



2018-2019
CERTIFIED EMPLOYEE
HANDBOOK

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Office of Human Resources and School Accreditation
Norfolk Public Schools
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**Norfolk Public Schools
2018-2019
Certified Employees Handbook**

FOREWORD

Section 1 Intent of Handbook

Welcome to Norfolk Public Schools! This handbook is intended to be used by teachers and other certificated staff to provide general information about Norfolk Public Schools and to serve as a guide to the district’s policies, rules, regulations, benefits of employment, and performance expectations.

References in this handbook to “teachers” are intended to apply to all certificated staff. This includes administrative staff to the extent the handbook deals with professional expectations and conduct.

Each teacher is responsible for becoming familiar with the handbook and knowing the information contained in it. Although the information found in this handbook is detailed and specific on many topics, the handbook is not intended to be all encompassing covering every situation and circumstance that may arise. This handbook is intended to supplement other documents that deal with your employment, including your employment contract, the Negotiated Agreement between the Norfolk Public Schools and the Norfolk City Education Association, and the policies and regulations of the Board of Education. In reading this handbook, please understand that where a direct conflict exists; state or federal law, the Negotiated Agreement, and board policies and regulations will dictate decisions.

This handbook does not create a “contract” of employment. Staff positions and assignments which do not legally require a certificate or are otherwise not protected by the teacher tenure laws may be ended or changed on an “at will” basis notwithstanding anything in this handbook or any other publication or statement, except for a contract approved by the Board of Education.

The administration will be responsible for interpreting the rules contained in the handbook and shall have the right to make decisions and make rule revisions at any time. Should a situation or circumstance arise that is not specifically covered in this handbook, the administration will make a decision based upon applicable school district policies, state and federal statutes and regulations, and the best interests of the district.

This handbook will be in effect for the 2018-2019 school year and subsequent school years unless replaced by a later edition.

Section 2 Information About Norfolk Public Schools

Norfolk Public Schools serves approximately 4,300 students in pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade. All-day kindergarten is available in all seven elementary schools, preschool is currently available at Washington and Lincoln Elementary schools, and Lincoln Elementary offers a K-4 Montessori Program. Norfolk Middle School serves grades 5-6, Norfolk Junior High serves grades 7-8, and Norfolk Senior High serves grades 9-12. In addition, Alternatives for Success is a specialized program that provides an alternative, flexible learning environment for 9th through 12th grade students. Career Academies are also in place at the high school. Our High Ability Learner (HAL) program serves intellectually gifted students and our comprehensive special education program provides a wide variety of services for our students with special needs.

The district covers 68.8 square miles in Madison, Pierce, Stanton, and Wayne Counties. Norfolk Public Schools exceeds accreditation requirements of the Nebraska Department of Education. Norfolk High School also outperforms accreditation standards set forth by the AdvancED Commission.

Norfolk Public Schools believes that quality education begins with a quality staff and collaborative partnerships with local businesses and community agencies. Since the first graduating class in 1889, Norfolk Public Schools, in cooperation with the community, have prepared students for the world beyond the walls of the schools.

Section 3 School Vision

It is the vision of the Norfolk Public Schools to be a top-performing school that provides outstanding educational opportunities for every student and is a source of pride and an asset to our community.

Section 4 School Mission Statement

The mission of Norfolk Public Schools is to prepare all students to pursue their goals for the future. An essential education is one that enables students to reach the following outcomes:

- A. Proficient in meeting the State’s academic content standards, essential learning outcomes and such additional standards as established by the Board of Education.
- B. Successful at each educational level and in transitioning between those levels from early childhood through postsecondary education and/or career entry.
- C. Effective in functioning in (and contributing to) our culturally diverse democratic society.

The district seeks to provide students an outstanding education by developing and maintaining:

- A. Qualified and competent administrative, teaching, paraprofessional, and support staff;
- B. Integrated, planned curriculum that prepares students to achieve state standards and such additional standards as are established by the Board of Education and to reach the student outcomes identified above;
- C. Comprehensive support programs and services that meet the diverse needs of students;
- D. Safe, clean, and supportive facilities and learning environments;
- E. Implementation of a curriculum that meets the following:
 - 1. Is based on state standards in reading, writing, speaking, listening, mathematics, science, and social studies/history; and essential learning in visual and performing arts, world languages, technology, health and physical education, and career and technical education; and such additional standards as established by the Board of Education;
 - 2. Is appropriate for the developmental level of the students;
 - 3. Addresses diverse learning needs;
 - 4. Instills a passion for learning and the importance of life-long learning;
 - 5. Develops problem solving and critical thinking skills, decision making skills, data gathering, and critical use of information;
 - 6. Develops expected work ethics, as well as group participation and leadership skills;
 - 7. Incorporates character education and multicultural education, including respect for diversity;
 - 8. Provides for application of technology in all learning areas;
 - 9. Provides access to advanced courses; and
 - 10. Is organized in a schedule that is functional and meets student needs in all curriculum areas.
- F. Providing a supportive learning environment which includes:
 - 1. A welcoming and inviting environment that is emotionally safe, nurturing, supportive, and disciplined; that promotes respect, trust, integrity, and regard for self and others; and that honors diversity;
 - 2. Learning as the central purpose with students engaged in meaningful, relevant, and productive learning experiences; and
 - 3. Implementation of policies and practices that result in an orderly environment with emphasis on consistent school-wide positive behavior.

Section 5 Members of the Board of Education

Name	Contact Information
Arnie Robinson	arnierobinson@npsne.org
Tammy Day	tammyday@npsne.org
Dr. Patti Gubbels	pattigubbels@npsne.org
Bruce Mitchell	brucemitchell@npsne.org
Robert Waite	bobwaite@npsne.org
Sandy Wolfe	sandywolfe@npsne.org

Section 6 Administrative Staff

Name	Position
Dr. Jami Jo Thompson	Superintendent
Dr. William Robinson	Associate Superintendent of Business Services
Michael Hart	Director of Human Resources/Accreditation
Beth Nelson	Director of Teaching and Learning
Mary Luhr	Director of Student Services and Special Education
Derek Ippensen	Principal, Norfolk High School/Alternatives for Success
Ben Ries	Assistant Principal/Activities Director, Norfolk High School
Jason Settles	Assistant Principal, Norfolk High School
Erik Wilson	Assistant Principal, Norfolk High School
John Erwin	Dean of Students, Norfolk High School
Chuck Hughes	Principal, Norfolk Middle School
Ryan Specht	Assistant Principal, Norfolk Middle School
Jen Robinson	Principal, Norfolk Junior High
Josh Weber	Assistant Principal, Norfolk Junior High
Beau Viergutz	Dean of Students, Norfolk Junior High School
Trisha Andreasen	Principal, Bel Air Elementary
Troy Berryman	Principal, Grant Elementary and Lincoln Montessori Elementary
Angie Hausmann	Principal, Jefferson Elementary
Jo Roberts	Principal, Washington Elementary
Melissa Jantz	Principal, Little Panthers Preschool
Angie Baumann	Principal, Westside Elementary
Bruce Strong	Principal, Woodland Park

Section 7 Teachers, Coaches and Activity Sponsors

- For the most up to date information about our certified staff, coaches and activity sponsors, please go to our district website at www.norfolkpublicschools.org

Section 8 Support Staff

- For the most up to date information about our classified support staff, please go to our website at www.norfolkpublicschools.org

Section 9 Grant Coordinators/Facilitators

Name	Building	Position
Austin Casselberry	Norfolk Middle School	Aftershock Coordinator
Lacy Rehan	Central Office	Sixpence Family Facilitator
Jeff Hoffman	Norfolk High School	Career Academy Coordinator
Xanat Naranjo	Central Office	Sixpence Family Facilitator

Section 10 Norfolk Public Schools Foundation

Name	Position
Sarah Dittmer	Executive Director
Jim Reedy	Board President
Jenna Hatfield - Waite	Vice President
Mary Meyer	Treasurer
Connie Kube	Secretary
Troy Brooks	Board Member
Brad Easland	Board Member
Ann Feidler-Klein	Board Member
Brenda Carhart	Board Member
Troy Strom	Board Member
Diane Tremain	Board Member
Lisa Walters	Board Member
Bobbi Theisen	Board Member
April Pearson	Board Member
Julie Robinson	Board Member
Nate Stratton	Board Member
Dave Merritt	Board Member
Dr. Jami Jo Thompson	Superintendent of Schools
Sandy Wolfe	Board of Education Representative

Article 1 – SCHOOL CALENDAR AND SCHEDULES

Section 1 School Calendar

- The School Calendar is attached as Appendix C.

Section 2 Daily Schedules

- **Norfolk Senior High School:** Grades 9-12
- Students - 8:00 a.m. – 3:25 p.m.

- **Norfolk Junior High School:** Grades 7-8
- Students - 8:00 a.m. – 3:25 p.m.

- **Norfolk Middle School:** Grades 5-6
- Students - 8:00 a.m. – 3:20 p.m.

- **Norfolk Elementary Schools:** Grades K-4
- Students - 8:05 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.

- **All Teachers:** Grades K-12
- 7:45 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

Section 3 Severe Weather and School Cancellations

The Superintendent is authorized by the Board of Education to close school in case of severe weather. Representatives of the Superintendent's staff will notify local news media when inclement weather warrants such action. The information is broadcast regularly by radio and television stations.

Decision to Close Schools. A decision to close school is made when forecasts by the weather service and civil defense officials indicate that it would be unwise for students to go to school. If possible, a decision about the next school day will be made by 9 p.m. for announcement during the 10 p.m. news. An early decision is not always possible because of uncertain weather conditions. School officials will make periodic assessments of conditions during the night and will decide early in the morning (by 6 a.m. if possible) whether to have school or not. The decision to cancel school is never an easy one, but the decision will always be made with student and staff safety at the forefront. In any case, an announcement will be made to the news media when schools will be closed. In some instances, schools will be open, but certain services may be cancelled (bus transportation, kindergarten, student activities). Some staff may be designated as being required to come to school even in the event of a school closing.

