

policy

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
WORTHINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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policy

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BOE Review

**MANDATORY REPORTING OF MISCONDUCT
BY LICENSED EMPLOYEES**

The Board of Education recognizes its responsibility to effectively address employee misconduct and, where determined appropriate, to provide a measured disciplinary response consistent with due process. In addition, with respect to licensed professional staff members, matters of misconduct, including guilty pleas and/or conviction of certain crimes (including intervention in lieu of conviction and/or pre-trial diversion programs) enumerated by law and/or conduct which is unbecoming to the teaching profession under certain specific circumstances, will be reported by the Superintendent (or Board President if the Superintendent or Treasurer are determined to have engaged in such misconduct) to the Ohio Department of Education.

Definitions

"Licensed professional staff member" refers to Board employees who hold an educator's license or certification with the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) (including the Treasurer and Business Manager), educational assistants (aides with a permit and paraprofessionals with a license from ODE), individuals holding a one (1) year conditional teaching permit in the area of intervention specialist or seeking an alternative educator license, and those individuals who do not hold a valid educator's license but who are employed by the Board under a Pupil Activity Program Permit.

The definition of "conduct unbecoming the teaching profession" is set forth in the *Licensure Code of Professional Conduct for Ohio Educators* enacted by the Ohio State Board of Education and includes:

- A. crimes or misconduct involving minors;
- B. crimes or misconduct involving school children;
- C. crimes or misconduct involving academic fraud;
- D. crimes or misconduct involving the school community;
- E. making, or causing to be made, any false or misleading statement or concealing a material fact in obtaining the issuance or renewal of any educator licensing documents;

- F. the violation of the terms and conditions of a consent agreement with the State Board of Education;
- G. a plea of guilty to or a finding of guilt or conviction upon any offense enumerated under R.C. 3319.39, or a judicial finding for intervention in lieu of conviction and/or participation in a pre-trial diversion program relating to any of the offenses listed therein;
- H. a failure to adhere to the Licensure Code of Professional Conduct for Ohio Educators enacted by the Ohio State Board of Education.

Reporting Professional Misconduct

The Superintendent will file a report to the Ohio Department of Education, on forms provided for that purpose, matters of misconduct on the part of licensed professional staff members, under any of the following circumstances:

- A. When the Board obtains knowledge that a licensed professional staff member has pled guilty, has been found guilty, or has been convicted, and/or subject to a judicial finding for intervention in lieu of conviction and/or participated in a pre-trial diversion program for a crime specified in R.C. 3319.31(B)(2) or R.C. 3319.39(B)(1), including but not limited to any felony, any misdemeanor sex offense, any offense of violence, any theft offense and any drug abuse offense that is not a minor misdemeanor.
- B. When the Board has initiated termination or non-renewal proceedings against a professional staff member who is reasonably believed to have committed an act that is unbecoming to the teaching profession.
- C. When the professional staff member has resigned under threat of termination or non-renewal for any of the reasons set forth in paragraphs A and B above.

- D. When the professional staff member has resigned during the course of an investigation of alleged misconduct which is reasonably believed to be unbecoming to the teaching profession.

Misconduct by Superintendent or Treasurer

If the employee to whom any of the above conditions apply is either the Superintendent or Treasurer, the Board President shall make the report required under this policy and in accordance with R.C. 3319.313.

Failure to File Report/Filing of False Report

The Board acknowledges that if the Superintendent (or Board President, where applicable) knowingly fails to file a required report of misconduct by a licensed educator or cause a false report of misconduct by a licensed employee of the Board to be filed, they will be subject to criminal penalties under law. In addition, failure to file a required report will subject the designated reporter to a potential denial, limitation, suspension or revocation of the educator license of such designated reporter.

Investigation Reports Regarding Professional Misconduct

Reports of any investigation regarding whether or not a professional staff member has committed an act or offense for which the Superintendent or Board President is required to make a report to the Ohio Department of Education, as set forth above, shall be kept in the personnel file of the professional staff member. Should the Ohio Department of Education determine that the results of that investigation do not warrant initiating an action suspending, revoking, or otherwise limiting that professional staff member's license or permit, the report(s) of any investigation will be moved to a separate public file.

Suspension From Duties Involving Care, Custody or Control of a Child

In accordance with Policy 3138 and Policy 4138, the Superintendent, Treasurer, or Board (depending upon the position of the employee being charged) shall immediately suspend a licensed employee from all duties that require the care, custody, or control of a child during any pending criminal action for which that person has been arrested, summoned and/or indicted for any crimes listed under R.C. 3319.31(C).

R.C. 3319.31, 3319.311, 3319.313, 3319.317, 3319.39, 3319.392, 3319.40
A.C. 3301-73-21

CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD CHECK FOR CONTRACTED
SCHOOL SERVICES

In accordance with State law, the Board of Education requires a criminal background check including information from the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation (BCII) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) of each person employed by a private company under contract with the Board to provide essential school services and who will work within the District in a position which does not require a license issued by the State Board of Education, is not for the operation of a vehicle for student transportation, but does involve routine interaction with a child or regular responsibility for the care, custody or control of a child.

"Essential school services" is defined to mean services provided by a private company that the Board or Superintendent has determined are necessary for the operation of the District and that would need to be provided by employees of the District if the services were not provided by the private company. No such individual, employed by a private company to provide essential school services under a contract with the Board, shall be permitted to work within the District unless one of the following applies to the individual:

- A. The private company provides proof of either of the following to the Superintendent:
 - 1. that the individual has been the subject of a criminal records check in accordance with R.C. 3319.39 within the last five (5) years immediately prior to the date on which the person will begin working in the District; and
 - 2. that the criminal records check indicates that the individual has not been convicted of or pleaded guilty to any offense described in R.C. 3319.39(B)(1); or

- B. During any period of time in which the individual will have routine interaction with a child or regular responsibility for the care, custody, or control of a child, the Superintendent has arranged for a District employee to be present in the same room with a child or, if outdoors, within a thirty (30) yard radius of the child or to have visual contact with the child.

R.C. 3319.392

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SCHOOL CALENDAR

[NOTE: H.B. 59 (2013) changes the way minimum school years are calculated moving from a school calendar that provides for schools to be in session for a specified number of school days, to a school calendar that provides for the schools to be in session for instructional purposes with students in attendance for a total minimum number of hours. This change, however, does not apply to any collective bargaining agreements executed prior to July 1, 2014. Any collective bargaining agreement or renewal executed after July 1, 2014, has to comply with the mandated new minimum school year requirements based upon hours of instruction.]

The Board of Education recognizes that the preparation of a calendar for the instructional program of the schools is necessary for orderly educational planning and for the efficient operation of the District.

At least thirty (30) days prior to adopting a school calendar, the Board shall hold a public hearing on the school calendar, addressing topics that include, but are not limited to, the total number of hours in a school year, length of school day, and beginning and end dates of instruction. "School day" means the time during a calendar day that a school is open for instruction pursuant to the Board-adopted schedule.

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

While the Superintendent may close schools due to disease, epidemic, hazardous weather conditions, law enforcement emergencies, damage to a school building, utility failure, or inoperability of school buses or other equipment needed for school operations (collectively, “a calamity”), the schools nevertheless must be in session with students in attendance for at least the minimum number of hours required by Ohio law.

R.C. 3313.602, 3313.48, 3313.62, 3313.63, 3317.01 (B), 3313.482

SCHOOL DAY

The Board of Education authorizes the school day to be arranged and scheduled by the administration.

The Superintendent may close the schools, delay the opening of school, or dismiss school early when such alteration in the regular session is required for the protection of the health and safety of students and staff members. S/He shall prepare administrative guidelines for the proper and timely notification of concerned persons in the event of any emergency closing of the schools.

- [] The Superintendent shall have the authority to determine which school-related activities may be conducted if the schools are closed for a period of time. S/He shall prepare appropriate guidelines for communication to students, parents, and others regarding the scheduling and the conduct of such activities.

R.C. 3313.48, 3317.01

PUBLIC RECORDS

The Board of Education is responsible for maintaining the public records of this District and to make such records available to residents of Ohio for inspection and reproduction.

The Board will utilize the following procedures regarding the availability of public records. "Public records" are defined as any document, device, or item, regardless of physical form or characteristic, including an electronic record created or received by or coming under the jurisdiction of the Board or its employees, which serves to document the organization, functions, policies, decisions, procedures, operations, or other activities of the District. "Electronic record" is defined as a record created, generated, sent, communicated, received, or stored by electronic means. "Public records" do not include medical records, documents containing genetic information, trial preparation records, confidential law enforcement investigatory records, records the release of which is prohibited by State or Federal law, and any other exceptions set forth in R.C. 149.43. Confidential law enforcement investigatory records, medical records, and trial preparation records are as defined in R.C. 149.43.

The District's public records shall be organized and maintained so that they are readily available for inspection and copying. As such, public records will be available for inspection during regular business hours, with the exception of published holidays. The District's public records shall be promptly prepared and made available for inspection. A reasonable period of time may be necessary due to the volume of records requested, the proximity of the location where the records are stored, and/or for the District to review and redact non-public/confidential information contained in the record. Upon request, a person may receive copies of public records, at cost, within a reasonable period of time.

Each request for public records shall be evaluated for a response at the time it is made. Although no specific language is required to make a request, the requester must minimally identify the record(s) requested with sufficient clarity to allow the District to identify, retrieve, and review the record(s). If a requestor makes an ambiguous or overly broad request or has difficulty in making a request for inspection or copies of public records such that the District's Record Officer cannot reasonably identify what public records are being requested, the District Record Officer or designee may deny the request but shall provide the requestor with an opportunity to revise the request by informing the requestor of the manner in which records are maintained by the District and accessed in the ordinary course of business. The request for records shall need not be in writing. The requestor shall not be required to provide his/her identity or the intended use of the requested public record(s).

At the time of the request, the records custodian shall inform the person making the request of the estimated length of time required to gather the records. All requests for public records shall be satisfied or acknowledged by the District promptly following the receipt of the request. If the request for records was in writing, the acknowledgement by the District shall also be in writing.

The Superintendent is authorized to grant or refuse access to the records of this District in accordance with the law. Any denial, in whole or in part, of a public records request must include an explanation, including legal authority. If portions of a record are public and portions are exempt, the exempt portions are to be redacted and the rest released. If there are redactions, the requester must be notified of the redaction and/or the redaction must be plainly visible, and each redaction must be accompanied by a supporting explanation, including legal authority. If the request for records was in writing, the explanation shall also be in writing.

A person may obtain **hard** copies of the District's public records upon payment of a fee. A person who requests a copy of a public record may request to have said record duplicated on paper, on the same medium on which the District keeps the record, or on any other medium in which the custodian of records determines that said record reasonably can be duplicated as an integral part of normal operations. A person who requests a copy of a public record may choose to have that record sent to him/her by United States mail or by other means of delivery or transmission provided the person making the request pays in advance for said record as well as the costs for postage and the mailing supplies.

Those seeking public records will be charged only the actual cost of making copies.

- The charge for paper copies is _____ cents per page.
- The charge for download computer files to a compact disk is \$ _____ per disc.
- There is no charge for documents e-mailed.

Documents in electronic mail format are records as defined by the Ohio Revised Code when their content relates to the business of the District (i.e., they serve to document the organization, functions, policies, decisions, procedures, operations, or other activities of the District). E-mail shall be treated in the same fashion as records in other formats and shall follow the same retention schedule.

Records in private e-mail accounts are subject to disclosure if their content relates to public business, and all employees or representatives of the District are responsible for retaining e-mails that meet the definition of public records and copying them to their District e-mail account(s) and/or to the records custodian.

The records custodian shall treat such e-mail/records from private accounts as records of the District. These records shall be filed appropriately, retained in accordance with the established schedules, and made available for inspection and copying in accordance with the Public Records Act.

Private e-mail, electronic documents, and documents ("private records") that do not serve to document the District's organization, functions, policies, decisions, procedures, operations or other activities are not public records. Although private records do not fall under Policy 8310, they may fall under Policy 8315 – "Information Management".

No public record may be removed from the office in which it is maintained except by a Board officer or employee in the course of the performance of his/her duties.

Nothing in this policy shall be construed as preventing a Board member, in the performance of his/her official duties, from inspecting any record of this District, except student records and certain confidential portions of personnel records.

A School District Records Commission shall be established consisting of the Board President, Treasurer, and Superintendent of Schools in accordance with law to judge the advisability of destroying District records. Record retention schedules shall be updated regularly and posted prominently. The Commission shall meet at least once every twelve (12) months.

The Superintendent shall provide for the inspection, reproduction, and release of public records in accordance with this policy and with the Public Records Law. Administrative guidelines shall be developed to provide guidance to District employees in responding to public records requests. The Superintendent shall require the posting and distribution of this policy in accordance with statute.

