

Example: A ninth (9^{th}) grade student elects to take one (1) course digitally. The other courses the student takes are scheduled for first (1^{st}), second (2^{nd}), fourth (4^{th}), fifth (5^{th}), and sixth (6^{th}) periods and the student has a study hall during seventh (7^{th}) period. Because the student is too young to check out for the third (3^{rd}) period, the student is assigned third (3^{rd}) period to work on the asynchronous digital course. If the student goes to the gym one day during third (3^{rd}) period instead of the classroom where the student is supposed to be, the student would be truant but would not be absent so long as the student met the requirements to not be treated absent for the asynchronous digital course.

[3] This sentence is based on the statutory definition of "instructional materials". The statute further provides that the instructional materials shall be provided at no cost to students for all subjects taught.

[4] While digital learning offers great promise for engaging students, it also requires maturity and study skills that will not work for some students. The intention of the paragraph is to leave the initial digital enrollment open to previously poor and/or disengaged students who might thrive in a digital format, and yet still give the principal the authority to intervene when it's in the student's best interest. The Arkansas Course Choice Program prevents the principal from acting in a similar manner for a student who is performing poorly in a course through the program.

Cross References: 4.7—ABSENCES
4.45—SMART CORE CURRICULUM AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
5.8—USE OF COPYRIGHTED MATERIALS
5.19—ARKANSAS COURSE CHOICE PROGRAM

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-16-1401 et seq.
A.C.A. § 6-16-1701 et seq.
A.C.A. § 6-18-213
A.C.A. § 6-18-222
A.C.A. § 6-28-109
DESE RULES GOVERNING DISTANCE AND DIGITAL LEARNING

5.12—COMPUTER SCIENCE INTERNSHIPS AND INDEPENDENT STUDIES

Internships

The Board of Directors believes that students who intend to begin careers immediately upon high school graduation or intend to complete post-secondary training prior to starting a career can benefit from an internship experience. The desired outcomes of the District's internship program include students advancing computer science skills, sharpening soft-skills, and learning new skills while in a workplace environment. The internship program provides intense, competency-based worksite immersion in advanced computer science concepts while linking the internship participants to current resources, information, and guidance from computing professionals.[1]

Students who wish to participate in the internship program shall submit an application to the _____[2]. In order for a student to be eligible to participate in the internship program, the student must have:

1. Received enough credits to qualify as a junior;
2. Either:
   - Have at least one (1) credit from a Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) approved computer science course; or
   - Submit computer science work product that satisfactorily demonstrates the competencies expected within the DESE Computer Science Standards to _____[2]; and
3. At least a ____[3] GPA.

The student participating in an internship program is responsible for making sure _____[2] receives documentation authenticated by the student's supervisor of the hours worked by the student, proof of the student having completed projects, and regular evaluations of the student's work by the student's internship supervisor.

A student who completes a computer science internship shall receive credit for the internship as a Computer Science Flex Credit[4] based on the amount of documented on-the-job work hours as follows:

a. Half (1/2) credit for completing sixty (60) on-the-job work hours; or
b. One (1) credit for completing one hundred twenty (120) on-the-job work hours.

Independent Studies

A Computer Science Independent Study Program shall be designed to enrich the student's computer science educational experience. A student who desires to complete an independent study shall:

1. Either:
   - Have at least one (1) credit from a DESE approved computer science course; or
   - Submit computer science work product that satisfactorily demonstrates the competencies expected within the DESE Computer Science Standards to a local advisor[5];
2. Develop an educational plan that is tied directly to extending the computer science concepts found within:
   - The most current revision of the Arkansas High School Computer Science Standards;
   - College Board AP Computer Science Principles or A; and/or
   - IB Computer Science SL or HL;
3. Submit the study plan to a local advisor[5] for approval;
4. Have at least a ____[3] GPA; and
5. Produce a final product for presentation.

The advisor[5] is responsible for reviewing, monitoring, and approving the student's study plan. The study plan should include anticipated objectives that allow the advisor to evaluate the student's study progress. The student is responsible for submitting regular written reports to the advisor[5] concerning the student's progress towards the student's independent study goals.

The student's hours of study shall be documented by the most appropriate of the following methods:[6]

- Being assigned a class period during the instructional day that is dedicated to the student's independent study;
- Using the District's system to track student time for digital courses if the student's attendance and assignments are through a digital classroom; and
- Using another hour tracking system approved by the district Superintendent that provides for accurate tracking of hours and provides safeguards against improper reporting by the student.

A student who completes a computer science independent study shall receive credit for the independent study as a Computer Science Flex Credit[4] based on the amount of documented study hours as follows:

a. Half (1/2) credit for completing sixty (60) study hours; or
b. One (1) credit for completing one hundred twenty (120) study hours.

Notes: This is an optional policy as districts are not required to provide either of these programs to students.

[1] When creating the internship program, the entity who will host the interns needs to be aware that the position the intern will occupy must allow the student to perform tasks that are tied directly to extending the computer science concepts found within:

- The most current revision of the Arkansas High School Computer Science Standards,
- College Board AP Computer Science Principles or A, and/or
- IB Computer Science SL or HL.

[2] Place here the position best suited to oversee this program in your district. Possibilities include, but are not limited to, the building principal, JAG teacher, computer science teacher, or EAST facilitator.

[3] This is only a sample list of requirements. There is nothing requiring that you place a minimum grade level requirement or a GPA minimum for a student's participation.

[4] You may change this to have the credit the student receives count as either a Career Focus Credit or as a local elective credit instead.

[5] You have the option to require the study plan be presented and approved by an advisory panel instead of an individual advisor.

[6] This is not intended to be an all-inclusive list. The Standards require the time the student spends on the independent study be documented for the student to receive credit but leave it to the districts to select the best method.

Legal References: Arkansas Computer Science Standards for Grades 9-12 Internship Program
Arkansas Computer Science Standards for Grades 9-12 Independent Study

5.13—STUDENT INTERVENTION SERVICES AND SUMMER SCHOOL

School Year Student Intervention Services[1]

The Hillcrest School District shall offer intervention programs during the school year to those students in kindergarten through third grade (K-3) not performing at grade level.

Summer School[2]

Students in kindergarten through third grade (K-3) not performing at grade level during the regular school year shall successfully participate in a summer school remediation program to be eligible for promotion to the next grade. Transportation to and from the school shall be the responsibility of the student's parent or guardian.

Notes: A.C.A. § 6-16-705 provides that offering a summer school program for your students in kindergarten through third (3rd) grade that require remediation is the default remediation and intervention method as A.C.A. § 6-16-704 states that you are only required to provide intervention services to those students during the school year if you do not provide a summer school program; however, you may provide intervention services during the school year to your students along with a summer school program if you so choose. Make sure the language in your policy matches your current remediation and intervention practices.

[1] If you choose to provide intervention services for your students during the school year in addition to or instead of a summer school program, amend the grade levels that will receive intervention services. Make sure that the language you adopt for this policy and any associated procedures is in alignment with your practices and the language in Policy 4.55—PROMOTION AND RETENTION and any associated procedures. Intervention services for students in kindergarten through third (3rd) grade is the mandatory minimum you have to provide if you are providing intervention services during the school year instead of a summer school program.

[2] Include your district's summer school program (for all grades, not just K-3) in this policy. You could include your philosophy behind offering summer school and its eligibility guidelines.

A.C.A. § 6-16-706 permits your district to transfer students for summer school to another district upon agreement with that district. If your district enters such an agreement, include in your policy a sentence to that effect such as, "Summer school classes, for remediation purposes, shall be available from the Hillcrest School District at no charge to the student."

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-16-704
A.C.A. § 6-16-705
A.C.A. § 6-16-706

5.14—HOMEWORK

Homework is considered to be part of the educational program of the District. Assignments shall be an extension of the teaching/learning experience that promotes the student's educational development. As an extension of the classroom, homework must be planned and organized and should be viewed by the students as purposeful.

Teachers should be aware of the potential problem students may have completed assignments from multiple teachers and vary the amount of homework they give from day to day.

Parents shall be notified of this policy at the beginning of each school year.

5.15—GRADING

Parents, legal guardians, persons having lawful control of a student, or persons standing in loco parentis shall be kept informed concerning the progress of their student. Parent-teacher conferences are encouraged and may be requested by parents, guardians, persons having lawful control of a student, persons standing in loco parentis, or teachers. If the progress of a student is unsatisfactory in a subject, the teacher shall attempt to schedule a parent-teacher conference. In the conference, the teacher shall explain the reasons for difficulties and shall develop, cooperatively with the parents, a plan for remediation, which may enhance the probability of the student succeeding. The school shall also send timely progress reports and issue grades for each nine (9) week grading period[1] to keep parents/guardians informed of their student's progress.

The evaluation of each student's performance on a regular basis serves to give the parents/guardians, students, and the school necessary information to help affect academic improvement. Students' grades shall reflect only the extent to which a student has achieved the expressed educational objectives of the course.

The grades of a child in foster care shall not be lowered due to an absence from school due to:[2]
1. A change in the child's school enrollment;
2. The child's attendance at a dependency-neglect court proceeding; or
3. The child's attendance at court-ordered counseling or treatment.

The District shall use Standards-based grading in the District's elementary schools.[3]

The grading scale for all schools other than elementary schools in the district shall be as follows:
A =100 – 90
B = 89 – 80
C = 79 – 70
D = 69 – 60
F = 59 and below

For the purpose of determining grade point averages, the numeric value of each letter grade shall be:
A = 4 points
B = 3 points
C = 2 points
D = 1 point
F = 0 points

The grade point values for accelerated learning courses and other approved courses for weighted credit, shall be one (1) point greater than for regular courses with the exception that an F shall still be worth zero (0) points.

The final grades of students who transfer in for part of a semester will be determined by blending the grades earned in the district with those earned outside the district. Each final grade will be the sum of the percentage of days in the grading period transferred from outside the district times the transferred

grade from outside the district plus the percentage of days in the grading period while in the district times the grade earned in the district.

For example: The grading period had forty (40) days. A student transferred in with a grade of eighty-three percent (83%) earned in ten (10) days at the previous school. The student had a grade of seventy-five percent (75%) in our district's school earned in the remaining thirty (30) days of the grading period. Ten (10) days is twenty-five percent (25%) of forty (40) days while thirty (30) days is seventy-five percent (75%) of forty (40) days. Thus the final grade would be (0.25 X 83) + (0.75 X 75) = 77%.

Notes: [1] For districts on a 4x4 block schedule the grading period should be adjusted.

[2] A.C.A. § 9-28-113(f) makes this requirement, but does not offer any statutory solution. Presumably, class work missed due to a foster child's absence for the listed reasons would fall under the same parameters for making up missed assignments or tests as any other absence. As such, a foster child's grades could be affected by how well the child does in making up their missed assignments or tests, but not merely because the child missed school for cause.

[3] The statutory authority to use the same grading scale in elementary schools as in other schools was repealed.

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-15-902
A.C.A. § 9-28-113(f)
Standards For Accreditation 5-A.1
Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Rules Governing Grading and Course Credit

Date adopted: 6/23/25
Last Revised: 6/23/25

5.16—COMPUTER SCIENCE COURSE PREREQUISITES AND PROGRESSION

Traditional Progression

A student who has not previously received a computer science credit may elect to take an introductory level computer science course. A student who passes a computer science course level is eligible to take the next level computer science course in the same computer science course emphasis.

Alternative Progression

A student who does not have credit for any computer science course, the introductory level computer science course for the particular computer science emphasis, or the preceding level course for the computer science emphasis may be placed in a computer science course based on any combination of the following factors:[1]

- The student's grade point average;

- Recommendation from the student's teacher(s);
- Completion of computer science internships or independent studies;
- Demonstration of previous computer science work by the student; or
- Proficiency report from a computer science proficiency evaluation tool.[2]

Notes: [1] This is not intended to be an all-inclusive list of what may be considered when determining at what computer science course level a student should be placed.

[2] The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education and Virtual Arkansas have developed a computer science proficiency tool that districts may use.

Cross Reference: 5.12—COMPUTER SCIENCE INTERNSHIPS AND INDEPENDENT STUDIES

Legal References: Arkansas Computer Science Standards for Grades 9-12
Commissioner's Memo COM-17-051
Commissioner's Memo COM-19-050

5.17—HONOR ROLL AND HONOR GRADUATES

HONOR ROLL

Students in Kindergarten through grade six (K-6) who maintain a ___[1] grade point average (GPA) for the grading period will be recognized as honor roll students for that grading period. Semester grades will determine the honor roll at the end of each semester.

Students in grades seven through twelve (7-12) who participate in the Smart Core Curriculum[2] and maintain a ___[1] GPA for the grading period will be recognized as honor roll students for that grading period. Semester grades will determine the honor roll at the end of each semester.

HONOR GRADUATES

Students who have successfully completed the minimum core of courses recommended for preparation for college as defined by the Higher Education Coordinating Board and the State Board of Education and have a cumulative GPA of 3.25[1] will be designated as honor students.[3] The GPA shall be derived from courses taken in public schools in grades nine (9) through twelve (12).

VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN

The honor student with the highest GPA and who has been enrolled in public school in grades nine (9) through twelve (12) and in Hillcrest High School for the students entire senior year shall serve as the

valedictorian of the students graduating class. Students who finished their grade nine (9), grade ten (10), or grade eleven (11) enrolled in a high school which has been closed due to consolidation/annexation with the Hillcrest District shall be selected valedictorian on the basis of the criteria in existence in their high school at the time of the closure and their subsequent academic achievement in Hillcrest High School. Their selection shall be separate from and in addition to selection of the valedictorian from non-consolidated/annexed students enrolled in High School.[4]

The honor student with the second highest GPA and who has been enrolled in public school in grades nine (9) through twelve (12)and in Hillcrest High School for his/her entire senior year shall serve as the salutatorian of the student's graduating class. Students who finished grade nine (9), grade ten (10), or grade eleven (11) enrolled in a high school which has been closed due to consolidation/annexation with the Hillcrest District shall be selected salutatorian on the basis of the criteria in existence in their high school at the time of the closure and their subsequent academic achievement in Hillcrest High School. Their selection shall be separate from and in addition to selection of the salutatorian from non-consolidated/annexed students enrolled in High School.[4]

Parents or guardians of a student, or a student eighteen (18) years of age or older, who choose to not have the student publicly identified as an honor roll or honor graduate student must submit a written request that the student not be so identified.

Notes: [1] Insert the GPA you desire.

[2] There is no law or Rule that stipulates the eligibility requirements for the honor roll. The caveat regarding students with IEPs in note #2 also applies here, but you may insert the requirements your district has in place of, or in addition to taking the Smart Core curriculum.

[3] Students with an IEP or §504 plan are included to the extent that the courses that they have taken and successfully completed meet the requirements of their IEP for graduation, regardless of whether or not they meet the course requirements established by the State Board of Education and the Higher Education Coordinating Board for preparation for college.

[4] You should consider including these two sentences only if your district is involved in a consolidation or annexation. This language is optional but we believe there is great potential for conflict and hurt feelings over this issue. Following the procedure we suggest may help defuse the issue. This procedure establishes a three- year transition process in which there will be more than one valedictorian and salutatorian. After the three-year period, there will only be one of each, because students eligible for graduation honors will have begun their high school careers under the merged school district.

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-18-101 (a) (1)
A.C.A. § 6-18-101 (a) (2)
A.C.A. § 6-18-101 (b)
A.C.A. § 6-18-101(e)
A.C.A. § 6-61-217(a)

Last Adopted: 06/23/25
Last Revised: 06/23/25

5.17F— HONOR ROLL AND GRADUATE OPT OUT FORM

I, the undersigned, being a parent or guardian of a student, or a student eighteen (18) years of age or older, hereby note my objection to having the student named below publicly identified as an honor roll or honor graduate student.

_____
Name of student (Printed)

_____
Signature of parent (or student, if eighteen (18, or older)

_____
Date form was filed (To be filled in by office personnel)

5.18—HEALTH SERVICES

The Board believes that healthy children promote a better learning environment, are more capable of high student achievement, and will result in healthier, more productive adults. Therefore, the goal of the District's health services is to promote a healthy student body. This requires both the education of students concerning healthy behaviors, as well as providing health care services to pupils.

The District shall develop an age-appropriate seizure education program for the District's students consistent with training programs and guidelines developed by the Epilepsy Foundation of America.

While the school nurse is under the supervision of the school principal, the delegation of health care duties shall be in accordance with the Arkansas Nurse Practice Act and the Arkansas State Board of Nursing Rules Chapter Five: Delegation of Nursing Care.

Annually, the information reported in the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Health Services Survey shall be provided to the Board.

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-18-709
A.C.A. § 6-18-720

5.19—ARKANSAS COURSE CHOICE PROGRAM

District students in grades six through twelve (6-12) are eligible to take courses through the Arkansas Course Choice Program (ACCP) if the student is:

- Seeking to take a course not offered by the District; or
- Attending a District school that received a school letter grade of C, D, or F and the course is required for graduation.[1]

The ACCP course catalog shall be made available to all students during student course selection.[2] The District shall not actively discourage, intimidate, or threaten a student during course selection to not take a course through the ACCP.

A student attending courses through the ACCP shall enroll in at least one (1) course at the District, which may be either in person or a digital course offered by the District.

A District student attending courses through the ACCP is entitled to the following services as if the student were attending courses at the District:

1. Required assessments, including without limitation:
   a. Statewide assessments;
   b. Advanced Placement; and
   c. International Baccalaureate,
2. Participation in extracurricular or co curricular activities; and
3. Special education services pursuant to the student's individualized education program.

Credits earned through the ACCP shall appear on a student's official transcript and count fully towards the student's graduation requirements.

Notes: [1] This language matches that in the definition of "eligible student" from A.C.A. § 6-16-1702.

[2] The State Board has until 2026 to establish the official ACCP course catalog.

Cross Reference: 5.11—DIGITAL LEARNING COURSES

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 6-15-1701 et seq.

Date adopted: 6/23/25
Last Revised: 6/23/25

5.20—DISTRICT WEBSITE

The Hillcrest School District shall maintain a web page to provide information about its schools, students, and activities to the community. This policy is adopted to promote continuity between the different pages on the district website by establishing guidelines for their construction and operation.

The Hillcrest School District website shall be used for educational purposes only. It shall not create either a public or a limited public forum. Any link from any page on the District's site may only be to another educational site.[1] The website shall not use "cookies" to collect or retain identifying information about visitors to its website nor shall any such information be given to "third parties." Any data collected shall be used solely for the purpose of monitoring site activity to help the district improve the usefulness of the site to its visitors.[2]

Each school's web page shall be under the supervision of the school's Web Master and the District's website shall be under the supervision of the District's Web Master. They shall have the responsibility for ensuring that web pages meet appropriate levels of academic standards and are in compliance with these guidelines and any additional administrative regulations. To this end, the District and School Web Masters shall have the authority to review and edit any proposed changes to web pages to ensure their compliance with this policy. All such editing shall be viewpoint neutral.

District and school web pages shall also conform to the following guidelines:

1. All pages on the District's website may contain advertising and links only to educational sources.
2. The District's home page shall contain links to existing individual school's web pages and the school home pages shall link back to the District's home page. The District's home page may also include links to educational extracurricular organization's web pages, which shall also link back to the District's home page.

3. Photos along with the student's name shall only be posted on web pages after receiving written permission from the student's parents or the student if the student is over the age of eighteen (18).[3]
4. The District's web server shall host the Hillcrest District's website.[4]
5. No web page on the District website may contain public message boards or chat rooms.
6. All web pages on the District website shall be constructed to download in a reasonable length of time.
7. The District's home page shall contain a link to a privacy policy notice, which must be placed in a clear and prominent place and manner.[5]
8. With the exception of students who may retain the copyright of material they have created that is displayed on a District web page, all materials displayed on the District web site are owned by the District.
9. The District shall include the following information on its website through a link located on the District's homepage titled "State Required Information":[6]

a. Local and state revenue sources;
b. Administrator and teacher salary and benefit expenditure data;
c. District balances, including legal balances and building fund balances;
d. Minutes of regular, emergency,and special meetings of the school board;
e. The district's budget for the ensuing year;
f. A financial breakdown of monthly expenditures of the district;
g. The salary schedule for all employees including extended contract and supplementary pay amounts;
h. Current contract information (not including social security numbers, telephone numbers, personal addresses or signatures) for all district employees;
i. The district's annual budget;
j. The annual statistical report of the district;
k. Agenda of regular, emergency, and special meetings of the District board of directors;[8]
l. The names, email addresses,[9] position (including zones), and terms of office for all members of the school district board of directors;
m. The district's personnel policies;
n. The annual School Performance Report;[10]
o. School-Level Improvement Plans;[11]
p. The District Strategic Plan;[11]
q. Student discipline policies;
r. Comprehensive School Counseling Plan;
s. The District financial policies;
t. Student handbooks;[12]
u. The Annual Report to the Public;
v. The parent, family, and community engagement plan;
w. The Immunization waiver report from Policy 4.57—IMMUNIZATIONS;
x. School District Calendar;
y. List of statutory, rule, or Standards for Accreditation waivers the District has received under A.C.A. § 6-15-103;
aa. The total amount of State funds used for teacher salaries;
bb. The District's policy addressing the selection, relocation, retention and challenging of materials that are physically present in the library and available to the public;

The information and data required for items A through N in 9 above shall be the actual data for the previous two (2) school-years and the projected data for the current school-year.

Before July 15 of each year, the District shall post on its website the following information:[10]

- The dyslexia intervention programs used during the previous school year that were specifically responsive to assisting students with dyslexia;
- The number of students during the previous school year who received dyslexia intervention; and
- The total number of students identified with dyslexia during the previous school year.

If the District's reading curriculum is not taken from the DESE list of approved curricula, the District shall post the reading curriculum the District uses and a statement that the curriculum is not on the list of DESE approved curricula.

The District shall include the following information on its website that may be accessed through a link located on the District's homepage titled "Military Families":[15]

- The student enrollment application process;
- Career-ready pathways and other academic or education programs offered;
- Required academic courses for each curriculum and elective course options;
- School and community-sponsored extracurricular activities, including without limitation individual and team sports, clubs, junior reserve officer training corps opportunities, and Purple Star School program ambassadors;
- Notable District and District school Purple Star School Programs;
- The District military family education coordinator contact information; and
- The District schools' military family education facilitator contact information.

The District shall post the following on the District website that may be accessed through a link titled "Antisemitism/Title VI":

1. The District's definition of antisemitism;
2. A statement that antisemitism is prohibited in the District's educational programs and activities;
3. A statement that complaints of discrimination or harassment based on antisemitism may be filed with the Title VI Coordinator;
4. Contact information for the District's Title VI Coordinator; and
5. Information on how to file a complaint of antisemitism with the Title VI Coordinator at the Arkansas Department of Education.

The District and school webmasters are responsible for ensuring all District webpages meet required standards to be accessible to individuals with disabilities.

Notes: [1] A link to either a non-educational website or advertising from non-educational sources establishes your web site as a limited open forum, which would require you to allow links and advertising to other non-educational sources unless you could demonstrate that they could be disruptive to your educational environment.

[2] Collection of data from individuals under the age of thirteen (13) makes compliance with the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) more difficult and cumbersome. It's simply easier to have your policy state that you will collect no data on site visitors.

[3] This relates to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Directory Information as defined by FERPA (see policy 4.13) allows for the release of a student's name, address, and phone number, but because of the potential for significantly greater exposure of the Internet than exists in print media, ASBA recommends limiting the release of Directory Information on the Internet to a student's photo along with their name only **after** receiving written parental permission, or the student's permission if the student is over the age of eighteen (18). Although it has not been definitively established by the U.S. Supreme Court, the vast increase in exposure offered by the Internet appears to dictate a more restrictive policy regarding the release of Directory Information as it relates to the Internet.

[4] If you choose to have your district's website hosted by a server separate from your district, make sure that they are willing to abide by the requirements of this policy, especially the advertising requirements.

[5] See policy 5.20.1

[6] "A" through "N" are required by A.C.A. § 6-11-129.

[7] The minutes are required to be posted within twenty-four (24) hours after adjournment of the meeting where the minutes were approved.

[8] The agenda for a regular meeting is required to be posted at least three (3) days in advance of the meeting. The agenda for an emergency or special meeting is required to be posted at least two (2) hours in advance of the meeting.

[9] The email address that is posted should be a district created email address for each board member. All board members should have a district created email address that should be used for anything dealing with the district. The use of a district email address allows Freedom of Information requests to be handled by the district instead of the board member as the district is the custodian of those records, unlike with a board member's personal email.

[10] The annual school performance report here refers to the reports required under both A.C.A. § 6-15-1402 and A.C.A. § 6-15-2101. Districts are required to provide a printed copy of the school performance report to an individual upon request; however, districts are no longer required to have either school performance report printed in the newspaper but may do so if they choose.

[11] The school-level improvement plans are required to be posted to the website by August 1 of each year. The district strategic plans must be posted by October 1.

[12] If your written anti-bullying policies are not included in your student handbooks, you are required to include a copy of the policies on the State Required Information page in addition to the student handbooks.

[13] A.C.A. § 6-41-611 states that a district who fails to meet the dyslexia screening and intervention requirements may be placed in probationary status. If the district is placed in probationary status, the district is required to post to the district website that the district was placed in probationary status and why.

[14] 34 C.F.R. § 106.8 and 106.45 require that the information is posted to your district website, but do not require the information to be located on a page accessed by a link specifically titled "Title IX/Sex Discrimination" so you may change where and how on your website the information is located so long as it may be easily found by students, employees, and members of the community.

[15] A.C.A. § 6-28-301 requires the information to be placed on the "Military Families" page on the district website if the district has twenty (20) or more dependents of Uniformed Service Members enrolled in the district or a general student body of three thousand (3,000) or more. A.C.A. § 6-28-108 allows districts to provide this information directly to the military family instead of placing it on the website if the enrolled student numbers are not met.