After School Starts. Every attempt will be made to avoid closing school once classes are in session. In some instances closing school during the day is inevitable if children are to safely return home before the brunt of a major storm hits. In these cases as much advance notice as possible will be given. If school is closed during the day, staff will be notified and parents will be notified via various media broadcasts. Teachers will be responsible for remaining with students until all students have safely left school or the administration has made arrangements for remaining students.

Parental Decisions. Parents may decide to keep their children at home in inclement weather because of personal circumstances. Students absent because of severe weather when school is in session will be marked absent. You should treat the absence like any other absence for legitimate causes provided parents properly notify the school of their decision. Parents may pick up their children in inclement weather (except in case of a tornado) at any time during the school day. Students will not normally be dismissed from school during severe weather on the basis of a telephone request.

Emergency Conditions. Norfolk Public Schools uses a Standard Response Protocol (SRP) which, when implemented, includes the necessity to either evacuate the building or to move to safer areas of the building. All regular drills are held as required by law throughout the school year. There are plans for Lockdown, Lockout, Evacuate, and Shelter. **School officials are not permitted to release students from the school building during a tornado warning.** In the event of a severe weather warning, you should implement the school's designated safety protocols.

Section 4 Employment and Contract Days

A teacher is employed by Norfolk Public Schools when the teacher signs the Teacher's Contract and the Board of Education approves such contract of employment. The teacher's employment continues absent action by the administration or the Board of Education to non-renew, terminate, amend or cancel the teacher's employment contract with the school district, or action by the Board of Education to accept a resignation of employment.

On or after March 15th of each school year a teacher may be requested to accept employment for the next school year and shall be required to signify such acceptance on or before **April 1st** or such other date after March 15th as may be designated in the notice. It is important for teachers to respond to the request to signify acceptance because failure to signify acceptance of employment by the designated date shall constitute cause for amendment of termination of the teacher's contract. If a teacher signifies acceptance of employment for the next school year, the teacher may either be issued a new Teacher's Contract or a "Contract Renewal Agreement."

Should a teacher wish to resign from employment, the teacher should give written notice of resignation to the Superintendent. The request to resign will be acted upon by the Board of Education. Mid-year resignations and resignations given late in the spring for the following school year can present significant planning problems for the district. If a mid-year resignation is submitted, or a resignation for the following school year is submitted **after April 1st** or after the teacher has signified acceptance of employment for the next school year, the Board of Education may act to not accept the resignation unless a suitable replacement can be found. The district will enforce the continuing contract of teachers accepting employment for the next school year under the provisions of Neb Rev. Stat. §79-829.

Teachers are contracted for 188 days (192 days for new teachers) (hereinafter referred to as the "contract year"). Such contract days shall be fulfilled by individual teachers on varying schedules as established by the Board of Education and administration.

Section 5 Make-Up Days

Policy # 4005

Any teacher, including those living outside or within the School District, who is absent from school during the school year due to weather or road conditions may use a personal day. If no personal days are available, the staff member shall receive a deduction from their salary based on the number of days of service contained in the teacher's contract.

All teachers will be required to attend faculty meetings and school events as well as attend pre-school and post-school workshops and reporting days as determined by the Superintendent. In the event the Norfolk Public Schools dismisses school more than two (2) school days for snow or other reasons related to inclement weather prior to

March 1st the additional missed days (up to 2) will be made up by eliminating days from Spring Break. The Superintendent will make the announcement regarding Spring Break Make up Days **prior to March 1st**. If additional days of school are missed due to weather after this announcement they will not be made up unless it is necessary in order to meet NDE’s Instructional Hours Requirement. If additional days are needed for this reason, parents and staff will be notified as soon as practicable.

Section 6 Address Change

It is necessary that an accurate directory of all employees of the school district be kept in the Central Office. Employees changing their address or phone number should report such changes to the payroll office at the Central Office as soon as possible IN WRITING (e-mail notification is appropriate).

Article 2: Community Relations

Section 1 Visiting Schools

Policy 1010

All visitors to any school building are required to report immediately to the office. All visitors must have a visitor badge. In addition, any individuals who may create a disruption to the educational program may be removed from school grounds.

Teachers are not to have personal visitors on school property, except on a short-term basis and only with permission of the building principal. Included in the definition of visitors are family members of the teacher. Visitors should follow posted procedures for being on school property. Teachers are not to bring their children to school with them in lieu of taking them to childcare.

Section 2 Advertising and Promotion

Policy 1060

Advertisements, promotions, soliciting, and fund drives conducted in the school buildings or on school grounds are sometimes inevitable, sometimes necessary, and sometimes important. Care shall be taken to consider the effects of such activities upon the student, parents, and the community. Exceptions to advertising and promotion can be located in school board policy. If approved, copies of all promotional materials to be distributed directly to students must be provided by the promoter in both English and Spanish.

Section 3 Community Use of School Facilities

Policy 1100

School facilities are primarily intended for the district’s educational and extracurricular activity programs. School facilities are, however, made available for use by outside groups to further the interests of the district and the community. Use by non-school groups is allowed pursuant to an application process and is subject to the terms and conditions set forth in school board policy. The application for use of a school facility is listed on our district website under the “Business Services” tab.

Section 4 Recording of Others

Policy 1102

To ensure the privacy and confidentiality of student information, no person is authorized to record or transmit any sound or image of any person (including themselves) without the prior consent or authorization of either (1) the person or persons being recorded or whose image or sound is being transmitted, (2) by authorized staff for purposes of child welfare (for example, to record images of injuries to students caused or believed to be caused by another person), or (3) the Superintendent or Superintendent’s designee. This prohibition applies to all persons, including staff, students and community members, regardless of the content or context of the image or sound; however, this provision shall not apply to District-sponsored athletic or activity events where the focus of the recording or transmission is on the student performances or activity. Nothing in this provision shall prohibit the recording of an

Individualized Education Program meeting if the recording is necessary to ensure that the parent understands the IEP or the IEP process or to implement other parental rights guaranteed by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Section 5 Bulletin Boards, Display Case, and Posted Materials Policy 1110

Bulletin boards and display cases are available for school-related and approved materials to be posted and displayed. Posters to be used in the halls or materials for distribution will need to be approved by the Director of Student Services or building principal. Posters are not to be attached to any painted wall surfaces. The person or organization responsible for distributing the posters is responsible to see that all posters are removed within 48 hours after the event.

Section 6 Service Animals Policy 1260

The district will follow the requirements of state and federal law and regulations with regard to service animals.

Legal Reference: Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), 28 CFR §28.104 and §35.136; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504); and Neb. Rev. Stat. §§20-126.01 and 20-127

Section 7 Fund Raising Activities Policy 1300

As defined by this policy, fund raising is the selling of a product, providing a service or activity, or requesting donations of any kind. School fundraising directly funds school programs and student organizations.

All fundraising for student organizations and charitable giving campaigns must have prior administrative approval. School district employees who supervise official school programs or extracurricular activities are directed not to organize, conduct, or involve students in fundraising activities unless the fundraising activity has been approved by the building administrator or activities director. More information about fundraising can be found on our district website under the “Business Services” tab.

Section 8 Parent Organizations Policy 1410

The Board of Education recognizes Parent -Teacher Associations and other school/parent groups as vital factors in establishing and maintaining positive community relationships. Staff members are asked to cooperate and coordinate their efforts with the officials of these organizations and assist in their work as needed.

Section 9 School Personnel and the Public Policy 1450

It is the Board of Education’s belief that all school employees are obliged to disseminate an encouraging impression of the school district, its programs, and students. All employees are obliged to use insight, serenity, and civility in their interactions with students, parents, and district patrons.

Section 10 School Personnel and the Public Policy 1470

Involvement in community celebrations, patriotic observations, or other special events by student groups is suggested by the Board of Education. School officials are invited to collaborate with any group endorsing positive activities for the youth of our community. All community performances must be approved by the Superintendent or his/her designee.

Section 11 Weapon-Free Workplace

The district prohibits any person from being in possession of a weapon at a school attendance facility, on school property, at a school-supervised activity, or at a school-sponsored function. Any teacher found to be in violation of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

The term "weapon" means an instrument or object used, or which may be used, as a means of attack, defense, or destruction, including, without limitation:

- A. Any object which will, or is designed to, or may readily be converted to, expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or other means;
- B. The frame or receiver of any object described in the preceding example;
- C. Any firearm muffler or silencer;
- D. Any explosive, incendiary or gas (a) bomb, (b) grenade, (c) rocket, (d) missile, (e) mine, or similar device;
- E. Any bludgeon, sandclub, metal knuckles, or throwing star;
- F. Any knife other than as used for strictly instructional or personal care or eating purposes. A pocket knife with a blade of 2-1/2 inches or more is a prohibited weapon. A switch-blade knife is prohibited regardless of size of the blade. A switch-blade knife is defined as a knife with a blade that opens automatically by hand pressure applied to a button, spring, or other device in the handle of a knife, or any knife having a blade that opens or falls or is ejected into position by the force of gravity or by an outward, downward, or centrifugal thrust or movement;
- G. Any electronic device designed to discharge immobilizing levels of electricity, commonly known as a stun gun; and
- H. A teacher may possess mace or other similar chemical agents in quantity and/or concentration typically designed for individual personal defensive purposes and it shall not be considered as possession of a weapon. Possession of larger quantities and/or concentrations of mace or other similar chemical agents than is typically designed for individual personal defensive purposes will be considered as possession of a weapon. Usage of mace or other similar chemical agents will be considered as usage of a weapon if the usage is found to be for non-defensive purposes. A teacher who is negligent in their possession of mace or other similar chemical agents will be subject to disciplinary action.
- I. A teacher may possess an item which may be considered a weapon where such item is used for instructional purposes and the teacher has received approval of the administration to possess the item, provided it is used in the manner approved and is maintained in such manner as the administration has directed.
- J. Any other object that is designed for or intended for use as a destructive or injurious device. The phrase "possession of a weapon" includes, without limitation, a weapon in a teacher's personal possession, as well as in a teacher's motor vehicle, desk, locker, briefcase, backpack, or purse.