R.C. 9.01, 102.03(B), 149.011, 149.41, 149.43, 1306.01, 1347 et seq., 3313.26
R.C. 3319.32, 3319.321
20 U.S.C. 1232g
42 U.S.C. 2000ff et seq., The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act
29 C.F.R. Part 1635

BOE Review

LITIGATION HOLD

The Board of Education recognizes its responsibility, in certain circumstances, to maintain information created, maintained or otherwise stored by the District outside the "Records Retention Schedule". In such situations, a "Litigation Hold" procedure will be utilized to identify and preserve information relevant to a specific matter. "Information" includes both paper documents and electronically stored information ("ESI"). When implementing the "Litigation Hold," the District will identify individuals in possession or custody of paper documents, ESI and electronic media containing ESI, and inform them of their obligation to preserve the documents and ESI outside the "Records Retention Schedule". The District will also identify third parties with custody or control over paper documents, ESI, or electronic media storing ESI, and request them to preserve that information. All information falling within a "Litigation Hold," which is under the control of the District, must be preserved in a readily accessible form and cannot be disposed of under the "Records Retention and Disposal" requirements. Failure to comply with a Litigation Hold notice **(X) may () shall** result in disciplinary action, up to and including possible termination.

Instances where the Board must maintain information outside the "Records Retention Schedule" include:

- A. when the Board has specific information and/or written notice from an individual, parent or student of an intent to file an appeal of student discipline to State court;
- B. when the Board has specific information and/or written notice that litigation is imminent even though the litigation has not yet been filed in Federal or State court;
- C. when the Board is served with litigation, including, but not limited to, notice of a lawsuit in Federal or State court, or notice of a student disciplinary appeal to State court;

- D. when the Board receives specific information and/or written notification from an employee, labor union, or other person of an intent to file a claim against the Board, its members, employees or agents at an administrative agency such as the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Ohio Civil Rights Commission, State Employment Relations Board, U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights, State Personnel Board of Review, or a Civil Service Commission regarding a claim against the Board, its members, employees or agents;
- E. when the Board receives specific information and/or written notification from an administrative agency such as the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Ohio Civil Rights Commission, State Employment Relations Board, U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights, State Personnel Board of Review, or a Civil Service Commission regarding a claim against the Board, its members, employees or agents;
- F. when the Board receives written notification from a third party requesting that the Board maintain information that could be at issue in litigation or potential litigation against that third party;
- G. when the Superintendent recommends the termination of an employee to the Board pursuant to R.C. 3319.16, and R.C. 3319.081, R.C. Chapter 124, or a labor contract;
- H. when the Board explores, contemplates or initiates litigation.

Definitions

"Documents" includes, but is not limited to, writings, drawings, graphs, charts, photographs, blueprints, sound recordings, images and other data or data compilations stored in any medium from which information can be obtained or translated if necessary.

"ESI" includes, but is not limited to, writings, drawings, graphs, charts, photographs, blueprints, sound recordings, images and other data or data compilations stored in any electronic media from which information can be obtained or translated if necessary. It includes, but is not limited to, e-mails, e-mail attachments, instant messages, word processing files, spreadsheets, pictures, application program and data files, databases, data files, metadata, system files, electronic calendar appointments, scheduling program files, TIFF files, PDF files, MPG files, JPG files, GIF files, network share files, internal websites, external websites, newsgroups, directories, security and access information, legacy data, audio recordings, voice mails, phone logs, faxes, internet histories, caches, cookies or logs of activity on computer systems that may have been used to process or store electronic data.

"Electronic media" includes, but is not limited to, hard drives (including portable hard disk drives "HDD's"), floppy drives, disaster recovery media, and storage media (including DVD's, CD's, floppy discs, Zip discs/drives, Jazz discs/drives, USB memory drives, jump disc/drives, flash discs/drives, keychain discs/drives, thumb discs/drives, smart cards, micro-film, backup tapes, cassette tapes, cartridges, etc.), accessed, used and/or stored on/in/through the following locations: networks and servers; laptop and desktop work computers; home and personal computers; other computer systems; backup computers or servers; archives; personal digital assistants ("PDAs" – including Palm, Blackberry, cellular phone, tablet PC, etc.); pagers; firewalls; audit trails and logs, printers; copiers; scanners; digital cameras; photographic devices; and video cameras and devices. Electronic media shall also include any item containing or maintaining ESI that is obtained by the District for Board member or employee usage or that an employee uses for such purpose (even if privately owned by the Board member or employee) from the date this policy is adopted into the future.

Initiation and Removal of a "Litigation Hold"

The Board or the Superintendent may initiate a "Litigation Hold" under this policy. If the Superintendent initiates a "Litigation Hold," s/he or the Board's legal counsel will notify the Board of the reason the Litigation Hold was instituted and its scope. When implementing a Litigation Hold, the Board or Superintendent **(X) may () will** utilize an Electronically Stored Information Team ("ESI Team"). The Board's legal counsel shall be involved in implementation of the "Litigation Hold Procedure".

A "Litigation Hold" shall remain in place until removed by the Board. A "Litigation Hold" may be removed when the litigation or administrative agency matter has been resolved or can no longer be initiated. Any information maintained under this policy shall fall back under the "Records Retention Schedule" once the "Litigation Hold" is removed.

The Superintendent shall develop administrative guidelines outlining the procedures to be followed by Board members and employees when initiating and implementing a "Litigation Hold." This policy and its related administrative guidelines shall be posted and distributed in the manner described.

F.R.C.P. 34, 37(f)
O.R.C.P. 34, 37(F)

BOE Review

PERSONNEL FILES

It is necessary for the orderly operation of the School District to prepare a personal information system for the retention of appropriate files bearing upon an employee's duties and responsibilities to the District and the District's responsibilities to the employee.

The Board of Education requires that accurate, necessary and relevant records exist concerning an employee's qualifications for the job held, compliance with Federal, State, and local benefit programs, conformance with District rules, and job performance, including, but not limited to completed evaluations of the employee. Such records will be kept in compliance with the laws of the State of Ohio.

The Board delegates the maintenance of an employee personal information system to the

- Superintendent.
- Business Manager.
- Assistant Superintendent for Personnel.
- _____.

A single central file shall be maintained, and subsidiary records shall be maintained for ease in data gathering only.

Employees asked to supply information for a personnel file shall be informed whether the requested information is legally required. If it is not, s/he may decline to supply the information.

The employee shall have access to his/her file upon request.

Personnel records are predominantly public records and to that extent must be made available for inspection and copying in accordance with State and Federal laws pertaining to same. In accordance with the Federal Privacy Act and case law, the Board shall refrain from disclosing an employee's social security number when releasing personnel records. Personnel records shall be monitored regularly to assure compliance with this policy and the law. Records deemed no longer accurate, relevant or necessary under this policy may be submitted to the District Records Commission for disposal in accordance with law.

R.C. 149.41, 149.43, 1347 et seq.
Federal Privacy Act, 5 U.S.C. Section 552a note
State ex rel. Beacon Journal Publishing Company v. City of Akron (1994),
70 Ohio St. 3d, 640 N.E. 2d 164

PERSONAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS

The Board of Education maintains a personal information ("PI") system and shall do so in accordance with the provisions of R.C. Chapter 1347. The Board is committed to only collecting, maintaining, and using the personal information that is necessary and relevant to it carrying out the effective operation of the District. All personal information maintained in the PI system shall be used in a lawful manner for legitimate purposes consistent with the functions of the District.

Personal information is defined as "any information that describes anything about a person, or that indicates actions done by or to a person, or that indicates that a person possesses certain personal characteristics, and that contains, and can be retrieved from a system by, a name, identifying number, symbol, or other identifier assigned to a person."

The Board shall discipline any employee or student who engages in the unauthorized use or release of the personal information contained in the PI system. In addition, the Board shall discipline any employee who initiates or otherwise contributes to any disciplinary or other punitive action against any individual who brings to the attention of appropriate authorities, the press, or any member of the public, evidence of unauthorized use of information contained in the PI system. Disciplinary action shall be taken consistent with State and Federal law and any applicable collective bargaining agreements, and may include action up to and including termination.

Whenever a person is requested to supply personal information that will be maintained in the PI system, the person will be informed whether s/he is legally required to provide the personal information. If the person is not legally required to provide the personal information, s/he may refuse to supply the information and no adverse consequences will be imposed as a result of the refusal.

The Board shall take reasonable precautions to protect personal information maintained in the information system from unauthorized modification, destruction, use, or disclosure. The Board shall eliminate personal information from the PI system when it is no longer necessary and relevant to the District carrying out its functions.

R.C. 1347.05

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STUDENT RECORDS

In order to provide appropriate educational services and programming, the Board of Education must collect, retain, and use information about individual students. Simultaneously, the Board recognizes the need to safeguard students' privacy and restrict access to students' personally identifiable information.

Student "personally identifiable information" ("PII") includes, but is not limited to: the student's name; the name of the student's parent or other family members; the address of the student or student's family; a personal identifier, such as the student's social security number, student number, or biometric record; other indirect identifiers, such as the student's date of birth, place of birth, and mother's maiden name; other information that, alone or in combination, is linked or linkable to a specific student that would allow a reasonable person in the school community, who does not have personal knowledge of the relevant circumstances, to identify the student with reasonable certainty; or information requested by a person who the District reasonably believes knows the identity of the student to whom the education record relates.

The Board is responsible for the records of all students who attend or have attended schools in this District. Only records mandated by the State or Federal government and/or necessary and relevant to the function of the School District or specifically permitted by this Board will be compiled by Board employees.

In all cases, permitted, narrative information in student records shall be objectively-based on the personal observation or knowledge of the originator.

Student records shall be available only to students and their parents, eligible students, designated school officials who have a legitimate educational interest in the information, or to other individuals or organizations as permitted by law.

The term "parents" includes legal guardians or other persons standing in loco parentis (such as a grandparent or stepparent with whom the child lives, or a person who is legally responsible for the welfare of the child). The term "eligible student" refers to a student who is eighteen (18) years of age or older, or a student of any age who is enrolled in a postsecondary institution.

Both parents shall have equal access to student records unless stipulated otherwise by court order or law. In the case of eligible students, parents may be allowed access to the records without the student's consent, provided the student is considered a dependent under section 152 of the Internal Revenue Code.

A school official is a person employed by the Board as an administrator, supervisor, teacher/instructor (including substitutes), or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); and a person serving on the Board. The Board further designates the following individuals and entities as "school officials" for the purpose of FERPA:

- A. persons or companies with whom the Board has contracted to perform a specific task (such as an attorney, auditor, insurance representative, or medical consultant), and
- B. contractors, consultants, volunteers, or other parties to whom the Board has outsourced a service or function otherwise performed by the Board employees (e.g. a therapist, authorized information technology (IT) staff, and approved online educational service providers)

The above-identified outside parties must (a) perform institutional services or functions for which the Board would otherwise use its employees, (b) be under the direct control of the Board with respect to the use and maintenance of education records, and (c) be subject to the requirements of 34 C.F.R. 99.33(a) governing the use and re-disclosure of PII from education records.

Finally, a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his/her tasks (including volunteers) is also considered a "school official" for purposes of FERPA provided s/he meets the above-referenced criteria applicable to other outside parties.

"Legitimate educational interest" is defined as a "direct or delegated responsibility for helping the student achieve one (1) or more of the educational goals of the District" or if the record is necessary in order for the school official to perform an administrative, supervisory, or instructional task or to perform a service or benefit for the student or the student's family. The Board directs that reasonable and appropriate methods (including but not limited to physical and/or technological access controls) are utilized to control access to student records and to make certain that school officials obtain access to only those education records in which they have legitimate educational interest.

The Board authorizes the administration to:

- A. forward student records, including disciplinary records with respect to suspensions and expulsions, upon request to a private or public school or school district in which a student of this District is enrolled, seeks or intends to enroll, or is instructed to enroll, on a full-time or part-time basis, upon condition that:
 1. a reasonable attempt is made to notify the student's parent or eligible student of the transfer (unless the disclosure is initiated by the parent or eligible student; or the Board's annual notification includes a notice that the Board will forward education records to other agencies or institutions that have requested the records 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);
 2. the parent or eligible student, upon request, receives a copy of the record; and
 3. the parent or eligible student, upon request, has an opportunity for a hearing to challenge the content of the record;
- B. provide "personally-identifiable" information to appropriate parties, including parents of an eligible student, whose knowledge of the information is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other individuals, if there is an articulable and significant threat to the health or safety of a student or other individuals, considering the totality of the circumstances;

- C. report a crime committed by a child to appropriate authorities, and, with respect to reporting a crime committed by a student with a disability, to transmit copies of the student's special education and disciplinary records to the authorities for their consideration;
- D. release de-identified records and information in accordance with Federal regulations;
- E. disclose personally identifiable information from education records, without consent, to organizations conducting studies "for, or on behalf of" the District for purposes of developing, validating or administering predictive tests, administering student aid programs, or improving instruction;

Information disclosed under this exception must be protected so that students and parents cannot be personally identified by anyone other than representative of the organization conducting the study, and must be destroyed when no longer needed for the study. In order to release information under this provision, the District will enter into a written agreement with the recipient organization that specifies the purpose of the study. Further, the following personally identifiable information will not be disclosed to any entity: a student or his/her family member's social security number(s); religion; political party affiliation; voting history; or biometric information.