Cross References: 1.14—MEETING AGENDA
3.26—LICENSED PERSONNEL SEXUAL HARASSMENT
3.59—ANTISEMITISM PROHIBITED
4.2—ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS
4.27—STUDENT SEXUAL HARASSMENT
4.57—IMMUNIZATIONS
4.65—ANTISEMITISM PROHIBITED
5.2—PLANNING FOR EDUCATIONAL IMPROVEMENT
5.3—CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT
8.20—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL SEXUAL HARASSMENT
8.60—ANTISEMITISM PROHIBITED

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-11-129
A.C.A. § 6-15-1402
A.C.A. § 6-15-2006
A.C.A. § 6-15-2101
A.C.A. § 6-15-2914
A.C.A. § 6-15-2919
A.C.A. § 6-16-2001 et seq.
A.C.A. § 6-17-429
A.C.A. § 6-17-2403
A.C.A. § 6-17-1901
A.C.A. § 6-18-702
A.C.A. § 6-18-2001 et seq.

A.C.A. § 6-25-105
A.C.A. § 6-28-108
A.C.A. § 6-28-301
A.C.A. § 6-41-606
A.C.A. §6-41-611
DESE Rules Governing How to Meet the Needs of Children With Dyslexia
DESE Rules Governing the Arkansas Educational Support and Accountability Act
DESE Rules Governing Act 1240 Waivers
DESE Rules Governing Documents Posted to School District an Education Service Cooperative Websites
Standards For Accreditation 12.02.1, 1-B.2, 2-B.1, 2-H.2, 3-A.1, 3-A.2, 3-A.9, 3-B.1, 3.B.2.1, 5-A.1
20 U.S.C. § 1232 g
15 U.S.C. § 6501 (COPPA)
34 C.F.R. § 106.8
34 C.F.R. § 106.45

Last Adopted: 06/23/25
Last Revised: 06/23/25

5.20 F—PERMISSION TO DISPLAY PHOTO OF STUDENT ON WEB SITE

I hereby grant permission to the Hillcrest School District to display the photograph or video clip of me/my student (if student is under the age of eighteen {18}) on the District's website, including any page on the site, or in other District publications without further notice. I also grant the Hillcrest School District the right to edit the photograph or video clip at its discretion.

The student's name may be used in conjunction with the photograph or video clip. It is understood, however, that once the photograph or video clip is displayed on a web site, the District has no control over how the photograph or video clip is used or misused by persons with computers accessing the District's website.

_____
Name of student (Printed)

_____
Signature of student (only necessary if student is over eighteen (18)

_____
Signature of parent (required if student is under eighteen (18)

_____
Date

5.20.1—WEBSITE PRIVACY POLICY*

The Hillcrest School District operates and maintains a website for the purpose of informing the citizens of the district about its activities. The website does not use "cookies" or ISP addresses to collect or retain personally identifying information about visitors to its website nor is any such information given to "third parties." Any data collected is used solely for the purpose of monitoring site activity to help the district improve the usefulness of the site to its visitors.

The site serves no commercial purpose and does not collect any information from individuals for such purpose.

Photographs of students, when associated with the student's name, shall not be displayed on any page of the district's website without the prior written consent of the parent (or the student if 18 or older).

The site provides for email communication between the District and individuals for the purpose of exchanging information regarding the District and its activities or between teachers and their students. The site may also provide for password protected communication between the District and its staff.[1]

Notes: The language contained in both this privacy policy and the District Website policy has been carefully constructed in relation to the requirements of the family educational rights and privacy act (FERPA) and the children's online privacy protection act (COPPA). COPPA relates to the collection and dissemination of personally identifying information from children under the age of 13 from a website where such websites or online services are operated for commercial purposes. The policies are also aimed at helping you avoid having your website become a limited open forum. Establishing a limited open forum as it relates to the internet would obligate your district to permit links from your site to essentially any other site unless you can demonstrate that a site could be disruptive to your educational environment. Before changing parts of either policy, ASBA urges you to speak with your attorney.

[1] Include the portions of this paragraph that apply to your district.

Legal Reference: 15 U.S.C. § 6501 (COPPA)

5.21—ACCELERATED LEARNING COURSES

Definition

"Accelerated learning" means an organized method of learning that enables a student to meet individual academic goals and graduation requirements while pursuing higher levels of skill development, including without limitation the following coursework:

1. A College Board Pre-Advanced Placement and Advanced Placement (AP) course;
2. An International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme course;
3. A Cambridge Advanced International Certificate of Education course;
4. A concurrent credit course; and
5. A substantively similar course or program approved by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

Students in grades seven through twelve (7-12) who take accelerated learning courses or other courses approved for weighted credit by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) or the Division of Career and Technical Education (DCTE) shall be graded according to the following schedule:

A =100 – 90
B = 89 – 80
C = 79 – 70
D = 69 – 60
F = 59 and below

For the purpose of determining grade point averages, the numeric value of each letter grade shall be:

A = 5 points
B = 4 points
C = 3 points
D = 2 point
F = 0 points

For a student to be eligible to receive weighted credit for an AP, or IB course:

- The course must be taught by an Arkansas licensed teacher who has received the appropriate training required by the appropriate accrediting organization; and
- The student takes the applicable AP or IB examination after completing the entire course. Credit shall be given for each grading period during the course of the year, but shall be retroactively removed from a student's grade for any course in which the student fails to take the applicable exam. Students who do not take the applicable exam shall receive the same

numeric value for the grade the student receives in the course as if it were a non-AP or IB course.[2]

DESE shall approve additional courses, including other accelerated learning courses, for weighted credit if the course:

a. Exceeds the curriculum standards for a non-weighted credit class;
b. Meets or exceeds the standards of a comparable accelerated learning course; or
c. Is identified by DESE as an honors class.

For career and technical education courses taken after July 1, 2023, career and technical courses that are eligible for weighted credit are those career and technical education courses that:

·Exceed the curriculum standards for a non-weighted class; and
· Lead to an approved industry-recognized certification or concurrent credit.

A student shall receive weighted credit for each approved career and technical education course upon the student:

o Completing the relevant career and technical pathway; and
o Earning the high-value industry credential aligned with the career and technical pathway.

A student who transfers into the district will be given weighted credit for the accelerated learning courses and other courses approved by DESE and DCTE for weighted credit that were taken for weighted credit at the student's previous school(s) according to the preceding scale.

Notes: [1] A.C.A. § 6-15-902(c)(2)(B) and the DESE Rules stipulate that students must take the applicable AP exam to receive weighted credit for the course. Because the state now pays the total cost of the AP exams and the student's score on the exam does not affect the student's grade for the course, students can reasonably be expected to take the test. By standardizing the timing of awarding weighted credit across Arkansas, all students will be on a level playing field regarding their GPA for college applications.

Legal References: DESE Rules Governing Grading and Course Credit
A.C.A. § 6-15-902
A.C.A. § 6-16-1201 et seq.

Date adopted: 6/23/25
Last Revised: 6/23/25

5.22—CONCURRENT CREDIT

A ninth (9th) through twelfth (12th) grade student who successfully completes a college course(s) from an institution approved by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) shall be given credit toward high school grades and graduation at the rate of one (1) high school credit for each three (3) semester hours of college credit. Unless approved by the school's principal, **prior to**

enrolling for the course, the concurrent credit shall be applied toward the student's graduation requirements as an elective.

As permitted by the DESE Rules Governing Grading and Course Credit, a student who takes a three (3) semester hour remedial/developmental education course shall receive a half (1/2) credit for a high school career focus elective. The remedial/developmental education course cannot be used to meet core subject area/unit requirements.

Participation in the concurrent high school and college credit program must be documented by a written agreement between:

- The student;
- The student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) if the student is under the age of eighteen (18);
- The District; and
- The publicly supported community college, technical college, four-year college or university, or private institution of higher education the student attends to take the concurrent credit course.

Students are responsible for having the transcript for the concurrent credit course(s) they've taken sent to their school in order to receive credit for the course(s). Credit for concurrent credit courses will not be given until a transcript is received. Students may not receive credit for the course(s) they took or the credit may be delayed if the transcripts are not received at all or in a timely manner; this may jeopardize students' eligibility for extracurricular activities, graduation, or _____.[1]

Students will retain credit earned through the concurrent credit program that was applied toward a course required for high school graduation from a previously attended, accredited, public school.

A student or a student's parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis to the student shall not be responsible for tuition, fees, or materials for participation in a concurrent credit course.[2]

Notes: A.C.A. § 6-18-232 prohibits a private school or home schooled student who is attending a concurrent credit course through the district under Policy 4.59 from being charged for the concurrent course unless the district also charges the district's students for concurrent credit courses.

[1] If your district has other repercussions that would apply for failure to receive credit for a course, enter them here.

This paragraph is not mandatory, but would put the responsibility on the student for getting the student's transcripts to you.

[2] The cost of concurrent credit hours may be paid by the District, the institution of higher education, or through a cost sharing agreement between the District and the institution of higher education. Acceleration Scholarship Program funds may also be used to pay for concurrent credit courses.

Cross Reference: 4.59—ACADEMIC COURSE ATTENDANCE BY PRIVATE SCHOOL AND HOME SCHOOLED STUDENTS

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-15-902(c)(2)
A.C.A. § 6-16-1201 et seq.
A.C.A. § 6-18-232
DESE Rules Governing Grading and Course Credit

Date Adopted:6/23/25
Last Revised:6/23/25

5.23—EQUIVALENCE BETWEEN SCHOOLS #2*

The Hillcrest School District is committed to providing a quality education for all students in each of the district's schools. The equitable distribution of district resources is one means the district shall use to ensure all of its students receive a quality education. The Board directs that services in Title I schools, when taken as a whole, are substantially comparable to services in schools that are not receiving Title I funds. Curriculum materials, instructional supplies, and the percentages of qualified personnel shall be equivalent between all schools in the district when compared on a *grade-span by grade-span basis*[1], *school-by-school basis*[1]. Specifically, the goal of the district is to have its students given an equitable opportunity to learn regardless of the school they attend within the district.

The Board understands that the equivalence between schools shall not be measured by such things as:

a. Changes in enrollment after the start of the school year;
b. Varying costs associated with providing services to children with disabilities,
c. Unexpected changes in personnel assignments occurring after the beginning of the school year;
d. Expenditures on language instruction education programs and;
e. Other expenditures from supplemental State or local funds consistent with the intent of Title I.

Notes: Federal law requires the district to "develop procedures for compliance" with this policy and to "maintain records that are updated biennially documenting … compliance…" [20 U.S.C. § 6321(c)(3)(A) and (B)]

***** This policy is for districts with only Title I schools and with more than one building for each grade span. This policy is **not** required for districts with only one building per grade span.

[1] Choose which method of accountability your district prefers.

Legal Reference: 20 USC § 6321(a),(b), and (c)

5.24—STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN SURVEYS

No student shall be required to submit to a survey, analysis, or evaluation that is administered or distributed by a school, and is funded in whole or in part by any program administered by the U.S. Department of Education without the prior written consent of the student's parents, legal guardians, persons having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis that reveals information concerning the following:

1. Political affiliations;
2. Mental and psychological problems potentially embarrassing to the student or the student's family;
3. Sex behavior and attitudes;
4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, and demeaning behavior;
5. Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships;
6. Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers;
7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or student's parent's, legal guardians persons having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis or
8. Income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program).

No surveys, analyses, or evaluations shall be administered without the prior approval of the school principal.

The school shall take reasonable precautions to protect student's privacy during their participation in the administration of any survey, analysis, or evaluation containing one or more of the eight categories listed above.

Any survey created by a third party, or funded, in whole or in part, as part of any US Department of Education administered program, containing one or more of the eight (8) categories listed above shall be available to be inspected by a student's parents, legal guardians, persons having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis before the survey is administered or distributed by a school to a student. Parent's, legal guardian, persons having lawful control, or persons standing in loco parentis wishing to inspect a survey analysis or evaluation shall be able to do so if the administration office of the administrating school where the survey, analysis, or evaluation shall be available for inspection for a period of ten (10) business days after the notice of internet to administer the survey, analysis, or evaluation is sent.The notice shall include information regarding how the survey, analysis, or evaluation will be administered: how it will be utilized: and the persons or entities that will have

access to the results of the completed survey, analysis, or evaluation. Parent's, legal guardians, persons having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis may refuse to allow their student to participate before or after reviewing the survey, analysis, or evaluation. The school shall not penalize or otherwise retaliate against a student whose parents, legal guardian, persona having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis exercise their right to refuse to allow their student to participate in the survey, analysis, or evaluation.

Section Three: Parents or guardians wishing to inspect a survey, analysis, or evaluation shall be able to so in the administrative office of the administering school where the surveys shall be available for inspection for a period of ten (10)* days (regular school days when school is in session) after the notice of intent to administer the survey is sent. Included in the notice shall be information regarding how the survey or questionnaire will be administered; how it will be utilized; and the persons or entities that will have access to the results of the completed survey or questionnaire. Parents may refuse to allow their student to participate before or after reviewing the survey or questionnaire.

The requirements of sections one, two, and three of this policy do not apply to a survey administered to a student in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Section Four: Prior written parental permission is required before any survey or questionnaire (not including tests mandated by state or Federal law or regulation and standardized scholastic achievement tests) is administered to a student the responses to which are to be provided to a person or entity other than another public school, school district, or any branch of the Federal Government and which requests or requires a student to provide any of the eight (8) categories of information listed above and/or the following;

1. A student's name;
2. The name of the student's parent or member of the student's family;
3. The address, telephone number, or email address of a student or a member of a student's family;
4. A personal identification number, such as a social security number, driver's license number, or student identification number of a student or a member of the student's family;
5. Any information, the disclosure of which is regulated, or prohibited by any other state or federal law or regulation.

The rights provided to parents under this policy transfer to the student when he/she turns 18 years old.

Notes: This policy is to be developed in conjunction with parents.

Parents must be "directly" notified of this policy, at least annually at the beginning of the school year, and within a reasonable period of time after any substantive change in the policy and include in the notice the specific or approximate dates (to the extent known) during the school year when these activities are scheduled.

"Directly notified" in regard to this policy means by mail or email: inclusion in the student handbook does not meet the law's requirements.

*The length of time may be adjusted, but it must be a "reasonable period of time."

Legal References: 20 USC § 1232h (a), (b), (c) [NCLB Act of 2001, Part F, Section 1061 (c) (1)(A)(i)(ii)(B), (2)(A)(i)(ii)(B)(C)(ii), (5)(A)(ii)(B), (6)(C)(F)(G)]
A.C.A. § 6-18-1301 et seq.

5.24F1—OBJECTION TO PARTICIPATION IN SURVEYS, ANALYSIS, OR EVALUATIONS

I, the undersigned, being a parent or guardian of a student, or a student eighteen (18) years of age or older, hereby note my objection to participation by the student named below in the following survey, analysis, or evaluation.

I choose not to have my student participate in the following survey, analysis, or evaluation.

Name of specific survey _____

____All surveys

_____
Name of student (Printed)

_____
Signature of parent (or student, if eighteen (18) or older)

_____
Date form was filed (To be filled in by office personnel)

5.24F2—PERMISSION TO PARTICIPATE IN A SURVEY, ANALYSIS, OR EVALUATION

I, the undersigned, being a parent or guardian of a student, or a student eighteen (18) years of age or older, hereby grant my permission for the student named below to participate in the following survey, analysis, or evaluation.

Name of survey _____

_____
Name of student (Printed)

_____
Signature of parent (or student, if eighteen(18) or older)

_____
Date form was filed (To be filled in by office personnel)

5.25—MARKETING OF PERSONAL INFORMATION

The Hillcrest School District shall not collect, disclose, or use personal information for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information or to otherwise provide that information to others for that purpose.[1]

Personal information is defined, **for the purposes of this policy only**, as individually identifiable information including:

1. The first and last name of a student or a student's parents, legal guardians, person having lawful control over the student, or person standing in loco parentis.
2. A home or other physical address (including street name and the name of the city or town),
3. Telephone number, and
4. Social security identification number.

The district may collect, disclose, or use personal information that is collected from students for the exclusive purpose of developing, evaluating, or providing educational products or services for, or to, students or educational institutions such as the following:

a. College or other postsecondary education recruitment, or military recruitment;
b. Book clubs, magazines, and programs providing access to low cost literary products;
c. Curriculum and instructional materials used by elementary schools and secondary schools;
d. Tests and assessments used by elementary schools and secondary schools to provide cognitive, evaluative, diagnostic, clinical, aptitude, or achievement information about students (or to generate other statistically useful data for the purpose of securing such tests and assessments) and the subsequent analysis and public release of the aggregate data from such tests and assessments;
e. The sale by students of products or services to raise funds for school related or education related activities; and
f. Student recognition programs.

Notes: This policy is to be developed in conjunction with parents, legal guardian, person having lawful control over the student, or person standing in loco parentis.. Parents, legal guardian, person having lawful control over the student, or person standing in loco parentis must be "directly" notified of this policy, at least annually at the beginning of the school year, and within a reasonable period of time after any substantive change in the policy.

[1] While the law does allow a school or district to collect and disclose "personal information" for marketing purposes under certain circumstances, the requirements for doing so are such that ASBA recommends not to go there. If you're extremely determined to do so, look at 20 USC § 1232h(c) to help you make your final decision.

Legal Reference: 20 USC § 1232h(c)

5.26—ALTERNATIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

The District shall provide an eligible alternative learning environment (ALE) for each eligible ALE student enrolled in a District school. The ALE shall be part of an intervention program designed to provide guidance, counseling, and academic support to students who are experiencing emotional, social, or academic problems. Placement of a student in an ALE shall not be punitive in nature.

The superintendent or designee shall appoint an Alternative Education Placement Team which shall have the responsibility of determining student placement in the ALE. A student may be enrolled in an ALE only on the referral of the Alternative Education Placement Team. The team's placement decision is final and may not be appealed.[1]

The team is to be comprised of the following:

- a school counselor from the referring school;
- the ALE administrator and/or ALE teacher;
- the building principal or assistant principal from the referring school;
- a parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis (if they choose to participate);
    - The District shall document its efforts to contact the student's parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis to schedule a meeting or a phone call for a placement meeting at the convenience of the parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis, and maintain such documentation in the student's Student Action Plan (SAP).
- LEA special education/504 representative (if applicable);
- at least one (1) of the student's regular classroom teacher(s); and
- if the District so chooses, the student.

Students who are placed in the ALE shall exhibit at least two (2) of the following characteristics:

1. Ongoing, persistent lack of attaining proficiency levels in literacy and mathematics
2. Abuse: physical, mental, or sexual;
3. Frequent relocation of residency;
4. Homelessness;
5. Inadequate emotional support;
6. Mental/physical health problems;
7. Pregnancy;
8. Being a single parent;
9. Personal or family problems or situations;
10. Recurring absenteeism;
11. Dropping out from school; or
12. Disruptive behavior.

Before or upon entry into the ALE, the ALE program shall assess the student in order to provide intervention services designed to address the student's specific educational and behavioral needs, with the focus for behavioral needs on long-term improvement of the student's ability to control the student's behavior.

No later than five (5) school days after a student begins alternative education interventions, the Alternative Education Placement Team shall develop a signed agreement between the ALE; the parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis (if they choose to participate); and the student, outlining the responsibility of the ALE; parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis; and the student to provide assurance that the plan for each student is successful.

No later than one (1) week after a student begins alternative education interventions, the Alternative Education Placement Team shall assess the student's current functioning abilities and all relevant social, emotional, academic, career, and behavioral information and develop an SAP outlining the intervention services to be provided to the student. The SAP may be revised from time to time by the ALE placement team. The SAP shall contain at a minimum:

a. A plan of intervention services to be provided to address the student's specific educational needs and, if appropriate, the student's behavioral needs;
b. Goals and objectives necessary to achieve positive reintegration into the regular educational environment;
c. Exit criteria on which to base a student's return to the regular educational environment;
d. Documentation of the presence of the characteristics listed above that were the reason for the student's referral to the ALE program;
e. Documentation of the specific ALE programming and supports that will address each identified characteristic or situation causing a barrier to the student's success; and
f. A positive behavior or transitional plan prior to a student's return to the regular educational environment.

The district's ALE program shall follow class size, staffing, curriculum, and expenditure requirements identified in the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Rules.

Notes: Districts are no longer mandated to provide or participate in an ALE program.

In addition to the language contained in this policy, districts using an ALE hybrid program will need to add language covering:

- That students in an ALE hybrid program shall participate on-site for direct support at least twenty percent (20%) of the total instructional time;
- Clear criteria for how the district will monitor student success to determine the need for additional direct support if there is a lack of expected progress by a student;
- That additional direct support may include an increased percentage of on-site instruction and additional services and supports; and
- That an increased percentage of remote instruction, or placement of a student in an ALE hybrid program, shall only be used to meet a student's academic and social and emotional goals outlined in the student's SAP and not as a punishment or negative consequence.

[1] The Rules are silent on appeals, but we believe the policy should have language in this regard. You may choose to leave the language as is or change it to have the decision able to be appealed to the Superintendent or the superintendent's designee. Even if you allow for an

appeal, board involvement in student assignment issues is outside of the scope of their authority.

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-20-2305(b)(2)
A.C.A. § 6-48-101 et seq.
DESE Rules Governing Student Special Needs Funding – 3.01, 4.00, and 8.0
DESE Rules Governing Student Discipline and School Safety

Date adopted: 6/23/25
Last Revised: 6/23/25

5.26.1—ALTERNATIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM EVALUATION

The District's Alternative Learning Environment (ALE) program shall be evaluated at least annually to determine its overall effectiveness at providing a non-punitive environment that:

1. Is conductive to learning
2. Eliminates traditional barriers to learning and
3. Is in compliance with Division of Elementary and Secondary Educational rules governing the students special needs funding

The evaluation shall specifically address how the use of ALE funds is in alignment with the district's district strategic plan in addressing identified achievement gaps and student performance deficiencies.

Note: This policy is only required if you provide or participate in an ALE program.

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-15-2914
DESE Rules Governing Student Special Needs Funding

5.27—ENGLISH LEARNERS

The district shall utilize the special needs funding it receives for identified English Learners (EL) on activities, and materials listed in the DESE Rules Governing Student Special Needs Funding.

The expenditures of EL supplemental funding shall be evaluated at least annually to determine their overall effectiveness. The evaluation shall specifically address how the use of EL funds is in alignment with the district's district strategic plan in addressing identified achievement gaps and student performance deficiencies.

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-15-2914
A.C.A. § 6-20-2305(b)(3)
DESE Rules Governing Student Special Needs Funding - 3.09, 5.00, and 8.00
Standards For Accreditation 2-J.2

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5.28—ENHANCED STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT FUNDING EXPENDITURES

Funding received from the state based on the number of students eligible for free and reduced-priced meals under the National Student Lunch Act shall be expended in accordance with guidelines outlined in the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Rules Governing Student Special Needs Funding.

Using District specific data, the District shall conduct the DESE developed needs assessment to identify areas where Enhanced Student Achievement (ESA) funds need to be directed. The District shall include the use of the District's ESA funds in the District's District Strategic Plan.

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-15-2914
A.C.A. § 6-15-2919
A.C.A. § 6-20-2305(b)(4)
DESE Rules Governing Student Special Needs Funding - 3.12, 3.17, 3.18, 6.00, and 8.00

Date adopted: 6/23/25
Last revised: 6/23/25

5.29—WELLNESS POLICY

The health and physical well-being of students directly affects their ability to learn. Childhood obesity increases the incidence of adult diseases occurring in children and adolescents such as heart disease, high blood pressure and diabetes. The increased risk carries forward into their adulthood. Research indicates that a healthy diet and regular physical activity can help prevent obesity and the diseases resulting from it. It is understood that the eating habits and exercise patterns of students cannot be magically changed overnight, but at the same time, the Board of Directors believes it is necessary to strive to create a culture in our schools that consistently promotes good nutrition and physical activity.

The problem of obesity and inactivity is a public health issue. The Board of Directors is keenly aware that it has taken years for this problem to reach its present level and will similarly take years to correct. The responsibility for addressing the problem lies not only with the schools and the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), but with the community and its residents, organizations and agencies. Therefore, the District shall enlist the support of the larger community to find solutions that improve the health and physical activity of our students.

Wellness Committee

To enhance the district's efforts to improve the health of our students, a wellness committee shall be formed. It shall be structured in a way to ensure age-appropriate recommendations are made that correlate to the District's grade configurations.[1] The wellness committee shall have the powers and responsibilities delegated to it by statute and Rule and are incorporated into this policy by reference.[2] The overarching goal of the wellness committee shall be to promote student wellness by monitoring how well the District is doing at implementing this policy. The wellness committee shall use modules 1, 2, 3, 4, 10, and 11 of the Centers For Disease Control' (CDC) School Health Index as a basis for annually assessing each school's progress toward meeting the requirements of this policy. The results of the annual assessment shall be included in the District's district strategic plan (DSP), provided to each school's principal, and reported to the board. Goals and objectives for nutrition and physical activity shall also be included in the DSP.

The wellness committee shall be made up of Individuals from the following groups to the extent interested persons from each group desire to be included in the development, implementation, and periodic review of the District's wellness policy:[3]

- Members of the District's Board of Directors;
- School administrators;
- School nutrition personnel;
- Teacher organizations;
- Teachers of physical education;
- Parents;
- Students;
- Professional groups (such as nurses);
- School health professionals (such as school nurses, school counselors, and social workers); and
- Community members.