Section 12 Parental Involvement

General - Parental/Community Involvement in Schools

The district's policy is to welcome parental involvement in the education of their children. As a part of this policy, employees are expected to:

- A. provide parents timely information about their child's progress, including use of quarterly report cards, active and constructive attendance at parent-teacher conferences, and more frequent parent contacts where warranted by the student's academic and behavioral needs;
- B. make textbooks, completed tests, and other curriculum materials available for review by parents upon request;
- C. permit parents access to their child's records according to law and school policy;
- D. encourage parents to attend courses, assemblies, counseling sessions, and other instructional activities with prior approval of the proper teacher, counselor, or administrator, provided that such parent attendance be educationally appropriate and not disruptive to the educational program;
- E. assure that testing occurs to assure proper measurement of each child's educational progress and achievement;

- F. permit parents to excuse their child from testing, classroom instruction, and other school experiences when possible and educationally appropriate;
- G. notify parents of student surveys in accordance with district policy, obtain parental permission for surveys where required by district policy or law, and allow parents to opt-out of such surveys in accordance with district policy and law; and
- H. encourage parents to express their concerns, share their ideas, and advocate for their child's education.

Title I Parental Involvement

Policy 6410

- A. The District Parent and Family Engagement Policy has been developed jointly with, updated periodically and distributed to parents and family members of participating children and the local community in an understandable and uniform format. This policy agreed on by such parents describes the means for carrying out the requirements as listed below.
 - a. Parents and family members of all students are welcomed and encouraged to become involved with their child's school and education; this includes parents and family members that have limited English proficiency, limited literacy, are economically disadvantaged, have disabilities, racial or ethnic minority background or are migratory children. Information related to school and parent programs, meetings, school reports and other activities are sent to the parents of participating children in a format, and to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.
 - b. Parents are involved in the planning, review, evaluation and improvement of the Title I program, Parent and Family Engagement Policy and the School-Parent Compact at an annual parent meeting scheduled at a convenient time. This would include the planning and implementation of effective parent and family involvement activities.
 - c. Conduct, with meaningful parent and family involvement, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy. Use the evaluation findings to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise the Parent and Family Engagement Policy.
 - d. Opportunities are provided for parents and family members to participate in decisions related to the education of their child/children. The school and local educational agency shall provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities.
 - e. Parents of participating children will be provided timely information about programs under this part, a description and explanation of the curriculum in use, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress and the achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards. The school will provide assistance, opportunities, and/or materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement in a format, and when feasible, in a language the parents and family members can understand.
 - f. Educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, with the assistance of parents in the value and utility of contributions of parents, how to reach out to, communicate with and work with parents as equal partners.
 - g. Coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with other Federal, State and local programs, including preschool programs that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children. Employees are expected to comply with the Title I Parental and Family Engagement policy.

Article 3: Administration

Section 1 Superintendent of Schools Policy 2100

The Superintendent of Schools is the chief executive officer of the Norfolk Public Schools and shall have broad supervision of the school structure. The Superintendent also exercises those functions which are directed by statutes and those which are distinctively selected in the policies and regulations of the Norfolk Public Schools.

Section 2 Principalship Policy 2200

The principal is immediately accountable to the Superintendent for all functions of the supervision of the principal's designated school/schools, and for any universal school duty as assigned by the Superintendent. The principal, however, is the direct supervisor of the assigned school's professional and support staff members.

Section 3 Associate Superintendent Policy 2221

The director and/or Associate Superintendent shall provisionally presume the functions and responsibilities of the Superintendent in the occurrence that the Superintendent is unavailable.

Section 4 Line of Authority Policy 2400

All employees of the school district shall be under the universal guidance of the Superintendent, but shall be under the direct supervision of the building principal or designated supervisor.

Section 5 Administrative Actions in Emergencies Policy 2410

In the occurrence of a crisis or emergency, our first priority is protecting the wellbeing and safekeeping of students and staff. The Superintendent of Schools is in charge of governing and monitoring any emergency incident with the exclusion if the circumstance is limited to a specific building. In this situation, the building principal will take the lead with the Superintendent of Schools directing on crucial judgments.

Section 6 Administrative Action in Absence of Policy Policy 2440

In the instance a challenging judgment is not supported by an existing law, policy, or by regulations, the Superintendent or the superintendent's designee is authorized to determine the resolution deemed best. Decisions made in the deficiency of a needed policy shall be conveyed to the board and the Superintendent shall propose a policy to deal with comparable issues.

Section 7 Confidentiality of Protected Health Information

It is the policy of the district to develop and implement all necessary practices, policies, and procedures to comply with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) where and to the extent applicable and to maintain the privacy of protected health information (PHI), as that term is defined by HIPAA, that it receives, obtains, or transmits for employees and students. The district designates the Superintendent as its HIPAA privacy officer. Student and employee records containing PHI shall be accessible only to those who require such information to carry out their duties.

Article 4: Business Operations

Section 1 Tuition Fees for Non Resident Students Policy 3050

The Board of Education may permit non-resident students to enroll and attend Norfolk Public Schools upon compensation of tuition established by the Board of Education and to the extent required by law.

Section 2 Materials Fees Policy 3060

Each building principal is accountable for developing and requesting budgetary necessities for resources identified as part of the school curriculum. This procedure shall include teachers, coaches, and other instructional personnel.

Section 3 Summer School Fees Policy 3070

Students who take summer school classes out of district shall be required to pay their own tuition and operating cost. In the occurrence that Norfolk Public Schools offers summer school instruction, tuition charges shall not surpass the costs incurred in operation.

Section 4 Sales and Disposal of Books, Equipment/Supplies Policy 3090

The Superintendent of Schools is sanctioned to dispose of books, furniture, equipment, and other materials that are obsolete. Any sale of school assets is conditional on consent by the vote of the Board of Education. Disposal may be public or private sale, or by taking bids.

Section 5 Purchasing Policy 3130

- A. No student, teacher, or employee of the board shall have power to purchase, or agree to purchase, any supplies or materials for use in the public schools, whether or not to be sold to students or used in any department whatsoever, except by a proper requisition for a purchase order through the appropriate office. This also applies to purchase of services, such as printing, etc.
- B. When ordering supplies or materials through the Central Supply catalog, a requisition form signed by the principal/supervisor must be submitted to the Central Office for processing. The requisitioner should specify item number and description and keep a copy for his/her records. Be sure to include budget code number on the requisition.

Section 6 Inventory of Equipment Policy 3190

At the close of the school year, each instructor or department will make and certify to a complete inventory of materials and equipment on respective forms. This inventory documentation shall include at least three copies; one copy shall be filed with the principal of the building; one copy retained by the instructor; and one copy filed with the Associate Superintendent for Business Services. At the close of the school year, or when a teacher terminates employment, all three copies of the inventory shall be checked in at the principal's office. Any irregularities must be reported to the Associate Superintendent for Business Services at once. **ADMINISTRATORS - PLEASE NOTE: Building principals will personally check the inventory sheets.**

Building and room inventories:

- A. Inventories should be completed by rooms as well as buildings. It is very important that our inventories of furniture and equipment are up-to-date. This is important not only because we need to know exactly what we have in each building, department, and room so that we will know at all times whether we are adequately equipped; but also for insurance purposes. If we were to have a loss through fire, tornado, or some other catastrophe, we would need to prove what we have in the building. It is necessary, therefore, that each building principal make certain that the inventory sheets are up-to-date. If at all possible, specify the type of furniture. For example, it would be helpful to know that desks in a certain room are American Seating, Heywood-Wakefield, Artcobell, or another make.
- B. The transfer of furniture and/or equipment from one building to another is allowed to take place only when the loaning principal and borrowing principal are aware of such a transfer. It is the responsibility of the borrowing principal, through the Supervisor of Building and Grounds or a designee, to be certain the loaning principal is informed of the specific furniture and/or equipment borrowed, which building will house the material, and the duration of the transfer. Both principals will be asked to document the equipment transfer whenever such transfer occurs.
- C. The athletic director will check athletic inventories with each coach before the coach will be permitted to check out in the spring.
- D. Principals will thoroughly check room and teachers' inventories before approving "checkout" sheets.

Section 7 Monies in School Buildings

Policy 3200

All monies collected shall be receipted and accounted for and directed without delay to the proper location of deposit. Monies collected shall be managed in a good and prudent business manner.

Section 8 Video Surveillance

Policy 3231

The Board of Education has authorized the use of video cameras on school district property to ensure the health, welfare, and safety of all staff, students, and visitors to district property, and to safeguard district facilities and equipment. Video cameras may be used in locations as deemed appropriate by the superintendent.

Notice is hereby given that video surveillance may occur on district property. In the event a video surveillance recording captures a student or other building user violating school policies or rules or local, state, or federal laws, the video surveillance recording may be used in appropriate disciplinary proceedings against the student or other building user and may also be provided to law enforcement agencies.

Section 9 Risk Management and Safety Committee

Policy 3240

The district has established a Safety and Security Management Plan which includes safety and security plans and procedures, including plans and procedures to address emergency and crisis situations. Teachers are expected to be familiar with and to comply with the Safety and Security Management Plan. The plan may be obtained for review or copy from the principal or the Superintendent.

The district also has a safety committee to address employee accidents, injuries, and work place conditions. Representatives who serve on the committee are appointed by the administration. Teachers can make suggestions and/or report concerns to the safety committee by contacting members of the safety committee or their building principal.

Safety Practices

Guidelines for safe work practices which teachers should follow include the following:

- A. Never stand on chairs, counters, tables, etc. Only use step stools, ladders and, locking stools to stand, climb, etc., to reach high places, put things on bulletin boards, etc.
- B. Always wear protective equipment (i.e., goggles, aprons, gloves, and ear protection).
- C. Wipe up spills or report promptly to appropriate personnel. DO NOT assume someone else will do it.
- D. Be aware of your surroundings. Pick up clutter, keep your work area or room clean and free of clutter, debris, etc.
- E. Identify and report all hazards (i.e., broken equipment, broken or uneven floor surfaces, non-operating tools, windows, doors, etc.). Follow up if not repaired.
- F. Do not use equipment if you are not familiar with it or operate machinery without proper training.
- G. Do not carry heavy or bulky objects. Get a cart, dolly or assistance. Know how to properly lift.
- H. Report any injuries or medical problems to your supervisor immediately and complete the employee accident report.
- I. Wear seatbelts when in vehicles where provided.
- J. Do not do repetitive tasks for long periods of time (i.e., keyboarding, dipping cookies, cutting out things, filing, typing, etc.). Take breaks, learn and do stretching exercises, etc. Every accident in the school building, on the school grounds, at practice sessions, or at any athletic event sponsored by the school must be reported immediately to the principal.