[Districts without AGs should include the following paragraph]

This written agreement must include: (1) specification of the purpose, scope, duration of the study, and the information to be disclosed; (2) a statement requiring the organization to use the personally identifiable information only to meet the purpose of the study; (3) a statement requiring the organization to prohibit personal identification of parents and students by anyone other than a representative of the organization with legitimate interests; and (4) a requirement that the organization destroy all personally identifiable information when it is no longer needed for the study, along with a specific time period in which the information must be destroyed.

While the disclosure of personally identifiable information (other than social security numbers, religion, political party affiliation, voting record, or biometric information) is allowed under this exception, it is recommended that de-identified information be used whenever possible. This reduces the risk of unauthorized disclosure.

- F. disclose personally identifiable information from education records without consent, to authorized representatives of the Comptroller General, the Attorney General, and the Secretary of Education, as well as State and local educational authorities;

The disclosed records must be used to audit or evaluate a Federal or State supported education program, or to enforce or comply with Federal requirements related to those education programs. A written agreement between the parties is required under this exception.

[Option B – the following two (2) paragraphs should be selected by districts without AGs] This written agreement must include: (1) designation of the receiving entity as an authorized representative; (2) specification of the information to be disclosed; (3) specification that the purpose of the disclosure is to carry out an audit or evaluation of a government-supported educational program or to enforce or comply with the program's legal requirements; (4) a summary of the activity that includes a description of methodology and an explanation of why personally identifiable information is necessary to accomplish the activity; (5) a statement requiring the organization to destroy all personally identifiable information when it is no longer needed for the study, along with a specific time period in which the information must be destroyed; and (6) a statement of policies and procedures that will protect personally identifiable information from further disclosure or unauthorized use.

Under the audit exception, the District will use "reasonable methods" to verify that the authorized representative complies with FERPA regulations. Specifically, the District will verify, to the greatest extent practical, that the personally identifiable information is used only for the audit, evaluation or enforcement of a government-supported educational program. The District will also ascertain the legitimacy of the audit or evaluation and will only disclose the specific records that the authorized representative needs. Further, the District will require the authorized representative to use the records only for the specified purpose and not to disclose the information any further, such as for another audit or evaluation. Finally, the District will verify that the information is destroyed when no longer needed for the audit, evaluation or compliance activity.

- G. request each person or party requesting access to a student's record to abide by Federal regulations and State laws concerning the disclosure of information.

The Board will comply with a legitimate request for access to a student's records within a reasonable period of time but not more than forty-five (45) days after receiving the request or within such shorter period as may be applicable to students with disabilities. Upon the request of the viewer, a record shall be reproduced, unless said record is copyrighted, or otherwise restricted, and the viewer may be charged a fee equivalent to the cost of handling and reproduction. Based upon reasonable requests, viewers of education records will receive explanation and interpretation of the records.

The Board shall maintain a record of each request for access and each disclosure of personally identifiable information. Such disclosure records will indicate the student, person viewing the record, their legitimate interest in the information, information disclosed, date of disclosure, and date parental/eligible student consent was obtained (if required).

Only "directory information" regarding a student shall be released to any person or party, other than the student or his/her parent, without the written consent of the parent, or, if the student is an eligible student, without the written consent of the student, except to those persons or parties stipulated by the Board's policy and administrative guidelines and/or those specified in the law.

DIRECTORY INFORMATION

Each year the Superintendent shall provide public notice to students and their parents of the District's intent to make available, upon request, certain information known as "directory information." The Board designates as student "directory information": a student's name; address; telephone number; date and place of birth; major field of study; participation in officially-recognized activities and sports; height and weight, if a member of an athletic team; dates of attendance; date of graduation; or awards received.

[The following option should be selected if the Board assigns school email accounts to students per Policy 7540.03. *This option is provided to address potential confidentiality issues presented by Policy 7540.03 and is supported by Federal FERPA regulation 34 C.F.R. 99.37(d). R.C. 3319.321, however, does not identify student email addresses as directory information.]

The Board designates school-assigned e-mail accounts as "directory information" for the limited purpose of facilitating students' registration for access to various online educational services, including mobile applications/apps that will be utilized by the student for educational purposes () and for inclusion in internal e-mail address books.

School-assigned e-mail accounts shall not be released as directory information beyond this/these limited purpose(s) and to any person or entity but the specific online educational service provider () and internal users of the District's Education Technology.

Directory information shall not be provided to any organization for profit-making purposes.

Parents and eligible students may refuse to allow the Board to disclose any or all of such "directory information" upon written notification to the Board within **10** days after receipt of the Superintendent's annual public notice.

In accordance with Federal and State law, the Board shall release the names, addresses, and telephone listings of secondary students to a recruiting officer for any branch of the United States Armed Forces or an institution of higher education who requests such information. A secondary school student or parent of the student may request in writing that the student's name, address, and telephone listing not be released without prior consent of the parent(s)/eligible student. The recruiting officer is to sign a form indicating that "any information received by the recruiting officer shall be used solely for the purpose of informing students about military service and shall not be released to any person other than individuals within the recruiting services of the Armed Forces." The Superintendent is authorized to charge mailing fees for providing this information to a recruiting officer.

Whenever consent of the parent(s)/eligible student is required for the inspection and/or release of a student's health or education records or for the release of "directory information," either parent may provide such consent unless agreed to otherwise in writing by both parents or specifically stated by court order. If the student is under the guardianship of an institution, the Superintendent shall appoint a person who has no conflicting interest to provide such written consent.

The Board may disclose "directory information," on former students without student or parental consent, unless the parent or eligible student previously submitted a request that such information not be disclosed without their prior written consent.

The Board shall not permit the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information (or otherwise providing that information to others for that purpose).

CONFIDENTIALITY

State and Federal law requires that student education records be maintained as confidential. See Policy 8330. State law further exempts certain information and records from public disclosure. See Policy 8310. As such, the Board of Education is obligated to take appropriate steps to maintain certain information and records as confidential. Individuals who have access to student education records may not remove them from Board property without express permission from their building principal or supervisor. An individual authorized to remove student education records from school property is responsible for the safety and security of the records and for returning them to the district intact. Confidential information and records may not be disclosed except as authorized by Board policy and administrative guidelines. Individuals who have access to confidential information and records while employed by the Board are reminded that their legal obligation to maintain such confidences extends beyond their term of employment in the District and they are prohibited from releasing, disclosing or otherwise disseminating confidential information or records subsequent to leaving the Board's employ. The Board directs the Superintendent to prepare guidelines concerning Board employees' duties to maintain certain information and records as confidential.

It is further the policy of the Board of Education that when the District receives in trust from a public agency information identified as confidential (whether such information is confidential by Ohio Law, Common Law Privilege, Case Law, or Federal Law), the Board will maintain the confidentiality of said information to the maximum extent permitted by the law.

The following portion of this policy applies only to identified confidential information received from a public agency.

In order to prohibit the unauthorized disclosure of information identified as confidential by the sending public agency, the Board may seek to obtain court protection by:

- A. denying requests for release of such information absent subpoena or court order;
- B. pursuing motions to quash or protective orders to prohibit unauthorized disclosure.

When possible, the Board will attempt to notify the sending public agency of the request for release of such information prior to complying with the request.

ANIMALS ON DISTRICT PROPERTY

Introduction

The Board of Education recognizes that there are many occasions when animals are present on District property and many reasons for those animals' presence. Animals are commonly utilized by teachers during classroom presentations and often housed in classrooms and other locations on campus. Additionally, employees, students, parents, vendors, and other members of the public may be accompanied at school by a service animal in accordance with Federal and State law and this policy.

This policy applies to all animals on District property, including service animals.

Definitions

- A. **"Animal"**: includes any living creature that is not a human being.
- B. **"Service animal"**: pursuant to 28 C.F.R. Section 35.104, "means any dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. Other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained, are not service animals for the purposes of this definition. The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the individual's disability. Examples of work or tasks include, but are not limited to, assisting individuals who are blind or have low vision with navigation and other tasks, alerting individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to the presence of people or sounds, providing non-violent protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, assisting an individual during a seizure, alerting individuals to the presence of allergens, retrieving items such as medicine or the telephone, providing physical support and assistance with balance and stability to individuals with mobility disabilities, and helping persons with psychiatric and neurological disabilities by preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors. The crime deterrent effects of an animal's presence and the provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship do not constitute work or tasks for the purposes of this definition."

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) also defines a miniature horse as an animal that can serve as a service animal, so long as the miniature horse has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of the individual with a disability. To better determine whether the Board must allow for the use of a miniature horse or make modifications to buildings, the Board should refer to Section 35.136 (c) through (i) of the ADA.

OPTION 1

Non-Service Animals in Schools and Elsewhere on District Property

Animals permitted in schools and elsewhere on District property shall be limited to those necessary to support specific curriculum-related projects and activities, those that provide assistance to a student or staff member due to a disability (e.g., seizure disorder), or those that serve as service animals as required by Federal and State law.

Taking into consideration that some animals can cause or exacerbate allergic reactions, spread bacterial infections, or cause damage and create a hazard if they escape from confinement, the Principal may permit non-service animals to be present in classrooms to support curriculum-related projects and activities only under the following conditions:

- A. the staff member seeking approval to have a non-service animal in his/her classroom shall:
 - 2. take precautions deemed necessary to protect the health and safety of students and other staff;
 - 3. provide that the animal is treated humanely, keeping it in a healthy condition and in appropriate housing (e.g., a cage or tank) that is properly cleaned and maintained; and,
 - 4. keep the surrounding areas in a clean and sanitary condition at all times;
- B. other staff members and parents of students in areas potentially affected by animals have been notified in writing and adjustments have been made to accommodate verified health-related or other concerns.

Except where required by law, the presence of a non-service animal shall be disallowed if documented health concerns of a student or staff member cannot be accommodated.

Service Animals for Students

A service animal is permitted to accompany a student with a disability to whom the animal is assigned anywhere on the school campus where students are permitted to be.

A service animal is the personal property of the student and/or parents. The Board does not assume responsibility for training, daily care, or healthcare **(X)** or supervision of service animals. The Board does not assume responsibility for personal injury or property damage arising out of or relating to the presence or use of service animals on District property or at District-sponsored events.

A service animal that meets the definitions set forth in the ADA and this policy shall be under the control of the student with a disability, or a separate handler if the student is unable to control the animal. A service animal shall have a harness, leash, or other tether, unless either the student with a disability is unable because of a disability to use a harness, leash, or other tether, or the use of a harness, leash, or other tether would interfere with the service animal's safe, effective performance of work or tasks, in which case the service animal must be otherwise under the student's control (e.g., voice control, signals, or other effective means), or under the control of a handler other than the student.

If the student with a disability is unable to control the service animal and another person serves as the animal's handler, that individual shall be treated as a volunteer and, as such, will be subject to Policy 4120.09.

Removing and/or Excluding a Student's Service Animal

If a service animal demonstrates that it is not under the control of the student or its handler, the Principal is responsible for documenting such behavior and for determining if and when the service animal is to be removed and/or excluded from school property.

Similarly, in instances when the service animal demonstrated that it is not housebroken, the Principal shall document such behavior and determine whether the service animal is to be removed and/or excluded from school property.

The Principal shall notify the Superintendent when a service animal is removed and/or excluded, and, immediately subsequent to such notification, document the reasons for the removal and/or exclusion.

The Principal's decision to remove and/or exclude a service animal from school property may be appealed in accordance with the complaint procedure set forth in Policy 2260 – Nondiscrimination and Access to Equal Educational Opportunity.

The procedures set forth in Policy 2260 – Nondiscrimination and Access to Equal Educational Opportunity do not interfere with the rights of a student and his/her parents or an eligible student to pursue a complaint with the United States Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights or the Department of Justice.

Eligibility of a Student's Service Animal for Transportation

A student with a disability shall be permitted to access School District transportation with his/her service animal. There may also be a need for the service animal's handler, if the handler is someone other than the student, to also access School District transportation.

When a service animal is going to ride on a school bus or other Board-owned or leased vehicle, the student and his/her parents, or eligible student, and the handler, if s/he is someone other than the student, shall meet with the **(X)** Principal or designee to discuss critical commands needed for daily interaction and emergency/evacuation, and to determine whether the service animal should be secured on bus/vehicle with a tether or harness.