The wellness committee shall provide written recommendations to the District's Child Nutrition Director concerning menus and other foods sold in the school cafeteria. Such recommendations shall

be based, at least in part, on the information the Committee receives from the District on the requirements and standards of the National School Lunch Program and from menus for the National School Lunch Program and other food sold in the school cafeteria on a quarterly basis.[4]

The wellness committee will meet at least quarterly. Meeting dates for the wellness committee will be placed on the District's calendar.

School Health Coordinator

To assist the wellness committee in ensuring that the District fulfills the requirements of this policy, a District level School Health Coordinator (Designated District Official) shall be appointed. In addition, a school level School Health Coordinator shall be appointed who shall be responsible for assisting the District level School Health Coordinator in ensuring that each school fulfills the requirements of this policy.[5]

Goals

In its efforts to improve the school nutrition environment, promote student health, and reduce childhood obesity, the District will adhere to the DESE Rules Governing Nutrition and Physical Activity Standards And Body Mass Index For Age Assessment Protocols. To promote nutrition, physical activity, and other school based activities that will improve student wellness, the District, working with the wellness committee, has established the following goals:[6]

1. Implement a grade appropriate nutrition education program that will develop an awareness of and appreciation for nutrition and physical activity throughout the curriculum;
2. Engage students in healthy levels of vigorous physical activity;
3. Strive to improve the quality of physical education curricula and increase the training of physical education teachers;
4. Follow the Arkansas Physical Education and Health Education Frameworks in grades K-12;
5. Not use food or beverages as rewards for academic, classroom, or sports performances;
6. Establish class schedules and bus routes that do not directly or indirectly restrict meal access;
7. Provide students with ample time to eat their meals in pleasant cafeteria and dining areas;
8. Abide by the current allowable food and beverage portion standards;
9. Meet or exceed the more stringent of Arkansas' or the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Nutrition Standards for reimbursable meals and a la' carte foods served in the cafeteria;[7]
10. Restrict access to competitive foods as required by law and rule;
11. Conform new and/or renewed vending contracts to the content restrictions contained in the Rules and reduce district dependence on profits from the sale of competitive foods.
12. Provide professional development to all district staff on the topics of nutrition and/or physical activity;[8]
13. Utilize the School Health Index available from the CDC to assess how well the district is doing at implementing this wellness policy and at promoting a healthy environment for its students.

Food and Beverages Outside of the District's Food Service Programs

The District will ensure that drinking water is available without charge to all students throughout the school including, but not limited to, in the District's food service areas.

All food and beverages sold to students on school campus during the school day by school administrators or school non-licensed or licensed staff (principals, coaches, teachers, club sponsors, etc.); students or student groups; parents or parent groups; or another person, company, or organization associated with the school shall meet the Federal Smart Snacks requirements and Arkansas Nutrition Standards at a minimum.[9] These restrictions include, but are not limited to, food and beverages sold in vending venues (machines, ice chests, cabinets) in school stores or as part of school fundraisers.

All food and beverages provided, but not sold, to students on the school campus during the school day by school administrators or school non-licensed or licensed staff (principals, coaches, teachers, club sponsors, etc.); students or student groups; parents or parent groups; or another person, company, or organization associated with the school shall meet the Federal Smart Snacks requirements and Arkansas Nutrition Standards at a minimum.[9] These restrictions include, but are not limited to, food and beverages provided in vending venues (machines, ice chests, cabinets) in school stores or as part of school fundraisers.

Up to a maximum of nine (9)[10] times per school year, school administration may schedule school wide events where food and beverages provided to students are not required to meet the Federal Smart Snacks standards during the scheduled time. The schedule of the events shall be by school, approved by the principal, and shall be part of the annual school calendar.

Food and beverages outside of the District's food service programs may not be sold, served, or provided to students in the District's food service areas during meal times.

Elementary students shall not have in-school access to vending machines.

The District does not place nutrition restrictions on food or beverages brought from home that are intended for personal consumption only.[9]

Advertising

In accordance with the USDA regulations, oral, written, or graphic statements made for the purpose of promoting the sale of a food or beverage product that are made by the producer, manufacturer, seller, or any other entity with a commercial interest in the product shall only be permitted on school campus during the school day if they meet or exceed the Federal Smart Snacks standards.[11] This restriction does not apply to:

- Materials used for educational purposes in the classroom, including, but not limited to:
  - The use of advertisements as a media education tool; or
  - Designing and implementing the health or nutrition curriculum;
- Clothing, apparel, or other personal items used by students and staff;
- The packaging of products brought from home for personal consumption; and
- Currently existing advertisements on school property, including but not limited to, the exterior of vending machines, posters, menu boards, coolers, trash cans, cups used for beverage dispensing, and other food service equipment; however, all future contracts and replacement items shall meet the Federal Smart Snacks standards.

Adoption Awareness Instruction

The District shall provide any information provided to students on the District's adoption awareness instruction that was in written form to the parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis to a pregnant student who is enrolled in the District.

Breast Feeding

In addition to providing age-appropriate education for students regarding the nutritional benefits of breastmilk and breastfeeding practices, the District shall provide:

- Space in the District's school facilities for District employees, students, and volunteers who are breastfeeding mothers that is a private, secure, and sanitary room or other location, other than a toilet stall, that contains Access to a power source for a breast pump or any other equipment used to express breast milk where an employee, student, or volunteer can express breast milk;
- Space in the District's school facilities for District students who are breastfeeding mothers that is a private, secure, and sanitary room or other location, other than a toilet stall, where a student can breastfeed the student's child;
- Permission to bring a breast pump and any other equipment used to express breast milk to school;
- Access to a place to safely store breast milk, which shall include, but not be limited to, a refrigerator or cooler in:
    - A nurse's office;
    - A teachers' lounge; or
    - Another private location or location with limited accessibility in which the breast milk may be safely secured;
- Access to a location to clean a breast pump and any other equipment used to express breast milk at school.
- Break time:
    - To an employee or volunteer for the purpose of expressing breast milk that, to the extent possible, shall run concurrently with existing break times; and
    - To a student that is a reasonable amount of time to accommodate the student's need to express breast milk or to breastfeed the student's child on the District's campus;
- That a student shall not incur an academic penalty for expressing breast milk or for breastfeeding the student's child on the District's campus; and
- A student has the opportunity to make up any work missed due to expressing breast milk or for breastfeeding the student's child on the District's campus.

Child Care

The District shall provide student mothers and fathers information regarding available child care services.[12]

Community Engagement

The District will work with the wellness committee to:

a. Encourage participation in extracurricular programs that support physical activity, such as walk-to-school programs, biking clubs, after-school walking etc.;
b. Encourage the implementation of developmentally appropriate physical activity in after-school childcare programs for participating children;
c. Promote the reduction of time youth spend engaged in sedentary activities such as watching television and playing video games; and

d. Encourage the development of and participation in family-oriented community-based physical activity programs.

The District will annually inform the public:
- Of the web address where the policy is located;
- Of any changes made to this policy since the previous year;
- Of the health and wellness priority goals in the District's SDSP;
- That a printed copy of the policy may be picked up at the District's central office; and
- The amounts and specific sources of funds received and expenditures made from competitive food and beverage contracts.

Assessment of District's Wellness Policy

At least once every three years,[13] with input from the SNPACC, the District shall assess both the District as a whole and individual schools' status in regards to the implementation and compliance of the goals of this policy, including the health and wellness goals in the District's SDSP. The assessment shall be based, at least in part, on:
- The extent to which District schools are in compliance with this policy;
- The extent to which this policy compares to other model local school wellness policies;
- The annual reviews of this policy based on modules 1, 2, 3, 4, 10, and 11 of the CDC's School Health Index; and
- A description of the progress made in attaining the goals of this policy.

On the years the assessment occurs, the assessment results shall be reported to the public, including parents, students, and other members of the community as part of the District's annual report to the public.

The District will update the wellness policy based on the results from the three (3) year[13] assessment.

District Website

The District will place on its website:
- The name, District phone number, and District email address for the District Level School Health Coordinator;
- The names, district phone numbers, and district email addresses for the School Level School Health Coordinators;[5]
- The names of the members of the wellness committee;
- Meeting dates for the wellness committee;
- Information on how community members may get involved with the wellness committee;
- A copy of this policy;
- A copy of the annual review of this policy based on modules 1, 2, 3, 4, 10, and 11 of the CDC's School Health Index; and
- A copy of the most recent three (3) year[13] assessment of this policy.

Notes: First and foremost, remember that this policy is to be developed with input from the Wellness Committee . There are very specific powers, duties, and responsibilities given to the committee.

Additional information on requirements and suggestions for local wellness policies are available from the USDA at http://healthymeals.nal.usda.gov/school-wellness-resources. Commissioner's Memos CNU-17-010, CNU-17-013, and CNU-17-016 have several additional resources.

8.01.2 of the DESE Rules Governing Nutrition and Physical Activity Standards And Body Mass Index allows a school to serve or provide to students during the school day, outside of the meal period, a serving of food and beverages that complies with the Federal Smart Snacks requirements as demonstrated by using the Alliance for a Healthier Generation Smart Snacks Calculator, including a copy of the Smart Snacks Calculator product compliance screen and a copy of the nutrition fact label of the product. This is a local control issue and does not have to be included in the policy, but you should be aware that it is an option and is on the DESE Wellness Policy Review Checklist.

As part of the Federal review, districts will be required to provide records demonstrating compliance with the regulations that include, but are not limited to:

- A copy of the wellness policy;
- Documentation demonstrating compliance with community involvement requirements, including requirements to make the local school wellness policy and triennial assessments available to the public, which may include, but are not limited to: a copy of the district/school Web page where the local school wellness policy has been posted or a copy of the school newsletter/local newspaper;
- Documentation of the three (3) year assessment for each school; and
- Documentation to demonstrate compliance with the public notification requirements.

[1] The Rules Governing Nutrition and Physical Activity allow three options for accomplishing this requirement:

1. Establish a wellness committee at each school in addition to the district committee;
2. Establish subcommittees of the district Committee, representing the appropriate age and grade configurations for your district; or
3. Include representatives from each appropriate grade level group (elementary, middle, junior and senior high) on the membership of the district committee.

Select the option you will use and rewrite the sentence to reflect your choice.

[2] The statutory powers are codified at A.C.A. § 20-17-135(e)(1) and repeated in the Rules starting at 6.01. The powers delegated solely through the Rules can be found starting at 6.06.

[3] The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 requires the groups listed in this paragraph to be permitted to participate (rather than "must"). There is no mention in the Act of limitations to the numbers of individuals included in each category for the policy's oversight, but some limitation to the overall size of this review team may be necessary for efficiency purposes. As part of the review process, districts will be required to demonstrate attempts were made to recruit individuals even if no one in that particular group agrees to participate.

[4] This paragraph is intended to meet the requirements of A.C.A. § 6-20-709 and the DESE advises that WRITTEN documentation that this requirement has been met will be required during the administrative review of the child nutrition program.

[5] While the new Federal terminology is "designated district official", the responsibilities remain the same; i.e. ensuring compliance with the Wellness Policy. Indistar refers to this position as “Wellness Chair"; we choose not to make the title of this individual the “Wellness Chair” because we believe that it should be up to the wellness committee to select the member to be its chair rather than having it set in policy.

You are not required to appoint school level School Health Coordinators. If you choose not to appoint the school level school health coordinators, remove the sentence appointing them.

[6] The goals included in this policy are those specifically required by rule. Additional goals should be listed upon the advice of the wellness committee and the consent of the Board. The USDA requires that the final policy include specific measurable goals for nutrition promotion and education, physical activity, and other school-based activities that promote student wellness. When setting the goals, districts are required to review and consider evidence-based strategies. At a minimum, districts are expected to review the “Smarter Lunchroom” tools and strategies; a copy may be found at http://www.fns.usda.gov/healthierschoolday/tools-schools under the “School Nutrition Improvement" heading.

It is also recommended that districts review the items listed in A.C.A. § 6-18-719 along with the DESE guidance when developing your goals.

[7] The DESE uses Commissioner's Memos to inform districts of many wellness policy issues concerning nutrition in general, serving portion sizes, drinking water availability, etc. The wellness committee should be kept abreast of such applicable Memos. You have the choice to exceed the state or federal requirements. If you choose to meet and not exceed those mandated by the government, you should delete “or exceed” at the start of the sentence. Currently, some of the state’s requirements are more stringent than the federal requirements, but this could change. By mentioning both governments in the policy, you’ll still be covered. If you do choose to exceed existing requirements you will need to specify what they are in this policy.

[8] The Rules require all staff to receive professional development, but, at this time, there is no provision for how much or what it is to consist of. DESE is currently in the process of creating professional development covering several nutrition and physical education areas that will be accessible through Arkansas IDEAS.

[9] Foods and beverages sold or provided outside of the food service areas being required to meet the Federal Smart Snacks Standards is the minimum required by law. If you choose to exceed the minimum, you will need to include the standards that must be met in the policy.

[10] Nine (9) is simply the maximum allowed by rule. You may insert a lower number if you choose.

[11] This language is the minimum required by law. You have the option to be more restrictive on what level of nutritional value food and beverage advertisements must meet to be on school property. If you choose to be more restrictive, keep in mind that the First Amendment requires that the exceptions for educational uses; clothing, apparel, and other personal items; and packaging brought from home still be included.

[12] A.C.A. § 6-18-234 requires that all districts adopt a policy to provide information to student mothers and fathers regarding child care services that are available. If the high school provides access to child care, either on or off campus, then information regarding the child care provided on or off campus should be placed here and provided to students. If the high school does not provide child care, either on or off campus, then information regarding child care providers that are available to students are identified and provided to students.

[13] The USDA refers to this as the "Triennial Assessment" and requires that the district's wellness policy be assessed in depth at least once every three (3) years to determine the district's progress on reaching the goals set in the policy. If you wish to assess the policy more regularly, replace this language with your desired timeline.

Legal References: Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act 42 U.S.C. § 1751 et seq. as amended by PL 111-296 (Section 204) of 2010. (Section 204 is codified at 42 U.S.C. § 1758(b))
Child Nutrition Act of 1966 42 U.S.C. § 1771 et seq.
7 C.F.R. § 210.18
7 C.F.R. § 210.31
A.C.A. § 6-15-2919
A.C.A. § 6-16-158
A.C.A. § 6-18-234
A.C.A. § 6-18-719
A.C.A. § 6-20-709
A.C.A. § 11-5-116
A.C.A. §§ 20-7-133, 134, and 135
DESE Rules Governing Nutrition and Physical Activity Standards And Body Mass Index For Age Assessment Protocols
Allowable Competitive Foods/Beverages - Maximum Portion Size List for Middle, Junior High, and High School
Commissioner's Memo CNU-17-010
Commissioner's Memo CNU-17-013
Commissioner's Memo CNU-17-016
Nutrition Standards for Arkansas Public Schools

Date adopted: 6/23/25
Last Revised: 6/23/25

6.1—COMMUNICATION GOALS

The single most significant factor in student achievement is the teacher. The teacher's effectiveness is greatly enhanced when supported by the school community as a whole, the student's home, and the community at large. The Arkansas General Assembly and the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education have demonstrated their understanding of the importance of involving such groups by repeatedly mandating their inclusion in the educational system and process. Communication with staff, parents, grandparents, legal guardians, business, and community members is fundamental to increasing their concern for, and involvement in, raising student achievement.

Communication should be two-way between the District and the public. The communications program shall strive to:

1. Increase mutual understanding, trust, and support between the District and parents, business, and the community as a whole;
2. Keep District staff regularly informed of upcoming District programs and events as well as noteworthy staff and student accomplishments to enable all the staff to help promote positive public relations;
3. Create and disseminate brochures, flyers, and fact sheets that will help parents and community members better understand school policies and procedures and acquaint them with areas where their volunteer services are most needed;
4. Inform legislators of the accomplishments of the District's students and staff, as well as how proposed legislation could affect the district;
5. Maintain good relations with the news media and provide the media with pertinent news releases; and
6. Increase the participation of parents, grandparents, legal guardians, business, and community members in school activities and programs.

The Board will appoint committees, when appropriate, to help the District examine issues facing it. Such committees may include members of the public, students, parents, and school employees, as well as members of the Board. Members may serve until the committee makes its non-binding recommendations to the Board.

Any committee, which includes among its members a member of the School Board, shall operate according to the requirements of the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act.[1]

The District's Board of Directors shall hold a meeting annually to provide a report that systematically explains the District's policies, programs, and goals to the community. The District's report shall detail the progress of the District and the District's schools toward accomplishing program goals, accreditation standards, and proposals to correct any deficiencies. The report shall be made available to the public, including by posting a copy on the District's website under State-Required Information no later than ten (10) days following the meeting, with the most recent annual report posted by September 1 of each year. The meeting shall provide parents and other members of the community the opportunity to ask questions and make suggestions concerning the District's program.

Note: [1] These requirements include having to notify the press of the time and place of the meetings; allow the meetings to be open to the attendance of the general public; record the meetings; and retain the recordings of the meetings for a year.

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-15-1005(c), (f)(1)(2)
A.C.A. § 6-16-603 (a) (3)
A.C.A. § 6-18-2003
A.C.A. § 25-19-106
Standards for Accreditation 3-B.1, 3-B.2, 3-B.2.1, 5-A.1
Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Rules Governing Gifted and Talented Program Approval Standards 4.0; 10.03
DESE Rules Governing Documents Posted To School District And Education Service Cooperative Websites

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Last Revised: 06/23/25

6.2—RELATIONS WITH SCHOOL SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS

The Board recognizes and values the many contributions support organizations make to the District's schools. Parent/teacher organizations and booster clubs work to augment and strengthen the District's educational and extracurricular objectives through the goods and services they provide.

Groups wishing to be recognized as a support organization must have open membership and have their by-laws approved by the school principal, the Superintendent, and the Board. School personnel shall assist approved booster organizations in their efforts to the extent practicable. Meetings of such organizations, cleared through the principal, shall not be subject to school use fees. School staff members are encouraged to attend and participate.

Fund-raising activities are to be approved in advance by the principal or his/her designee. Prior to the donation of equipment and/or supplies to the school, the organization should seek the advice of the principal to help ensure the compatibility of the donation with present school equipment. All equipment donated to the District becomes the property of the District.

6.3—PUBLIC GIFTS AND DONATIONS TO THE SCHOOLS

The District and the Board of Education may receive monetary gifts or donations of goods or services that serve to improve or enhance the goals of the District. Any gifts to the District become the property of the District and are subject to the same regulations as any other District owned property.

It is a breach of ethical standards and a violation of Arkansas law for any Board member, administrator, or District employee to receive a gift of any kind in return for employment with the District or to influence the award of any contract or transaction with the District. All personnel shall examine the "reasonableness" of any gift or donation against its potential for real or perceived violation of the aforementioned ethical standards before accepting any gift or donation in the name of a school or the District.

The Board reserves the right to not accept any gift or donation that would not contribute to the attainment of District goals or that would obligate the District to unacceptable outlays of District resources. The administration shall present for Board consideration and approval any gifts or donations the administration deems could so obligate the District.

The Board will strive to honor the donor's intent regarding gifts earmarked for a specific purpose; however, laws and District's needs change with time and the District reserves the right to adjust the use of any gift to meet current needs of the educational program.

The Board authorizes the superintendent, or the superintendent's designee, to act as the District's official representative for all school-affiliated online fund raisers.[1]

Note: [1] This is optional language, but is highly recommended if you wish to allow online fundraising as a tool. The intent behind the language, combined with the recommended optional language from Policy 6.6—FUND RAISING, is to provide a standard contact person for any online fundraisers to aid the community in determining if the online fundraiser is official and to help prevent community burnout by having too many school related fundraisers in a given period.

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-24-110
A.C.A. § 6-24-112

6.4—VOLUNTEERS

Enlisting the support of volunteers is a way the District can expand the scope of resources and knowledge available to enrich the students' educational experiences, while strengthening the relationship between the school and the community. Volunteers can also perform non-instructional tasks that allow licensed personnel more time to devote to instruction.

The Superintendent shall be responsible for establishing and maintaining a program to coordinate the services volunteers are willing and able to contribute with the needs of District personnel. The program shall establish guidelines to ensure volunteers are aware of pertinent District policies and rules. Volunteers who violate school policies or rules, or knowingly allow students to violate school rules, may be asked to leave the school campus. The guidelines should also include provision for evaluation of the volunteer program and a method for soliciting suggestions from both the volunteers and staff for its improvement.

All volunteers who intend to act as head coaches or assistant coaches must:

1. Be at least twenty-two (22) years of age; and
2. Meet the requirements adopted by the Arkansas Activities Association (AAA) to volunteer for any athletics program for grades seven (7) through twelve (12).

A member of the board of directors of the District or the spouse of a member of the board of directors of the District may not be a registered volunteer for the District unless a majority of the disinterested members of the Board of Directors approves a resolution for the board member or board member's spouse to be a registered volunteer. The resolution approving the board member or board member's spouse to be a registered volunteer shall be effective for only one (1) school year.

A volunteer may act as a head coach in all varsity junior and senior high sports administered by the AAA except in the following sports:

- Football;
- Basketball; and
- Track and field.

Background Checks for Volunteers

For the purposes of this policy, "clear background check" means that:

- A background check was performed on the potential school volunteer in accordance with A.C.A. §§ 12-12-1601 et seq.;
- The potential school volunteer has not committed any of the crimes or offenses contained in A.C.A. §§ 6-17-410, 6-17-411 or 6-17-414 according to both the National and Arkansas background checks;
- The potential school volunteer's name was not found on the Child Abuse Central Registry; and
- The Arkansas Educator Licensure System does not indicate the potential volunteer to:
  - Have a currently suspended or revoked educator's license; or
  - Be the recipient of a current Level 3 or Level 4 public notification of ethics violation.

A person wishing to volunteer in a capacity that requires a background check may not perform volunteer services requiring a background check until a clear background check is received by the

District. Once received, a clear background check is good for ____ years[1]; a background check renewal must be applied for and a clear background check received prior to the time of renewal or an interruption of permitted volunteer service could occur. A clear background check will be accepted of any individual wishing to volunteer provided it was conducted within the timeframe provided for in this policy.

Option A: The Application for an initial background check may be made through the District administrative office. The District may charge the potential volunteer the same fee charged by the State of Arkansas for performing the check. For a volunteer who has passed his/her previous background check, the District will incur the fee charged by the State of Arkansas for performing a renewal background check.[2]

Option B: The Application for an initial background check may be made through the District administrative office. The District will incur the fee charged by the State of Arkansas for performing the initial check and any renewal checks.[2]

A person who failed a previous background check may petition the Board for a waiver from this policy's requirement. The petition shall be accompanied by a signed authorization for disclosure of the individual's entire criminal and child abuse registry history. In deciding whether to grant a waiver, the board may take into consideration: the circumstance or circumstances surrounding the act or omission that lead to the conviction, Child Abuse Registry true finding, or the receipt of the Level 3 or Level 4 Public Notification of Ethics Violation; the age of the person at the time of the act or omission; the length of time that has passed without reoffending; and other relevant circumstances. If the Superintendent recommends a waiver be granted, the Board may adopt a resolution by majority vote providing an exception to this policy's requirement for a time period not to exceed five (5) years. The board must consider this matter in open session, and may not confer or deliberate in closed or executive session.

The board shall not have the authority to waive the application of this policy to any potential volunteer who is a Registered Sex Offender or whose educator license has been revoked or is currently suspended.

Clear background checks for school volunteers are required for those individuals who are required to be or who seek to become Registered Volunteers, as defined in A.C.A. § 6-22-102 et seq.[3] In addition to volunteers wishing to participate in the registered volunteers program, clear background checks are required for:[4]

Option 1: School volunteers who wish to accompany students on overnight school trips.[3]

Option 2: School volunteers who wish to volunteer to work one-on-one or in small groups of five (5) or fewer students, such as a tutor or a mentor.[3]

Option 3: School volunteers who will volunteer for more than _____ hours in a school year.[3,5]

Option 4: School volunteers who will volunteer for the _____, _____, and _____ volunteer programs.[3,6]

Option 5: Clear background checks for school volunteers are required prior to any volunteer service to the school district, school, teacher, or classroom, and all clear check volunteers will be issued special volunteer identification to wear prominently when performing their volunteer duties; no person may serve as a volunteer without wearing the provided identification.[3]

No information relating to the application for or receipt of a criminal background check, including that a background check has or has not been applied for, shall be subject to disclosure under the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act, as provided by A.C.A. §§ 12-12-1601 et seq. Requests for background checks and reports on background checks obtained under this policy shall be retained by the district for a minimum of three (3) years.

The superintendent or a third-party vendor shall report to the state board the name of any person working as a registered volunteer in an athletic coaching capacity who:

1. Has pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to or has been found guilty of any felony or misdemeanor listed in A.C.A. § 6-17-410(b);
2. Has been arrested or charged with any felony or misdemeanor listed in A.C.A. § 6-17-410(b);
3. Has intentionally compromised the validity or security of any student test or testing program administered or required by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE);
4. Has knowingly submitted falsified information or failed to submit information requested or required by law to DESE, the State Board, or Arkansas Legislative Audit; or
5. Has a true report in the Child Maltreatment Central Registry.

The District shall maintain the following information on volunteers:

a. The total number, location, and duties of all volunteers;
b. The total number of annual hours of service provided by volunteers; and
c. Any reimbursements made to volunteers for expenses, transportation, or other costs incurred in connection with volunteer services.

Volunteers who are mandated reporters will be made aware of their status as mandated reporters of child maltreatment and will receive training on the responsibilities of a mandated reporter.[7]

Registered volunteers who will be working with students in an athletic coaching capacity or are in the process of obtaining a coaching certificate through the Arkansas Activities Association shall be informed that they are bound by the Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators and shall receive training on the Code of Ethics.