As required by law, approved safety glasses will be required of every student and teacher while participating in or observing vocational, technical, industrial technology, science, and art classes. All visitors to these areas must check out a pair of safety glasses when entering any of these areas.

Accidents

Every accident which results in a personal injury must be reported to the principal immediately. In the event the injury involves a student, the teacher responsible for the student either as teacher, coach or sponsor is responsible for making the report. If the injury occurs in the presence of the teacher, the teacher is also responsible for making a report.

Workers Compensation

Teachers are required to immediately report any work-related injury and/or work-related medical condition to their supervisor and complete all appropriate paperwork.

Section 10 Trespassers

Policy 3250

Restrictions on the use of school buildings and grounds may be utilized by administrative action. Building administrators and their designees have the authorization to employ and impose boundaries on access. Such measures will be in accordance with constitutional and other legal rights.

Section 11 Safe Driving Record Standards for Drivers

Policy 3410

Employees who drive school vehicles to transport students must have a valid driver's license and proof of insurance. Employees will be given instruction on emergency evacuation and first aid and provided a Driver's Certification form following completion of the district driving class.

Employees who drive school vehicles are responsible for following safe driving practices. Employees are to abide by all rules of the road and any applicable rules of the Nebraska Department of Education and the district relating to driving a motor vehicle. Seat belts and child restraint systems will be utilized by all occupants. Failure to do so could result in personal liability. When transporting students or using a school vehicle, employees are not to use cell

phones or otherwise engage in distracted driving. This rule applies to the driver when the vehicle is in motion. The only exception would be in the case of emergencies. Employees are prohibited from transporting students in their personal vehicle.

Section 12 Transportation

Policy 3520

Norfolk Public Schools does not offer free transportation to and from school aside from conditions where administration establishes it suitable for students who would otherwise be allowed by law to a transportation stipend. Transportation will be provided for school activities and field trips as determined by administration.

Section 13 Rebates to School Personnel

Policy 3550

School employees and board members shall not receive anything of value (commission, paid trips) from individuals or companies from which the school district purchases equipment or materials in the operation of the school district.

Section 14 Asbestos

Asbestos

You are hereby notified that current federal regulations require all schools to inventory asbestos-containing material and to develop a management plan to identify and control asbestos in their buildings. In addition, each parent, teacher, and employee organization must be notified annually about inspections, re-inspections, response actions, and past response actions and activities, including periodic surveillance that is planned or in progress. This handbook insert shall serve as that official notice to each employee. Each school building in the Norfolk Public Schools has had a six-month surveillance inspection and a three-year inspection, with the last three-year inspection conducted by certified in-house personnel. All other types of asbestos activities are posted in the Public Notice ads of the Norfolk Daily News as the district needs to address those types of activities. The plan for each building is available at the Central Administration Building and at each school for that particular school for inspection (without cost) to any interested person. The district may charge for copies of the plan. The plan for each building has also been submitted to the Nebraska Department of Health, Division of Environmental Health and Housing surveillance in accordance with federal regulations. For more information on the Asbestos Management Plan, contact the Associate Superintendent for Business Services, 512 Philip Avenue, Norfolk, Nebraska 68701, (402) 644-2500.

Section 15 Security of Desks and Lockers

Offices, teacher desks, lockers, file cabinets and other such storage devices (“storage devices”) are owned by the school and are to be properly cared for and maintained. Appropriate security measures should be used to protect school and personal property kept in storage devices from theft or vandalism and to protect confidential student records.

The school exercises exclusive control over school property and reserves the right to search offices and storage devices provided to or used by employees where permitted by law, such as where reasonable grounds exist for suspecting that a search will turn up evidence that the employee has committed work-related misconduct, or that a search is necessary for a non-investigatory work-related purpose, such as to retrieve a file. School-related documents or records must remain readily available to administration and other appropriate school staff. Any personal items a teacher wants to have kept private should be kept in a separate personal storage device, such as a brief case, purse or backpack.

The district is not responsible for any personal property teachers may bring to school. Teachers are cautioned not to bring large amounts of money or items of significant value to school.

Section 16 Care of School Property

Teachers are responsible for the proper care of all books, equipment, supplies and furniture supplied by the school. If an item is in need of maintenance or repair, report it to the principal. If you learn that a student has damaged school property or equipment, or if you are responsible for damage to school property, promptly report it to the principal so the item may be replaced or repaired if possible and appropriate responsibility for the cost of replacement or repair may be determined.

Section 17 Use of Telephone

Personal telephone calls shall not be made during duty time except in the event of an emergency. Long distance calls on school telephones should be made from the office when possible. Staff need to promptly log long distance calls in accordance with building procedures and be responsible for any charges which are for personal use.

Section 18 Funds

Receipts

- A. No assessments against students (other than fines) shall be made until permission is secured from the building principal and/or the Superintendent.
- B. New organizations requiring payment of dues, fees, or assessments may not be organized without permission of the building principal and/or the Superintendent.
- C. Certain monies collected by Middle School instructors, Junior High instructors or Senior High instructors shall be checked in to their respective secretaries.
- D. Secretaries shall give a receipt for all money paid to them, showing to what fund the same is credited.

The office secretary shall make a monthly report for all subsidiary accounts to persons concerned if requested to do so. These funds cannot be drawn on except through the secretary under the direction the authorized persons concerned and with the approval of the building principal or the Superintendent of Schools.

No money shall be kept in the offices, library, teacher's desks, or in file cabinets overnight. During the day such funds should be kept under lock and key.

Article 5: Personnel

Section 1 Recruitment and Selection

Policy 4001

Norfolk Public Schools will recruit and endorse for employment the best skilled staff. When vacancies exist, the administration may ponder reassignment of existing staff or implore applicants by advertising. Preferred applicants must suit the requirements set by the Board of Education and laws of the State of Nebraska. Rehiring of a former employee is conditional upon the former employee having an affirmative performance profile with the district.

Section 2 Equal Opportunity Employment

Policy 4002

It is the charge of Norfolk Public Schools to employ the best skilled candidate for each vacancy without regard to sex, disability, race, color, religion, veteran status, national or ethnic origin, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, or other protected status. There shall be no prejudice by school personnel against any employee because of membership in an employee organization or because of protected free speech activities.

Section 3 Anti-discrimination, Anti-harassment and Anti-retaliation, Notice of Nondiscrimination

Policy 4003

Purpose: Norfolk Public Schools is committed to offering employment and educational opportunity to its employees and students in a climate free of discrimination. Accordingly, unlawful discrimination or harassment of any kind by administrators, teachers, co-workers, students or other persons is prohibited. In addition, the Norfolk Public Schools will try to protect employees and students from reported discrimination or harassment by non-employees or others in the work place and educational environment.

For purposes of this policy, discrimination or harassment based on a person's sex, disability, race, color, religion, veteran status, national or ethnic origin, age, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, or other protected status is prohibited. The following are general definitions of what might constitute prohibited harassment.

In general, ethnic or racial slurs or other verbal or physical conduct relating to a person's sex, disability, race, color, religion, veteran status, national or ethnic origin, age, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, or other protected category constitute harassment when they unreasonably interfere with the person's work performance or create an intimidating work, instructional or educational environment.

Age harassment (40 years of age and higher) has been defined by federal regulations as a form of age discrimination. It can consist of demeaning jokes, insults or intimidation based on a person's age.

Sexual harassment is defined by federal and state regulations as a form of sex discrimination. It can consist of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or physical or verbal conduct of a sexual nature by supervisors or others in the work place, classroom or educational environment. Sexual harassment may exist when:

- Submission to such conduct is either an explicit or implicit term and condition of employment or of participation and enjoyment of the school's programs and activities;
- Submission to or rejection of such conduct is used or threatened as a basis for employment related decisions, such as promotion, performance, evaluation, pay adjustment, discipline, work assignment, etc., or school program or activity decisions, such as admission, credits, grades, school assignments or playing time;
- The conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or educational performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working, class room or

- educational environment.
- Sexual harassment may include explicit sexual propositions, sexual innuendo, suggestive comments, sexually oriented "kidding" or "teasing", "practical jokes", jokes about gender-specific traits, foul or obscene language or gestures, displays of foul or obscene printed or visual material, and physical contact, such as patting, pinching or brushing against another's body.

Complaint and Grievance Procedures

Employees or students should initially report all instances of discrimination or harassment to their immediate supervisor or classroom teacher. However, if the employee or student is uncomfortable in presenting the problem to the supervisor or teacher, or if the supervisor or teacher is the problem, the employee or student is encouraged to go to the next level of supervision. In the case of a student, the Principal would be the next or alternative person to contact.

If the employee or student's complaint is not resolved to his or her satisfaction within five (5) to ten (10) calendar days, or if the discrimination or harassment continues, or if as a student you feel you need immediate help for any reason, please report your complaint to the Superintendent. If a satisfactory arrangement cannot be obtained through the Superintendent, the complaint may be processed to the Board of Education.

The supervisor, teacher or the Superintendent (or his or her designee) will promptly and thoroughly investigate all complaints. These situations will be treated with the utmost confidence, consistent with resolution of the problem. Based on the results of the investigation, appropriate corrective action, up to and including discharge of offending employees, and disciplinary action up to expulsion against a harassing student, may be taken. Under no circumstances will any threats or retaliation be permitted to be made against an employee or student for alleging in good faith a violation of this policy.

Notice of Nondiscrimination

The Norfolk Public School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex, disability, race, color, religion, veteran status, national or ethnic origin, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, or other protected status in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies:

Students: Mary Luhr, Director of Student Services: 512 Philip Avenue, Norfolk, NE 68701, (402) 644-2500.

Employees and Others: Bill Robinson, Associate Superintendent for Business Affairs; 512 Philip Avenue, Norfolk, NE 68701, (402) 644-2500.