At the discretion of the **(X)** Principal an orientation may take place for students and staff who will be riding the bus/vehicle with the service animal regarding the animal's functions and how students should interact with the animal.

The service animal shall board the bus by the steps with the student, not a lift, unless the student uses the lift to enter and exit the bus. The service animal must participate in bus evacuation drills with the student.

While the bus/vehicle is in motion, the service animal shall remain positioned on the floor, at the student's feet.

Situations that would cause cessation of transportation privileges for the service animal include:

- A. the student, or handler, is unable to control the service animal's behavior, which poses a threat to the health or safety of others; or
- B. the service animal urinates or defecates on the bus.

The student and his/her parents shall be informed of behaviors that could result in cessation of transportation privileges for the service animal, in writing, prior to the first day of transportation.

If it is necessary to suspend transportation privileges for the service animal for any of the above reasons, the decision may be appealed to the

Principal.

Although transportation may be suspended for the service animal, it remains the District's responsibility to transport the student. Furthermore, unless the behavior that resulted in the service animal's removal from the bus is also documented during the school day, the service animal may still accompany the student in school.

Service Animals for Employees

In accordance with Policy 1623, Policy 3123, and Policy 4123 - Section 504/ADA Prohibition Against Disability Discrimination in Employment, the Board provides qualified individuals with disabilities with reasonable accommodation(s). An employee with a disability may request authorization to use a service animal while on duty as such an accommodation. The request will be handled in accordance with the ADA mandated interactive process.

Service Animals for Parents, Vendors, Visitors, and Others

Individuals with disabilities who are accompanied by their service animals are permitted access to all areas of the District's facilities where members of the public, as participants in services, programs or activities, as vendors, or as invitees, are permitted to go. Individuals who will enter the District's buildings during the student day with their service animals should notify the Principal that their service animal will accompany them during their visit.

An individual with a disability who attends a school event will be permitted to be accompanied by his/her service animal in accordance with Policy 9160 - Public Attendance at School Events.

28 C.F.R. 35.104

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (Section 504)

The Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended (ADA)

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEIA)

R.C. 955.43

R.C. 1717.01

BOE Review

SCHOOL SAFETY

The Board of Education is committed to maintaining a safe and drug-free environment in all of the District's schools. The Board believes that school crime and violence are multifaceted problems that need to be addressed in a manner that utilizes all available resources in the community through a coordinated effort of School District personnel, law enforcement agencies, and families. The Board further believes that school administrators and local law enforcement officials must work together to provide for the safety and welfare of students while they are at school or a school-related event or are on their way to and from school. The Board also believes that the first step in addressing school crime and violence is to assess the extent and nature of the problem(s) or threat, and then plan and implement strategies that promote school safety and minimize the likelihood of school crime and violence.

Emergency Management Plan ("EMP")

To that end, the Superintendent shall develop and adopt a comprehensive Emergency Management Plan ("EMP") for each building under his/her control. In developing the EMP for each building, the Superintendent shall involve community law enforcement and safety officials, parents of students who are assigned to the building, and teachers and nonteaching employees assigned to the building.

In developing the EMP, the Superintendent shall examine the environmental conditions and operations of each building to determine potential hazards to student and staff safety. The Superintendent shall further propose operating changes to promote the prevention of potentially dangerous problems and circumstances. The Superintendent shall incorporate remediation strategies into the EMP for any building where documented safety problems have occurred.

Each EMP will include:

- A. protocols for addressing serious threats and emergency events that affect the safety of school property, students, employees, or administrators;

These protocols will include appropriate procedures for responding to these threats and emergencies, such as notifying law enforcement, contacting specified emergency response personnel, and alerting parents of affected students.

- B. a floor plan unique to each floor of the building;
- C. a site plan that includes all building property and surrounding property; and
- D. an emergency contact information sheet.

The Superintendent shall prepare and conduct at least one (1) annual emergency management test, in accordance with rules adopted by the Ohio Department of Education (ODE). By July 1st of every year, the Superintendent shall review the EMPs s/he previously developed and adopted, and certify in writing to the ODE that the EMPs are current and accurate.

The Superintendent shall submit an electronic copy of each EMP s/he developed and adopted to the ODE not less than once every three (3) years, whenever a major modification to the building requires changes to the procedures outlined in the EMP, and whenever the information on the emergency contact information sheet changes. No later than the date prescribed by ODE, the Superintendent shall also file a copy of the current, updated EMP with the following:

- A. each law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction over the school building
- B. upon request, the local fire department, emergency medical service organization, and county emergency management agency serving the area in which the building is located

The Superintendent will also file copies of an updated EMP with ODE and the above agencies within ten (10) days after s/he adopts the revised EMP.

The EMP is not a public record.

The Superintendent shall grant access to each school building under his/her control to law enforcement personnel and any local fire department, emergency medical service organization, and/or county emergency management agency that has requested a copy of the EMP, to enable such personnel and entities to conduct training sessions for responding to threats and emergency events affecting the school building. Such access shall be provided outside of student instructional hours and the Superintendent or designee shall be present in the building during the training sessions.

Prior to the opening day of each school year, the Superintendent shall inform each enrolled student and the student's parent of the procedures to be used to notify parents in the event of an emergency or a serious threat to safety. Also, see Policy 8420 - Emergency Situations at School.

Safe and Drug Free Schools

As a part of the EMP, the Board shall verify that it has procedures in place for keeping schools safe and drug-free that include:

- A. appropriate and effective school discipline policies that prohibit disorderly conduct, the illegal possession of weapons and the illegal use, possession, distribution, and sale of tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs by students;
- B. security procedures at school and while students are on the way to and from school;
- C. prevention activities that are designed to maintain safe, disciplined and drug-free environments;
- D. a code of conduct or policy for all students that clearly states the responsibilities of students, teachers, and administrators in maintaining a classroom environment that:
 - 1. allows a teacher to communicate effectively to all students in the class;
 - 2. allows all students in the class the opportunity to learn;
 - 3. has consequences that are fair, and developmentally appropriate;
 - 4. considers the student and the circumstances of the situation; and
 - 5. is enforced accordingly.

Persistently Dangerous Schools

The Board recognizes that State and Federal law requires that the District report annually incidents which meet the statutory definition of violent criminal offenses that occur in a school, on school grounds, on a school conveyance, or at a school-sponsored activity. It is further understood that the State Department of Education will then use this data to determine whether or not a school is considered “persistently dangerous” as defined by State policy.

Pursuant to the Board’s stated intent to provide a safe school environment, the school administrators are expected to respond appropriately to any and all violations of the Student Code of Conduct, especially those of a serious, violent nature. In any year where the number of reportable incidents of violent criminal offenses in any school exceed the threshold number established in State policy, the Superintendent shall

- () discuss this at the annual meeting for the purpose of reviewing the EMP so that a plan of corrective action can be developed and implemented in an effort to reduce the number of these incidents in the subsequent year.
- (**X**) convene a meeting of the building administrator, representative(s) of the local law enforcement () **agency (X) agencies**, and any other individuals deemed appropriate for the purpose of developing a plan of corrective action that can be implemented in an effort to reduce the number of these incidents in the subsequent year.

The Superintendent shall make a report to the Board about this plan of corrective action and shall recommend approval and adoption of it.

In the unexpected event that the number of reportable incidents in three (3) consecutive school years exceeds the statutory threshold and the school is identified as persistently dangerous, students attending the school shall have the choice option as provided in Policy 5113.02.

In addition, the Superintendent shall

- () discuss the school's designation as a persistently dangerous school at the annual meeting for the purpose of reviewing the EMP so that a plan of corrective action can be developed and implemented in an effort to reduce the number of these incidents in the subsequent year.
- (**X**) convene a meeting of the building administrator, representative(s) of the local law enforcement () **agency (X) agencies**, and any other individuals deemed appropriate for the purpose of developing a plan of corrective action that can be implemented in an effort to reduce the number of these incidents in the subsequent year.

Victims of Violent Crime

The Board further recognizes that, despite the diligent efforts of school administrators and staff to provide a safe school environment, an individual student may be a victim of a violent crime in a school, on school grounds, on a school conveyance, or at a school-sponsored activity. In accordance with Federal and State law the parents of the eligible student shall have the choice options provided by Policy 5113.02.

R.C. 3313.536
Title IX, Section 9532 of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001
20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.
Public Law 107-110

BOE Review

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES

The Board of Education recognizes its responsibility relative to student, employee, and visitor health and safety, and the need for development of a comprehensive program designed to provide a healthy, safe, and secure environment on District property and at District-sponsored activities. To achieve this, it is the intent of the Board that the District will avail itself of the most current, proven technologies in the fields of health, safety, and environmental sciences.

STUDENT, EMPLOYEE, AND VISITOR HEALTH AND SAFETY

The District shall develop and implement an environmental health and safety program that is positive, proactive, integrates responsibilities within the District, and promotes and incorporates the following:

- A. Procedures describing a hazard identification and abatement program that requires the periodic inspection of District facilities, the implementation of immediate and programmed corrective actions when deemed necessary by such inspections, and the development of a District-wide hazard reporting procedure that enables employee/stakeholder participation. This program should also provide procedures for identifying and responding to hazards that are created by outside entities, inspecting activities of contractors, and inspecting new facilities to determine whether or not appropriate requirements for environmental health and safety have been met.

PHASE-OUT/BANNED PRODUCTS

The Superintendent shall require that any chemicals, insecticides, or other materials that the Federal government is phasing out and/or banning by a certain date be immediately banned from use on Board property.

INDOOR ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (IEQ)

The Board recognizes that excessive moisture levels within the schools can lead to conditions that are optimum for the development of biological contaminants, such as mold and fungi on building surfaces. The Board further recognizes that the presence of these contaminants can be harmful on contact with respiratory tissue.

Contributing factors to excessive moisture levels include the following:

- A. roof leaks
- B. structural defects in the building
- C. improperly controlled humidity levels
- D. faulty HVAC systems

As preventative measures, the District shall do the following:

- A. address prevention of water intrusion as a priority indoor air quality (IAQ) issue and implement strategies toward its elimination
- B. maintain environmental conditions in occupied areas that are in compliance with applicable regulations and strive to conform to consensus industry standards
- C. implement a preventative maintenance program for HVAC systems which shall include, but not be limited to, periodic filter replacement, inspection, cleaning and disinfecting processes, and procedures to eliminate the contribution to indoor air quality problems caused by this equipment

- D. implement a system for insuring materials used and purchased for use in the construction, furnishing and maintenance, including cleaning of facilities, do not contribute to the health hazards to employees and students by degrading the quality of indoor air

In addition, activities that create indoor air quality health hazards shall not be permitted.

In addition, the Superintendent shall develop administrative guidelines for the proper monitoring of the factors that contribute to excessive moisture and for the development of mitigation plans when, and if, problems with IAQ are identified.

DIESEL EXHAUST AND SCHOOL BUS IDLING

In accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency's initiative to reduce pollution that is caused by school buses on school property, the Board will take the recommended steps to reduce the negative effect of diesel exhaust on indoor and outdoor air quality on school campuses. This effort shall include, but not be limited to, reducing bus idling time and reinforcing smart driving practices.

The Superintendent shall develop the administrative guidelines necessary to establish these practices in the District.

POLLUTION CONTROL AND PREVENTION

In an effort to comply with environmental policy and applicable regulations, the District shall develop and implement procedures designed to prevent air and water pollution, minimize or eliminate waste streams where possible, and identify possible sources of air and water pollution.

SEE ALSO THE FOLLOWING RELATED POLICIES:

- Policy 7430 - Risk Reduction Program
- Policy 8410 - Crisis Intervention
- Policy 8420 - Emergency Situations at Schools
- Policy 8431 - Preparedness for Toxic Hazard and Asbestos Hazard
- Policy 8442 - Reporting Accidents
- Policy 8450 - Control of Casual-Contact Communicable Diseases
- Policy 8453 - Direct Contact Communicable Diseases
- Policy 8453.01 - Control of Blood-Borne Pathogens

BOE Review

EMERGENCY SITUATIONS AT SCHOOLS

The Board of Education is committed to providing a safe learning and work environment. Unfortunately, natural and man-made disasters do occur. Such emergencies are best met by preparedness and planning.

The Board directs that a system of emergency preparedness be developed that addresses the following goals and/or objectives:

- (X) the health and safety of students and staff are safeguarded
- (X) the time necessary for instructional purposes is not unduly diverted
- (X) minimum disruption to the educational program occurs
- (X) students are helped to learn self-reliance and trained to respond sensibly to emergency situations

All threats to the safety of District facilities shall be identified by appropriate personnel and responded to promptly in accordance with the plan for emergency preparedness.

The Board also directs that fire, tornado, and school safety drills be conducted during the school year in accordance with State law.