At least once every three (3) years, registered volunteer coaches shall receive training related to the recognition and management of concussions, dehydration, or other health emergencies; students' health and safety issues related to environmental issues; communicable diseases; and sudden cardiac arrest. The training may include a component on best practices for a coach to educate parents of students involved in athletics on sports safety. Registered volunteer coaches shall maintain a Basic Life Support certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and automated external defibrillation.

Notes: A model resolution to permit a board member or a board member's spouse to act as a registered volunteer may be found on our Policy Resources Page at https://www.arsba.org/page/policy-resources.

With the exception of volunteers in the registered volunteers program, background checks for public school volunteers are **not** required by law, but a mechanism exists to provide schools with the results of background checks if the school chooses by policy to require background checks for all or some categories of school volunteers. There are two options offered for payment of the background checks and several options offered concerning the trigger for requiring a background check. In each instance choose the one that most closely aligns with the concerns of the Board and district administration. The potential adverse effects on volunteerism of requiring the background checks can be minimized by either (or both) adopting Option 2 for the payment of the background check, or only requiring background checks of those volunteers who will exercise direct, unsupervised access to students or who will be granted supervisory responsibility over students.

[1] There is no statutory provision for the length of time the check is good for. Arkansas teachers are required to get a new background check each time their license is renewed, which is five (5) years, and all classified employees are required to get a background check at least once every five (5) years. Districts are free to choose a shorter or longer period of time.

[2] Choose the option that your district prefers.

[3] Select the option, or combination of options, that is the best fit for your school district. Balance your desire to take steps to protect students against the potentially negative effect requiring unnecessary background checks will have on parental involvement. In addition, consider the financial burden of the cost of the background check, which A.C.A. §§ 12-12-1609 sets at a maximum of twenty dollars ($20) for a state background check and includes an additional charge for a Federal background check in an amount set by the FBI. If the parent pays, it could deter them from participating in their child's education as a school volunteer.

[4] If Option 5 is selected, delete this paragraph.

[5] Select a number of hours, such as thirty (30), which would work for your district.

[6] Use this option to list specific volunteer programs/services that require individuals to pass a background check.

[7] While only registered volunteers are specifically listed in A.C.A. § 12-18-402 as a mandated reporter, you may amend the policy to continue to train all volunteers to be mandated reporters. Due to the lists of mandated reporters under A.C.A. § 12-18-402 and A.C.A. § 6-18-110 no longer in perfect alignment, we would continue to recommend all volunteers be trained on the duty to report threats of violence to law enforcement.

Legal References: A.C.A. §§ 6-17-301
A.C.A. § 6-17-410
A.C.A. § 6-17-411
A.C.A. 6-17-414
A.C.A. § 6-17-428
A.C.A. § 6-18-110
A.C.A. § 6-18-708
A.C.A. § 6-22-101 et seq.
A.C.A. §§ 12-12-1601 et seq.
A.C.A. § 12-18-402
A.C.A. § 12-18-909(g)(21)
A.C.A. § 21-13-101 et seq.
Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Rules Governing Background Checks
Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Rules Governing the Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators

Date adopted: 6/23/25
Last Revised: 6/23/25

6.5—VISITORS TO THE SCHOOLS

Parents, grandparents, legal guardians, business, and community members are welcome and encouraged to visit District schools. To minimize the potential for disruption of the learning environment, visitors, for a purpose other than to attend an activity open to the general public, are required to first report to the school's main office and receive authorization from the building principal or the designee before the individual may enter the school proper. No one shall be exempt from this requirement. Visitors who are Level 3 or Level 4 sex offenders may only enter a school campus under the provisions listed in Policy 6.10.

Parents and legal guardians are encouraged to participate in regularly scheduled visitation events such as school open houses and parent/teacher conferences. Additional conferences are best when scheduled in advance. Conferences shall be scheduled at a time and place to accommodate those participating in the conference. Visits to individual classrooms during class time are permitted on a limited basis with the principal's prior approval and the teacher's knowledge.

Visitors, including parents, wishing to speak with students during the school day shall register first with the office.

Visitors to the school are directed to not use a device to:

- Record audio or video or to take photographs in areas where a general expectation of personal privacy exists, including but not limited to locker rooms and bathrooms; or
- Create, send, share, capture, or post audio, video, or photographs of District students unless the visitor:
    - Has received permission to do so by someone authorized to grant such permission on behalf of the student or the student if the student is eighteen (18 years old);

- Received authorization from the District to do so on behalf of the District; or
- Is required to do so as part of the individual's job duties, including as a member of the media.

The District has the right to ask disruptive visitors to leave its school campuses. Principals are authorized to seek the assistance of law enforcement officers in removing any disruptive visitors who refuse to leave school property when requested to do so.[1]

Note: [1] Visitors who are disruptive become "trespassers" as defined in A.C.A. § 6-21-606. As such, they lose their right to be on campus.

Cross References: For non-adult visitors see Policy 4.16—STUDENT VISITORS
For Level 3 and Level 4 sex offenders see Policy 6.10—SEX OFFENDERS ON CAMPUS (MEGAN'S LAW)

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-21-606
A.C.A. § 6-21-607

6.6—FUNDRAISING

All fundraising activities held in the District or in the name of the District must be pre-approved in writing by the Superintendent and affected school principal. Approval will be predicated on the potential for return relative to the time and energy to be invested in the fundraising. Fundraising that conflicts excessively with and/or detracts from student or teacher instructional time in either the planning or the execution of the activity will not be approved.

Neither an individual school nor the District shall be liable for any contract between clubs or organizations and third parties.

Student participation in any fundraising activity shall:
1. Be voluntary. Students who choose not to participate shall not forfeit any school privileges. It shall not be considered discriminatory to reward those who participate; and
2. Not influence or affect the student's grade.

For purposes of this policy, "Door-to-door sales" means the selling of merchandise outside of the child's home and off the school grounds.

Secondary Schools

Fund raising in the secondary schools may only be done by officially sanctioned student clubs, spirit groups, school PTAs, or parent booster clubs. Student clubs and spirit groups must receive written approval from their sponsor and the school principal before submitting the fund raising proposal to the Superintendent.

Door to door fundraising activities are generally discouraged. If approved, students wishing to participate who are under the age of eighteen (18) must return to their sponsor a signed parental notification and permission form.

Elementary Schools (K-6)

Fundraising in the elementary schools may only be done by the school or a school sponsored organization. Door to door fundraising activities are generally discouraged, but there shall be no more than one (1) such activity per school per school year.

Schools must provide written notification of the following to parents or legal guardians of elementary students who participate in fundraising programs:

1. Student participation in fundraising programs is voluntary;
2. Students who do not participate will not forfeit any school privileges;
3. Students may not participate in fundraising programs without written parental permission returned to school authorities;
4. An elementary student who sells fundraising merchandise door to door must be accompanied by a parent or an adult; and
5. Unless the school provides supervision, parents must accept responsibility for appropriate adult supervision.

Online Fundraisers [1]

All school-affiliated online fundraisers must be approved by the superintendent, or the superintendent's designee. The superintendent, or the superintendent's designee, shall act as the point of contact for all school-affiliated online fundraisers. An employee may be disciplined, up to and including termination, if the employee establishes:

a. A school-affiliated online fundraiser without the permission of the superintendent, or the superintendent's designee; or
b. The employee as the point of contact for a school-affiliated fund raiser instead of the superintendent, or the superintendent's designee.

For purposes of this policy, a "school-affiliated online fundraiser" includes, but is not limited to, a fund raiser intended to raise funds for a particular teacher's classroom, grade, student club or organization, or athletic team.

Note: [1] This is optional language, but language covering online fund raisers is recommended. The intent behind the language is to provide a standard contact person for any online fundraisers to aid the community in determining if the online fundraiser is official and to help prevent community burnout by having too many school related fundraisers in a given period. If you would rather not allow staff to establish school-affiliated online fundraisers at all, replace the first paragraph in this section with the following:
Employees are prohibited from establishing school-affiliated online fundraisers. Employees who are discovered to have established a school-affiliated online fundraiser may be disciplined, up to and including termination.

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-18-1102
A.C.A. § 6-18-1104

6.7—COMPLAINTS

It is a goal of the Board and the District to be responsive to the community it serves and to continuously improve the educational program offered in its schools. The Board or the District welcomes constructive criticism when it is offered with the intent of improving the quality of the system's educational program or the delivery of the District's services.

The Board formulates and adopts policies to achieve the District's vision and elects a Superintendent to implement its policies. The administrative functions of the District are delegated to the Superintendent, who is responsible for the effective administration and supervision of the District. Individuals with complaints concerning personnel, curriculum, discipline (including specific discipline policies), coaching, or the day to day management of the schools need to address those complaints according to the following sequence:

1. Teacher, coach, or other staff member against whom the complaint is directed
2. Principal
3. Superintendent

Other than in the few instances where statutorily allowed or required, student discipline and personnel matters may not be discussed in Board meetings. Individuals with complaints regarding such matters need to follow the sequence outlined above.

Unless authorized by the Board as a whole for a specific purpose, no individual Board member has any authority when acting alone. District constituents are reminded that the Board serves as a finder of fact, not unlike a jury, in matters such as student suspensions initiated by the Superintendent, expulsions, and personnel discipline. For this reason, the board may not be involved or informed prior to a board hearing on particular disciplinary matters.

Complaints that are related to district use or administration of federal funds generated through specific programs identified by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and authorized in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act[1] may be taken directly from a patron or by referral from DESE. If taken directly from a patron, the complaint may be submitted by either a signed statement or by a certified, recorded deposition or statement in which the complainant is identified. The complaints shall be addressed in the following manner:

1. The complaint shall be referred to the federal programs director,[2] who shall assemble a team of at least two (2) people to investigate the complaint.
2. Throughout the investigation, sufficient notes and records will be taken and maintained to substantiate the position of the findings of the investigation.

3. The team will interview the complainant and others as necessary to enable the team to make a determination of the validity of the complaint. The team may consult with individuals with knowledge or expertise in the matter which is the subject of the complaint, including legal counsel.
4. The investigation of complaints referred by the DESE shall be completed within thirty (30) calendar days of receipt of the complaint, unless a longer time period has been approved by the DESE.[3]
5. The investigation of complaints made directly to the district shall be completed within forty (40) calendar days unless there are extenuating circumstances; in such a case, a preliminary report shall be made within forty (40) calendar days of receipt of the complaint, which shall include an explanation of the unusual circumstances requiring additional time to complete the investigation.[4]
6. The report of the conclusions of the investigation shall be given to the complainant. It shall contain:
   a. A summary of the allegations of the complaint;
   b. A summary of the investigative actions taken by the team;
   c. A summary of the findings concerning each alleged violation or implied violation; and
   d. A statement of corrective actions needed to resolve the issues involved in each allegation and finding of the complaint.

Notes: [1] The DESE Rules Governing Federal Program Complaint Resolution 1.03 specifies the specific federal programs that are covered by this policy. Be sure the necessary staff are aware of the possible triggers for a complaint and of the existence of the documents offered by the DESE to deal with the resolution of the complaints.

[2] You may change this to reflect the title of the person you wish to be responsible for conducting the investigation.

[3] The DESE Rules Governing Federal Program Complaint Resolution establishes the 30 day limit for complaints that are referred to the district by DESE

[4] The forty (40) day time limit is equivalent to the thirty (30) days allowed for complaints referred by the DESE because the DESE has up to ten (10) days to make the referral.

Legal Reference: DESE Rules Governing Federal Program Complaint Resolution

6.8—DISTRIBUTION OF PRINTED MATERIALS

The District shall devise and maintain a system for distributing District communications and other printed materials between the Administration and the schools. Use of the system by employees or employee organizations shall be with prior approval of the Superintendent or his/her designee.

Distribution of printed materials, flyers, photographs, or other visual or auditory materials not originating within District schools to students or staff shall have prior approval of the Superintendent or his/her designee.

6.9—MEDIA RELATIONS AND NEWS RELEASES

It is important that the District maintain good relations with the media. The Superintendent or his/her designee shall devise and implement a plan for the release of pertinent information to the media regarding educational programs, awards, or other student and staff achievements, and special events. The plan shall not require schools to clear the release of public service announcements through the District Administration prior to their release, but may require schools to obtain the approval of the District Information Office* prior to the release of any statistical type data.

The District shall attempt, within reason, to accommodate media requests for interviews and shall endeavor to be fair and impartial in its treatment of media representatives.

The release of information to the media shall be done in a timely manner, either by written releases or by telephone interviews, to keep patrons abreast of newsworthy District achievements and shall strive to be factual and objective with personal opinions duly noted.

The Board encourages students and staff to participate in academic competitions and programs. Awards earned in such endeavors shall be communicated to the media. Award recipients may also be recognized at Board meetings.

* If your Superintendent serves as your District's Information Officer, insert Superintendent in place of District Information Office.

6.10—SEX OFFENDERS ON CAMPUS (MEGAN'S LAW)

The Hillcrest School District shall work with area law enforcement in a manner consistent with applicable state law and Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Rules to communicate the presence of a sexual offender. When necessary, law enforcement may contact building principals to provide information concerning registered sex offenders. The decision regarding the school principals to be notified rests solely with law enforcement officials; law enforcement officials use a rating system to determine who needs to be notified, which is according to the sex offender's danger to the community.

In turn, building principals should notify any employee who is regularly in a position to observe unauthorized persons on or near the school's property in the ordinary course of their employment. Employees notified could include any of the following: aides, bus drivers, coaches, maintenance staff, professional support staff, school level administrative staff, security personnel, teachers' assistants, and teachers.

It is important that school personnel who receive sex offender notifications understand that they are receiving the sex offender notifications in their official capacity and are **not** to disseminate information about an offender to anyone outside the school. If school personnel are asked about notification information by an organization using school facilities, the organization should be referred to the area law enforcement agency that issued the notice.

Persons **not** to be notified, except at the specific discretion of area law enforcement officials, include: members of parent-teacher organizations, other schools, organizations using school facilities, students, parents or guardians of students, and the press. District personnel may inform the press about procedures that have been put in place and other general topics, but may not reveal the name or any other specifics regarding an offender.

A parent or guardian who is a Level 1 or Level 2 sex offender shall be allowed to enter the school campus to attend parent-teacher conferences or any other activity that is appropriate for a parent, guardian, or community member.

Level 3 and Level 4 sex offenders may only enter the school campus in the following instances:

1. The offender is a student attending school in the district;
2. To attend a graduation or baccalaureate ceremony;
3. It is a non-student contact day according to the school calendar or no school-sponsored event is taking place on campus;
4. The offender is a parent or guardian of a student enrolled in the district and goes directly to the school office to have school personnel deliver medicine, food, or personal items for the student;
5. The offender is a parent or guardian of a student and enters the school campus where the student is enrolled to attend a scheduled parent-teacher conference **and** the offender is escorted to and from the conference by a designated school official or employee.

A Level 3, but not a Level 4, sex offender may attend a school sponsored event for which an admission fee is charged or tickets are sold or distributed if the sex offender:

- Is the parent, guardian, great-grandparent, or is related by blood or marriage within the second (2nd) degree of consanguinity[1] to a student enrolled in the public school;[2] and
- Notifies the administration of the school in writing at least twenty-four (24) hours before the start of the event that he or she will be attending the event.

A Level 3 and Level 4 sex offender who is the parent or guardian of a child enrolled in the district and who wishes to enter the school campus in which the student is enrolled for any other purpose than those listed above, must give reasonable notice to the school principal or his/her designee. The principal or designee may allow the sex offender to enter upon the campus provided there is a designated school official or employee to escort and supervise the sex offender while they remain on campus. The sex offender shall not enter upon the school campus until such time as a designated school official or employee is available.

Copies of the notification from law enforcement should be kept in a secure place accessible to teachers and staff, but should not be posted on school bulletin boards or made available to students or members of the community at large.

Notes: [1] The method to determine the degree of consanguinity may be found in A.C.A. § 28-9-212 and a consanguinity diagram has been posted at https://www.arsba.org/page/policy-resources.

[2] Our interpretation is that for a Level 3 sex offender to be admitted to a ticketed event that the Level 3 sex offender must be related to a student enrolled in the public school where the event is being hosted rather than related to a student enrolled in the visiting school.

Legal References: Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Guidelines for "Megan's Law"
A.C.A. § 5-14-132
A.C.A. § 12-12-913 (g)(3)
A.C.A. § 28-9-212

6.11—PARENT, FAMILY, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - DISTRICT

The Hillcrest School District understands the importance of involving parents, families, and the community as a whole in promoting higher student achievement and general good will between the district and those it serves. Therefore, the district shall strive to develop and maintain the capacity for meaningful and productive parent, family, and community engagement that will result in partnerships that are mutually beneficial to the school, students, parents, families, and the community. To achieve such ends, the district shall work to:

1. Involve parents, families, and the community in the development of the long range planning of the district;
2. Give the schools in the district the support necessary to enable them to plan and implement effective parent, family, and community engagement activities;
3. Have a coordinated engagement program where the engagement activities of the district enhance the involvement strategies of other programs such as Head Start, HIPPY, Parents as Partners, Parents as Teachers, ABC, ABC for School Success, area Pre-K programs, and Even Start;
4. Explain to parents, families, and the community the State's academic and achievement standards; State and local student assessments; how the district's curriculum is aligned with the state's academic standards and assessments; and how parents, families, and the community can work with the district to improve students' academic achievement;
5. Provide parents and families with the materials and training they need to be better able to help their child achieve. The district may use parent resource centers or other community based organizations to foster parent and family engagement and provide literacy and technology training to parents.
6. Educate district staff, with the assistance of parents, in ways to work and communicate with parents and to know how to implement parent, family, and community engagement programs that will promote positive partnerships between the school and parents, families, and the community;

7. Keep parents, families, and the community informed about parent, family, and community engagement programs, meetings, and other activities they could be involved in. Such communication shall be, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents and families can understand;
8. Find ways to eliminate barriers that work to keep parents and families from being involved in their child's education. This may include providing transportation and child care to enable parents to participate, arranging meetings at a variety of times, and being creative with parent/teacher conferences;
9. Find and modify other successful parent, family, and community engagement programs to suit the needs of our district;
10. Train parents, families, and the community to enhance and promote the involvement of other parents, families, and members of the community;
11. Provide reasonable support for other parent, family, and community engagement activities as parents, families, and the community may reasonably request.

To ensure the continued improvement of the district's parent, family, and community engagement program, the district will conduct an annual review of its parent, family, and community engagement policies to examine their effect on promoting higher student achievement. The review shall be done by a committee consisting of parents and other community members, certified and classified staff, and member(s) of the administration.

This policy shall be part of the school's Title I plan and shall be distributed to parents of the district's students and provided, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

Notes: If any school in your district receives Title I aid, Federal law requires you to have a district policy covering parent, family, and community engagement for the parents of students served under the program. Because your district is required to "develop jointly with, agree on, and distribute to parents of participating children a written parent, family, and community engagement policy," this model policy is designed to be a starting point to be used in the development of your final policy. 20 U.S.C. § 6318 requires the basics of the introduction and the last two paragraphs as well as items-#1 – 7 and #11. Items #8 – 10 are recommended options in the Federal law, but are not mandatory. A.C.A. §§ 6-15-1702, 1703, and 1704 require each district to develop a parent, family, and community engagement plan (rather than a policy) in collaboration with parents. The statutes are very detailed, and full of "shalls" going far beyond the requirements of this policy required by 20 U.S.C. § 6318. Be sure to have the statutes and associated rules handy when working out the details of your district's parent, family, and community engagement plan. The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education has created a parent, family, and community engagement toolkit that may be used in the creation of your plan. The toolkit is located at https://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/Offices/public-school-accountability/engagement. A.C.A. § 6-28-116 requires that a district's military liaison must be involved in the development of the district's parent, family, and community engagement plan.

The US Department of Education has correctly opined that this policy (and policy 6.12) are of no use unless accompanied by an implementation plan. Consequently, the DESE's School Improvement office requires districts to have such a plan.

A.C.A. § 6-15-1704(a)(3) requires each school to place a parent-friendly summary of the parent, family, and community engagement plan as a supplement to the student handbook. The parent has to sign a receipt acknowledging receipt of the summary and return the signed form to the school where the student is enrolled.

Legal References: 20 U.S.C. § 6318
A.C.A. § 6-15-1702
A.C.A. § 6-15-1703
A.C.A. § 6-15-1704
A.C.A. § 6-28-116
Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Rules Governing Parental Involvement Plans and Family and Community Engagement
Commissioner's Memo COM-20-021

6.12—PARENT, FAMILY, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - SCHOOL

Hillcrest School understands the importance of involving parents, families, and the community as a whole in promoting higher student achievement and general good will between the school and those it serves. Therefore, Hillcrest School shall strive to develop and maintain the capacity for meaningful and productive parent, family, and community engagement that will result in partnerships that are mutually beneficial to the school, students, parents, families, and the community. To achieve such ends, the school shall work to:

1. Involve parents, families, and the community in the development and improvement of Title I programs for the school;
2. Have a coordinated engagement program where the engagement activities of the school enhance the involvement strategies of other programs such as Head Start, HIPPY, Parents as Partners, Parents as Teachers, ABC, ABC for School Success, area Pre-K programs, and Even Start;
3. Explain to parents, families, and the community the State's academic and achievement standards; State and local student assessments; and how the school's curriculum is aligned with the state's academic standards and assessments; and how parents, families, and the community can work with the school to improve students' academic achievement;
4. Provide parents and families with the materials and training they need to be better able to help their child achieve. The school may use parent resource centers or other community based organizations to foster parent and family engagement and provide literacy and technology training to parents.
5. Educate school staff, with the assistance of parents, in ways to work and communicate with parents and to know how to implement parent, family, and community engagement programs

that will promote positive partnerships between the school and parents, families, and the community;

6. Keep parents, families, and the community informed about parent, family, and community engagement programs, meetings, and other activities they could be involved in. Such communication shall be, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents and families can understand;
7. Find ways to eliminate barriers that work to keep parents and families from being involved in their child's education. This may include providing transportation and child care to enable parents to participate, arranging meetings at a variety of times, and being creative with parent/teacher conferences;
8. Find and modify other successful parent, family, and community engagement programs to suit the needs of our school;
9. Train parents, families, and the community to enhance and promote the involvement of other parents, families, and members of the community;
10. Provide reasonable support for other parent, family, and community engagement activities as parents, families, and the community may reasonably request.

To help promote an understanding of each party's role in improving student learning, Hillcrest School shall develop a compact that outlines the responsibilities of parents, students, and the school staff in raising student academic achievement and in building the partnerships that will enable students to meet the State's academic standards.

Hillcrest School shall convene an annual meeting, or several meetings at varying times if necessary to adequately reach parents and families of participating students, to inform parents and families of the school's participation in Title I, its requirements regarding parent, family, and community engagement, and the parents right to be involved in the education of their child.

Hillcrest School shall, at least annually, involve parents, families, and the community in reviewing the school's Title I program and parent, family, and community engagement policy in order to help ensure their continued improvement.

This policy shall be part of the school's Title I plan and shall be distributed to parents of the district's students and provided, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

> Notes: If your school receives Title I assistance, Federal law requires you to have a school policy covering parent, family, and community engagement for the parents of students served under the program. Because your school is required to "develop jointly with, agree on, and distribute to parents of participating children a written parent, family, and community engagement policy," this model policy is designed to be a starting point to be used in the development of your final policy. 20 U.S.C. § 6318 requires the basics of the introduction and the last four paragraphs as well as items-#1 – 6 and #10. Items #7 – 9 are recommended options in the Federal law, but are not mandatory. A.C.A. §§ 6-15-1702, 1703, and 1704 require each district to develop a parent, family, and community engagement plan (rather than a policy) in collaboration with parents. The statutes are very detailed, and full of "shalls" going far beyond the requirements of this policy required by 20 U.S.C. § 6318. Be sure to have the statutes and associated rules handy when working out the details of your district's parent,

family, and community engagement plan. The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education has created a parent, family, and community engagement toolkit that may be used in the creation of your plan. The toolkit is located at https://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/Offices/public-school-accountability/engagement.

The "compact" is also required to be developed jointly with parents of the children served under Title I. A.C.A. § 6-28-116 requires that a district's military liaison must be involved in the development of the district's parent, family, and community engagement plan.

The US Department of Education has correctly opined that this policy (and policy 6.11) are of no use unless accompanied by an implementation plan. Consequently, the DESE's School Improvement office requires schools to have such a plan.

A.C.A. § 6-15-1704(a)(3) requires each school to place a parent-friendly summary of the parent, family, and community engagement plan as a supplement to the student handbook. The parent has to sign a receipt acknowledging receipt of the summary and return the signed form to the school where the student is enrolled.

Legal References:
20 U.S.C. § 6318
A.C.A. § 6-15-1702
A.C.A. § 6-15-1703
A.C.A. § 6-15-1704
A.C.A. § 6-28-116
Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Rules Governing Parental Involvement Plans and Family and Community Engagement
Commissioner's Memo COM-20-021

TEXTBOOKS

Textbooks are issued to all students at no cost. If textbooks are lost or damaged, a charge will be assessed. This charge must be paid before grades or report cards will be released.

NUTRITION AND WELLNESS POLICY

The Hillcrest School District will enforce the Child Nutrition Act of 2004. These guidelines are for the purpose of following the regulation.

- Sack/Box lunches Students may bring a sack/box lunch to school.
- Students are encouraged to bring money for milk to accompany the sack/box lunch.
- Students will not bring extra food to share with classmates.

- District-Wide School Events (at which foods of minimal nutritional value may be served, such as snacks, candy, soda, etc.)
  - Halloween
  - Christmas
  - Valentine Day
  - Easter
  - Following Achievement Tests (3 Events)
  - Activities (Fall Carnival, PTA Fundraiser, etc.) (2 Events)

All foods brought to the school must be prepared in a commercial food service establishment. Events are to be district-wide. No individual class celebrations may be held outside of those listed, including birthday parties.