Complaints or concerns involving discrimination or needs for accommodation or access should be addressed to the appropriate Coordinator. For further information about anti-discrimination laws and regulations, or to file a complaint of discrimination with the Office for Civil Rights in the U.S. Department of Education (OCR), please contact the OCR (816) 268--550 (voice), FAX (816) 268-0599, (800) 877-8339 (telecom. device for the deaf), or ocr.kansascity@ed.gov.

Designation of Coordinators**Policy 4003**

Any person having inquiries concerning the district's compliance with anti-discrimination laws or policies or other programs should contact or notify the following person(s) who are designated as the coordinator for such laws, policies or programs. The contact address for the coordinator is: Norfolk Public Schools, 512 Philip Avenue, Norfolk, NE 68702, (402) 644-2500.

Law, Policy or Program	Issue or Concern	Coordinator
Title VII	Discrimination or harassment based on race, color, or national origin; harassment	Director of Student Services
Title IX	Discrimination or harassment based on sex; gender equity	Associate Superintendent of Business Services
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act Americans with Disability Act (ADA)	Discrimination, harassment, or reasonable accommodations of persons with disabilities	504 - Director of Student Services ADA - Associate Superintendent of Business Services
Homeless student laws	Children who are homeless	Director of Student Services
Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities	Safe and drug free schools	Associate Superintendent of Business Services

Grievance Procedure for Persons with a Disability

Policy 1240

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act address discrimination, harassment or failure to provide reasonable accommodations to persons with a disability. The following grievance procedure shall be used for resolution of complaints of alleged violations of the ADA or Section 504:

- A. Complaints shall be filed with the ADA and Section 504 Coordinator. Complaints shall be made in writing, unless the complainant’s disability prevents such, in which event the complaint can be made verbally.
- B. Complaints shall set forth: (a) the name of the complainant, (b) the address and telephone number or other such information sufficient to enable the coordinator to contact the complainant, (c) a brief description of the alleged violation, and (d) the relief requested by the complainant.
- C. Complaints shall be investigated by the coordinator or the coordinator’s designee. Investigations shall be thorough, but informal, and the complainant shall be given a full opportunity to submit evidence relevant to the complaint.
- D. The coordinator shall make a decision on the complaint within thirty (30) days of the filing of the complaint, unless such time period is extended by agreement with the complainant or a longer period is reasonably necessitated by the circumstances. The decision shall be made in writing, shall set forth the coordinator’s proposed resolution of the complaint, and shall be forwarded to the complainant.
- E. The complainant shall have ten (10) days from the date the coordinator’s decision is sent to the complainant to accept or reject the coordinator’s proposed resolution. The complainant shall be deemed to have accepted the proposed resolution unless the complainant rejects the proposed resolution within such time period.
- F. In the event the complainant rejects the proposed resolution, the complainant shall be given the opportunity to file a request for reconsideration within ten (10) days from the date the coordinator’s decision is sent to the complainant. The request for reconsideration shall be filed with the coordinator. Upon receipt of the request for reconsideration, the coordinator shall promptly forward the request for reconsideration and all evidence received by the Coordinator in connection with the complaint to a third person for review (either an administrator or other employee of the district, or members of the Board of Education or committee of the board).
- G. A decision on the request for reconsideration shall be made within ten (10) days after the request for reconsideration was filed unless the board or committee of the board is the reviewer, in which event the decision shall be made within thirty (30) days of the filing of the request for reconsideration, unless such time period is extended by agreement with the complainant or a longer period is reasonably necessitated by the circumstances.

Legal Reference:	Title VI, 42 U.S.C. § 2000d, Title VII, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e, Title IX; 20 U.S.C. § 1681, and the Nebraska Fair Employment Practices Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. §48-1101 et seq. Age Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA), the Older Workers Benefit Protection Act (OWBPA), 29 U.S.C. §621 et seq., and the Nebraska Age Discrimination in Employment Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. §48-1001 et seq.; Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), 42 U.S.C. § 12101 et seq. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504) Pregnancy Discrimination Act, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e(k) Uniform Service Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA), 38 U.S.C. § 4301 et seq. Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-2,115, et seq
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Section 4 Duty Hours of Employees

Policy 4004

Hours of Work & Meetings

Regular, dependable attendance at work is an essential function of a teacher's employment position.

The Board of Education recognizes that teachers' responsibilities to their students and their profession generally involve the performance of duties and the commitment of time beyond the normal working day, but also recognizes that teachers and other educational professionals are entitled to regular time and work schedules on which they can rely in the ordinary course of events and which will be fairly and evenly maintained to the extent possible throughout the school system.

Schools have different start and end times for the student day. Certificated employees assigned to a building will usually spend at least eight hours on site, excluding that duty-free lunch time (30 minutes) which can be spent off-site. The principal will determine the length of time prior to and after the student class schedule for staff to be on-site in order to meet the hour requirements. Staff may leave the building earlier when called to a professional meeting.

Certificated employees are required to serve on playground, lunchroom and hall supervision as designated by the principal. The principal will attempt to make an equitable distribution of such assignments and professional staff shall assume such duties as part of their work and agreement of employment.

Teachers shall attend meetings called by the Superintendent of Schools, principals, department heads and team leaders, except those meetings which are designated for optional attendance.

Arrival to Duty Assignments

Full-time teachers designated on-site work day is 7:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Elementary school teachers are to be in the building and in their classroom no later than 7:45 a.m. and remain on duty until 3:45 p.m. Secondary teachers are to be in the building and in their classroom no later than 7:45 a.m., and remain on duty until 3:45 p.m. Certificated employees other than teachers are expected to meet the same guidelines for entry to the building, being in their assigned duty area, and duty departure time. Teachers and other certificated employees who are part-time or work on adjusted schedules are to be in the building at least 10 minutes before their class or assigned duty begins. During the school day, teachers are to be in their assigned classroom at least five minutes before each period begins to assure that students are not unsupervised within the classroom. Because certificated staff are contracted by days and not hours, there may be times where staff will stay later than the normal duty hours listed above.

Section 5 Absence of Employees

Policy 4005

Absent - Need For Substitute

Instructors who are ill and unable to report for duty should notify the substitute procurement system (Absence Management) and the principal at the earliest possible time, preferably between 6:00-6:30 a.m. Substitutes must be selected from the approved list of substitutes provided by the HR office. Teachers are not to make their own arrangements for a sub without using approved building protocols.

Employees apply for leave in order to carry out obligations (jury/counseling) in which they will be compensated are obligated to dispatch to the district either the compensation garnered beyond operating expense or their district wages for time missed. Absence or suspension of any employee shall result in loss of pay for the period excluding as otherwise provided by policy or law.

Weather Related Absence – Any teacher, living outside or within the school district, who is absent from school due to weather or road conditions may use a personal day. If no personal days are available, staff shall receive a deduction from their salary.

Section 6 Absence from Building

Policy 4006

Employees may not be absent from assignments during duty hours unless granted authorization from their immediate supervisor or the Superintendent. An employee may be released from the building for one class period with authorization of immediate supervisor or the Superintendent for affairs of personal business which cannot be fulfilled after school hours.

Section 7 Returning from Absences

- A. *Justification for Absences Taken Without Prior Approval.* If an employee is absent without advance approval either: (1) the day immediately preceding or immediately following a regularly scheduled school break (such as winter break, spring break, and quarter or semester breaks) or (2) during the first two weeks or the last two weeks of school (student contact days), the employee will be required to give verification (for example, a doctor’s note) to establish that the employee was unable to work for an excusable condition or excusable reason.
- B. *Establishing Fitness for Duty.* Employees must present a written statement from their physician or health care provider to their supervisor when absent for any period of time because of injury requiring care from a physician or health care provider, or absent from work for 5 days or more due to a personal health condition. The statement is to clearly verify that the employee is mentally and physically able to return to duty. This statement is to be presented in person to the employee’s supervisor before the employee returns to duty in order that the readiness to perform work can be observed and discussed.

Employees are required to disclose any medical restrictions that limit their ability to perform the essential functions of their position by written notification from the employee’s physician to their supervisor and, if needed, request a meeting with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator to discuss the provision of reasonable accommodations. The district will not discriminate against any employee due to disability and will provide reasonable accommodations. Information provided about medical conditions or disabilities shall be treated as confidential, as required by state and federal statutes, and will be divulged only to the extent necessary to provide reasonable accommodations.

Section 8 Family and Medical Leave Act

Policy 4007

Employee Rights and Responsibilities under the Family and Medical Leave Act

Family and medical leaves shall be allowed under the terms and conditions of the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, as amended (FMLA).

Basic Leave Entitlement. FMLA provides up to 12 weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave to eligible employees for the following reasons:

- A. For incapacity due to pregnancy, prenatal medical care or child birth;
- B. To care for your child after birth, or placement for adoption or foster care;
- C. To care for an immediate family member who has a serious health condition (an immediate family member is defined as: husband, wife, child, mother, father, sister, brother, mother/father-in-law, brother/sister-in-law, grandparents, grandchild, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, and daughter/son-in-law); or
- D. For a serious health condition that makes you unable to perform your job.

The “leave year” for purposes of the FMLA is a “rolling” 12-month period, measured backward from the date of any

FMLA leave usage.

Military Leave Entitlement. Eligible employees with a spouse, son, daughter, or parent on active duty or call to active duty status in the National Guard or Reserves in support of a contingency operation may use their 12-week leave entitlement to address certain qualifying criteria. Qualifying criteria may include attending certain military events, arranging for alternative childcare, addressing certain financial and legal arrangements, attending certain counseling sessions, and attending post-deployment reintegration briefings.

FMLA also includes a special leave entitlement that permits eligible employees to take up to 26 weeks of leave to care for a covered service member during a 12-month period. A covered service member is a current member of the Armed Forces, including a member of the National Guard or Reserves, who has a serious injury or illness incurred in the line of duty on active duty that may render the service member medically unfit to perform his or her duties for which the service member is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy; or is in outpatient status; or is on the temporary disability retired list.

Benefits and Protections. During FMLA leave, a teacher's health coverage under a "group health plan" will be maintained on the same terms as if the teacher had continued to work. Upon return from FMLA leave, most employees must be restored to their original or an equivalent position with equivalent pay, benefits, and other employment terms.

A teacher's use of FMLA leave will not result in the loss of any employment benefit that accrued prior to the start of the FMLA leave.