Fire drills or rapid dismissals shall be conducted six (6) times a school year at the times and frequency prescribed by the State Fire Marshal with the first fire drill being conducted within ten (10) days of the beginning of classes. However, no fire drills are required to be conducted in any month that a school safety drill is conducted. Tornado drills shall be conducted on a regular basis during the tornado season in the spring. Times and frequencies of drills must be varied.

[Note: If a school does not have smoke detectors or a sprinkler system, fire drills or rapid dismissals must continue to be conducted nine (9) times a school year. Such drills, however, may be combined with the three (3) required school safety drills (discussed below).]

School safety drills shall be conducted at least three (3) times during each school year. During the school safety drills, students must be instructed in the appropriate procedures to follow in situations where students must be secured in their building or rapidly evacuated in response to:

- A. a threat to the school involving terrorism;
- B. a person in possession of a deadly weapon or dangerous ordnance on school property; and
- C. other acts of violence.

At least one (1) safety drill shall include a scenario where pupils must be secured in the school building rather than rapidly evacuated.

School safety drills (including drills and theoretical drills) shall be conducted in conjunction with the District's emergency management plan.

The Principal must conduct at least one (1) drill or rapid dismissal or one (1) school safety drill during each month of the school year. A drill or rapid dismissal may be conducted during the same month as a school safety drill. All building occupants must participate in the drill.

Additionally, the Principal shall conduct a theoretical school safety drill at least once during the school year to provide instruction to school faculty and staff regarding procedures to be followed in such situations. The theoretical drill does not need to include student participation and may be conducted at the required annual employee school safety drill training session.

Each safety drill shall be conducted in conjunction with law enforcement officials.

Prior to conducting the annual school safety drills, each Principal shall:

- A. provide advance written notice of each school safety drill (actual and theoretical) to the municipal or township police chief or other chief law enforcement officer (or in the absence of such officer, the county sheriff);

Such notice shall be provided no later than seventy-two (72) hours prior to the date the drill will be held, be sent by mail, facsimile, or electronic submission, and include the address of the school and the date and time the drill will be conducted.

- B. provide follow-up written certification of the date and time the drill was conducted during the previous school year as well as the date and time each drill will be conducted during the current school year to the municipal or township police chief or other chief law enforcement officer (or in the absence of such officer, the county sheriff);

The certification must be submitted by mail facsimile or electronically by December 5th each calendar year.

- C. hold annual training sessions for school employees regarding the procedures to follow during school safety drills.

Each Principal shall keep a written record of the date and time of each drill conducted.

Procedures shall be developed for the handling of all emergency evacuations.

R.C. 3737.73

A.C. 1301:7-7-01, 1301:7-7-04, 3301-5-01

BOE Review

PANDEMICS AND OTHER MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

Should school be closed for an extended period of time due to weather, pandemic or other medical emergencies, a plan will be developed for the education of students.

BOE Review

BIOTERRORISM

A bioterrorist attack is the deliberate release of biological agents used to cause illness and death in people. The Superintendent shall defer to local government and law enforcement officials for a Bioterrorism Response Plan (BRP).

BOE Review

PREPAREDNESS FOR TOXIC HAZARD AND ASBESTOS HAZARD

The Board of Education is concerned for the safety of the students and staff members and will attempt to comply with all Federal and State statutes and regulations to protect them from hazards that may result from industrial accidents beyond the control of school officials or from the presence of asbestos materials used in previous construction.

TOXIC HAZARDS

These hazards exist in chemicals and other substances used in the school setting such as in laboratories, science classrooms, kitchens, and in the cleaning of rooms and equipment.

The Superintendent shall appoint an employee to serve as Toxic Hazard Preparedness (THP) Officer. The THP Officer is responsible for:

- (X) identifying potential sources of toxic hazard in cooperation with material suppliers who shall supply the THP Officer with Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS's);
- (X) verifying that all incoming materials, including portable containers, are properly labeled with the identity of the chemical, the hazard warning, and the name and address of the manufacturer or responsible party;
- (X) maintaining a current file of MSDSs for every hazardous material present on District property;

- (X) conducting a training program for all District employees to include such topics as detection of hazards, explanation of the health hazards to which they could be exposed in their work environment, and the District's plan for communication, labeling, etc.

ASBESTOS

In its efforts to comply with Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA), the Ohio Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA), and the Ohio Public Employment Risk Reduction Act (PERRA) the Board recognizes its responsibility to:

- A. inspect all District buildings for the existence of asbestos or asbestos-containing materials;
- B. take appropriate actions based on the inspections;
- C. establish a program for dealing with friable asbestos, if found;
- D. maintain a program of periodic surveillance and inspection of facilities or equipment containing asbestos;
- E. comply with EPA regulations governing the transportation and disposal of asbestos and asbestos-containing materials.

The Superintendent shall appoint a person to develop and implement the District's Asbestos-Management Program. Said individual will be responsible for the District's proper compliance with Federal and State laws and the appropriate instruction of staff and students.

The Superintendent shall also verify that, when conducting asbestos abatement projects, each contractor employed by the District is licensed pursuant to the Ohio Department of Health Regulations.

Nothing in this policy should be construed in any way as an assumption of liability by the Board for any death, injury, or illness that is the consequence of an accident or equipment failure or negligent or deliberate act beyond the control of the Board or its officers and employees.

40 C.F.R. 763.92

Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act of 1986 (AHERA)

15 U.S.C. 2601, 20 U.S.C. 4022, 20 U.S.C. 4014, 20 U.S.C. 4011 et seq.

Asbestos School Hazard Abatement Act of 1984

Asbestos School Hazard Abatement Reauthorization Act of 1990, 20 U.S.C. 4011

Public Employee Risk Reduction Act (PERRA) R.C. 4167.01 et seq.

R.C. 921.01 et seq.

A.C. 901:5-11 et seq., 3701-34-06

REPORTING ACCIDENTS

The Board of Education directs that all reasonable efforts be made to provide a safe learning and working environment for the students and employees of this District.

To that end, and so that an employee's legitimate claims for worker's compensation may be expedited, the Board requires that accidents be reported and evaluated. Any accident that results in an injury, however slight, to a student, employee of the Board, or a visitor to the schools must be reported promptly and in writing to the District business office. Injured persons shall be referred immediately to

- school nurse
- appropriate personnel

for such medical attention as may be appropriate.

The injured employee, visitor, or the staff member responsible for an injured student shall complete a form that includes the date, time, and place of the incident; the names of persons involved; the nature of the injury to the extent that it is known; and a description of all relevant circumstances.

Any employee of the Board who suffers a job-related injury must report the injury and its circumstances to the principal or job supervisor, as appropriate, as soon as possible following the occurrence of the injury. The failure of an employee to comply with this mandate may result in disciplinary action. Any employee of the Board who suffers a job-related injury may file a claim with the Bureau of Workers Compensation as provided in Policy 8442.01.

If a staff member sustains a workplace injury while s/he is under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance not prescribed by his/her physician, s/he may be disqualified for compensation and benefits under the Workers Compensation Act. If the staff member tests positive or refuses to submit to a test for alcohol and/or other drugs after sustaining a workplace injury, the employee may dispute or prove untrue the presumption or belief that alcohol and/or other drugs are the proximate cause of the injury (i.e., rebuttable presumption).

R.C. 4123.01 et seq., 4123.54

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

In case of injury while pursuing duties in keeping with the employee's contract, the employee may be eligible for payment of medical expenses under the Workers' Compensation Act of Ohio. Any employee who is injured while at work should immediately report such injury to his/her immediate supervisor and request the necessary forms to make application for payment under this Act.

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The Board reserves the right to have the employee examined by a physician of its choice at the Board's cost to confirm the medical diagnosis and/or the period of disability. Failure to submit to examination will result in termination of wage continuation benefits.

An employee who obtains compensation under the Worker's Compensation Act of Ohio by knowingly misrepresenting or concealing facts, making false statements or accepting compensation to which s/he is not entitled, is subject to felony criminal prosecution for fraud (see R.C. 2913.48).

R.C. 2913.48, Chapter 4123
A.C. 4123

CONTROL OF CASUAL-CONTACT COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

The Board of Education recognizes that control of the spread of communicable disease spread through casual contact is essential to the well-being of the school community and to the efficient District operation.

For purposes of this policy, "casual-contact communicable disease" shall include

- (X) diphtheria,
- (X) scarlet fever and other strep infections,
- (X) whooping cough,
- (X) mumps,
- (X) measles,
- (X) rubella,
- (X) others designated by the Ohio Department of Public Health.

In order to protect the health and safety of the students, District personnel, and the community at large, the Board shall follow all State statutes and Health Department regulations which pertain to immunization and other means for controlling casual-contact communicable disease spread through normal interaction in the school setting.

If a student exhibits symptoms of a casual-contact communicable disease, the principal will isolate the student in the building and contact the parents/guardians. Protocols established by the County Health Department shall be followed.

The Superintendent shall develop administrative guidelines for the control of communicable diseases.

R.C. 3313.67, 3313.671, 3313.68
A.C. 3301-3

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PEDICULOSIS (HEAD LICE)

Head lice is a universal problem and is particularly prevalent among elementary school-age children. Control of lice infestation is best handled by adequate treatment of the infested person and his/her immediate household and other close personal contacts.

Communication from the school to parents directly and through parent and classroom education to the students will help increase the awareness for both parents and child. Parents need to continually observe their child for this potential problem and treat adequately and appropriately as necessary.

If a child in the District is found to have live lice, the child's parent will be contacted to have the child treated and () to pick him/her up at the end of the school day (X) to pick him/her up immediately. After treatment and upon returning to school, the child will be examined by the school health staff or principal. The District practices a policy of (X) "no live lice" () no nits as a criteria for return to school.

The Superintendent shall prepare administrative guidelines to provide for the implementation of this policy.

policy

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[AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS \(AED\)](#)

The Board of Education has determined that it may enhance school safety to have an automated external defibrillator (AED) placed in building(s) within the School District.

An AED is a medical device that interprets the cardiac rhythm of a person in cardiac arrest and, if appropriate, delivers an electrical shock to the heart intended to allow it to resume effective electrical activity.

The Superintendent is authorized to develop guidelines that govern AEDs, including the use of the AED, placement of the AED, and training in the use of the AED.

R.C. 2305.235, 3701.85, 3313.717

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DIRECT CONTACT COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

The Board of Education seeks to provide a safe educational environment for students and staff. This can best be accomplished by assuring that all persons with the school community understand the method of transmission and prevention of diseases that are not contracted through air-borne pathogens, but rather, through direct contact with body fluids and excretions, especially blood, vomit, feces, or urine. The Board is also committed to assuring the confidential status of individuals who may have been diagnosed with a blood-borne communicable disease.

For purposes of this policy, these diseases shall include:

- A. HIV (human immunodeficiency virus);
- B. AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome);
- C. AIDS related complex (condition);
- D. HAV, HBV, HCV (Hepatitis A, B, C);
- E. other diseases that may be specified by the State Department of Health as contact communicable diseases.

The Board recognizes the fact that individuals who have contracted these diseases may not exhibit symptoms for many years after exposure and may, in fact, not be aware that they have contracted the disease. They are, however, able to transmit the disease to other individuals.

The Board further directs the Superintendent to assure that students or staff who reveal the fact they have contracted one of these diseases will have their status safeguarded in accordance with Federal and State statutes dealing with confidentiality and that their civil rights will be respected. Staff members will have access to District leave policies in accordance with Board policy and negotiated agreement and opportunities for reasonable accommodation as described by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Should a student be unable to attend school as a result of illness, an alternative education program shall be provided in accordance with the Board's policy and administrative guidelines dealing with Homebound Instruction.

CONTROL OF BLOOD-BORNE PATHOGENS

The Board of Education seeks to protect those staff members who may be exposed to blood-borne pathogens and other potentially-infectious materials in their performance of assigned duties.

The Superintendent shall implement administrative guidelines which will:

- A. identify those categories of employees whose duties create a reasonable anticipation of exposure to blood and other infectious materials;
- B. provide for inoculation of the Hepatitis B vaccine at no cost to the staff member and in accordance with Federally-mandated scheduling;
- C. ensure proper training in the universal precautions against exposure and/or contamination including the provision of appropriate protective supplies and equipment;
- D. establish appropriate procedures for the reporting, evaluation, and follow-up to any and all incidents of exposure;
- E. provide for record-keeping of all of the above which complies with both Federal and State laws;
- F. develop an exposure control plan.

STUDENT EXPOSURE TO BLOOD-BORNE PATHOGENS

The Board of Education seeks to provide a safe educational environment for students and take appropriate measures to protect those students who may be exposed to blood-borne pathogens in the school environment and/or during their participation in school-related activities. While the risks of students being exposed to blood-borne pathogens may be low, students must assume that all body fluids are potentially infectious and must take precaution to follow universal procedures in order to reduce such risks and minimize and/or prevent the potential for accidental infection.