- Fundraisers (Clubs), General Guidelines
  - Clubs are encouraged to sell non-food items for fundraisers. (Cookie dough is acceptable, because it is prepared at home.)
  - Food coupons may not be sold or used as rewards in school.
  - Foods of minimal nutritional value (snacks, sodas, popcorn) will not be sold by teachers to students in the classroom.

HEAD LICE POLICY

The Hillcrest School District has a “No Live Bug” Policy. Periodic head lice checks will be conducted by the school nurse or designee. If lice bugs are found, the parent/guardian will be contacted to pick up their child, as he/she will not be allowed to ride the school bus. The child must be treated before coming back to school. At that time, the nurse or designee will recheck the student. The child must be free of live bugs and the majority of nits. If live bugs are found, the child will return home with the parent/guardian. The child must be “nit free” within five days of being treated.

HOSPITAL/HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION

A legal student, as defined in Act 591 of 1987, can be considered for hospital/homebound instruction when it is deemed necessary by the school administration. Students may apply for hospital/homebound instruction by obtaining an application from the superintendent's office or at the school principal's office. Students or their parents or guardians are to request in writing their desire to be considered hospital/homebound.

The application shall contain a statement from the attending physician stating the need for hospital/homebound instruction and the approximate length of time the student is to be hospitalized or home-bound.

If a student receives hospital/homebound status, a committee of the student's teachers, the school's counselor, and the school's principal will meet to design an educational plan for the student. The appropriate program for the student will begin on the 11th day the student is absent and shall be re-evaluated every 10 school days. The committee will review the case every 30 days to update and determine if there is a need for continued status as a hospital/homebound student. Tests will be given at intervals determined by the student's educational plan committee.

Anti-Opioid

The school nurse for each District school shall keep anti-opioid injectors on hand. The school nurse, and school resource officer shall possess an anti-opioid at all times when on duty, other school employee, volunteer, or student may administer anti-opioid in accordance with the district's procedures to a student who the school nurse, or other observer, in good faith believes is having an opioid overdose.

An opioid overdose rescue kit shall be placed within all storage locations in the District high school buildings that currently contain an automated external defibrillator for public use. The opioid overdose rescue kits shall be located where it is readily available to the public, be visually free of advertisement, and contain an anti-opioid.

ASTHMA INHALER USE IN SCHOOL GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF ACT 1694 of 2005

Act 1694 of 2005 requires school districts to allow students to carry and use prescription asthma inhalers and auto-injectable epinephrine while in school, at on-site, school-sponsored activities, and at off-site, school-sponsored activities

Introduction

Public Law 108-377 passed by the 108th Congress in 2004 found the following:

- Asthma is a chronic condition that requires lifetime, ongoing medical intervention.
- In 2001, 6,300,000 children under age 18 had asthma.
- In 2000, there were 728,000 emergency department visits for children under age 18.
- In 2000, there were 214,000 hospitalizations of children under age 18.
- In 2000, there were 223 pediatric deaths from asthma.
- The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reports that asthma is a common cause of school absence and accounts for approximately 14,000,000 times missed school days annually.
- School districts must have medication policies that are developed with the safety of all students as a priority.

Section I

Authorization

- It is recommended that schools have a written policy to address specific building procedures and requirements for students carrying an asthma inhaler or auto-injectable epinephrine, or both, while in school, at an on-site, school-sponsored activity, or at an off-site school activity.
- Appropriate school staff are encouraged to participate in an asthmatic awareness training or professional development.
- The parent or guardian of a student who needs to carry an asthma inhaler or auto-injectable epinephrine, or both, shall provide the school with written authorization for the student to carry an asthma inhaler or auto-injectable epinephrine, or both, on his/her person for use while in school, at an on-site, school-sponsored activity, or at an off-site, school-sponsored activity.
- A medical doctor, nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant may complete the written authorization.
- The written authorization will contain the following:
  - Student's name
  - Date of birth
  - Age
  - ID number
  - Parent's information

- Address
- Emergency contact information
- Medication (for asthma): name of medication prescribed, dosage, time to be administered, (for rescue medication, interval between inhalations), condition for which medication is prescribed (routine medication or rescue medication), possible side effects and their management, prescriber's name, phone number, signature and date of order
- Instructions to follow after administration of rescue medication
- Specific adverse reactions to be aware of
- Allergies including potential triggers necessitating use of epinephrine
- Parent/Guardian signature as part of official request to allow for self-administration
- Parent/Guardian signature to allow nurse to contact prescriber
- Prescriber will identify if student needs to carry medication with him/her at all times
- The authorization shall be valid only for the duration of the school year at the school that the student is currently attending at the time the authorization is obtained.
- The authorization must be renewed yearly. If the student transfers to another school during the school year, a new authorization must be obtained in order for the student to carry an asthma inhaler or auto-injectable epinephrine, or both, on his/her person.

Section II

Medical Documentation

- All medical documentation provided to the school with regard to a student who carries an asthma inhaler or auto-injectable epinephrine, or both, shall be kept on file at the school the student attends in a location that is readily accessible in the event of an asthma or anaphylaxis emergency.
- A copy of the medical documentation, the individualized health care plan and any related orders should be kept on file in the nurse's office in the student's individual health appraisal record, as well as in the building office in a locked file cabinet.

Section III

Parent Responsibilities

- The parent or guardian of a student who needs to carry an asthma inhaler or auto-injectable epinephrine, or both, shall provide the school with appropriate medical documentation which shall include: evidence that the asthma inhaler or auto-injectable epinephrine, or both, have been prescribed by a health care practitioner with prescriptive privileges (in compliance with Arkansas law) and a completed

authorization form as outlined in Section I.

- The parent will participate in the preparation of an individualized health care plan for the student in accordance with Act 6-18-1005.
- The parent or guardian shall supply the student's asthma inhaler or auto-injectable epinephrine, or both.
- The parent will notify school officials of any change in the student's medication or dosage.

Section IV

Student Responsibility

- The student must competently demonstrate the skill level necessary to use and administer the asthma inhaler or auto-injectable epinephrine, or both.
- The student is responsible for immediately reporting to the school nurse and the school administrator (or their designee) following use of asthma inhaler, auto-injectable epinephrine, or both, and any side effects or reactions for school documentation.

  Any student who does not demonstrate reliable behavior while carrying their emergency medication will lose this privilege, and the medication will be kept in the health office.

Section V

School Nurse

- The school nurse, in accordance with Act 6-18-1005 and any related rules, will complete an individualized health care plan for the student.
- The school nurse will observe the student demonstrate the skill level necessary to use and administer the asthma inhaler or auto-injectable epinephrine, or both.
- The school nurse will recommend to the school administrator that the student who can competently demonstrate the skill level necessary to use and administer the asthma inhaler or auto-injectable epinephrine, or both, be allowed to self-administer in accordance with the provisions of Act 6-18-707.

Section VI

Storage/Supply

- The student's asthma inhaler(s) or auto-injectable epinephrine, or both, shall be transported in the original prescription-labeled container.
- It is recommended that the parent or guardian of a student carrying an asthma inhaler or auto-injectable epinephrine, or both, provide the school with an additional asthma inhaler or auto-injectable epinephrine, or both, to be available in the event of an asthma or anaphylaxis emergency, which shall be immediately available to the student.
- The parent or guardian of a student carrying an asthma inhaler or auto-injectable epinephrine, or both, may provide the school with supplementary appropriate medication in the event of an asthma or anaphylaxis emergency, which shall be

immediately available to the student in an emergency.

Section VII

Option To Choose to Not Self-Administer

- A student with asthma is not required by this section or any related rule or school procedure to carry the student's asthma inhaler or auto-injectable epinephrine, or both, on his/her person.

If a student with asthma does not formally request to carry an asthma inhaler or auto-injectable epinephrine, or both, on his/her person, the student's parent or guardian shall provide the school with appropriate medication in the event of an asthma or anaphylaxis emergency, which shall be immediately available to the student in an emergency.

Section VIII

Penalty

- A student is prohibited from sharing, transferring, or in any way diverting his/her own medication to any other student.
- Any student using an inhaler without authorization according to the provisions of Act 6-18-707 shall be subject to disciplinary measures according to the local board of education policies for drug abuse.

Section IX

Definitions

- "Medication" means a drug as that term is defined in Act 21 U.S. C. 321(g) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act as in existence on January 1, 2005.
- "Medication" includes inhaled bronchodilators and auto-injectable epinephrine.
- "Self-administration" means a person's discretionary use of a medication pursuant to a prescription or written direction from a licensed health care practitioner: medical doctor, nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant.
- "Auto-injectable epinephrine" refers to an EpiPen (adult or junior) that is prescribed for a specific student.
- Anaphylaxis, or anaphylactic shock, is a systemic allergic reaction that can cause death within minutes. Appropriate emergency treatment is an injection of epinephrine.

Seizure Disorder Medications

Students who have been diagnosed with a seizure disorder shall have a seizure action plan that shall be a written IHP designed to acknowledge and prepare for the healthcare needs of the student. The student's seizure action
plan shall be created in collaboration between District staff and the student's Parents, legal guardians, persons
having lawful control of the student, or persons acting in loco parentis or the student if over eighteen (18). As part of the creation of the student's seizure action plan, the student's Parents, legal guardians, persons having lawful control of the student, or persons acting in loco parentis shall:
1. Provide the school with written authorization to administer the seizure medication at school;

2. Provide a written statement from the student's healthcare provider that shall contain the following information:
The student's name;
The name and purpose of the medication;
The prescribed dosage;
The route of administration;
The frequency that the medication should be administered; and
The circumstances under which the medication should be administered;
1. Provide the prescribed medication to the school in its unopened, sealed package with the label affixed by the dispensing pharmacy intact, which shall be stored in a safe and secure location accessible only by District personnel or volunteers with training to administer seizure medication.
The written authorization, written statement, and seizure action plan shall be kept on file in the office of the school nurse or school administrator and distributed to any school personnel or volunteers responsible for the supervision or care of the student.

STUDENT INSURANCE

The Hillcrest School District provides accidental health insurance to all students of the district.

If you are injured and you feel that your injury is covered by the policy, it is your responsibility to take the following steps in order that a claim may be filed:

A. Report the accident immediately to the teacher in charge.
B. Pick up an insurance claim form from the superintendent's office.
C. Take the insurance claim form to the doctor and have him/her fill in the portion that applies to the doctor or hospital.
D. The doctor will then mail the form to the insurance company.

After the school has filled out the insurance claim form, it is between the policyholder and the insurance company as to what is paid or is not paid.

The school offers this insurance only as an accommodation to the students of Hillcrest Schools. Neither the school nor any school official is compensated for this service.

SCHOOL LUNCHES AND BREAKFASTS

The Hillcrest Public School cafeterias strive to serve well-balanced nutritious meals to all students. The Hillcrest School District allows students to charge up to a total of $50.00. Students who have any accumulated charges will be given charge reminders at the end of each month. This will allow any student a full month's charges. After $50.00 worth of charges have been accumulated in any student account, a letter will be sent home to parents requesting payment.

Elementary students cannot charge or purchase additional a la carte items or meals (as per AR Department of Education, Child Nutrition Section). All other students must have cash to purchase a la carte at the point of sale.

Students with outstanding debts from the previous term will begin the present term with one (1) week to pay outstanding debts. The students will be notified by mail before the beginning of school of the balance due and the new policy. Adopted by the Hillcrest Board of Education - May 23, 2016.

Lunch	Breakfast
Full Price - $2.25 (K-12)	Full Price - $1.25 (K-12)
Reduced Price - $0.00	Reduced Price -$.00

REPORTING THE PERFORMANCE OF STUDENTS

It shall be the policy of the board to require all teachers to communicate personally with the parent(s) or guardian(s) of each student during the school year to discuss the student's academic progress.

Hillcrest Schools will conduct the first parent/teacher conferences at mid nine weeks. The second parent/teacher conferences will be at the end of the 3rd quarter. All parents/guardians are asked to please come and have conferences with their children's teachers.

A mid-quarter report of students with failing or near-failing grades will be mailed to parents/guardians. Parents/Guardians are encouraged to confer with teachers any time they have concerns. Such conferences should be scheduled with the teacher during the teacher's preparation time or after school. Report cards will be handed out to students at the end of each nine-weeks grading period.

SCHOOL-SPONSORED TRIPS

1. Field trips are defined as any activity that does not occur in the classroom except for normal daily routines, such as lunch, recess, etc.
2. Field trips are an extension of the regular classroom and afford opportunities for educational and/or social interaction, enrichment of individual personal resources and wholesome competition.

3. Field trips are regular school days.
4. Off-campus field trips require the following: (a) map or explanation of route to be followed; (b) destination; (c) list of students taking trip; and (d) parental permission slips. The required information must be in the principal's office prior to departure.
5. The principal will approve all field trips.

All school rules apply on school trips. Problems on trips may result in cancellation of the trip or future trips. Students who cause problems on a trip may lose their privilege of attending future trips.

A teacher will be in charge of all students who participate in a school trip away from school. No student will be dismissed from the teacher's supervision until the students have returned to school. Only if a parent/guardian is present may the teacher transfer custody to that parent/guardian. Under no circumstances may the teacher release the student to the custody of anyone other than the parent/guardian until the group has returned to school.

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

Reasonable discipline may include the administration of corporal punishment to a student in the exercise of sound discretion by a certified employee, provided that corporal punishment shall not be excessive or unduly severe.

Corporal punishment will be administered only after other alternatives, including but not limited to counseling, have been tried and failed. It will be administered according to the following procedures:

1. Only certified personnel will administer corporal punishment with administrative approval.
2. It will <u>not</u> be administered in the presence of other students or in a spirit of malice or anger, nor will it be excessive.

Before corporal punishment is administered, the student should be advised of the rule and infraction for which the student is being punished in the presence of the witness. If the student claims innocence, the certificated employee will permit the student to state his/her position that shall be considered prior to punishment.

3. School officials are not required to conduct formal hearings prior to corporal punishment.
4. Refusal to submit to corporal punishment will result in after-school detention or out-of-school suspension for up to three (3) days.
5. An attempt to contact a parent/guardian will be made prior to corporal punishment. Parents/Guardians will be notified when their son or daughter has received corporal punishment.

Homeschool Student Fundraising Participation Requirement

In recent years, the number of homeschool students participating in school-sponsored events such as prom, senior trips, and other extracurricular activities has steadily increased. While this inclusivity is valued and encouraged, it is important that all students contributing to and benefiting from these events share in the responsibilities associated with them, including fundraising efforts.

All homeschool students who wish to participate in school-sponsored social events (including but not limited to prom, senior trip, homecoming, and class banquets) are required to participate in a minimum of **one** designated fundraising activity per calendar year for their (the homeschool student's) junior or senior year.

- **Equity:** Currently enrolled students are often required to engage in fundraising efforts to offset event costs. Requiring homeschool students to do the same ensures fairness among all participants.
- **Community Building:** Participation in fundraisers fosters a stronger sense of community and connection between homeschool students and their peers.
- **Financial Responsibility:** Events such as prom and senior trips are expensive to organize. A collective fundraising effort reduces the financial burden on individual students and families.
- Homeschool students must participate in at least one official school fundraiser as designated by the administration.
- Verification of participation will be required prior to granting access to event ticket sales or event registration.
- If a student is unable to participate due to valid extenuating circumstances (e.g., health issues, family emergencies), alternative contributions (such as donation of equivalent value or volunteering at school events) may be considered with administrative approval.

Date Adopted: June 23, 2025
Last Updated: June 23, 2025

HANDICAPPED DISCIPLINE POLICY

Handicapped students who are engaged in misbehavior are subject to normal school disciplinary rules and procedures so long as such treatment does not abridge the right to a free and appropriate public education. The individual education plan (IEP) team for the handicapped student should consider whether particular discipline procedures should be adopted for that student and included in the IEP. Handicapped students may be excluded from school only in emergencies and only for the duration of the emergency. In no case should a handicapped student be excluded for more than ten (10) days in a school year.

After an emergency suspension is imposed on a handicapped student, an immediate meeting of the student's IEP team should be held to determine the cause and effect of the suspension with a view toward assessing the effectiveness and appropriateness of the student's placement and toward minimizing the harm from the exclusion.

VOLUNTEERING AND STUDENT MANAGEMENT

Volunteers shall understand they are not to physically touch any student to discipline the student. The volunteer will sign a sheet acknowledging their understanding of the role a volunteer plays in the school setting. The district encourages people in the community to volunteer in the schools for the betterment of the students; however, it is the duty of certified personnel to discipline the students.

EMERGENCY CLOSINGS

When school is not in session or must be dismissed early due to inclement weather or any emergency condition, the superintendent will make public announcements. Announcements will be made on Region 8 and local radio stations. In addition, the administration will send a message via telephone using the Apptegy App.

PROBLEM RESOLUTION

Any parental concerns relating to the education of a child should be directed to the school at the following levels, with the intention of resolving the problem:

1. The staff directly involved with the student in the area of concern
2. The principal at the particular school:
   Hillcrest Elementary
   Hillcrest High School
3. The Superintendent
4. The Hillcrest School Board

DUE PROCESS

If a student and/or parent/guardian of a student involved in a disciplinary action or in any policy problem wishes to contest a ruling, condition, or circumstance imposed by an instructor or school staff member, the following procedures should be used by the person(s) filing the complaint. Most complaints are normally oral; however, any party to a complaint may at any time address a complaint in writing and request a response in that form.

1. The aggrieved party must first address the complaint to the person or party who originally took the action upon which the first complaint is based. The person shall reconsider his/her action and give decision to the aggrieved person or party within an agreed amount of time.
2. If the complainant is not satisfied with the decision, the complaint must be directed to the immediate superior of the person who took the initial action. If the complaint was directed toward an instructor, the immediate supervisor would be the principal.
3. If the complaint is directed toward the principal, the immediate supervisor would be the superintendent of schools. If the complaint is not resolved at this level, the complaint could be directed to the board of education. The principal will review the original action within an agreed amount of time and render a decision or suggest a solution that might be mutually acceptable to all parties.
4. If the complaint is not resolved at this point, the complainant(s) may seek further appeal made to the board of education through regular channels

provided by the superintendent for appealing or addressing the board.

Note: Only the school board may expel a student from school. The board of education may expel a student for the remainder of the semester or for the remainder of the year or permanently.

POSSESSION AND USE OF PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES
"Bell to Bell, No Cell Act 122 of 2025"

Definitions

"Emergency" means a serious, unexpected, and dangerous situation that requires immediate action, including without limitation:

- An active fire;
- An active tornado or earthquake;
- An active shooter;
- An evacuation of school grounds; or
- A medical emergency

"Personal electronic device" means without limitation a:

- A. Cellular telephone;

- B. Paging device;
- C. Beeper;
- D. Mobile telephone that offers advanced computing and internet accessibility;
- E. Digital media player;
- F. Portable game console;
- G. Tablet, notebook, or laptop computer;
- H. Digital camera;
- I. Digital video or audio recorder;
- J. Smart watch; and
- K. Device that can connect and transmit data through Bluetooth technology.

"School day" means from the time students are required to be at school until the time students are dismissed from school.

Possession of Personal Electronic Device Act 122 of 2025

Except as permitted under this policy, a student shall not be in possession of a personal electronic device during the school day. A student may possess a personal electronic device during the school day if:

- The personal electronic device is required by the student's individual education plan (IEP), 504 Plan, or Individual Health Plan for health reasons;[1]
- The possession of the personal electronic device is during an emergency as defined by this policy;
- The personal electronic device is issued by the District for the student's use during the school day; or
- The possession of the personal electronic device is during a special event during the school day.
- The student is enrolled in an endorsed concurrent enrollment course at an institution of higher education, and the use of the personal electronic device is necessary in order to utilize **two-factor authentication** to access course work and resources for the endorsed concurrent enrollment course. The use of the personal electronic device shall be limited to the time necessary to complete the two-factor authentication process

- A student shall be deemed to not be in possession of a personal electronic device if:[2]

Use Of Personal Electronic Device

- Except as permitted by this policy, a student shall not use a personal electronic device during the school day. A student may use a personal electronic device during the school day if:
- The personal electronic device is required by the student's individual education plan (IEP), 504 Plan, or Individual Health Plan for health reasons;[1]
- The use of the personal electronic device is during an emergency as defined by this policy;
- The personal electronic device is issued by the District for the student's use during the school day; or
- The use of the personal electronic device is during a special event during the school day.

A student may possess and use a personal electronic device at a special school event for the purpose of taking photographs. The District shall inform the students and students' parents, legal guardians, persons having lawful control of the student, and persons standing in loco parentis the following before a special school event takes place:

· § When and where the special school event will take place;

· § Whether or not personal electronic devices shall be allowed at the special school event; and

· § Where personal electronic devices may be used at the special school event.

The use of personal electronic devices at school sponsored functions outside the regular school day is permitted to the extent and within the limitations allowed by the event or activity the student is attending.

Misuse of Personal Electronic Devices

Even if a student is allowed to possess or use a personal electronic device under this policy, the misuse of a personal electronic device is prohibited. Misuse of personal electronic devices includes, but is not limited to:

1. Using personal electronic devices issued by the District during class time in any manner other than specifically permitted by the classroom instructor;
2. Permitting any audible sound to come from the personal electronic device when not being used for reason #1 above;
3. Engaging in academic dishonesty, including cheating, intentionally plagiarizing, wrongfully giving or receiving help during an academic examination, or wrongfully obtaining test copies or scores;

4. Using the personal electronic device to record audio or video or to take photographs in areas where a general expectation of personal privacy exists, including but not limited to locker rooms and bathrooms;
5. Creating, sending, sharing, viewing, receiving, or possessing an indecent visual depiction of oneself or another person regardless of whether the image is real or created through the use of artificial intelligence;
6. Using a personal electronic device issued by the District in a manner that violates the Electronic Device and Internet Use Agreement regardless of whether the violation occurred on or off campus;
7. Using a personal electronic device at an event during the school day that was not designated as a special school event or in a manner or location that was not authorized as part of the special school event;
8. Using personal electronic devices issued by the District while driving any vehicle at any time;[3] or
9. Using a personal electronic device for the purposes of browsing the internet; composing or reading emails and text messages; or making or answering phone calls while driving a motor vehicle that is in motion and on school property.[4]

Discipline

A student may have a personal electronic device confiscated if:
§ The student is found to possess or use a personal electronic device when the use or possession is not authorized by this policy and the personal electronic device was not issued by the District;
§ The student misuses a personal electronic device as defined by this policy; or
§ The student's parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis uses the remote recording or listening capabilities of a personal electronic device, either through an app installed on the personal electronic device or the built-in capacity of the personal electronic device, except when authorized by the District.[1, 5]

Confiscated personal electronic devices may be picked up at the school's administration office by the student's parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis .

[2] Students have no right of privacy as to the content contained on any personal electronic devices that have been confiscated.
[3] A search of a confiscated device shall meet the reasonable individualized suspicion requirements of

SEARCH, SEIZURE, AND INTERROGATIONS.[6]

A student and the student's parents, legal guardians, persons having lawful control of the student, or persons standing in loco parentis expressly assume any risk associated with a student's possession or use of a student's personal electronic device that is not issued by the District. The District shall not be liable for a personal electronic device that is confiscated if the personal electronic device is lost, stolen, or damaged.

In addition to the confiscation of a personal electronic device for a violation of this policy, a student may be subject to the following discipline:

[7] To protect the integrity of the administration of the assessments under the Arkansas Educational Support and Accountability Act, a student who is found to be in possession of or to use a personal electronic device during the administration of a statewide assessment that is not required by the student's IEP, 504 Plan, or issued by the District shall have the discipline the student is subject to increased by an additional level.

Notes:

[1] A student-tracking safety device is prohibited under A.C.A. § 6-18-515 without the device being included in the student's IEP. Part of the agreement of the inclusion of the device in the student's IEP should be that either the device does not have recording or listen-in capability or that the device's recording and listen-in technology is disabled while the device is on the campus or at the school-sponsored event because of student privacy concerns. The student's parent should agree in writing to the requirement for the device's recording and listening-in technology to be disabled and that the District may prohibit future use of the device on campus or at a school-sponsored activity if it is determined that the device's recording or listening-in capabilities were used.

[2] Include where a student may have a personal electronic device during the school day that would not be considered to be in their possession. *Examples include:* their bag, as long as they are not reaching into the bag to access it during the school day except as permitted by law when removing it from the bag to access; the student's locker; the student's vehicle; or if the district is going to provide storage in classrooms specifically for devices. If you provide electronic device pouches for your students, include the process to be used for placing and removing devices from the pouches.

[3] This sentence is included because insurance companies have ruled that injuries occurring while driving and talking on school issued cell phones are subject to workers comp awards.

[4] A.C.A. § 27-51-1603 makes it illegal for anyone under the age of

eighteen (18) to use a wireless communication device for any purpose while operating a motor vehicle. Additionally, A.C.A. § 27-51-1609 prohibits the use of a "wireless handheld telephone" while in a school zone for any purpose when that use is not hands free. While the policy language exceeds the statutory prohibitions, we believe the language is important for the protection of students, employees, and the public.

[5] In addition to those devices referenced in footnote 1, there have been instances where parents have installed remote listening apps onto their student's phone and accessed the app while the student was in school.

[6] To perform a search of an electronic device, an administrator would have to possess individualized suspicion that an examination of the device would reveal evidence of student misconduct, **and** the search itself would have to be tailored to the suspicion. For instance, if there were an allegation that harassing text messages had been sent from Student A to Student B during lunch, individualized suspicion would exist as to the text message history contained on Student A's phone; however, viewing pictures or files unrelated to the suspected misconduct would be inappropriate and a violation of the student's rights under the 4th Amendment of the US Constitution. Merely confiscating a cell phone because the student received a call on it does not give individualized suspicion to justify a search.