Eligibility Requirements. A teacher is eligible if he or she has been employed with Norfolk Public Schools for at least one year, for 1,250 hours over the previous 12 months, and if there are at least 50 employees of Norfolk Public Schools within 75 miles of your work location.

Definition of Serious Health Condition. A serious health condition is an illness, injury, impairment, or physical or mental condition that involves either an overnight stay in a medical care facility, or continuing treatment by a health care provider for a condition that either prevents a teacher from performing the functions of his or her job, or prevents the qualified family member from participating in school or other daily activities.

Subject to certain conditions, the continuing treatment requirement may be met by a period of incapacity of more than three consecutive calendar days combined with at least two visits to a health care provider or one visit and a regiment of continuing treatment, or incapacity due to pregnancy, or incapacity due to a chronic condition. Other conditions may meet the definition of continuing treatment.

Use of Leave. A teacher does not need to use FMLA leave entitlement in one block. Leave can be taken intermittently or on a reduced leave schedule when medically necessary. The teacher must make reasonable efforts to schedule leave for planned medical treatment so as not to unduly disrupt the District's operations. Leave due to qualifying exigencies may also be taken on an intermittent basis.

Substitution of Paid Leave for Unpaid Leave. The teacher may choose or Norfolk Public Schools may require use of accrued paid leave while taking FMLA leave. In order to use paid leave for FMLA leave, the teacher must comply with the district's normal paid leave policies.

Employee Responsibilities. The teacher must provide sufficient information for the district to determine if the leave may qualify for FMLA protection and the anticipated timing and duration of the leave. Sufficient information may include that the teacher is unable to perform job functions, the family member is unable to perform daily activities, the need for hospitalization or continuing treatment by a health care provider, or circumstances supporting the need for military family leave. The teacher also must inform the district if the requested leave is for a reason for which FMLA leave was previously taken or certified. The teacher also may be required to provide a certification and periodic recertification supporting the need for leave.

Employer Responsibilities. The district will inform employees requesting leave whether they are eligible under FMLA. If they are, the notice will specify any additional information required as well as the employees' rights and responsibilities. If they are not eligible, the district will provide a reason for the ineligibility.

The district will inform employees if leave will be designated as FMLA-protected and the amount of leave counted against the employee's leave entitlement. If the district determines that the leave is not FMLA-protected, the district will notify the employee.

Unlawful Acts by Employers. FMLA makes it unlawful for any employer to:

- A. Interfere with, restrain, or deny the exercise of any right provided under FMLA;
- B. Discharge or discriminate against any person for opposing any practice made unlawful by FMLA or for involvement in any proceeding under or relating to FMLA.

Enforcement. An employee may file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Labor or may bring a private lawsuit against an employer.

FMLA does not affect any federal or state law prohibiting discrimination, or supersede any state or local law or collective bargaining agreement which provides greater family or medical leave rights.

For additional information you may refer to FMLA posters on employee bulletin boards or contact the U.S. Wage and Hour Division at:

1-866-4US-WAGE (1-866-487-9243) TTY: 1-877-889-5627

www.wagehour.dol.gov

To submit a request for use of FMLA, or to make arrangements for payment of benefits while on an FMLA leave, contact the Superintendent or their designee at (402) 644-2500.

*Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 55-160 to 55-166
Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 55-501 to 55-507
29 U.S.C. §§ 2611, et seq.; 29 CFR Part 825 (FMLA)
38 U.S.C. §§ 4301 to 4333; 20 CFR Part 1002 (USERRA)*

Section 9 Adoption Leave

Policy 4008

Adoption leave will be permitted to be taken by an adoptive parent for the same time and on the same terms as a teacher is permitted to take a leave of absence upon the birth of the teacher's child.

The adoptive parent leave of absence begins following the commencement of the parent-child relationship. The parent-child relationship commences, for purposes of adoption leave, when the child is placed with the teacher for purposes of adoption. The teacher shall be deemed to have waived any adoptive leave days not taken following the commencement of the parent-child relationship, except as the superintendent and the teacher may otherwise agree. Advance notice of an anticipated adoption shall be provided by the teacher to the Superintendent or their designee as early as possible.

Legal Reference: § 48-234

Section 10 Drug and Substance Use and Abuse

Policy 4009

Drug-Free Workplace

The district has established the school as a drug free workplace. The drug-free workplace for this purpose includes school grounds, school utilized vehicles, and places in which school activities are held.

The unlawful manufacture, distribution, disposition, possession, or use of a controlled substance is prohibited in the work place. The possession, use or distribution of illicit drugs or alcohol, the use of glue or aerosol paint or any other chemical substance for inhalation, and being under the influence of illicit drugs, alcohol, or inhalants is prohibited in any place while teachers are on duty time. Any level of impairment from illicit drugs, alcohol, or inhalants, and the presence of any odor of illicit drugs (such as marijuana) or alcohol on a teacher in the work place or on duty time shall be a violation of the drug-free workplace. The possession or distribution of a look-alike drug or look-alike controlled substance is prohibited. In addition, teachers are expected to serve as role models for students and will be considered to have violated the district's expectations in the event the teacher commits a criminal drug or alcohol offense off the work place or off duty time.

As a condition of employment teachers will abide by the district's drug-free workplace policies and notify the Superintendent of any criminal drug statute conviction for a violation occurring in the workplace no later than 5 days after such conviction. Disciplinary sanctions up to and including termination of employment and referral for prosecution will be imposed for violations of the district's drug-free workplace policies. Sanctions may include the requirement that the teacher complete an appropriate rehabilitation program, a reprimand, and termination of employment. Drug and alcohol counseling and rehabilitation and reentry programs are available through local health agencies.

Smoke and Tobacco-Free Workplace

The use of tobacco products is prohibited in all school buildings and all school vehicles. Smoking shall also be prohibited in any area where school staff, students or members of the public may be present or may be affected by smoke, including without limitation the stands and bleachers of outdoor athletic fields and near the entry of school buildings.

For purposes of this policy, tobacco means any tobacco product (including but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, and chewing tobacco), vapor products (such as e-cigarettes), alternative nicotine products, tobacco product look-alikes, and products intended to replicate tobacco products either by appearance or effect. This does not preclude adults from wearing non-visible nicotine patches, or using nicotine gum without displaying the product container, as part of a smoking cessation program.

Section 11 Bloodborne Pathogen Compliance

Policy 4011

The school district shall collaborate with county and state health departments in utilizing measures for the management of communicable disease in school district programs and activities. Procedures shall correspond to the system for communicable disease control set by the state health department.

Section 12 Infectious Diseases

Policy 4012

In the occurrence that a student, employee, or other person in recurrent exchange with students, employees, or others present in Norfolk Public Schools contracts an infectious disease, the determination of whether that person should be allowed to continue on duty, be present at or partake in school activities shall be made on a case-by-case basis.

Section 13 Personnel Files

Policy 4013

The district will follow the requirements of state and federal law and regulation with regard to a teacher's personnel file, including but not limited to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-8,109.

**Section 14 Receiving Agents, Salespersons, and
Other Business Representatives**

Policy 4014

Teachers need not allow, and should not permit, any salesperson or representative or agent of any commercial enterprise or theatrical presentation to contact the teacher while engaged in the teacher's duties except for such times as may be designated by the Superintendent or designee. By law, the hours of no solicitation are between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on all days school is in session. If you are required to be at work earlier than 8:30 a.m., the hours are extended to that earlier time as well.

Teachers shall not use classrooms, buildings or other school property for personal use or profit without specific approval from the Superintendent or designee. Teachers shall not use time for which the teacher is on duty or paid by the district to engage in any activity for personal financial profit. Any violation of this policy will be held to be willful insubordination.

Section 15 Unauthorized Purchases

Policy 4015

An employee who orders school supplies/equipment without approval may be personally accountable for compensation of the materials ordered.

Section 16 Use of School Facilities and Equipment by School Employees

Policy 4016

Teachers will be issued keys to the school. Teachers are expected to not lose their keys and to not allow others to have access to or to use their keys. Teachers are permitted to have access to school facilities during non-school time provided such access is for work-related purposes. When teachers leave the building, they are to close all windows, lock their classroom door, and make sure that the entry door is fully closed and locked. This is especially important when teachers are using the school facilities prior to the beginning of the school year and during any weekend or evening usage. Teachers will be responsible for the costs incurred to replace keys.

School property is to be used for approved work-related purposes and not for personal purposes or for personal gain or benefit. Use of school supplies (paper, staples, etc.), school equipment (copiers, fax machines, telephones, etc.), and school postage is to be for approved school-related purposes only. Excess or surplus supplies or equipment, including items which have been placed in the trash, should not be removed for non-school use without approval from the administration.

Section 17 Activity Passes

Policy 4017

Current employees, Board of Education and Foundation Board members along with Booster Steering Committee members of Norfolk Public are eligible for a free activity pass. Those listed above may work 3 activities to earn an activity pass for their spouse.

Section 18 Military and Family Military Leave

Policy 4022

Military leave and family military leave will be granted to the extent required by state and federal law.

Employees requesting military leave must notify the Superintendent or his/her designee as soon as they receive notification of activation. Employees are to attach a copy of their orders to a leave request form when they prepare the request for military leave.

Employees requesting to take family military leave under the Nebraska statutes must notify the Superintendent or his/her designee at least 14 days in advance of taking such a leave if the leave will be for 5 or more consecutive days, and consult with their supervisor to schedule the leave so as to not unduly disrupt operations of the school district. For leaves of less than 5 days, the employee is to notify the Superintendent or his/her designee of the leave request as soon as practicable.

Family military leave under the FMLA will be provided in accordance with that law and subject to the provisions of the board policy pertaining to FMLA leave.

*Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 55-160 to 55-166
Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 55-501 to 55-507
29 U.S.C. §§ 2611, et seq.; 29 CFR Part 825 (FMLA)
38 U.S.C. §§ 4301 to 4333; 20 CFR Part 1002 (USERRA)*

**Section 19 Notification of Arrest, Criminal Charges, and Certificate,
License or Child Abuse Complaints**

Policy 4025

Teachers serve as role models for students and their actions and conduct reflect on the school as a whole. Teachers are in all respects to conduct themselves in a professional manner.

Notification of Arrest, etc.