In order to reduce the risk of students being exposed to blood-borne pathogens, the Superintendent shall implement guidelines which will:

- A. identify potential situations where students may be exposed to blood and other infectious materials;
- B. require proper training for staff in the universal precautions against staff or student exposure to blood-borne pathogens;
- C. establish appropriate procedures for the reporting, evaluation, and follow-up to any and all incidents of student exposure;
- D. provide for record-keeping of all of the above.

STUDENT ABUSE AND NEGLECT

The Board of Education is concerned with the physical and mental well-being of the students of this District and will cooperate in the identification and reporting of cases of child abuse or neglect in accordance with law.

Every Board official and employee who, in connection with his/her position, knows or suspects child abuse or neglect must immediately report that knowledge or suspicion to a public children's services or local law enforcement agency. Such reporting is required in every case that reasonably indicates that a child under the age of eighteen (18) or a physically or mentally disabled child under the age of twenty-one (21) has been abused (physically or mentally) or neglected or faces the threat of being abused or neglected.

- [X] The Board official and employee making the report shall also notify the appropriate administrator according to the District's Reporting Procedure for Student Abuse or Neglect.
 - (X) and may secure prompt medical attention to any such injuries reported.

Each principal should be mindful of the possibility of physical or mental abuse being inflicted on a student by an employee. Any such instances, whether real or alleged, should be dealt with in accordance with the administrative guidelines established by the Superintendent. Board officials and employees must report suspected abuse to a public children's services or local law enforcement agency even when the suspected abuser is another official or employee.

The identity of the reporting person shall be confidential, subject only to disclosure by consent or court order. Information concerning alleged child abuse of a student is confidential information and is not to be shared with any unauthorized person. A staff member who violates this policy may be subject to disciplinary action and/or civil and/or criminal penalties.

In accordance with law, the Board will provide appropriate instruction on personal safety and assault prevention to all students in grades K-6. In order to develop programs that are appropriate and effective, the Superintendent is authorized to consult with public and/or private agencies or individuals involved in child abuse prevention and intervention. In addition, the Superintendent shall provide a program of in-service education on school safety, and violence prevention including human trafficking content, youth suicide awareness and prevention, and prevention of child abuse, violence and substance abuse and promotion of positive youth development, including a review of Policy 5517.01 – Bullying and Other Forms of Aggressive Behavior, for

all elementary, middle and high school staff members

OR

all nurses, teachers, counselors, school psychologists and administrators who work in the District's elementary, middle, and high schools.

[SELECT OPTION 1 OR OPTION 2]

The Board shall adopt or adapt the suicide awareness and prevention curriculum developed by the Ohio Department of Education (ODE).

OR

The Board shall develop the suicide awareness and prevention curriculum in consultation with public or private agencies or persons involved in youth suicide awareness and prevention programs.

[END OF OPTIONS]

The in-service education provided to middle and high school employees shall include training in the prevention of dating violence.

All newly-employed

professional staff

OR

nurses, teachers, counselors, school psychologists and administrators who work in the District's elementary, middle and high schools

shall complete at least four (4) hours of in-service training within two (2) years of the date of employment. Further, all middle and high school

staff members

OR

nurses, teachers, counselors, school psychologists and administrators

employed by the District as of October 16, 2009, must complete the initial four (4) hours of in-service training no later than October 16, 2011. Additional training must occur every five (5) years thereafter.

A law enforcement officer or children's services agency investigating child abuse or neglect may interview a student on school grounds only in accordance with Board Policy 5540.

R.C. 2151.421, 3313.60, 3319.073

SEX OFFENDER NOTIFICATION

Ohio's "Sex Offender Registration and Community Notification" law requires all "habitual sex offenders" and adjudicated "sexual predators" (hereinafter "offenders") to register with the sheriff of the county in which they reside. The sheriff must then notify certain community members including the Superintendent of the School District in which such an offender resides. The Board of Education is committed to assisting the sheriff and local law enforcement agencies with their responsibility for Community Notification of offenders as required by law.

When the Superintendent receives information from the sheriff concerning an offender subject to Community Notification, the Superintendent shall disseminate the information to all District Administrators whose duties include the supervision of and/or responsibility for students.

Employees who receive said information shall promptly notify the Superintendent if a person subject to Community Notification is observed in the vicinity of the school or a bus stop area. The Superintendent shall notify the local law enforcement agency if, in the judgment of the Superintendent, the presence of the person subject to Community Notification appears to be without a legitimate purpose or otherwise creates concern for the safety of children. The Superintendent shall cooperate with the local law enforcement agency if any additional action is to be taken.

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R.C. 2950
A.C. 109:5-2

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BOE Review

FOOD SERVICES

The Board of Education shall provide cafeteria facilities in all school facilities where space and facilities permit, and will provide food service for the purchase and consumption of lunch for all students. The Board shall annually encumber the funds needed to operate the program.

The food-service program shall comply with Federal and State regulations pertaining to the selection, preparation, consumption, and disposal of food and beverages, including but not limited to the current USDA Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards, as well as to the fiscal management of the program.

The Board shall approve and implement nutrition standards governing the types of food and beverages that may be sold on the premises of its schools and shall specify the time and place each type of food or beverage may be sold. In adopting such standards, the Board shall:

- A. consider the nutritional value of each food or beverage;
- B. consult with a dietitian licensed under R.C. Chapter 4759, a dietetic technician registered by the commission on dietetic registration, or a school nutrition specialist certified or credentialed by the school nutrition association;
- C. consult and incorporate to the maximum extent possible the dietary guidelines for Americans jointly developed by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the United States Department of Health and Human Services; and
- D. consult and incorporate the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition guidelines.

In addition, as required by law, a food safety program that is based on the principles of the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) system shall be implemented with the intent of preventing food-borne illnesses. For added safety and security, access to the facility and the food stored and prepared therein shall be limited to food service program staff and other authorized persons.

The Board shall provide a Federal food service program for students during summer intervention programs that are mandated under Federal law. If the Board determines that it is unable to provide a Federal food service program during the summer, for financial reasons, the Board will communicate that decision to its residents in a manner it determines to be appropriate.

During all times while the food service program is operating and students are being served food, at least one (1) employee shall be present in the area in which the food is being consumed who has received instruction in methods to prevent choking and demonstrated an ability to perform the Heimlich maneuver.

Substitutions to the standard meal requirements shall be made, at no additional charge, for students for whom a health care provider who has prescriptive authority in the State of Ohio has provided medical certification that the student has a disability that restricts his/her diet, in accordance with the criteria set forth in 7 CFR Part 15b. To qualify for such substitutions the medical certification must identify:

- A. the student's disability and the major life activity affected by the disability;
- B. an explanation of why the disability affects the student's diet; and
- C. the food(s) to be omitted from the student's diet and the food or choice of foods that must be substituted (e.g., caloric modifications or use of liquid nutritive formula).

- [] On a case-by-case basis, substitutions to the standard meal requirements may be made, at no additional charge, for students who are not "disabled persons," but have a signed statement from a qualified medical authority that the student cannot consume certain food items due to medical or other special dietary needs. To qualify for such consideration and substitutions the medical statement must identify:
- A. the medical or dietary need that restricts the student's diet; and
 - B. the food(s) to be omitted from the student's diet and the food(s) or choice of foods that may be substituted.

For

Lunches sold by the school may be purchased by students and staff members and community residents in accordance with administrative guidelines established by the Superintendent.

The operation and supervision of the food-service program shall be the responsibility of the Food Service Supervisor. In accordance with Federal law, the Food Service Supervisor shall take such actions as are necessary to obtain a minimum of two (2) food safety inspections per school year, which are conducted by the State or local governmental agency responsible for food safety inspections. The report of the most recent inspection will be posted in a publicly visible location, and a copy of the report will be available upon request. **[Please note: Schools participating in more than one (1) child nutrition program are only required to obtain two (2) food safety inspections per school year if the nutrition programs offered use the same facilities for the preparation and service of meals. Also, the requirement for two (2) inspections does not apply to schools that only offer the Special Milk Program.]**

A periodic review of the food-service accounts shall be made by the Food Service Supervisor. Any surplus funds from the National School Lunch Program shall be used to reduce the cost of the service to students or to purchase cafeteria equipment. Surplus funds from a-la-carte foods may accrue to the food-service program.

With regard to the operation of the school food service program, the Superintendent shall require:

- A. the maintenance of sanitary, neat premises free from fire and health hazards;
- B. the preparation of food that complies with Federal food safety regulations;
- C. the purchase of food and supplies in accordance with State and Federal law, USDA regulations, and Board policy; (see Policy 1130, Policy 1214, Policy 3113, Policy 3214, Policy 4113, Policy 4214, and Policy 6460)
- D. the accounting and disposition of food-service funds pursuant to Federal and State law and USDA regulations;
- E. the safekeeping and storage of food and food equipment pursuant to USDA regulations;
- F. the regular maintenance and replacement of equipment.

In accordance with the nutritional standards adopted by the Board, the placement of vending machines in any classroom where students are provided instruction, unless the classroom is also used to serve meals to students, is prohibited.

No foods or beverages, other than those associated with the District's food-service program, are to be sold during food-service hours. The District shall serve only nutritious food in accordance with the nutritional standards adopted by the Board in compliance with the current USDA Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition guidelines. Foods and beverages in competition with the District's food-service program must comply with the current USDA Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition guidelines, and may only be sold in accordance with Board Policy 8550.

The Superintendent will require that the food service program serve foods in the schools of the District that are wholesome and nutritious and reinforce the concepts taught in the classroom.

The Superintendent is responsible for implementing the food service program in accordance with the adopted nutrition standards and shall provide a report regarding the District's compliance with the standards at one of its regular meetings annually.

R.C. 3313.81, 3313.811-815

A.C. 3301-91

42 U.S.C. 1758

Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 and Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, 42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.

Child Nutrition Act of 1966, 42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.

7 CFR Parts 15b, 210, 215, 220, 225, 226, 227, 235, 240, 245, 3015

OMB Circular No. A-87USDA Smart Snacks in School Food Guidelines (effective July 1, 2014)

SP 32-2015 Statements Supporting Accommodations for Children with Disabilities in the Child Nutrition Programs

BOE Review

WELLNESS

As required by law, the Board of Education establishes the following wellness policy for the Worthington School District as a part of a comprehensive wellness initiative.

The Board recognizes that good nutrition and regular physical activity affect the health and well-being of the District's students. Furthermore, research suggests that there is a positive correlation between a student's health and well-being and his/her ability to learn. Moreover, schools can play an important role in the developmental process by which students establish their health and nutrition habits by providing nutritious meals and snacks through the schools' meal programs, by supporting the development of good eating habits, and by promoting increased physical activity both in and out of school.

Schools alone, however, cannot develop in students healthy behaviors and habits with regard to eating and exercise. It will be necessary for not only the staff, but also parents and the public at large to be involved in a community-wide effort to promote, support, and model such healthy behaviors and habits.

The Board sets the following goals in an effort to enable students to establish good health and nutrition habits:

- A. With regard to nutrition education, the District shall:
 - (X) Nutrition education shall be included in the Health curriculum so that instruction is sequential and standards-based and provides students with the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to lead healthy lives.
 - (X) Nutrition education shall include opportunities for appropriate student projects related to nutrition, involving, when possible, community agencies and organizations.
 - (X) Nutrition education posters, such as the Food Pyramid Guide, will be displayed in the cafeteria.

B. With regard to physical activity, the District shall:

1. Physical Education

(X) The sequential, comprehensive physical education curriculum shall provide students with opportunities to learn, practice, and be assessed on developmentally appropriate knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to engage in lifelong, health-enhancing physical activity.

(X) The sequential, comprehensive physical education curriculum shall stress the importance of remaining physically active for life.

2. Physical Activity

(X) Schools shall encourage families to provide physical activity outside the regular school day, such as outdoor play at home, participation in sports sponsored by community agencies or organizations, and in lifelong physical activities like bowling, swimming, or tennis.

(X) The school shall encourage families and community organizations to help develop and institute programs that support physical activity of all sorts.

C. With regard to other school-based activities the District shall:

(X) The schools shall provide at least 20 minutes daily for students to eat.

- (X) Schools **may** limit the number of celebrations involving serving food during the school day.
- (X) The schools **may** use environmentally friendly practices.
- D. With regard to nutrition promotion, the District shall:
 - (X) encourage students to increase their consumption of healthful foods during the school day.

The Board designates **(X)** the Building Principals as the individual(s) charged with operational responsibility for measuring and evaluating the District's implementation and progress under this policy. The Superintendent shall develop administrative guidelines necessary to implement this policy.

The Superintendent is also responsible for informing the public, including parents, students and community members, on the content and implementation of this policy. In order to inform the public, the Superintendent shall

post the policy on the District's website, including the Wellness Committee's assessment of the policy's implementation.