[7] It is recommended that you specify increasing severity of the penalty for repeat offenders. Given the severity of a breach of assessment security, you might consider entirely separate penalties for such action instead of simply increased penalties.

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-15-2907
A.C.A. § 6-18-515
A.C.A. § 27-51-1602
A.C.A. § 27-51-1603
A.C.A. § 27-51-1609
DESE Test Administration Manual
DESE Rules Governing Student Discipline and School Safety
Revised: Feb 2, 2026

Hillcrest School District – Personal Electronic Device Policy

Students are responsible for conducting themselves in a manner that respects the rights of others. Possession and use of any electronic device, whether district or student owned, that interferes with a positive, orderly classroom environment does not respect the rights of others and is expressly forbidden.

Students who use school issued cell phones and/or computers for non-school purposes, except as permitted by the district's Internet/computer use policy, shall be subject to discipline, up to and including suspension or expulsion. Students are forbidden from using school issued cell phones while driving any vehicle at any time. Violation may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.[4]

Student cell phones/electronic communication devices may not be used by students on campus from 7:50 to 3:25 (Bell to Bell, No Cell Act 122 of 2025). Students are not permitted to have cell phones or any other electronic communication devices such as smartwatches, airpods, gaming devices, or any other data sharing device.

Elementary students that have electronic communication devices on campus are expected to have phone/electronic communication devices turned off and stored in their designated storage area in their classroom.

High school students that have electronic communication devices on campus are expected to have phone/electronic devices turned off and stored in their bag or backpack. Students caught with a cell phone/electronic communication device on their person (ie: pockets, hoodie pouch, etc.) will be subject to the penalties set forth in this policy and their cell phones/electronic communication devices will be confiscated. Use of an electronic device is permitted to the extent it is approved in a student's IEP, 504, health plan, or it is needed in an emergency that threatens the safety of students, staff, or other individuals.

First offense - Phone/device will be taken up, sent to the office, and parent/guardian will have to pick it up at 3:25 p.m./or end of school day. The student will serve (1) day of lunch detention.

Second offense - Phone/device will be taken up, sent to the office, and parent/guardian will have to pick it up or arrange pick up at 3:25 p.m./or end of school day. The student will serve (5) days of lunch detention.

Third offense - Phone/device must be turned into the office each day upon arrival and may be picked up at 3:25 p.m./or end of school day by the student.

Recurring offenses per semester: - Consequences can range from a Parent/Student Conference to Out-of-School Suspension.

Hillcrest Elementary School
Mr.Shawn Rose, Principal
180 School Street
P.O.Box 70
Lynn, AR 72440

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CURRICULUM

KINDERGARTEN
The kindergarten curriculum shall be a developmental and readiness program that includes the basic skills for kindergarten as determined by framework guides.

GRADES ONE THROUGH SIX
The core curriculum for grades one through six shall encompass all types of learning experiences and provide for differences in rates of learning among children. It shall emphasize mastery of competencies and skills in the following required areas: (A) Language Arts, (B) Mathematics, (C) Science, (D) Social Studies, (E) Information Skills (Dictionary, Maps, Computers, etc.), (F) Fine Arts,
(G) Physical Education, (H) Listening, and (I) Thinking.

Grades assigned to students in a course will only reflect the extent to which a student has achieved the expressed objectives and educational goals of each class.

GRADING SCALE

The grading scale for grades 3-6 will be: 90-100 an A, 80-89 a B, 70-79 a C, 60-69 a D, and 59 and below an F.

K-2 students will be graded on a standards based report card of skills required for each nine weeks.

HOMEWORK POLICY

An assignment is to be completed by the next day, unless otherwise stated. Work turned in after the due date will not receive credit. When a student knows that he/she will be absent or must leave school early, homework should not be submitted early. It should be turned in upon returning to school.

MAKE-UP WORK AND TESTS

If a student misses a class assignment or test, he/she is responsible for turning in the assignment or for taking the test on the day he/she returns to school. If the assignment or test was announced during the absence, the student should make arrangements with the teacher on the day of his/her return to finish an assignment or take a test as soon as possible, but not to exceed three (3) days, unless special arrangements are made with the teacher and principal. All the responsibility for make-up work is left to the student.
Parents/Guardians: It is recommended that if your child is sick for several days, that you call, come by, or ask another student to get your child's assignments.

PERFECT ATTENDANCE

Perfect attendance certificates are given to students who have no absences. A student will be counted tardy if he or she is not in the classroom after the first bell to begin the school day rings. Students will also be counted tardy if they leave ten (10) minutes before the afternoon bell to dismiss school rings. Any student with four (4) or tardier will not be eligible for perfect attendance.

Perfect attendance for the year will be given to students who have perfect attendance for all four (4) of the nine (9)-weeks grading periods. Any student who has accumulated four (4) or more tardies in a nine (9)-weeks grading period will not be considered for the perfect attendance award.

TARDIES

Promptness is an important character trait that district staff is encouraged to model and to help develop in our school's students. At the same time, promptness is the responsibility of each student. Students who are late to class show a disregard for both the teacher and their classmates, which compromises potential student achievement.

Tardiness will be excused ONLY when the student is not at fault. Teachers will list students with unexcused tardiness in e-school each morning. All tardy in excess of five (5) minutes must be referred to the principal's office. Teachers will keep a record of tardiness for their own classes. Teachers have the authority to decide if the tardy is excused or unexcused.

Any unexcused tardy may result in In School Suspension or After School Detention, or other disciplinary action, if the administration feels the situation warrants such action. In addition to (or instead of) the above, the normal procedure will be to follow the policy listed below:

When a student receives a total of four (4) tardy the parents will be notified. Students may be considered tardy if they are not in their seats when the tardy bell rings. The only exception to this rule will be in the classes where normal procedures do not require the students to be seated to start the class or they are waiting to receive their breakfast.

HONOR ROLL

Students must have no grade lower than A to be on the All A Honor Roll. A student must have no grade lower than B to be on the General Honor Roll. A grade of a C in any subject will keep the student off the honor roll.

Certificates or special plaques will be issued at the end of the year to students who remain on the honor roll for every nine-weeks grading period.

GRADUATION AND HONOR GRADUATES

Graduation exercises for kindergarten and the sixth grade will be scheduled close to the end of the school year.

In order to be eligible for valedictorian, a student must have attended Hillcrest Schools in the fourth, fifth, and sixth grades. Honor graduates must have a 3.25
G.P.A. or better.
Grade point averages (G.P.A.) will be calculated by using grades from fourth grade through the end of the third quarter of the sixth grade. The GPA will be calculated using the 11 nine-week grades through the third quarter of the 6th grade year. The G.P.A. will be calculated by using the following scale: A=4 Points; B=3 Points; C=2 Points; D=1 Point; and F=0 Points.

Classroom work will be graded by the following scale: A=90-100; B=80-89; C=70-79; D=60-69; F=59 and below.

Ushers for the sixth-grade graduation will be selected using grade point averages (G.P.A.). The students who hold the top eight G.P.A.s in the fifth grade will determine the identities of the eight ushers. Substitutes, if necessary, will be selected by the next highest G.P.A. Grade point averages will be calculated using grades from grade two through the end of the third quarter of the fifth grade.

DISCIPLINE

The minimum penalty for student misconduct will be a verbal warning, and the maximum penalty will be expulsion by the school board and/or legal action, depending upon the severity and frequency of the misconduct.

The following policies describe the district's expectations concerning student conduct and specify the consequences of violating school rules. As the need arises, school officials may adopt additional policies regulating student conduct. New laws or new case law may dictate a change in school rules and punishment of students who break the rules.

In extreme cases of misconduct, prudent judgment may dictate that school officials accelerate the step process and remove a student from the mainstream.

Discipline policies will be reviewed annually to ensure that they are consistent with state and federal law, developing case law, and Department of Education guidelines.

Parents/Guardians, teachers, or students may request a hearing to consider revision of student discipline policies or particular provisions of the policies by contacting the principal of the school that the policies affect or govern.

I. STUDENT DISCIPLINE AND SCHOOL SAFETY (AR Code Annotated 6-18-502)

A. Threatening or assaulting school employees:

Arkansas law requires recommendation of expulsion for one year.

B. Possession by students of any firearm or weapon:

Recommendation to superintendent of expulsion for a period of one year.

C. Possession, use, selling, or contributing to others any drugs or alcoholic beverages on school property:

Penalty: Suspension-Expulsion

D. Possession by a student of any paging device, beeper, or similar electronic communication device on the school campus; except for students granted an exemption for health or other compelling reasons:

Penalty: Confiscation-Suspension

E. Willfully or intentionally damaging, destroying, or stealing of school property: Penalty-Suspension/Restitution-Expulsion/Restitution

F. Hillcrest Tobacco And/or Possession Policy:

The Hillcrest School District will enforce Arkansas Laws 5-27-227 and 6-21-609. These laws state that it is unlawful for a minor (someone under 18) to possess, purchase, or use any cigarettes or other tobacco products. Furthermore, smoking or use of tobacco by anyone on the school campus (buildings and grounds), on school buses or in other vehicles, as well as school-sponsored events, both on and off campus, is unlawful.

Penalty-Suspension-Expulsion

G. Failure to obey instructions, defiance, or insubordination: A student must comply with directions or commands of all school district employees or substitutes.

Penalty- Warning-Suspension

H. Disrespect to school employees:

Penalty- Warning-Suspension

I. Fighting:

Penalty- Suspension-Expulsion

J. Profanity, obscenity, vulgar gestures:

Penalty- Warning-Suspension

K. Truancy:

L. Penalty- Detention-Suspension Dishonesty, cheating on school work:

Penalty- Conference/Zero on Assignment-Suspension

M. Grabbing or touching another student in private areas; public display of affection; indecent exposure of self or pulling down clothing of another student to expose him/her:

Penalty- Detention-Suspension

N. Threatening another student's life:

Penalty- Suspension-Expulsion
O. Laser Pointers: Possession or use of laser pointers of any kind on school grounds or any other school activity.
Penalty – Confiscation-Suspension
P. Cell Phones: Any student found with a cell phone during school hours will have the phone confiscated. The phone will only be returned to a parent or guardian.
Q. Gang Activity – Anything threatening done by a group of students will be considered bullying. See Bullying Policy.

MISBEHAVIOR NOT SPECIFICALLY LISTED:

The Hillcrest School District reserves the right to pursue disciplinary or legal action for misbehavior that would harm the educational process, even though such behavior is not specified in the preceding written rules. A safe and orderly environment is essential to the educational process.
A telephone call or conference with parents/guardians may be used to correct misbehavior and inform parents/guardians, even if it is not listed as a remedy on the first, second, or third offense.
Students may be suspended or expelled (by board action) for immorality, refractory conduct, insubordination, infectious disease, habitual uncleanness, or other conduct that would tend to impair the discipline of the school or harm the other pupils.

GUM CHEWING

Students will not be allowed to chew gum while on the school campus during regular school activities.

VIDEO GAMES, MUSIC PLAYERS, TOYS, CARDS

Since there is little time between classes and at lunch for the use of music players and/or video games, please do not bring them to school. No toys or other playthings are to be brought to school without approval of the classroom teacher. NO collectable cards of any kind are allowed. This includes Poke-mon, baseball, basketball, etc.

INDECENT EXPOSURE, SEXUAL ADVANCES, SEXUAL HARASSMENT, AND OTHER FORMS OF HARASSMENT

A student shall not deliberately commit indecent exposure in school or on school grounds; nor shall a student make a physical advance or sexually (or otherwise) harass another person. Consequences will depend on the severity of the situation.
Penalty- Corporal Punishment-Expulsion

LIBRARY

Teachers who take committees or classes to work in the library shall be responsible for the conduct of these groups, along with the librarian.
Students must pay the cost of a lost or damaged library book.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

1. Extracurricular activities are important and will be supported in the school program.
2. Extracurricular activities will be controlled to limit classroom interruptions during instructional time and to limit student absences.
3. Grades will not be used to limit student participation in extracurricular activities.
4. Age requirements may be used when participating in county events.

Dress Code

1. No clothing which is considered SKIN TIGHT or transparent will be allowed. Shorts will be allowed if they are no shorter than three (3) inches from the knee.
2. Halters, tank tops, sleeveless T-shirts, and other scanty attire will not be permitted in
3. Grades 4-6.
4. Clothing with any vulgar language, pictures, or liquor advertisements will not be permitted.
5. Sunglasses are not to be worn in the buildings.
6. Hair must be kept clean and hygienically safe. The administration has the right to question or inspect a student for cleanliness or health reasons at any time.
7. Students are prohibited from wearing, while on the school grounds during the school day and at school-sponsored events, clothing that exposes underwear, buttocks, or the breast of a female. This prohibition does not apply, however, to a costume or uniform worn by a student while participating in a school-sponsored activity or event. Legal References: A.C.A. 6-18-502(c)(1) and A.C.A. 6-18-503(c).

HILLCREST HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. Mike Nunnally, PRINCIPAL

146 South Main St.
P.O. Box 50
Strawberry, Ar. 72469

STUDENT CLASSIFICATION

Senior - a student having completed (16.5) units; Junior - a student having completed (11) units;
Sophomore - a student having completed (5.5) units.

HONOR ROLL

Students must have no grade lower than A to be on the All A Honor Roll. A student must have no grade lower than B to be on the General Honor Roll. A grade of a C in any subject will keep the student off the honor roll.

Certificates or special plaques will be issued at the end of the year to students who remain on the honor roll for every nine-weeks grading period.

HONOR GRADUATES

Students who have successfully completed the minimum core of courses recommended for preparation for college as defined by the State Board of Higher Education and the State Board of Education and have a cumulative GPA of 3.25 will be designated as honor students. The GPA shall be derived from specified courses taken in public schools in Grades Eight (8) through Twelve (12). Students with an IEP or 504 Plans are included to the extent that the courses that they have taken and successfully completed meet requirements of their IEP for graduation, regardless of whether or not they meet the course requirements established by the State Board of Education and Higher Education for preparation for college.

Hillcrest High School
Honor Graduate Requirements
Class of 2026 and 2027 only

- Smart Core Curriculum
- Unweighted GPA 3.25 or higher
- One concurrent college credit (includes Secondary Technical Center & gen. ed. classes) OR one AP (Advanced Placement) class with weighted credit (if they take the exam)
- Foreign language, 2 consecutive years of one language (i.e. Spanish I & II, French I & II, etc.)
- Enrolled at Hillcrest High School 4 consecutive semesters prior to graduation (i.e. beginning 11th grade year or the year prior to graduation)
- Honor graduate with the highest GPA is considered valedictorian
- Honor graduate with the second highest GPA is considered salutatorian
- Any honor graduates ranked after the salutatorian that meet requirements are considered "honor graduates"

- **enrolled in a public school in Grades 9 through 12 and in Hillcrest for four (4) semesters shall serve as the valedictorian of his/her graduating class**

Hillcrest High School
Honor Graduate Requirements
Effective Class of 2028 and after

- Unweighted GPA 3.25 or higher
- Graduate with a diploma type of Merit or Distinction
- Enrolled at Hillcrest High School 4 consecutive semesters prior to graduation (i.e. beginning 11th grade year or the year prior to graduation) to be eligible for valedictorian or salutatorian
- Club membership or extra-curricular activity (sports, community, etc.) at some time during grades 9-12
- Honor graduate with the highest GPA is considered valedictorian
- Honor graduate with the second highest GPA is considered salutatorian
- Any honor graduates ranked after the salutatorian that meet requirements are considered "honor graduates"
- Enrolled in a public school in grades 9-12

Hillcrest High School
Tiebreaker for Val/Sal
Class of 2028 and after

In the case of a tie for valedictorian or salutatorian, a point system will be used in order to determine selection for scholarships and other honors/awards.

The student with the most items in a given category will be awarded one point for that category. The student with the most points will be ranked first for scholarships and other honors/awards, the student with the next highest points will be ranked second for scholarships and honors/awards.

Categories:

- Concurrent classes quality points

- AP classes
- Community service hours
- Industry recognized certifications
- Extra-curricular school based activities (sports & clubs)
- ACT score
- Diploma type of Distinction (anyone with that gets one point)

PROMOTION AND RETENTION FOR GRADES 7 AND 8

Decisions pertaining to promotion or retention of students in Grades 7 and 8 are the responsibility of the school and will be done at the end of the school year.
Assessment data includes competency test scores, standardized test scores, subject matter mastery test scores, and observations of teachers and parents or guardians.
It is recommended that students in Grades 7 and 8 pass at least three (3) units of their core subjects (Math, Social Studies, English, and Science) to be promoted.
Exceptions can be made upon approval of a committee of teachers, the counselor and the building principal. The school district's decision will be final.

SCHEDULE CHANGES

Schedule changes must be made through the counselor's office

during the first five (5) days of the semester that school is in session. Students should notify the counselor to discuss changes

GRADING SYSTEM

Grades assigned to students for performance in a course will reflect only the extent to which a student has achieved the expressed objectives of each course.

A semester examination will be given each semester. Students may be exempt for each of the semesters. A student must have a (B) average, have no more than four (4) absences in that class, and have a (B) for conduct in the class to be exempt. Also, any student who has had disciplinary action taken by the principal's office must take all semester tests. All fees must be paid before a student may be exempt from any test and before report cards are handed out or other records can be released. Teachers will conduct reviews for final tests before making the exemption announcements. A student with exempt status who wishes to take the test to improve his/her average may do so; however, the test score may not lower the final grade.

The grading scale is: A=90-100; B=80-89; C=70-79; D=60-69; F=59 and below.

HOMEWORK POLICY

An assignment is to be completed by the next day, unless otherwise stated. Work turned in after the due date will not receive credit. When a student knows he/she will be absent or must

leave school early, homework should not be submitted early. It should be turned in upon returning to school.

FUND RAISING

The principal must approve all fund-raising projects by clubs or organizations. Events, which involve the selling of merchandise to residents of the area, should be limited as much as possible.

The students are responsible for any merchandise or money collected for items. All monies should be collected and turned in daily to prevent loss. All funds collected shall be deposited daily with the school clerk or bookkeeper.

At present, all classes or organizations are limited to one (1) major sales project, except FBLA, FFA, Jr. Class and Beta.

DISCIPLINE

The minimum penalty for student misconduct will be a verbal warning, and the maximum penalty will be expulsion by the board and/or legal action dependent upon the severity and frequency of the misconduct.

HILLCREST TOBACCO USE AND/OR POSSESSION POLICY: The Hillcrest School District will enforce Arkansas Laws 5-27-227 and 6-21-609. These laws state that it is unlawful for a minor (someone under 18) to possess, purchase, or use any cigarettes or other tobacco products. Furthermore, smoking or use of tobacco by anyone on the school campus (buildings and grounds), on school buses or in other vehicles, as well as school-sponsored events, both on and off campus, is unlawful.

Smoking or use of tobacco or products containing tobacco in any form (including, but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, and snuff) in or on any real property or leased by a district school, including school buses owned or leased by the district, is prohibited. Students who violate this policy may be subject to legal proceedings in addition to student disciplinary measures.

With the exception of recognized tobacco cessation products, this policy's prohibition includes any tobacco or nicotine delivery system or product. Specifically, the prohibition includes any product that is manufactured, distributed, marketed, or sold as e-cigarettes, e-cigars, e-pips, or under any other name or descriptor. A.C.A. 6-21-609

DAMAGE, DESTRUCTION, OR THEFT OF PROPERTY: A student shall not cause or attempt to cause damage to or attempt to steal or steal school property or public or private property while under the jurisdiction of the school. The school district will require restitution from any student who destroys school property. Parents of any minor student under the age of eighteen (18) living with parents may be liable for damages.

PENALTY: Detention and Restitution – Expulsion

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND OTHER ILLICIT DRUGS

Possession, use, delivery, transfer, or sale of alcoholic beverages and controlled substances (illegal drugs) on school property is prohibited by federal, state, and local laws.

PENALTY: Ten (10)-Day Suspension - Expulsion

The Hillcrest School District will provide a drug and alcohol prevention education program in

Grades K-12. The program shall include, but not be limited to:

1. Participation in and promotion of Red Ribbon Week;
2. Instruction about the effects of drugs and alcohol on the human body;
3. Activities designed to improve self-esteem;
4. A random drug-testing program in Grades 7-12.

PHYSICAL ABUSE OR ASSAULT ON AN EMPLOYEE

Willfully and intentionally assaulting or threatening to assault or abuse any teacher, principal, superintendent, or other employee of a school system will result in a recommendation for expulsion. The principal will recommend expulsion of the person committing the assault, and the authorities will be notified.

INSUBORDINATION OR DEFIANCE

A student shall comply with reasonable directions or commands of teachers, substitute teachers, teacher aides, principals, administrative personnel, school bus drivers, or other authorized personnel.
PENALTY: Warning and Corporal Punishment – Suspension

TRUANCY

PENALTY: After-School Detention – ISS (In school Suspension)

FIGHTING

PENALTY: Suspension - Expulsion
The instigator may receive harsher punishment. There may be some unusual circumstances where one party may be deemed completely responsible.

PROFANITY, OBSCENITY, VULGAR GESTURES

A student shall not use abusive, vulgar, or irreverent language on the school campus or at school activities at any time, nor shall a student make vulgar signs or gestures.

PENALTY: After-School Detention – Expulsion (See Act 125 of 1979)

DISHONESTY, CHEATING

Students who are caught cheating on tests or schoolwork will be subject to the following disciplinary action by their teachers. A zero will be given on the assignment or test. Students who assist others in cheating (showing test answers or homework assignments) will be given the same punishment. If a student is caught cheating additional times, the student will be given a zero, and the office will administer the following punishment:
PENALTY: No Credit on Assignment – Suspension

DRIVING AND/OR PARKING VIOLATIONS

Students must be licensed to drive a vehicle to school, and they must also submit to random drug testing. Students who drive automobiles to school should drive very carefully around the school area, both during regular school hours as well as at after-school events. To help insure the safety of drivers, passengers, and other students, students should follow the following rules:

1. Must complete a student parking form and submit a copy of their driver's license.
2. Shall exhibit courteous driving behavior and shall observe the laws.
3. Students are allowed to park only in the designated student parking areas.
4. Excessive speed, hazardous driving, or loudness on or near the school grounds constitutes unsafe driving.
5. May not allow other students to ride in or on their vehicle in an unsafe manner.
6. May not allow other students to ride home with, unless parents give notification to the principal.
7. Upon arrival at school, shall depart from their vehicles immediately. We suggest that vehicles be locked upon arrival at school. If a student needs to return to his/her vehicle during the day, the principal must grant permission.
8. Park only in designated areas as directed by the administration.

Failure to drive in a safe and responsible way will result in the following: PENALTY:

Loss of Driving Privilege – Suspension

PUBLIC DISPLAY OF AFFECTION

PENALTY: Warning – Expulsion

BALL GAMES

All students are required to stay inside the gym at all games (home and away). Students will not be allowed to leave the gymnasium at a ballgame, unless they receive permission from the principal. Permission will only be given if there is justification. If a student leaves without permission, he/she must immediately leave the school campus and may not return. No loitering will be allowed.

Students should remember that when guests are present, or they are the guests, they are to be on their best behavior and show courtesy and good manners. State law requires that no tobacco products, drugs, or alcohol are to be possessed or used by students at school, including school events, such as ballgames. Students who attend school-sponsored events under the influence of alcohol or drugs will be disciplined by the same rules as if they were at school.

Ball players are expected to ride the bus to and from ball games, unless they ride with a parent/guardian.

TERRORISTIC THREATENING

Any statement that involves a threat of weapons or violence will be interpreted in a literal manner. Under Arkansas Law, such threats are considered terroristic threatening, which is a serious criminal offense. Law enforcement officials will be notified immediately, and the student could be expelled from the Hillcrest School District. Terroristic threats- are threats to kill or to cause serious physical injury to another person.
PENALTY: Suspension – Expulsion

MISBEHAVIOR NOT SPECIFICALLY LISTED

The Hillcrest School District reserves the right to pursue disciplinary or legal action for behavior which is subversive to good order and discipline in the school, even though such behavior is not specified in the preceding written rules.

DRESS CODE AND GROOMING

It is important that schools have some regulations concerning the dress and appearance of students. The dress and appearance of students should in no way disrupt and impede the maintenance of a proper educational atmosphere in the classroom or on the campus. It should never be of such a nature as to result in distraction of other students. Specific regulations that should be observed are as follows: 1. No rips or tears in clothing that show skin that are above mid-thigh. 2. The wearing of muscle shirts, net tops, tank tops or the wearing of any shirt that shows any part of the student's undergarments are prohibited. No shirts that show a student's breasts, back or midriff are allowed to be worn. Also, no low cut, strapless or spaghetti straps are not to be worn. 3. Articles of clothing that have inappropriate advertising or suggestive markings are not permitted. 4. Dresses, shorts, or skirts which are above mid-thigh are not acceptable. are not to be worn. 5. No shoes/boots shall be worn that are considered a distraction to the learning environment will be worn (taps, wheels, house shoes, etc.) 6. Sun glasses are not to be worn in buildings, except for medical reasons. 7. Any facial jewelry considered to be distracting or disruptive to the learning environment will not be allowed. 8. Students are prohibited from wearing sagging pants 9. Writing on the skin, arms, legs, and hands is prohibited. A. Warning / Student required to change / Parent Phone Call / A student checking out will count as being absent B. 1 Day Noon Detention C. 3 Days Noon Detention Other consequences as needed.