Employees must notify the Superintendent by the next business day after:

- A. Arrest or Criminal Charges. The employee is arrested, ticketed, or issued a criminal charge where:
 - 1. The maximum penalty for the crime equals or exceeds six months incarceration;
 - 2. The crime relates to abuse, neglect or endangerment of a minor, a minor was allegedly a victim or a witness, or the crime involves alleged sexual misconduct;
 - 3. Conviction would impact performance of employee's job responsibilities, including offenses that:
 - a. Would impact the responsibility to be a role model for students or relations with other employees of Norfolk Public Schools;
 - b. Would impact the employee's ability to operate a motor vehicle if the employee at times needs to travel during duty time or the employee at times drives students; or
 - c. Would impact the employee's Commercial Driver's License if the employee's job requires that the employee have a CDL.
 - 4. The arrest or the alleged criminal activity occurred while the employee was on duty, on property of Norfolk Public Schools, or in a school owned or utilized vehicle, or at a school-supervised activity or school-sponsored function.

Employees must also promptly report to the superintendent whenever the employee has been sentenced to be incarcerated for any period of time, even if the offense is not otherwise reportable.
- B. Certificate or License. The employee becomes aware that a complaint has been filed against the employee that could affect a certificate or license required for the employee's position. This includes proceedings of the Nebraska Department of Education related to an alleged violation of the NDE Standards of Conduct and

Ethics, Chapter 27, and proceedings of the Health and Human Services related to an alleged violation of the professional standards of conduct for the employee's position.

- C. Child Abuse. The employee becomes aware that a report of child abuse or neglect has been made against the employee under the Child Protection Act.

Further, employees must give full disclosure of any Child Protection Act investigation that resulted in an "inconclusive" determination that occurred at any time. Current employees must give such disclosure within ten days following adoption of this policy. As a condition of employment, applicants for employment must give such disclosure prior to commencement of employment. Any hiring made without such disclosure shall be subject to being immediately revoked in the event the required disclosure was not given.

Employees must give full disclosure of the existence and nature of the above proceedings and must also promptly notify the Superintendent of the disposition of the proceedings.

Legal documents relating to the proceedings shall be treated and maintained as part of the employee's confidential criminal background file.

Failure to notify as required under this policy may subject the employee to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

Civility

All employees shall behave with civility, fairness and respect in dealing with fellow employees, students, parents, patrons, visitors, and anyone else having business with Norfolk Public Schools. Uncivil behaviors are prohibited. Employees may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination for engaging in uncivil behaviors.

Uncivil behaviors are any behaviors that are physically or verbally threatening, either overtly or implicitly, as well as behaviors that are coercive, intimidating, violent or harassing. Such interactions are prohibited in all forms of communication, including telephone conversations, voice mail messages, face-to-face conversations, written communications, and email messages.

Any employee aware of another employee's uncivil behavior shall report the conduct to the employee's immediate supervisor or to the Superintendent. There will be no retaliation against a person for making the report.

Complaints or Concerns of Employees

Employees are to inform Norfolk Public Schools of any complaints or concerns about the operations of Norfolk Public Schools using the established chain of command (immediate supervisor, next higher level supervisor, etc.) on all matters that require administrative attention; that is, on all matters or issues that their job responsibilities require them to report to a supervisor.

It is important to the efficient and successful operation of Norfolk Public Schools and a duty of all of the district's employees to share any such complaints or concerns in a responsible, professional manner such as to: (1) not disrupt the proper functioning of their office, department, or position, (2) not undermine the authority of their co-workers, supervisors, or superiors, (3) maintain close working relationships with their co-workers, supervisors, and superiors, and (4) ensure that all applicable laws and regulations are followed. All employee official communications must be accurate, demonstrate sound judgment, and promote Norfolk Public Schools' mission. Employees must ensure that all applicable laws and regulations are followed by Norfolk Public Schools and its employees. In the event an employee becomes aware of any such non-compliance, the employee is to report such to the employee's immediate

supervisor (or the next higher level, if the supervisor is responsible for the problem) and maintain the confidentiality of the report so that the problem can be appropriately corrected in the best interests of Norfolk Public Schools.

Employees are to use the appropriate complaint or grievance mechanism for matters involving discrimination or harassment or other established mechanism specific to the nature of the complaint or concern.

Norfolk Public Schools will not tolerate unlawful retaliation against an employee for engaging in legally protected activity. A protected activity includes an employee's act of opposing an unlawful practice prohibited by employment discrimination or other laws that protect the conduct in question. Any act of unlawful retaliation by a supervisor or other employee may result in serious disciplinary action up to and including termination. Any employee may file a complaint with the administrator or appropriate coordinator if the employee feels that they have experienced unlawful retaliation in any form.

Section 20 Professional Boundaries between Employees and Students

Policy 4025

It is important for teachers to maintain an effective working relationship with the administration and all co-workers, including other teachers and support staff. Teachers are also to maintain appropriate relationships with students. Appropriate relationships are established by extending social courtesies, following through on commitments and promises, complying with administrative directives and board policies, being honest and consistent, and not intruding into personal matters outside the scope of duties or gossiping or spreading rumors about others.

Professional Boundaries between Employees and Students

All employees are expected to observe and maintain professional boundaries between themselves and students. A violation of professional boundaries will be regarded as a form of misconduct and may result in disciplinary action.

The following non-exclusive list of actions will be regarded as a violation of the professional boundaries that employees are expected to maintain with a student:

- A. Using e-mail, text messaging, instant messaging or social networking sites to discuss with a student a matter that does not pertain to school-related activities, such as the student's homework, class activity, school sport or club, or other school-sponsored activity. Electronic communications with students are to be sent simultaneously to multiple recipients, not to just one student, except where the communication is clearly school-related and inappropriate for persons other than the individual student to receive (for example, e-mailing a message about a student's grades).
- B. Engaging in social-networking friendships with a student on social networking sites. Material that employees post on social networks that is publicly available to those in the school community must reflect the professional image applicable to the employee's position and not impair the employee's capacity to maintain the respect of students and parents or impair the employee's ability to serve as a role model for children.
- C. Employees shall not "friend" or "follow" students on any social networking site.
- D. Engaging in sexual activity, a romantic relationship, or dating a student or a former student within one year of the student graduating or otherwise is leaving the district.
- E. Making any sexual advance – verbal, written, or physical – towards a student.
- F. Showing sexually inappropriate materials or objects to a student.
- G. Discussing with a student sexual topics that are not related to a specific curriculum.
- H. Telling sexual jokes to a student.
- I. Invading a student's physical privacy (e.g., walking in on the student in a restroom).
- J. Hugging or other physical contact with a student that is initiated by the employee when the student does not seek or want this attention.
- K. Being overly "touchy" with a specific student.
- L. Allowing a specific student to get away with misconduct that is not tolerated from other students, except as appropriate for students with an IEP or 504 Plan.

- M. Discussing with the student the employee's problems that would normally be discussed with adults (e.g., marital problems).
- N. Giving a student a ride in the employee's personal vehicle without express permission of the student's parent or school administrator unless another adult is in the vehicle.
- O. Taking a student on an outing without obtaining prior express permission of the student's parent or school administrator.
- P. Inviting a student to the employee's home without prior express permission of the student's parent and school administrator.
- Q. Going to the student's home when the student's parent or a proper chaperone is not present.
- R. Giving gifts of a personal nature to a specific student.
- S. Discussing alcohol, tobacco or other illicit drugs in a non-instructional setting, such as describing a party that the employee attended.
- T. Discussing another student's or an employee's personal matters when it is not appropriate outside of the instructional setting.

Appropriate exceptions are permitted to the foregoing for legitimate health or educational purposes and for reasons of familial relationships between employees and their children who are students in the district.

Section 21 Appropriate Dress

Policy 4026

It is important for teachers to project a professional image to students, parents and co-workers. Appropriate attire and grooming is one of the means of projecting a professional image. Teachers are expected to maintain conservative and professional attire and grooming when on duty. As professionals, teachers are expected to be aware of the standard to be maintained. Staff members shall dress appropriately, presenting a neat, clean, professional appearance conducive to the learning environment of the students. As a general guideline, appropriate, professional attire is to dress "Business Casual." The general guidelines for business casual are: dress pants or khakis, a reasonable length dress or skirt, or dressy capris combined with a dress shirt, polo or sweater; dress shoes/sandals. Fridays will be designated as Spirit Days across the district and staff members are encouraged to show their school spirit by wearing a Panther polo on those days. Neat, clean jeans may be allowed by your building principal on Spirit Days if they are accompanied by a Panther polo. The administration may establish more detailed guidelines for individual employees should that be necessary.

Section 22 Assignment of Duties

Policy 4130

The professional duties to be performed by a teacher with the district shall be subject to assignment by the superintendent of the district with the approval of the Board of Education. A teacher will be expected to devote full time during days of school to the teacher's position and to diligently and faithfully perform the assigned duties to the best of the teacher's professional ability. Job descriptions, where available, provide additional information about the position duties.

A certified staff member who wants to transfer to another posted opening within the district must send a letter to the Director of Human Resources and Accreditation indicating their current assignment and requesting a transfer to the posted position. Administrators must submit a Certified Employment Offer Form to HR to record changes in employment status. Please note: Submitting a request for transfer does not mean the transfer is automatically approved.

The district reserves the right to transfer employees to other positions as deemed necessary.

In addition to the normal duties traditionally required of teachers, a teacher may be assigned such "extra duty" assignments to support the extra-curricular programs of the district, which shall be upon such terms and conditions and at such additional rate of compensation as the teacher and the district may agree upon or as set forth in the

negotiated agreement. The extra-curricular program of the school district is an integral part of the overall education program of the school district. As such a teacher shall not unreasonably refuse to accept such extra-duty assignments. In addition, performance in an extra-duty assignment is a part of the evaluation of the teacher's overall performance to the district.

Section 23 Agents/Tutors

Policy 4131

Teachers are encouraged to provide individual assistance to students as a part of their duties. Teachers who engage in private tutoring for pay (compensation of any kind from a source other than the district) are subject to the following rules:

- A. The teacher may not arrange to provide private tutoring for any child enrolled in the teacher's class.
- B. The teacher is not to provide private tutoring in a school building.
- C. The teacher is not to provide private tutoring during duty time.
- D. The teacher is not to advertise or promote the teacher's private tutoring services in the school or in the school's communications systems except with the express permission of the superintendent or designee.