42 U.S.C. 1751, Sec. 204
42 U.S.C. 1771
7 C.F.R. Parts 210 and 220

FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE MEALS

The Board of Education recognizes the importance of good nutrition to each student's educational performance.

The Board shall provide needy children with

breakfast

lunch

at

a reduced rate.

no charge to the student.

Children, eligible for free or reduced-price meals, shall be determined by the criteria established by the Child Nutrition Program and National School Lunch Act. These criteria are issued annually by the Federal government through the State Department of Education.

The Board designates the

Superintendent

Food Service Supervisor

to determine in accordance with Board standards, the eligibility of students for free and reduced-price meals.

The schools shall

- annually
- twice a year

notify all families of the availability, eligibility requirements, and application procedure for free and reduced-price meals by distributing an application to the family of each student enrolled in the school.

- and shall seek out and apply for such Federal, State, and local funds as may be applied to the District's program of free and reduced-price meals.

The Board shall provide a Federal food service program for students during summer intervention programs that are mandated under Federal law. If the Board determines that it is unable to provide a Federal food service program during the summer, for financial reasons, the Board will communicate that decision to its residents in a manner it determines to be appropriate.

The Superintendent shall prepare and implement the necessary arrangements and guidelines to ensure proper operation of this program. S/He shall ensure that the appropriate policy attachments for Free and Reduced-Price Meals or Free Milk are properly completed and submitted for approval to the School Food Service Division of the State Department of Education by the beginning of each school year.

R.C. 3313.81, 3313.812-814
42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.
42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.

VENDING MACHINES

The Board of Education recognizes that vending machines can produce revenues which are useful to augment programs and services to students and staff. It will, therefore, authorize their use in District facilities providing that the following conditions are satisfied.

- (X) The installation, servicing, stocking, and maintenance of each machine is contracted for with a reputable supplier of vending machines and their products.
- (X) The District's share of the revenues is managed by the Treasurer in accordance with relevant Board policies and administrative guidelines.
- (X) No products are vended which would conflict with or contradict information or procedures contained in the District's educational programs on health and nutrition.
- () No food or beverages are to be sold or distributed which will compete with the District's food-service program.
- (X) Food items and beverages available for sale to students in vending machines for consumption on the school campus (any area of property under the jurisdiction of the school that is accessible to students during the school day) during the school day (the period from the midnight before, to thirty (30) minutes after the end of the official school day) shall comply with the current USDA Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.

The Superintendent and the Treasurer shall develop and implement administrative guidelines which will require that these conditions are adhered to on a continuing basis.

R.C. 3313.811
7 C.F.R. Parts 210 and 220

COMPETITIVE FOOD SALES

The Food and Nutrition Services Department will comply with the provisions set forth in Federal law regarding sale of competitive food and foods of minimal nutritional value.

[CHOOSE ONE (1) OF THE FOLLOWING 2 OPTIONS]

[X] Option 1

Only the Food and Nutrition Services Department shall sell food and beverages in District schools during regular school hours.

[] Option 2

The Food and Nutrition Services Department shall be the sole provider of food and beverage items sold in all schools until

() thirty (30) minutes

() one (1) hour

() _____

following the last lunch period, at which time other school organizations may begin to sell foods and beverage items in accordance with the Board's food service policy (Policy 8500) and guidelines (AG 8500 and AG 8500A) and with the Principal's approval. All food items and beverages sold to students that will be consumed on the school campus (any area of property under the jurisdiction of the school that is accessible to students during the school day) during the school day (the period from the midnight before, to thirty (30) minutes after the end of the official school day) shall comply with the USDA Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.

[END OF OPTIONS]

- [X]** Food and beverages sold during the school day outside the cafeteria may be operated on a "profit share" program with prior approval of the Director of the Food and Nutrition Services Department and the principal.

- [X]** The food and beverages to be sold must be in accordance with the District's approved nutrition standards and the District's wellness policy (Policy 8510) and guidelines (AG 8500 and AG 8500A). All food items and beverages sold to students that will be consumed on the school campus (any area of property under the jurisdiction of the school that is accessible to students during the school day) during the school day (the period from the midnight before, to thirty (30) minutes after the end of the official school day), including items sold from vending machines, from school stores, or as fund-raisers, including fundraisers operated by student clubs and organizations, parent groups, or boosters clubs, shall comply with the USDA Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.

Title 7 C.F.R. 210.11
R.C. 3313.84
A.C. 3301-91
7 C.F.R. Parts 210 and 220

BOE Review

TRANSPORTATION

It is the policy of the Board of Education to provide transportation for those students whose distance from their school makes this service necessary within the limitations established by State law. Such laws and rules shall govern any question not covered by this policy.

School buses shall be purchased, housed, and maintained by the Board for the transportation of resident students between their home areas and the schools of the District to which they are assigned or to their nonpublic or community schools. The Superintendent may substitute smaller buses for reasons of economy or efficiency of operation.

Children living beyond the following walking limits shall be entitled to bus transportation:

- A. Kindergarten at Noon 1.5 mile
- B. Kindergarten in Morning, or afternoon 1.5 mile
- C. Grades 1 through 8 1.5 mile
- D. Grades 9 through 12 2.0 mile

Exceptions to the foregoing limits may be made in the case of a temporarily or permanently-disabled child who has been so certified by a physician and in the case of adverse safety conditions and may include:

1. a significant portion of the direct walking route to school has no sidewalks and the posted speed limit (except for School Zone) exceeds 25 miles per hour;
2. the direct walking route to school requires students to cross a major thoroughfare, right of way or passage where there is no crosswalk, overpass or underpass;
3. a student is involuntarily assigned by the Board to a school;
4. Typical students will be allowed to use a non-typical bus stop only when the student resides at the address of the non-typical student's home or the non-typical parent provides child care for the typical student(s).
5. Parents must be notified. This practice is not guaranteed and may cease at any time.

Transportation of eligible vocational or special education children between their home areas and schools outside the District shall be arranged through the use of Board-owned vehicles, through cooperation with other districts, through commercial carriers, and/or by other means in the most efficient and economical manner. The governing authority of a community school shall provide or arrange for transportation free of charge for any eligible special education student enrolled in the community school for whom the student's individualized education program specifies transportation.

Transportation to and from school shall be provided for each student residing in the District and attending a State-chartered nonpublic school that is located within the thirty (30) minute travel limitation established by State law on the same basis as established for resident students as set forth above. Chartered nonpublic school students who are transported by the Board may be assigned to ride on buses upon which resident students are also assigned.

Furthermore, transportation to and from school shall be provided for each native student (i.e., student entitled to attend school in the District under R.C. 3313.64 or R.C. 3313.65) attending an approved community school. However, if that community school is located outside the District, transportation will only be provided consistent with the thirty (30) minute travel limitation established by State law. Native students attending an approved community school located within the District will be provided transportation on the same basis as established for resident students set forth above. Students transported to an approved community school may be assigned to ride on buses upon which resident students are also assigned.

Transportation of eligible nonpublic or community school children between their home areas and schools shall be arranged through the use of District-owned vehicles, through cooperation with other districts, through commercial carriers, and/or by other means in the most efficient and economical manner. However, if the Board determines that said transportation is impracticable, then the parent(s) shall be provided payment-in-lieu of transportation at the amount established by State law, unless otherwise directed by action of the State Board of Education.

The Board will not be required to provide transportation for any native student enrolled in a community school if the Board has entered into an agreement with the governing authority of the community school that designates the community school as responsible for providing or arranging the transportation of the District's native students to and from the community school and is certified by the State Board of Education as having met certain requirements established by State law. The governing authority of a community school must provide or arrange for transportation in a manner that is comparable to the transportation that the District provides or arranges for its native students of the same grade level and distance from school who are enrolled in the District. Also, the governing authority must provide or arrange for the transportation under such agreement free of charge for each of its enrolled students who are eligible to be transported in accordance with R.C. 3327.01 or who would otherwise be transported by the District under the District's transportation policy. If the Board enters into an agreement with the governing authority regarding the transportation of the District's native students, the State Board of Education shall make payments to the community school in accordance with the terms of the agreement for each student actually transported.

Likewise, the Board will not be responsible for providing transportation for any native student enrolled in an approved community school if the governing authority of the community school submits a written notification to the Board, by a date prescribed by the State Board of Education, stating that the governing authority will accept responsibility for providing or arranging for the transportation of the District's native students to and from the community school. The governing authority's unilateral acceptance of the responsibility to provide transportation must cover the entire school year, and shall remain in effect for subsequent school years unless the governing authority submits written notification to the Board relinquishing the transportation responsibility. However, the governing authority cannot relinquish the transportation responsibility before the end of the school year, and shall submit such notice by a date prescribed by the State Board of Education in order to allow the District a reasonable period of time to prepare for the transportation of its native students enrolled in the community school. If the governing authority unilaterally accepts the transportation responsibility, the State Board of Education shall make payments to the community school for each student actually transported calculated in accordance with existing State law governing the calculation of transportation payments to the District from the State and any rules implemented by the State Board of Education and that otherwise would be paid to the District.

Bus routes shall be established so that an authorized bus stop is available within reasonable walking distance of the home of every transported resident student. The Board shall approve routes annually.

The Board authorizes the installation and use of video recording devices in the school buses to assist the drivers in providing for the safety and well-being of the students while on a bus.

Students meeting the Federal definition of “homeless” will be transported from their temporary place of residence to their school of assignment, at the request of the parent, guardian or unaccompanied minor, to the same extent as all other students of the District and consistent with this Policy. If the homeless student’s temporary residence is located outside the boundaries of the District, the Liaison for Homeless Children will coordinate with the Director of Transportation to contact the district in which the student temporarily resides to arrange for joint transportation of the student and to seek inter-district agreement on a method for apportioning the cost of such joint transportation. In no event will a homeless student be denied enrollment based on issues related to student transportation.

The Superintendent shall be responsible for developing and implementing appropriate administrative guidelines for this policy.

R.C. 3313.66, 3314.09, 3314.091, 3319.41, 3327.01 et seq., 4511.01 (F)

R.C. 4511.75 et seq.

A.C. 3301-51-10, 3301-83-01 et seq., 3301-83-08

42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq.

BOE Review

BUS DRIVER CERTIFICATION

It is the policy of the Board of Education that all bus drivers obtain and hold proper certification under standards for school bus drivers established within the Ohio Revised Code. It is also the purpose of this Board to protect its students from drivers whose certification is invalidated by the Ohio Point Law or point standards of this District.

A copy of each new school bus driver's complete driving record must be obtained from the Ohio Department of Education prior to allowing the school bus driver to operate a school bus or school van for the first time. In accordance with State transportation regulations, the Superintendent shall request the administrator in charge of transportation to conduct at least a semi-annual review of each school bus driver's (i.e., current bus drivers and those newly hired bus drivers who remain employed with the Board) driving record through the Ohio Department of Education to determine that such drivers have:

- A. no more than six (6) points within the last twenty-four (24) month period;
- B. not been convicted of driving while under the influence of alcohol and/or a controlled substance during the past six (6) years (i.e., not been convicted of a violation of R.C. 4511.19);
- C. not received two (2) (or more) of the following serious traffic violations as defined in R.C. 4506.01(DD)(1) through (DD)(7) during the last twenty-four (24) month period:
 1. a single charge of any speed in excess of the posted speed limit by fifteen (15) miles per hour or more;
 2. violation of R.C. 4511.20 (i.e., operation in willful or wanton disregard of the safety of persons or property) or R.C. 4511.201 (i.e., operation off street or highway in willful or wanton disregard of the safety of persons or property) or any similar ordinance or resolution, or of any similar law of another state or political subdivision of another state;

3. violation of a law of this State or an ordinance or resolution relating to traffic control, other than a parking violation, or of any similar law of another state or political subdivision of another state, that results in a fatal accident;
4. violation of R.C. 4506.03 (i.e., commercial driver's license or temporary instruction requirements) or a substantially similar municipal ordinance or county or township resolution, or of any similar law of another state or political subdivision of another state, that involves the operation of a commercial motor vehicle without a valid commercial driver's license with the proper class or endorsement for the specific vehicle group being operated for the passengers or type of cargo being transported;
5. violation of R.C. 4506.03 (i.e., commercial driver's license or temporary instruction requirements) or a substantially similar municipal ordinance or county or township resolution, or of any similar law of another state or political subdivision of another state, that involves the operation of a commercial motor vehicle without a valid commercial driver's license being in the person's possession;
6. violation of R.C. 4511.33 (i.e., driving in marked lanes) or R.C. 4511.34 (i.e., space between moving vehicles) or any municipal ordinance or county or township resolution substantially similar to either of those sections, or any substantially similar law of another state or political subdivision of another state;
7. violation of any other law of this State or ordinance or resolution relating to traffic control, other than a parking violation, that is determined to be a serious traffic violation by the United States Secretary of Transportation and the Director designates such by rule; and

- D. no railroad crossing violations during the last year (i.e., twelve (12) month period);
- not received any violations that render the bus driver uninsurable by the District's Fleet Insurance Carrier;
- _____ (other).