STUDENT WAIVER POLICY FOR FINANCIAL HARDSHIP

Students in grades nine through twelve (9-12) shall be required to schedule and attend a full school day. In rare instances, students may be granted waivers from the mandatory attendance requirement, if they would experience proven financial hardship if required to attend a full day of school. For the purpose of this policy, proven financial hardships is defined as harm or suffering caused by a student's inability to obtain or provide basic life necessities of food, clothing, and shelter for the student or the student's family. The superintendent shall have the authority to grant such a waiver, on a case-by-case basis, only when convinced the student meets the definition of proven financial hardships.

CHECK-OUT PROCEDURES

If a student must leave school during regular school hours, a parent or guardian must call the principal's office and explain why the student should be excused. Students will not be allowed to place a call to the parent/guardian asking for permission to leave. The parent/guardian must initiate the call. No student will be dismissed without permission of a parent/guardian. It is recommended that parents/guardians not allow their son or daughter to check out of school, unless he/she is sick or a family emergency exists. A student who leaves the school grounds without permission from the principal or designee will be considered truant. Students must have parent/guardian permission before leaving school.

HILLCREST SCHOOL DISTRICT

HANDBOOK AND CONSENT FORMS

EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

No student in the Hillcrest School District shall be excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity sponsored by the Hillcrest School District on the basis of any protected classification under the law. The Hillcrest School District has a limited open forum granting equal access to the Boy Scouts of America and other youth groups.

Inquiries on non-discrimination may be directed to:
Mr. Mickel Smith 870-376-5416 For further information on notice of non-discrimination or to file a complaint, visit http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list.ocr/complaintintro.html; for the address and phone number of the office that serves your area, or call 1-800-421-3481.

Notes: A copy of this non-discrimination notification should be included in all district publications to students and parents.

[1] This language was amended to align with Attorney General Opinion 2023-059.

[~~1~~2] A.C.A. § 6-10-132 requires that youth patriotic societies, such as the Boy Scouts of America, be provided access to students during the school day; as a result, all districts now have a limited open forum and are required to provide the same access to groups who follow the procedure set forth in the statute to request access to students regardless of the groups viewpoint. [~~2~~3] Insert the position(s) designated to be contacted on discrimination inquiries. If you have different positions designated to answer questions on disability discrimination (504 coordinator) and sex discrimination (Title IX coordinator), then you will need to include the position responsible for each area. Do not include the name(s) of the person(s) to be contacted in the policy; changing the name of the person (due to a staffing change) would necessitate amending the policy, which would require it to go through the entire adoption process.

[~~3~~4] Insert the office address, phone number, and email address to be used to **c**ontact the designated position. If you have more than one position designated as set forth in footnote ~~2~~3, you will need to include a contact number, email address, and office address for each position. The contact number and office address may be the school/district address and phone number. We recommend making the email address specific to the position, such as titleix@districtdomain.org, and having the emails sent to the coordinator's inbox to prevent having to amend the policy due to staff changes. While 34 C.F.R. § 106.8 requires that an individual be able to submit a report, including by telephone, both inside and outside of business hours, we do not believe that this requires that the Title IX Coordinator must be on-call to receive phone calls at any time; instead, the number provided for individuals to use must allow individuals wanting to report sexual discrimination or sexual harassment to the Title IX Coordinator to be able to leave a voice message for the Title IX Coordinator

Name of Student_____

Name of Parent/Guardian_____

Date _____

HILLCREST SCHOOL DISTRICT

Handbook Form

P. O. Box 50
146 South Main Street
Strawberry, AR 72469

P.O. Box 70
180 School Street
Lynn, AR 72440

I,_____, have received this handbook and the school's policies and procedures of operation.

Name of Student **Name of Parent**

Signature of Student (Grades 7-12) **Signature of Parent**

Date **Date**

Note: Tear out and return this form to your teacher.

INTERNET POLICY HILLCREST
SCHOOLS
ACCEPTABLE USE AND INTERNET SAFETY POLICY

The Hillcrest School District is pleased to make access to the Internet available to students. The district is providing access only for educational purposes. Use of the computer network and Internet is a privilege, not a right. Teachers, administrators, and other staff will make reasonable efforts to supervise student use of the network and Internet access. However, in order for the school district to be able to continue to make Internet access available, all students must take responsibility for appropriate use of this access. We require that students and parents or guardians read, accept, and sign the following rules for acceptable online behavior:

1. Students are responsible for good behavior on the Internet just as they are in school. General school rules for behavior and communications apply.
2. Network storage areas may be treated like school lockers. Network administrators may review files and communications to maintain system integrity and ensure that users are using the system responsibly. Users should not expect that files will always be private.
1. The following are not permitted: Transmitting or displaying offensive or harassing messages or pictures;
2. Using obscene, vulgar or threatening language and/or harassing, insulting, or attacking others;
3. The transmission, viewing, or downloading of pornographic materials;
4. Damaging computers, computer systems, or computer networks;
5. Violating copyright laws;
6. Using another's password;
7. Trespassing in another's folders, work, or files;
8. Intentionally wasting limited resources, including through the use of "chain letters" and messages broadcasted to mailing lists or individuals;
9. Employing the network for commercial purposes;
10. Revealing the personal address or phone number of yourself or any other person without permission from the instructor;
11. Uploading, downloading or installing ANY software without permission
12. from the supervising teacher or system administrator.

Personally identifiable information concerning students may not be disclosed or used in any way on the Internet without the permission of a parent or guardian. Users should never give out private or confidential information about themselves or others on the Internet. This would include names, phone numbers, addresses, credit card numbers, and Social Security numbers.

The school district will utilize filtering software and monitor the online activities of students, through direct observation and/or technological means, to ensure that students are not accessing inappropriate materials. No user shall have any expectation of privacy regarding computer use or Internet access. Violators of this policy may result in a loss of access. The district may also take

additional disciplinary action against those who violate the policy.
Students and parents/guardians will be given an opportunity to sign a policy agreement form. Those students and parents/guardians who agree to comply with the terms of this policy will be granted access.

ONLINE HIGH SCHOOL POLICIES

OVERVIEW

Hillcrest High School offers high school learners the option to enhance their academic learning by providing them the opportunity to register for Internet-based (online) high school courses. Online high school courses are an excellent way for a student to supplement their academic learning by providing additional educational opportunities not available within the HNTHS learning environment. Students have up to 18 weeks from the time of registration to complete a semester course. Students can complete the course in less than 18 weeks. Full-year courses are broken down into two semesters.
Due to the uniqueness of online Internet-based high school instruction, certain standards are expected of students enrolling in these courses. This contract is intended to make both the student and parents aware of these standards.

COMMITMENT TO ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND SUCCESS

Students taking an Internet-based instructional student course shall be committed to doing well in this course and will adhere to the following expectations:

1. Students will dedicate one class period a day for each online course taken and give forth the effort that is needed to stay on pace and complete this course successfully.
2. Students understand that logging in and submitting no work whatsoever does not constitute activity.
3. Students understand that failure to meet benchmarks will result in academic warnings and he/she may be dropped from the course.
4. Student understands he/she will be responsible for any course fees for failing the course, needing extended time, or dropping a course after the deadline (based on the provider).
5. Students are expected to communicate frequently with his/her online teacher and respond to ALL emails sent to him/her. If he/she does not communicate at least once a week, my district will be notified.
6. Students understand that if he/she is inactive, the online provider reserves the right to begin the drop process.
7. Student understands all work will be his/her own work. I will not use parts of any other person's efforts.
8. Students realize that this course has the same work as a full-semester high school course and may require study and homework time.

ACADEMIC BENCHMARKS AND WARNING LEVELS

Online instructional courses are 18 weeks in length. Students are expected to adhere to the following benchmarks in order to stay on, or ahead of, pace and successfully complete the course. Failure to meet a benchmark will result in warnings and/or being dropped from the course, which is determined by the online provider and not the Hillcrest School District. Students dropped will receive no credit and will be responsible for repayment of the course. The Hillcrest School District has set up the following benchmarks to help learners in completing

their coursework assigned by their online classes:

1. Benchmark – 5 Weeks. Explanation – Students are at least 20-25% complete with the course. Student status is On Pace – Passing.
   Policy – Failure to meet Benchmark will result in a written warning to learner and guardian and possible drop from class.
2. Benchmark – 9 Weeks. Explanation – Students are at least 45-50% complete with the course. Student status is On Pace – Passing.

Policy – Failure to meet Benchmark will result in a written warning to learner and guardian and possible drop from class.

3. Benchmark - 15 Weeks. Explanation – Students are at least 70-75% complete with the course. Student status is On Pace – Passing.

Policy – Failure to meet Benchmark will result in a written warning to learner and guardian and possible drop from class.

4. Benchmark – 18 Weeks. Explanation – Student has completed the course. Students have passing marks.

Policy – Failure to meet Benchmark will result in a written warning to learner and guardian and possible drop from class

PAYMENT

HNTHS will cover the upfront cost of the tuition for all Internet-based high school courses. The student will incur no upfront cost. Failure to meet benchmarks and/or successfully complete the course on time with a passing grade will result in the student incurring the cost of the course based on the online provider payment policy.

HILLCREST SCHOOL DISTRICT STUDENT

INTERNET AGREEMENT

I have received the Internet Contract, Acceptable Online Behavior policy. I understand it, and I agree to comply with it.

Student's Name (Please Print) Student's Signature Date

PARENT/GUARDIAN INTERNET AGREEMENT

As the parent or legal guardian of the above-named student, I have received, understand, and agree that my child shall comply with the terms of the Internet Contract, Acceptable Online Behavior policy. I hereby give permission for my child to use an email account and access the school district's computer network and the Internet.

HILLCREST SCHOOL District
TECHNOLOGY INFORMATION

INTRODUCTION

The goal of the Hillcrest School District is to provide the best education possible to all students by preparing them to be both college and career ready. The Hillcrest 1:1 Technology Initiative provides all students with the technology tools needed to prepare them to be both college and career ready. The Hillcrest School District has the opportunity to provide its students with a tool to help actively engage all students in their learning.

ISSUING COMPUTERS TO STUDENTS

A laptop, carrying case, and charger will be assigned to individual students. All serial numbers will be recorded, and this will stay with the student for the remainder of the school year in which it was issued, or until the student withdraws from school. Students are responsible for bringing the laptops to school, taking them home each day, and charging them for use the next day. The laptops are not to be left unsupervised at school or at home in unsecured locations.

TERMS OF MACBOOK LOAN

The parent(s)/guardian(s) and student must sign the agreement in order for the student to be issued a MacBook.

The Hillcrest School District will issue a MacBook to students in Grades 7-12 upon compliance with the following:

- Submission of signed Student Acceptable Use of Technology Agreement
- Submission of signed Student/Parent Laptop Agreement

Students may be subject to loss of privileges, disciplinary action and/or legal action in the event of intentional damage and/or violation of policies and guidelines as outlined in the Student/Parent Netbook Handbook as well as the Hillcrest School District Acceptable Use Policy.

A student's possession of the MacBook terminates no later than the first day of final exams, unless there is a reason for earlier termination determined by the principal.

TRANSPORTING COMPUTERS

The Hillcrest School District will supply each student with a carrying case for his or her assigned computer. This case is designed to protect the **c**omputer and accessories assigned to the student.

- Any time a computer is transported, even between classes, the computer must be in a case provided to the student.
- Computers must remain in their cases when students are being transported on a bus.
- All laptops and components are to be carried in the school-provided laptop carrying case at all times. Do not put laptops, without the school-provided carrying case, in another bag. If the computer remains in the provided case, the case with the computer in it can be

carried in a larger backpack or messenger bag.

- Laptops should always be shut down or placed in standby mode/hibernate mode before being placed in the carrying case in order to prevent hard drive damage.
- Always close the lid before moving or carrying the laptop.
- Do not leave the laptop in a vehicle.
- Carefully unplug all cords, accessories, and peripherals before moving the laptop or placing it into the case.
- Do not overload the laptop carrying case since this is likely to cause damage to the laptop. Textbooks, notebooks, binders, pens, pencils, etc. are not to be placed in the laptop carrying case.

SKINS

Students are not only allowed to put a skin on their MacBook, but they are encouraged to use a hard-shell case for additional protection. Hard shell cases for the 13" MacBook Air can be purchased through many online retailers and can be plain or customized for your student's preference. The hard-shell case will encase the entire MacBook and add an additional layer of protection.

LOANING EQUIPMENT TO OTHERS

Students may not lend laptops or laptop components to others for any reason. This includes other family members. Parents/Legal guardians may use the laptops to assist their child who is assigned the laptop with homework or school assignments, to check their student's grades, and/or to communicate with teachers regarding their child.

POWER MANAGEMENT

It is the student's responsibility to recharge the laptop battery so it is fully charged at the beginning of each school day. Power outlets may not be accessible in classrooms for recharging.

Uncharged batteries or failure to bring the laptop to class will not be an acceptable excuse for late or incomplete work or inability to participate in class activities. When charging the laptop, make sure cords are out of the way to avoid anyone tripping over them.

All students are required to carry their chargers (AC adapter) to school to recharge the battery if necessary.

Protect the laptop by using a surge protector whenever possible.

CONSERVING BATTERY POWER

1) Use standby mode or hibernate mode throughout the day.
2) Dimming the brightness of the screen will extend battery run time.
3) For prolonged periods of inactivity, shut down the laptop.
4) Do not drain the battery down to 0%. Keep a well-charged battery at all times and plug in when needed.

STUDENT STORAGE/SAVING FILES

Students are responsible for maintaining and backing up their files and documents. Any files saved to the laptop hard drive may be lost in the event of a hardware failure or may be removed during maintenance. At the end of the school year, all student files on the laptop hard drive will be deleted.
Students may back up to external devices, such as a thumb drive, or students may back to "cloud" storage on the web, such as Google Drive. If the student laptop crashes and files are lost, it is the student's responsibility to have the files saved elsewhere. Please note: "the computer crashed" is not an acceptable excuse for late assignments.

ACCESS/MEDIA CENTER/LIBRARY
Students will be allowed access to the Internet at school through the school's network, and every attempt will be made to supervise and filter content students may access.
If available, students may also access the Internet outside school by connecting to a wireless network. Student's access to content outside the school network will not be filtered. Parents are encouraged to supervise their child's use of the laptop. If a parent suspects any inappropriate activity, he or she may contact the principal's office and have our technical staff examine the content on the laptop to determine if students are accessing inappropriate content.

Hillcrest School District recognizes that all students may not have access to a wireless Internet connection outside school, so the library hours at Hillcrest Elementary School and Hillcrest New Tech High School will be extended at least one day per week to allow students access to the Internet. A schedule of extended library hours will be sent home with students and posted on the school website at hillcrest.k12.ar.us.

DAY USERS
The Hillcrest School District created our 1:1 Laptop Initiative to allow all students access throughout the school day and beyond to the latest technology that will help prepare them for a technology-driven world. To have the greatest influence on our students' education, the Hillcrest School District recommends that parents allow their students to take their assigned laptops home.

The district also understands that some parents may not want their students to bring their assigned laptops home. In this event, the student will be a "Day User", and students will check-out their laptop at the beginning of the day and check it back in at the end of the day.

Students will also be assigned a "Day User" status if they demonstrate that they are not responsible with their laptop. The determination to change a student's status to a "Day User" status will be at the discretion of the school administration.

EMAIL AND INTERNET USE
Email and other Digital Communications Accounts
Students are provided an email account by the school. Email correspondence will be used for educational purposes only. Electronic communication coming from or going to the school-issued email account can and will be monitored to make sure the terms of the acceptable use policy (AUP) are being followed.

Digital communications etiquette by all students using all school-provided communications accounts, sites, or applications including, but not limited to, wikis, blogs, forums, interactive video conferencing, podcasts, vodcasts, online training, online courses, and online collaboration sites.

INTERNET USE

As required by the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), an Internet filter is maintained by the district for school use on the laptop. Filtering not only restricts access to unacceptable sites, but also restricts access to inappropriate materials of all kinds. Hillcrest School District cannot guarantee that access to all inappropriate sites will be blocked. *No filter is as reliable as adult supervision*!

Log files are maintained on each laptop with a detailed history of all sites accessed. It is the responsibility of the user to appropriately use the laptop, network, and the Internet. Hillcrest School District will not be responsible for any harm suffered while on the network or the State Law.

Students must:

Immediately report any unauthorized activity on the network or Internet.

Notify a teacher immediately if you accidentally access an inappropriate site.Internet. There is no way for the Hillcrest School District to effectively filter content while students are using their device at home; therefore, parents must be aware of their students' computer activity. *Adult supervision is the most effective means of filtering content from the Internet.*

Students are required to notify a teacher or administrator if they access information or messages that are inappropriate, dangerous, threatening, or make them feel uncomfortable.

INTERNET SAFETY

As a part of the Hillcrest School District curriculum, students will be instructed about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms. Lessons will also be provided to create an environment free of cyberbullying in compliance with Arkansa

Never read someone else's email or open their files or folders without permission.

Never use or transmit anything with racist, abusive, threatening, demeaning, slanderous, objectionable, sexually explicit, or inflammatory content.

Never arrange to meet an Internet contact in person.

Observe all copyright laws; do not claim authorship of work copied from a website or from any other source; accurately cite sources of information.

Protect your user account by keeping your password secure and logging off or locking when not at the computer. All email, network, and Internet activity is the responsibility for the individual whose account is logged in to the computer at the time of the activity. If your account is logged in, you are responsible. Keep any passwords a secret!

Protect personal information. Never give full names, addresses, phone numbers, passwords, and social security numbers for yourself and others. Use a "code name" that

does not identify you personally to online viewers/organizations you do not know. Avoid online sites and materials that do not support the curriculum or are otherwise inappropriate for educational use.

MONITORING AND SUPERVISION

Hillcrest School District engages students in an Internet Safety program and instructs students in making appropriate choices regarding Internet use, content evaluation and web site selection. The Hillcrest School District also takes technical measures to filter Internet access to protect students from inappropriate content. School district personnel supervise student use of technical resources, including Internet browsing. These measures are in place to protect students and to help them become informed consumers of Internet content. However, no technical measure or human supervision is fail-safe. While we are committed to protecting our students, we acknowledge students may access inappropriate content, intentionally or accidentally. Ultimately it is the responsibility of the student to practice Internet safety measures and use the resources to access appropriate educational resources.

Hillcrest School District does not recommend that students use laptops in an unsupervised or isolated setting while off campus. Hillcrest School District recommends students use laptops in plain view of parents, guardians, or other family members.

Students will provide access to the laptop and any accessories assigned to them upon request by the school or district. A search of the laptop and student files may be conducted if there is suspicion that any policies, procedures, or guidelines have been violated.

While at school, Hillcrest School District technology coordinators have the ability to remotely monitor student computer use.

PRIVACY

There is no expectation of privacy regarding the contents of computer files or communication using any school-owned computer or network. Hillcrest School District reserves the right to investigate, review, monitor, and restrict information stored on or transmitted via Hillcrest School District's equipment. Parents, guardians, and students do not have the right or expectation of privacy for any use of school-owned laptops, computers, or other equipment.

School-system personnel may conduct an individual search of the laptop, files, music, videos, emails, or other related items. The district will cooperate fully with local, state, or federal officials in investigations of suspected illegal activities conducted through district-owned computer systems.

Passwords

Students should log in only under their assigned username and password. Students should not share their passwords with other students. Students in Grades 4-12 will be required to change their password twice a school year: once at the beginning of the 1st quarter and again at the start of the 3rd quarter.

LAPTOP INSPECTIONS

Students may be randomly selected to provide the laptop for inspection.

Students with damaged laptops who fail to report the damage will be subject to additional fines and disciplinary action.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Students are responsible at all times for the laptops, whether at school or off campus. The student assigned the laptop is responsible for all use of the laptop. Unsupervised laptops will be confiscated by staff and taken to the Media Center. Students must see an administrator in order to receive the unsupervised laptop. Disciplinary action may be taken for repeat offenders.

Students are required to bring the laptop to school each day with a fully- charged battery. Students must bring the laptop to all classes, unless specifically instructed not to do so by their teacher. A laptop left at home is not an acceptable excuse for not submitting work; a reduction in a grade may be given. A lost document is not an excuse for late or missing work. Students leaving laptops at home will be required to complete assignments using alternate means determined by the teacher. Students will not be given the use of a loaner laptop if he or she leaves the laptop at home; however, the student will have access to desktop computers in the classroom. Disciplinary action may be taken for students who repeatedly leave a laptop at home.

Users are responsible for their actions and activities involving school-owned computers, networks, and Internet services, and for their files, passwords, and accounts on school-owned equipment. Students must ask for assistance if they do not know how to operate technology that is required in a class.

Students are responsible for their ethical and educational use of all computer hardware and software. Students should monitor all activity on their account(s) and report anything suspicious to a teacher. Students who identify or know about a security problem are required to communicate the security problem to their teacher without discussing it with other students.

The right to use a laptop at home is a privilege. If students do not adhere to Hillcrest School District's Responsible Use of Technology and Internet Safety Agreement, all board policies and the guidelines in this Student Laptop Handbook, the privilege to use the laptop at home may be restricted or eliminated. The same rules and expectations for student conduct also apply to student use of computers. Intentional misuse or neglect can result in loss of laptop use, disciplinary action, and/or fines for any needed repairs or maintenance. The school principal will have final authority to decide appropriate disciplinary action if students are found to be responsible for any unacceptable activity.

UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR

Unacceptable conduct includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1) Using the network for illegal activities, including copyright violations
2) Accessing online sites or materials that do not support the curriculum or are inappropriate for school purposes while on campus;
3) Downloading inappropriate materials, viruses, or software;
4) Using or possessing hacking or file-sharing software, including keystroke loggers, batch files, or applications used to bypass laptop or network security;

5) Gaining unauthorized access anywhere on the network including attempting to log onto the Internet, network, servers, routers, switches, printers, or firewalls as a system administrator;
6) Using the laptop or network for financial gain, advertising, or political influence;
7) Vandalizing or tampering with equipment, files, software, system performance, or other network equipment;
8) Attempting to repair, remove, or install computer hardware or software;
9) Opening the computer to access internal parts;
10) Causing network congestion or interfering with the work of others, including sending chain emails or broadcast messages;
11) Subscribing to mailing lists, mass emails, games, or other services that cause network congestion;
12) Intentionally wasting finite Internet or network resources, including downloading files, streaming music, videos, or games or installing, activating, or creating programs that interfere with the performance of the network, Internet, or computer hardware;
13) Revealing, sharing, or posting personal information including full names, addresses, phone numbers, social security numbers, driver's license numbers, or passwords for yourself or others;
14) Invading the privacy of others;
15) Using another person's username or password, or allowing another to access your account using your username or password;
16) Pretending to be someone else when sending or receiving messages;
17) Using email other than the school-issued email account, on school-owned equipment;
18) Forwarding or distributing inappropriate email messages;
19) Engaging in harassment or transmitting obscene messages, pictures, websites, or other files including racist, terrorist, abusive, sexually explicit, vulgar, threatening, stalking, demeaning, slanderous, or any other inflammatory content;
20) Utilizing sites to sell or purchase written papers, book reports, and other student work, or to commit any act of plagiarism;
21) Using unauthorized technology to gain advantage on assessments by providing or receiving information not allowed by the instructor or that is unavailable to other students;
22) Assisting, observing, or joining any unauthorized activity using the laptop, network, or Internet;
23) Accessing or attempting to access Internet sites not approved by a district/teacher which may include non-educational chat rooms, instant messaging, or social networking sites and may include Myspace, Facebook, YouTube and other sites that could distract from engagement in academic and school-related pursuits;
24) Attempting to disable or circumvent Hillcrest School District's Internet content filter and firewall, or attempting to use proxies to access sites that would otherwise be restricted;
25) Falsifying permission or identification information;

26) Copying or modifying files, data, or passwords belonging to others, or using technology to circumvent doing your own work for your courses;
27) Knowingly placing a computer virus on a computer or network (additionally, legal charges may be filed);
28) Writing, drawing, painting, defacing, or placing stickers or labels on school-owned laptops or laptop accessories, or causing other intentional damage;
29) Attempting to alter data or the configuration of a computer or the files of another user is considered an act of vandalism and is subject to disciplinary action;
30) Presence of images of guns, weapons, pornographic materials, inappropriate language, alcohol, drugs, or gang-related symbols are subject to disciplinary action;
31) Cyberbullying in any form is unacceptable. Students will not engage in any cyberbullying activity, which may include efforts to harass, threaten, torment, embarrass, or intimidate students or school staff through the use of a computer. In situations in which cyberbullying originates from off-campus conduct, but is brought to the attention of school officials, any disciplinary action will be based upon whether the conduct is determined to be materially and substantially disruptive of the school environment or have a direct and immediate effect on school safety or on maintaining order and discipline in the schools. Discipline for cyberbullying will be handled on a case-by-case basis as deemed appropriate by the school principal. In addition, if a criminal act has been committed, it will be reported to local law enforcement.
32) Students will comply at all times with board policies, the Responsible Use of Technology and Internet Safety Agreement, and this Laptop Handbook.

CONSEQUENCES

Consequences for non-compliance with the policies and procedures in these documents include disciplinary actions and financial responsibility. Any failure to comply may immediately end the student's right to access the laptop, or other devices or services. The student will also be subject to disciplinary action as set out in the Hillcrest School District Student Code of Conduct. The school principal will have authority to decide appropriate consequences regarding non-compliance.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT AND REPAIRS

Technical support/Help Desk is only available during school hours from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. If a student has a technical problem at home, he or she should document the problem as completely as possible recording any error messages, exactly what the student was doing at the time, and the software being used when the problem occurred. With teacher permission, the student should report the problem to the IT Director during operating hours. All repairs will be performed or managed by school-district personnel.

Parents, guardians, students, or teachers are not allowed to attempt repairs themselves or contract with any other individual or business to repair any school-owned computer equipment. Every effort will be made to repair or replace the laptop in a timely fashion.