The records obtained from the annual records check will be maintained for a minimum of six (6) years.

A driver having any of the above-referenced violations will be disqualified from operating a bus. The driver will also be notified that his/her school bus certification will be reviewed by the Superintendent and his/her employment as a school bus driver may be terminated.

A driver involved in a preventable school bus accident, or judged guilty of a minor traffic violation, shall be subject to the disciplinary action established in the Superintendent's administrative guidelines. Further, no driver who is convicted of a traffic violation or has his/her commercial driver's license (CDL) suspended will be permitted to operate a school bus or school van until the driver files a written notice of the conviction or suspension. Such written notice must be immediately filed with the Superintendent or administrator in charge of transportation, irrespective of whether the traffic violation occurred while operating a Board-owned vehicle or a private vehicle or during school or non-school hours. Failure to file the required written notice of conviction or suspension will result in the revocation of the driver's certificate and/or disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

If a school bus driver has an interruption in driving a school bus or school van for a period of one (1) year or longer, s/he will not be permitted to resume operating a school bus or school van until a copy of the school bus driver's complete driving record has been obtained.

In addition to the required driving record check, the administrator in charge of transportation shall obtain a satisfactory BCII report prior to hiring an individual as a new school bus or school van driver, along with an FBI background check (i.e., an FBI background check will also be required prior to hiring new employees). An updated, satisfactory BCII report shall be obtained for each school bus driver every six (6) years with driver re-certification. Satisfactory shall be defined by the same standards applied to other public school employees. Such records shall also be maintained for a minimum of six (6) years (see Policy 4121 for criminal history record check requirements).

No bus driver will be permitted to drive a school bus or school van unless s/he meets all other requirements contained in the rules adopted by the Ohio Department of Education prescribing qualifications of drivers of school buses and other student transportation. In addition, no bus driver will be permitted to drive a school bus or school van unless:

- A. information pertaining to the bus driver has been submitted to the Ohio Department of Education, including the name of the Board, name of the bus driver, driver license number, date of birth, date of hire, status of physical evaluation and status of training; and
- B. a criminal records check, including information from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, has been completed and received by the Superintendent.

R.C. 3327.10, 3327.01 et seq., 4511.01(F), 4511.75 et seq.

A.C. 3301-51-10, 3301-83-01 et seq., 3301-83-05, 3301-83-06, 3301-83-07

BOE Review

TRANSPORTATION FOR FIELD AND OTHER
DISTRICT-SPONSORED TRIPS

It shall be the policy of the Board of Education to use regular or special-purpose school vehicles for transportation on field and other District-sponsored trips.

The transportation for all field and other District-sponsored trips is to be by vehicles owned or approved by the District and driven by approved drivers. Exceptions must have the approval of the Superintendent.

- [] The Board shall assume transportation costs for
 - () all field trips.
 - () a certain number of approved field trips as specified in the Superintendent's administrative guidelines.
- [] The Board will also assume the transportation costs for all other trips including co-curricular, athletic, and other extra-curricular trips.
- [] The Board will assume the vehicle cost for all other trips including co-curricular, athletic, and other extra-curricular trips, but the cost of the driver shall be paid
 - () by the sponsoring organization.
 - () from the designated fund.
- [] The Board will provide the vehicles for all other trips including co-curricular, athletic, and other extra-curricular trips, but a mileage charge will be assessed to cover the cost of the driver and fuel. This charge is to be paid
 - () by the sponsoring organization.
 - () from a designated fund.

- [X] Transportation may be limited by the availability of vehicles, drivers, and scheduling and will not be available when needed for general school purposes.

- [] All field trips shall be supervised by members of the staff. All other District-sponsored trips shall be supervised by either staff members or adults from the sponsoring organization. Any time students are on the vehicle, at least one (1) sponsor, chaperone, or staff member is expected to ride in the vehicle as well as to supervise students upon return to the District and while they are waiting for rides home.

- [] All students are expected to ride the approved vehicle to and from each activity. A special request must be made to the staff member or sponsor by the parent, in writing or in person, to allow an exception.

- [] District students not affiliated with the trip activity, nondistrict students, and/or children of preschool age shall not be permitted to ride on the trip vehicle.
 - () without prior approval of the principal.

- [] No student is allowed to drive on any trip. An exception may be made by the principal on an individual basis provided the student's parent(s) provides written authorization and release from liability using Form 5515 F2 – Parental Authorization and Release From Liability Form.
 - () and does not transport any other student.
 - () and does not transport any other student without the parent(s) of the student to be transported in such vehicle providing written authorization and release from liability using Form 5515 F2 – Parental Authorization and Release From Liability Form. In addition, the parent(s) of the approved student driver must provide written authorization for the student to transport others and release from liability using Form 5515 F2 – Parental Authorization and Release From Liability Form.

The Superintendent shall prepare administrative guidelines consistent with this policy.

R.C. 3327.08, 3327.13, 3327.14, 3327.013
A.C. 3301-83-16

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BOE Review

TRANSPORTATION BY SCHOOL VAN

It is the policy of the Board of Education to provide transportation to students via Board owned and operated school vans, when the use of school buses is not preferred. School vans shall only be used for the transportation of nine (9) or fewer passengers, not including the driver, in accordance with the original design and construction of the vehicle. Students shall not be transported in larger passenger vans (e.g., non-conforming extended van-type vehicles) carrying ten (10) passengers or more (particularly 12-15 passenger vans).

Similar to school buses, school vans shall be purchased, housed, and maintained by the Board for the transportation of resident students between their home areas and the schools of the District to which the students are assigned or to their nonpublic or community schools. However, such use shall generally be limited to preschool children, special needs children, children inaccessible to school buses, and students placed in alternative schools. School vans may also be used to transport students to and from field trips and/or other Board-approved school-related activities.

Students who are transported by school van are expected to conduct themselves in the same manner required of students transported by school bus and shall be subject to all applicable disciplinary rules.

All school van drivers employed by the Board shall complete the required Ohio School Van Driver training program prior to transporting students, meet all other qualification requirements, and comply with the Ohio Pupil Transportation and Safety Rules and applicable Board policies and guidelines relative to student transportation. No individual shall be employed as a school van driver if s/he has not received a certificate certifying that the driver is at least eighteen (18) years of age, of good moral character, and is qualified physically and otherwise for the position. **(X)** Only authorized Board employees may operate and transport students via school van.

The Superintendent is responsible for developing and implementing the appropriate administrative guidelines for this policy.

R.C. 3327.10, 4511.01
A.C. 3301-83-19

NONROUTINE USE OF SCHOOL BUSES

The Board of Education will permit the school buses owned or leased by this District to be used for purposes other than regularly-scheduled routes to and from school in accordance with law and rules of the State, provided such trips do not interfere with routine school transportation services.

The nonroutine use of buses shall be defined for purposes of this policy as those uses which are specified in A.C. 3301-83-16.

The costs of nonroutine transportation shall be reimbursed to the District in accordance with administrative guidelines.

Buses must be operated on nonroutine trips by the holder of a valid Ohio school bus driver's license who has been approved by the Board. Drivers shall be selected for nonroutine trips by the Transportation Supervisor on the basis of their knowledge, skill, and experience in operating a bus in the area to be traveled as well as their familiarity with the vehicle selected for use.

The Superintendent shall develop administrative guidelines which should include provision for insurance coverage and the requirement that chaperones accompany each school bus trip involving school age passengers whose responsibility it will be to assist the staff member(s) in maintaining passenger control and in enforcing procedures for the safety of all passengers.

A.C. 3301-83-16

BOE Review

INCIDENTAL TRANSPORTATION OF STUDENTS BY PRIVATE VEHICLE

The Board of Education authorizes the incidental transportation by private vehicle of students of the District. This includes occasional transportation for field trips, outings, and the like.

This policy does not apply to parents who privately arrange transportation for their own children. No District staff shall organize such arrangements or assist parents in doing so.

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INSURANCE

The Board of Education shall purchase with District funds the type and amount of insurance necessary to protect the District from major financial losses.

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

The Board of Education recognizes the need for insurance coverage for injuries to students caused by accidents occurring in the course of attendance at school and participation in the athletic and co-curricular programs of the schools. Therefore, at the beginning of each school year, the Board shall offer parents the opportunity to participate in group accident insurance at the expense of the parents.

A signed statement of insurance coverage on the part of the student's parent or guardian shall be a prerequisite for student registration in any school activity having a potential for personal injury.

The Superintendent shall recommend suitable and qualified insurance carriers and notify all parents of its availability.

R.C. 3315.062, 3327.09

BOE Review

JOINT SELF-INSURANCE POOL

The Board of Education recognizes the benefits to the District of joining with other boards of education and political subdivisions in providing coverage for the insurance needs of this District and in participating in programs of risk management to prevent loss, reduce expenses, and to control liability.

The Board may, upon formal resolution duly adopted, become a member of a self-insurance group in order to participate in any joint self-insurance fund or funds, risk management programs, or related services offered or provided by the group. The Board's membership in the group will be governed by the bylaws of the insurance group, which must be reviewed and approved by the State Superintendent of Insurance in accordance with law.

Trustees of the self-insurance pool shall be selected in accordance with the bylaws of the insurance group; if the bylaws do not provide for the manner of a trustee's election, the trustee or trustees representing this Board shall be elected by a plurality vote of those Board members present and voting.

R.C. 2744.08, 2744.081

BOE Review

ANTI-FRAUD

The Board of Education expects all its employees to be honest and ethical in their conduct and to refrain from engaging in activities which may be fraudulent, illegal, or otherwise unethical. The District will not tolerate such activities, and will investigate claims of suspected fraud or fraudulent activity and implement appropriate disciplinary measures, when necessary.

Scope

This policy applies to any fraud, or suspected fraud, involving employees, consultants, vendors, contractors, outside agencies and employees of such agencies, and any other parties having a business relationship with the District.

Policy

Fraud and fraudulent activity are strictly prohibited.

Each employee or agent of the District shall be responsible for reporting any observed or suspected fraud or fraudulent activity to his/her immediate supervisor. If the employee's immediate supervisor is not available, responsive, or is the employee whose behavior is in question, the employee may report such information to the Superintendent. If the reported conduct relates to the Superintendent, the report may then be filed directly with the Board President.

All administrators shall attempt to investigate and verify any conduct that appears to constitute fraud within the areas of their responsibility.

All reporting and investigation shall be done in accordance with the District's Whistleblower's AG 1411 (see also AG 3211 and AG 4211).

In addition to or instead of filing a written report with the supervisor or other District authority, the employee may file a report using the Auditor of State's system for reporting fraud in accordance with Ohio law.

Fraud – Definitions

"Fraud" is defined as the intentional, false representation or concealment of a material fact for the purpose of inducing another to act upon it to his/her legal injury. For purposes of this policy, fraud includes the misuse and/or misappropriation of public money by any Board employee member or official, or any office or Department of the District.

The following are examples of prohibited acts:

- A. falsification of any District record (particularly financial records) with the intent to conceal information to the District's detriment or the individual's advantage
- B. forgery of a check, bank draft, wire transfer, or any other District financial document
- C. unauthorized alteration of a financial document or account belonging to the District
- D. misappropriation of funds, supplies, or other assets of the District
- E. impropriety in handling or reporting money or financial transactions

- F. disclosing confidential and proprietary information to outside parties for personal gain (either directly or indirectly)
- G. asking for or accepting anything of material value from contractors, vendors, or persons providing services or materials to the District, except as provided in gift policies
- H. unauthorized destruction, removal, or use of records, furniture, fixtures and/or equipment for personal gain (either directly or indirectly)
- I. misuse of State or Federal funds for other than their designated purposes

This list is meant to illustrate the types of activities that are prohibited. It is not comprehensive. Other misconduct of a similar nature is prohibited.

Confidentiality

The District will maintain confidentiality with regard to the reports of suspected misconduct and the investigation, to the extent consistent with the conduct of an appropriate investigation and its obligations under the Public Records Act. However, absolute confidentiality for reporting witnesses and investigation results cannot be guaranteed.

Except as authorized by the Superintendent or his/her designee, the reporting witness and others interviewed are not to discuss the allegations or investigation with other District employees or officials, vendors or contractors. Such discussions may interfere with the investigation. Further, because of the nature of the alleged misconduct, unsubstantiated allegations that are not privileged could harm an innocent individual's reputation and result in potential civil liability.

Non-Retaliation

Those who, in good faith, report suspected fraudulent activity will not be subject to any retaliation as a result of bringing the suspected misconduct forward. They will be subject to protection of the District's Whistleblower's Policy 1411 (see also Policy 3211 and Policy 4211).