Services provided include the following:

- Hardware or software maintenance and repairs

- User account support
- Operating system and software support
- Hardware support
- Updates and software installations
- Warranty repairs
- Managing laptop tracking service
- Basic troubleshooting

HELP DESK PROCEDURES

1. Student identifies a problem.
2. With teacher permission and a pass, the student MUST bring the laptop, bag, and charger to the IT Director in the IT Building.
3. The IT Director will assess the issue with the laptop and will determine if the problem may be fixed while the student waits.
4. If the problem requires time to repair, then the IT Director will fill out a "Service Ticket" with as much diagnostic information as necessary. The student will be issued a day-user device until his/her laptop is repaired.
5. When the laptop is fixed, the IT Director will notify the student that his or her laptop has been fixed. It is the student's responsibility to return the day-user device prior to receiving his or her original assigned laptop.

DAMAGE, LOSS OR THEFT

In case of theft, vandalism, and other criminal acts, the student or parent MUST file a police report within 48 hours of the occurrence.

Incidents happening off campus must be reported to the police by the parent and a copy of the report be brought to the school by the next business and/or school day.

- Students will be charged the full price of the computer or repairs if deliberately damaged or vandalized.
- If damage is negligent, students may be responsible for the reasonable cost of repair or replacement costs.
- If a transfer to another school takes place, you will have 24 hours to return the computer to its home school.
- Seniors must clear all records and pay all fees before participating in graduation.
- Parents/Students are responsible for reasonable cost of repair or replacement, whichever is lesser, for deliberately damaged computers.

WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU DAMAGE YOUR LAPTOP?

FIRST INCIDENT: If the damage was not deliberate, the student/guardian will pay the $50 fee for damages. If the laptop can be repaired, it will be repaired

and reissued to the student, as long as he/she has paid their $50. If the laptop cannot be repaired, then the student will be issued a different computer, as long as he/she has paid their $50 and another computer is available. Until the $50 is paid, the student will be issued a day-user device with limited access.

SECOND INCIDENT: If the damage was not deliberate and the student has a first incident occurring the current school year, the laptop will be repaired with the parent or student

absorbing the cost. Until the cost to repair the laptop is paid, the student will be issued a day user device.

THIRD INCIDENT: If any further damage to the laptop occurs, the parents or students will be responsible for the full cost of purchasing a new laptop. The student will automatically become a day user.

STUDENT WORK FOR REPAIRS PROGRAM

If a student damages his or her laptop and cannot afford either the cost of the insurance, cost of repairs, or the maximum $500.00 replacement cost, the student may work with maintenance and custodial crews after school. The students will be credited the hourly minimum wage rate of $8.05 per hour worked toward the repair of their laptop or device. Students will be allowed to work a maximum of two hours per day.

There are a limited number of slots to work with custodial and maintenance crews. Students will be allowed to work on a first-come-first-serve basis. Students must sign up daily to work with the custodial and maintenance crews. A sign-up sheet will be available in the Hillcrest New Tech office.

REPOSSESSION

If you do not timely and fully comply with all the terms of this Agreement and the Parent/Student Technology Handbook, including the timely return of the property, the district shall be entitled to declare you in default and come to your place of residence, or other location of the property, to take possession of the property.

PARENT EXPECTATIONS

1. The school system will provide Internet content filtering, while your son/daughter is here at school; however, these filters will not follow them to your home network.
2. Monitor student use of the laptop and Internet at home.
3. Ensure that your child understands and adheres to laptop and Internet policies and guidelines set forth in the 1:1 Laptop Handbook.
4. *Sign a copy of the 1:1 Laptop Agreement that you will find at the end of this handbook or through the online digital signature page on the school's website*
5. If the device is intentionally damaged or after the first damage incident, parents will reimburse the school district per school policy for any costs incurred due to misuse, neglect, damage, or loss, including theft, if not otherwise covered by warranty or insurance, up to the full replacement cost of the laptop.
6. Review Hillcrest School District's Responsible Use of Technology and Internet Safety Agreement and this 1:1 Laptop Handbook with your child.
7. Assist your child who is assigned the laptop with homework and school assignments. The purpose of the 1:1 Laptop Initiative is to help students learn. Student use of the laptop for learning is the most important priority of the 1:1 Laptop Initiative.
8. Insure the return of the laptop and all accessories in good working condition at the end of the current school year or before the student withdraws from school.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

I promise to…

.be responsible for my laptop at all times.

. secure my laptop in a locker when not using my laptop for class.

. carry and store my laptop in the laptop case provided by the district at all times.

. report technical problems with my laptop to the IT Director.

. backup critical files regularly in the cloud with Google Drive or Dropbox and/or a portable USB drive.

not share my login password with anyone.

not loan my laptop or any laptop component to another student for any reason. not change the standardized software already loaded on the laptop.

not change any of the settings on the computer.

not download music, videos, games, or programs, other than those used during instruction.

not delete any files or folders that I did not create, because deletion of certain files can affect the performance of the laptop and can interfere with my ability to complete class work which may affect my grade.

. not use my laptop while riding on the bus.

COMPUTER TIPS FOR PARENTS

Computers are a resource or tool. Hillcrest School District strives to prepare all students for a future in the global workplace. Our children will be faced with computer and Internet distractions in everything they do in the world today, and the Hillcrest School District is preparing them to stay focused and handle those distractions.

Parents are still in control and have the ability to:

Communicate with your children and set computer limits. Here are some examples

I will not give out personal information, such as my address, telephone number, parent's work address/telephone number, or the name and location of my school without my parent's permission.

- I will tell my parents right away if I come across any information that makes me feel uncomfortable.
- I will never agree to get together with someone I "meet" online without first checking with my parents. If my parents agree to the meeting, I will be sure that it is in a public place, and I will bring my mother or father along.
- I will never send a person my picture or anything else without first checking with my parents.
- I will not respond to any messages that are mean or that in any way makes me feel uncomfortable. It is not my fault if I get a message like that. If I do, I will tell my parents right away, so they can contact the principal's office.
- I will talk with my parents, so that we can set up rules for going online. We will decide upon the time of day that I can be online, the length of time I can be online, and the appropriate areas for me to visit. I will not access other areas or break these rules without their permission.

1. Limit the hours during the day that your child is on the computer.

2. Physically monitor student activity on the computer. We encourage parents to have their student's login and password in order to monitor their child's computer profile, as well as their assignments. If students refuse to share, their password can be reset at a parent's request.

To parents and guardians,

At Hillcrest School District, we use G Suite for Education, and we are seeking your permission to provide and manage a G Suite for Education account for your child. G Suite for Education is a set of education productivity tools from Google, including Gmail, Calendar, Docs, Classroom, and more used by tens of millions of students and teachers around the world. At Hillcrest School District, students will use their G Suite accounts to complete assignments, communicate with their teachers, if applicable, additional services offered by G Suite for Education, and learn 21st century digital citizenship skills.
The notice below provides answers to common questions about what Google can and can't do with your child's personal information, including:

What personal information does Google collect?
How does Google use this information?
Will Google disclose my child's personal information?
Does Google use student personal information for users in K-12 schools to target advertising?
Can my child share information with others using the G Suite for Education account?

Please read it carefully, let us know of any questions, and then sign below to indicate that you've read the notice and give your consent. If you don't provide your consent, we will not create a G Suite for Education account for your child.
I give permission for Hillcrest School District to create/maintain a G Suite for Education account for my child and for Google to collect, use, and disclose information about my child only for the purposes described in the notice below.

Thank you, Brad Brannon

Technology Director

Full name of student

Printed name of parent/guardian

accounts.

Using their G Suite for Ed Signature of parent/guardian Date

[G Suite for Education Notice to Parents and Guardians - Google recommends not editing this section except for replacing highlighted text with your school's info]

G Suite for Education Notice to Parents and Guardians

This notice describes the personal information we provide to Google for these accounts and how Google collects, uses, and discloses personal information from students in connection with these cation accounts, students may access and use the following "Core Services" offered by Google (described at https://gsuite.google.com/terms/user_features.html):

Gmail (including Inbox by Gmail)
Calendar
Classroom
Contacts
Drive
Docs
Forms
Groups
Keep
Sheets
Sites
Slides
Talk/Hangouts
Vault

[Include this section if your school provides access to Additional Services -- learn more about what Additional Services are, and how they differ from Core Services, in the Help Center at https://support.google.com/a/answer/6356441] In addition, we also allow students to access certain other Google services with their G Suite for Education accounts.
Specifically, your child may have access to the following "Additional Services":

YouTube
Google Maps

Google provides information about the information it collects, as well as how it uses and discloses the information it collects from G Suite for Education accounts in its G Suite for Education Privacy Notice. You can read that notice online at https://gsuite.google.com/terms/education_privacy.html You should review this information in its entirety, but below are answers to some common questions:

What personal information does Google collect?

When creating a student account, Hillcrest School District may provide Google with certain personal information about the student, including, for example, a name, email address, and password. Google may also collect personal information directly from students, such as telephone numbers for account recovery or a profile photo added to the G Suite for Education account.

When a student uses Google services, Google also collects information based on the use of those services. This includes:

device information, such as the hardware model, operating system version, unique device identifiers, and mobile network information including phone number;

log information, including details of how a user used Google services, device event information, and the user's Internet protocol (IP) address;
location information, as determined by various technologies including IP address, GPS, and other sensors;
unique application numbers, such as application version number; and
cookies or similar technologies which are used to collect and store information about a browser or device, such as preferred language and other settings.

How does Google use this information?

In G Suite for Education Core Services, Google uses student personal information to provide, maintain, and protect the services. Google does not serve ads in the Core Services or use personal information collected in the Core Services for advertising purposes.
In Google Additional Services, Google uses the information collected from all Additional Services to provide, maintain, protect and improve them, to develop new ones, and to protect Google and its users. Google may also use this information to offer tailored content, such as more relevant search results. Google may combine personal information from one service with information, including personal information, from other Google services.

Does Google use student personal information for users in K-12 schools to target advertising?

No. For G Suite for Education users in primary and secondary (K-12) schools, Google does not use any user personal information (or any information associated with an G Suite for Education Account) to target ads, whether in Core Services or in other Additional Services accessed while using a G Suite for Education account

Can my child share information with others using the G Suite for Education account?

We may allow students to access Google services such as Google Docs and Sites, which include features where users can share information with others or publicly. When users share information publicly, it may be indexable by search engines, including Google.

Will Google disclose my child's personal information?

Google will not share personal information with companies, organizations and individuals outside of Google unless one of the following circumstances applies:

- With parental or guardian consent. Google will share personal information with companies, organizations or individuals outside of Google when it has parents' consent (for users below the age of consent), which may be obtained through G Suite for Education schools.
- With Hillcrest School District. G Suite for Education accounts, because they are school-managed accounts, give administrators access to information stored in them.
- For external processing. Google may provide personal information to affiliates or other trusted businesses or persons to process it for Google, based on Google's

instructions and in compliance with the G Suite for Education privacy notice and any other appropriate confidentiality and security measures.

- For legal reasons. Google will share personal information with companies, organizations or individuals outside of Google if it has a good-faith belief that access, use, preservation or disclosure of the information is reasonably necessary to:
    - meet any applicable law, regulation, legal process or enforceable governmental request.
    - enforce applicable Terms of Service, including investigation of potential violations.
    - detect, prevent, or otherwise address fraud, security or technical issues.
    - protect against harm to the rights, property or safety of Google, Google users or the public as required or permitted by law.

Google also shares non-personal information -- such as trends about the use of its services -- publicly and with its partners.

What choices do I have as a parent or guardian?

First, you can consent to the collection and use of your child's information by Google. If you don't provide your consent, we will not create a G Suite for Education account for your child, and Google will not collect or use your child's information as described in this notice.

If you consent to your child's use of G Suite for Education, you can access or request deletion of your child's G Suite for Education account by contacting jeremy.woodward@eagles1.k12.ar.us. If you wish to stop any further collection or use of your child's information, you can request that we use the service controls available to limit your child's access to features or services, or delete your child's account entirely. You and your child can also visit https://myaccount.google.com while signed in to the G Suite for Education account to view and manage the personal information and settings of the account.

What if I have more questions or would like to read further?

If you have questions about our use of Google's G Suite for Education accounts or the choices available to you, please contact [insert contact information for the school administrator]. If you want to learn more about how Google collects, uses, and discloses personal information to provide services to us, please review the G Suite for Education Privacy Center (at https://www.google.com/edu/trust/), the G Suite for Education Privacy Notice (at https://gsuite.google.com/terms/education_privacy.html), and the Google Privacy Policy (at https://www.google.com/intl/en/policies/privacy/).

The Core G Suite for Education services are provided to us under Google's Apps for Education agreement (at https://www.google.com/apps/intl/en/terms/education_terms.html) [if school/district has accepted the Data Processing Amendment (see https://support.google.com/a/answer/2888485?hl=en), insert: and the Data Processing Amendment (at https://www.google.com/intl/en/work/apps/terms/dpa_terms.html)].

STUDENT LAPTOP AGREEMENT

(A signed copy of this form must be turned in to a school designee at the Parent/Student Orientation.)

1. I understand the laptop is the property of the Hillcrest School District and is assigned to me.
2. I will use the laptop appropriately for school purposes.
3. I will care for the laptop assigned to me and not leave it unsupervised or in unsecured locations.
4. I will not loan the laptop, charger, and/or case to another individual.
5. I will charge the laptop battery before each school day.
6. I will not use the laptop near food or drinks.
7. I will not disassemble any part of the laptop or attempt any repairs.
8. I will report any issues concerning the laptop to the IT Director.
9. I will carry the laptop in the carrying case provided by the school.
10. I will not place stickers, drawings, markers, etc. on the laptop. I will not deface the serial number or inventory sticker on the laptop.
11. I understand that the laptop and its contents may be inspected at any time, because they are school property.
12. When requested, I agree to return the laptop, carrying case, power cord, charger, charger cable, and any other accessories assigned to me in good working condition.
13. I will follow the policies, procedures, and guidelines outlined in the Hillcrest Parent/Student Laptop Handbook and Responsible Use of Technology and Internet Safety Agreement at all times.

Student Name (Please Print) _____

Student Signature_____Date _____

Parent Name (Please Print) _____

Parent Signature_____Date

HILLCREST SCHOOL DISTRICT
ACCEPTABLE USE OF TECHNOLOGY POLICY

Name_____School_____Grade

Hillcrest School District agrees to allow the student identified above ("student") to use the district's electronic media to access the Internet under the following terms and conditions:

Conditional Privilege: The student's use of the district's access to technology and the Internet is a privilege conditioned on the student's abiding by this agreement. The student agrees to follow the Acceptable Use of Technology Policy.

Acceptable Use: The student agrees that in using the district's Internet access he/she will obey all Federal and State laws and regulations. Internet access is provided as an aid to students to enable them to promote their education.

Penalties for Improper Use: If the student violates this agreement and/or the "Acceptable Use of Technology Policy" and/or misuses the Internet, the student shall be subject to disciplinary action.

Misuse includes, but is not limited to:

a. using the Internet for any activities deemed lewd, obscene, vulgar, or pornographic as defined by prevailing community standards;
b. using abusive or profane language in private messages on the system; or using the system to harass, insult, or verbally attack others;
c. posting anonymous messages on the system;
d. using encryption software;
e. wasteful use of limited resources provided by the district, including paper;
f. causing congestion of the network through lengthy downloads of files;
g. vandalizing data of another user;
h. obtaining or sending information which could be used to make destruction devices, guns, weapons, bombs, explosives, or fireworks;
i. gaining or attempting to gain unauthorized access to resources or files;
j. identifying oneself with another person's name or password or using an account or password of another user without proper authorization.
k. using the network for financial or commercial gain without district permission;
l. theft or vandalism of data, equipment, or intellectual property;
m. invading the privacy of individuals;
n. using the Internet for any illegal activity, including computer hacking and copyright or intellectual property law violations;
o. introducing a virus to, or otherwise improperly tampering with the system;

p. degrading or disrupting equipment or system performance;
q. creating a web page or associating a web page with the district without proper authorization;
r. attempting to gain access or gaining access to student records, grades, or files of students not under their jurisdiction;
s. providing access to the district's Internet access to unauthorized individuals;
t. taking part in any activity related to Internet use which creates a clear and present danger of substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the district or any of its schools;
u. making unauthorized copies of computer software;
v. improper use of computers using instructional time.

Student Signature_____**Date** _____

Parent Signature_____**Date** _____

RANDOM DRUG TESTING POLICY
Hillcrest High School

The Hillcrest School District recognizes that chemical abuse or misuse is a significant health and safety problem for students. The purpose of this policy is to deter chemical abuse or misuse by allowing all students the opportunity to participate in a random drug-testing program.

Scope: The provisions of this policy apply to all students in the Hillcrest School District in grades seven through twelve (7-12) who sign and whose parent/guardian signs a consent form. All students who wish to participate in extracurricular activities and/or those who wish to drive and park a motor vehicle on the campus will be required to participate in the drug testing program. The district will contract with a qualified drug and alcohol testing company to periodically and randomly select participating students in grades seven through twelve (7-12) who must provide a urine specimen for urinalysis testing.

Definitions: Illegal drugs are drugs, or the synthetic or generic equivalent or derivative of drugs, which are illegal under federal, state, or local laws including, but not limited to, marijuana, heroin, hashish, cocaine, hallucinogens, depressants, and stimulants not prescribed for the user. Illegal drugs include steroids that are not prescribed by a physician or are prescribed by a physician and not used as authorized by the doctor or the manufacturer.

Extracurricular Activities are defined as school-sanctioned activities other than regular classroom instruction.

A follow-up test is a second test given twenty-one (21) calendar days after the initial test, because a student initially tested positive.

A split specimen is an additional sample collected during the initial test which is used when the student or parent/guardian challenges the validity of the initial test results.

Consent Form: No student will be allowed to participate in any extracurricular activity or be granted driving/parking privileges on campus until the consent form has been signed by the student and the parent/legal guardian and returned to the principal. All students and parents/guardians will be encouraged to sign a consent form authorizing the school to test for drug/alcohol use.

Cost: The cost of the initial test given as a result of the random selection process will be paid by the school district. The follow-up tests for those students testing positive will be paid by the school district. Additional testing requested by the parents/guardians or student challenging the validity of the initial or follow-up test results will be at the parent's/guardian's expense.

Selection: Each student will be assigned an identification number (Social Security number), and the testing agency will be given a list of the ID numbers. They will not be told the names of the students. The testing agency will select the dates for testing and the identification numbers. The dates will not be known by the administration in advance. Tests will be administered once a month on the average. There will be two random selections. One will include 7-9 students, and the other will include 10-12 students. The number of students tested will be approximately 33% of the students in Grades 7-12 who

have signed a consent form. If any student whose number is drawn is absent on the testing day, an alternate identification number will be selected, and the selection process will continue. Any student who has signed the consent form and is selected for testing, but then refuses to submit to a random test, will remain at the testing site until school officials have contacted the parent/guardian. If the parents/guardians are able to persuade the student to submit to the test, then the testing will be done. If the student persists, the refusal will be treated as a positive result, and the consequences will be the same as for a positive result.

Positive Test Results: When positive results are received from the testing agency, the principal will notify the student's parent/legal guardian as soon as possible and schedule a conference to explain the results. The student or parent/guardian may request that the split sample be tested at his/her expense. Such a request must be made within twenty-four (24) hours of notification of the positive results. The specimen used for the additional test will be from the original split sample taken during the random sampling. (The initial sample taken at the testing site will be divided into two separate containers and sealed at the collection site).

Initial counseling (including referrals, resources, and information on chemical abuse) will be made available to the parent/guardian by the district. Further outside counseling and rehabilitation for the student will be strongly recommended. The additional counseling/rehabilitation will be at the expense of the parent/guardian. The student will be placed on confidential probation until the next testing date, at which time a follow-up test will be administered at the district's expense. In the meantime, the student will be allowed to continue to participate in extracurricular activities and retain vehicle driving/parking privileges, if the parents/guardians agree. However, the school district will not be responsible for injury or other health problems due to the student's misuse or abuse of drugs/alcohol during the probationary period.

If the follow-up test produces negative results, the probation will be lifted. If the follow-up test produces positive results, the parents/guardians will be notified at once, and the student will not be allowed to continue in extracurricular activities or have vehicle driving/parking privileges on campus. To regain eligibility for participation in extracurricular activities and regain driving/parking privileges for the next school year, a student must have a negative result on a test administered by the Hillcrest School District's testing agency.

Testing Procedures: To ensure proper testing procedures, the United States Department of Health Services Standards as defined by the National Institute of Drug Abuse certified laboratories will be followed.

1. All initial urine specimens will be taken at a location designated by the principal.
2. The agent and administrator will positively identify the student.
3. The agent will ask the student to remove any unnecessary outer garments that might conceal items that could be used to tamper with or adulterate the urine specimen.
4. The student will wash and dry his/her hands prior to providing the specimen.
5. Only one student at a time will be allowed in the collection area.
6. Students will be assured individual privacy in the collection area.
7. After the specimen has been collected, the agent will continue with chain of

custody procedures and will determine if the specimen contains at least 45 milliliters of urine.

8. The agent, administrator, and student being tested will keep the specimen in view at all times prior to its being sealed and labeled.

9. The student will observe the tamper-proof seal. The agent will place the identification label securely on both bottles. It will contain the date and the ID number. The student's name will not appear on the specimen label, but the student will be required to initial both seals.

10. The student and the agent will sign the chain of custody form.

11. Refusal to submit to test results in the student being classified as a positive test result.

Ethyl alcohol will be tested by using a breathalyzer. The cutoff level will be four one-hundredths of one percent (.04%) by weight of alcohol in the student's breath. Any reading above the cutoff level will be considered a positive result for alcohol.

Records: All records concerning chemical abuse testing will be maintained by the principal in a separate file. The records will not be kept in a student's regular file. Only the principal will have access to the files. The files on each stu**den**t tested will be destroyed upon graduation or twelve (12) months after termination of enrollment. The student and his/her parent/legal guardian may obtain a copy of the student's chemical abuse testing records upon written request.

Information in these files will not be released to local authorities, unless required through a court order.

HILLCREST SCHOOL DISTRICT

HILLCREST HIGH SCHOOL

STUDENT SUBSTANCE TESTING CONSENT FORM

Student Participant

(Print Name)

CUSTODIAL PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN

(Print Name) (Print Name)

I/We, custodial parent/legal guardian of the above-named student participant, understand the student substance testing policy. I/We understand that participation in this substance testing program is required if the student participates in any extracurricular activity, with the understanding that he/she is subject to a random substance screen.

I/We agree to abide by, comply with, and give consent for our child's participation in the school's substance testing program.

CUSTODIAL PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN

(Signature) (Signature)

Date _____

I, the above-named student participant, understand the student substance testing policy. I understand that participation in this substance testing program is required if I participate in any extracurricular activity, with the understanding that I am subject to a random substance screen. I agree to participate, abide by, and comply with the school's substance testing program.

Student_____Date _____
(Signature)

HILLCREST SCHOOL DISTRICT INFORMED CONSENT TO COUNSEL

I,_____(student), agree to be counseled by the school counselor at the Hillcrest School District.

I (both parent and student) understand that a critical part of the counseling relationship is the establishment and maintenance of a trusting and confidential relationship between the counselor and the student.

I (as parent) will honor the counselor/student privilege of confidentiality and know that the counselor will always encourage a strong line of communication between the student and his/her parents(s), teacher(s), and other stakeholders in the student's life. I understand that the best interest of the student is the core focus of any interaction between the counselor and student.

I (the student) understand and have been told that all of my counseling sessions will remain confidential, except when certain legal restrictions arise and confidentiality cannot be maintained. These cases include: (a) any form of child abuse (neglect, physical, and/or sexual), (b) danger to one's self (i.e. suicide), and (c) danger to others (homicide, threat to injure someone, etc.).

I (the student) also understand that the counselor may choose to consult with other professionally competent mental health professionals about my case. If consultation occurs, in no way will the student's identification be revealed.

I have read and understand the above statements regarding confidentiality, consultation, and counseling. I agree to have my child be counseled by the school counselor. I may contact him/her at any time to talk with him/her regarding my child and that I may withdraw this consent at any time through a written letter to the counselor.

Parent's or Guardian's Signature:_____Date:

_____ Student's

Signature:_____Date:

_____

MEDICAID AND/OR PRIVATE INSURANCE BILLING

CONSENT FORM

In compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. & 123g; 34 CFR Part 99)

I,_____, give permission for my child (Parent/Guardian Name)

_____'s personally identifiable (First and Last Name)

information/student education records to be disclosed to a Third-Party Billing Agent for the purpose of billing Medicaid and/or private insurance.

Printed Name of Parent/Guardian

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date Signed

Hillcrest School Parent Teacher Student Contract

As a parent/guardian I will:

- Show respect and support for my child, the teachers, and the school.
- Support the school's policies
- Provide a quiet place for study and supervise homework.
- Keep a watch on my student's grades and behavior through Echo, Eschool, email, etc.
- Communicate with the school regularly, including attending parent-teacher conferences.
- Talk with my child each day about his/her school learning and activities.
- Participate in decisions relating to my child's education.

As a student I will:

- Attend school regularly and be on time to class.
- Adhere to the school wide norms of conduct.
- Accept responsibility for my own actions.
- Make the effort to do my best to learn.
- Complete and turn in classroom and homework assignments on time.
- Be actively involved and collaborate in learning and group work.

As a school faculty and staff at Hillcrest High School will:

- Involve parents in decisions regarding their child's education by way of committees and opportunities to volunteer.
- initiate frequent communication to inform parents of student progress.
- Hold two parent teacher conferences/year.
- Facilitate student learning of high-quality curriculum designed to meet Arkansas standards.
- Instill a skill set of critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration and communication