Section 24 Professional Growth

Policy 4140

Professional growth is defined as those activities in which certificated personnel may participate to gain insight, innovative ideas, and practical knowledge in their field of teaching which may be utilized in the classroom. Professional growth for Norfolk Public Schools certificated personnel shall be measured by a point system. Points may be accumulated through college work, educational travel, in-service activities, and other approved activities, exceptional in kind and of value to the Norfolk Public Schools. *Failure to meet the Professional Growth requirements may result in nonrenewal of the teaching contract.* More information about the Professional Growth process is located on the district website under the "Human Resources" tab.

Section 25 Evaluation of Teachers

Policy 4150

Evaluations of teachers will be conducted in accordance with the district's evaluation policy. Supervisors reserve the right to observe, appraise or evaluate teachers more frequently than required by policy on an as-needed basis. Teachers are expected to participate constructively and positively in the evaluation process and to accept and implement constructive suggestions and improvement strategies developed by the administration. In the event of a job performance warning, there shall be a conference between the employee and the administrator who shall cooperatively examine the results of the warning. More information about the evaluation process is located on the district website under the "Human Resources" tab.

Section 26 Reduction in Force

Policy 4160

A reduction in force shall consist of a reduction of one or more positions or a reduction in the percentage of employment of one or more certificated employees even if the number or percentage of employment of the certificated staff overall may be increased by other hiring or increases in the percentage of employment of other employees. Reduction in force may result in termination of employment, an amendment to the employee's contract reducing the employee from full-time to part-time status or an amendment to the contract of a part-time employee further reducing that employee's percentage of employment. The district will follow the requirements of board policy and state law regulations with regards to Reduction in Force.

Section 27 Leave of Absence

Policy 4170

After a minimum of three (3) years of employment in Norfolk Public Schools, a teacher may apply for a one-year leave of absence pending approval from the Superintendent.

Section 28 Standards of Ethical and Professional Performance

Policy 4190

The Norfolk Public Schools expects its certificated employees to adhere to the professional ethics standards established by the Nebraska Department of Education as such standards may be modified from time to time. The professional ethics standards which certificated employees are expected to adhere to include those set forth below. References to “educator” shall include all certificated employees of the district.

Preamble

The educator shall believe in the worth and dignity of human beings. Recognizing the supreme importance of the pursuit of truth, the devotion to excellence and the nurture of democratic citizenship, the educator shall regard as essential to these goals the protection of the freedom to learn and to teach and the guarantee of equal educational opportunity for all. The educator shall accept the responsibility to practice the profession to these ethical standards.

The educator shall recognize the magnitude of the responsibility he or she has accepted in choosing a career in education, and engages individually and collectively with other educators, to judge his or her colleagues, and to be judged by them, in accordance with the provisions of this code of ethics.

The standards listed in this section are held to be generally accepted minimal standards for public school certificate holders in the State of Nebraska and for all educators, including administrators, with respect to ethical and professional conduct.

Principle I - Commitment as a Professional Educator:

Fundamental to the pursuit of high educational standards is the maintenance of a profession possessed of individuals with high skills, intellect, integrity, wisdom, and compassion. The educator shall exhibit good moral character, maintain high standards of performance and promote equality of opportunity.

In fulfillment of the educator's contractual and professional responsibilities, the educator:

- A. Shall not interfere with the exercise of political and citizenship rights and responsibilities of students, colleagues, parents, school patrons, or school board members.
- B. Shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, disability, age, sex, or other protected category.
- C. Shall not use coercive means, or promise or provide special treatment to students, colleagues, school patrons, or school board members in order to influence professional decisions.
- D. Shall not make any fraudulent statement or fail to disclose a material fact for which the educator is responsible.
- E. Shall not exploit professional relationships with students, colleagues, parents, school patrons, or school board members for personal gain or private advantage.
- F. Shall not sexually harass students, parents or school patrons, employees, or board members.
- G. Shall not have had revoked for cause in another state a teaching certificate, administrative certificate, or any certificate enabling a person to engage in any of the activities for which a special services counseling certificate is issued in Nebraska.
- H. Shall not engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation in the performance of professional duties.
- I. Shall report to the superintendent any known violation of paragraphs G, E, or B above.
- J. Shall seek no reprisal against any individual who has reported a violation of this rule.

Principle II - Commitment to the Student:

Mindful that a profession exists for the purpose of serving the best interests of the client, the educator shall practice the profession with genuine interest, concern, and consideration for the student. The educator shall work to stimulate the spirit of inquiry, the acquisition of knowledge and understanding, and the thoughtful formulation of worthy goals.

In fulfillment of the obligation to the student, the educator:

- A. Shall permit the student to pursue reasonable independent scholastic effort, and shall permit the student access to varying points of view.
- B. Shall not deliberately suppress or distort subject matter for which the educator is responsible.
- C. Shall make reasonable effort to protect the student from conditions which interfere with the learning process or are harmful to health or safety.
- D. Shall conduct professional educational activities in accordance with sound educational practices that are in the best interest of the student.
- E. Shall keep in confidence personally identifiable information that has been obtained in the course of professional service, unless disclosure serves professional purposes, or is required by law.
- F. Shall not tutor for remuneration students assigned to his or her classes unless approved by the Board of Education.
- G. Shall not discipline students using corporal punishment.

Principle III - Commitment to the Public:

The magnitude of the responsibility inherent in the education process requires dedication to the principles of our democratic heritage. The educator bears particular responsibility for instilling an understanding of the confidence in the rule of law, respect for individual freedom, and a responsibility to promote respect by the public for the integrity of the profession.

In fulfillment of the obligation to the public, the educator:

- A. Shall not misrepresent an institution with which the educator is affiliated, and shall take added precautions to distinguish between the educator's personal and institutional views.
- B. Shall not use institutional privileges for private gain or to promote political candidates, political issues, or partisan political activities.
- C. Shall neither offer nor accept gifts or favors that will impair professional judgment.
- D. Shall support the principle of due process and protect the political, citizenship, and natural rights of all individuals.
- E. Shall not commit any act of moral turpitude, nor commit any felony under the laws of the United States or any state or territory.
- F. Shall, with reasonable diligence, attend to the duties of his or her professional position.

Principle IV - Commitment to the Profession:

In belief that the quality of the services to the education profession directly influences the nation and its citizens, the educator shall exert every effort to raise professional standards, to improve service, to promote a climate in which the exercise of professional judgment is encouraged, and to achieve conditions which attract persons worthy of the trust to careers in education. The educator shall believe that sound professional relationships with colleagues are built upon personal integrity, dignity, and mutual respect.

In fulfillment of the obligation to the profession, the educator:

- A. Shall provide upon the request of an aggrieved party, a written statement of specific reasons for recommendations that lead to the denial of increments, significant changes in employment, or termination of employment.
- B. Shall not misrepresent his or her professional qualifications, nor those of colleagues.

- C. Shall practice the profession only with proper certification, and shall actively oppose the practice of the profession by persons known to be unqualified.

Principle V - Commitment to Professional Employment Practices:

The educator shall regard the employment agreement as a pledge to be executed both in spirit and in fact. The educator shall believe that sound personnel relationships with governing boards are built upon personal integrity, dignity, and mutual respect.

In fulfillment of the obligation to professional employment practices, the educator:

- A. Shall apply for, accept, offer, or assign a position or responsibility on the basis of professional preparation and legal qualifications.
- B. Shall not knowingly withhold information regarding a position from an applicant or employer, or misrepresent an assignment or conditions of employment.
- C. Shall give prompt notice to the employer of any change in availability of service.
- D. Shall conduct professional business through designated procedures, when available, that have been approved by the employing agency.
- E. Shall not assign to unqualified personnel, tasks for which an educator is responsible.
- F. Shall permit no commercial or personal exploitation of his or her professional position.
- G. Shall use time on duty and leave time for the purpose for which intended.

Section 29 Outside Employment

Teachers shall not perform duties unrelated to district employment during duty hours. In addition, teachers shall not engage in employment which conflicts with their school duties. Teachers are not required to notify the district of outside employment except: (1) teachers who are also employed by another Nebraska school district in order to comply with Nebraska State Retirement System regulations and (2) teachers who have a work-related injury in order to comply with workers' compensation requirements.

Section 30 Address Change

It is necessary that an accurate directory of all employees of the school district be kept in the Central Office. Employees changing their address or phone number should report such changes to the payroll office at the Central Office as soon as possible IN WRITING (e-mail is appropriate).

Section 31 Grievances and Complaints

Teacher grievances regarding wages, hours, and conditions of employment set forth in the negotiated agreement shall be governed by the grievance or complaint procedure in the negotiated agreement. All other employment related grievances or complaints shall be addressed through the administrative chain of command following the process set forth in board policy.

Section 32 Compensation

Regular Salary and Extra-Duty Compensation. Compensation is paid only as authorized by the Board of Education. Teachers are paid a salary based on placement on the salary schedule set forth in the collectively bargained negotiated agreement between the district and the collective bargaining agent for the certificated teaching staff (referred to in this handbook as the "negotiated agreement"), and the extra-duty salary schedule also incorporated into the negotiated agreement.

Salary Payments. Salary is payable over twelve equal installments. Teachers will be paid on the 18th of the month, or the last preceding school day, if the 18th falls on a holiday or week-end. Upon separation of a teacher's employment, or upon fulfillment of the contract, the teacher may, at the option of the board, be paid all salary due in one lump sum.

Additional compensation over and above regular compensation, extra-duty pay and supplemental pay shall be disbursed as it is earned and deductions from compensation due to unpaid leave shall be taken out as they are reported to the payroll office. Reimbursements for mileage or other expenses will be considered separate from compensation.

Changes in Salary Schedule Placement. Changes in a teacher's placement on the salary schedule shall be governed by the provisions of the negotiated agreement. Employees may move no more than one horizontal step on the salary schedule in any given year. Teachers are expected to provide the Superintendent with an official transcript for all graduate hours earned for purposes of advancement on the salary schedule on or before **September 1st** of the school year in which such hours are to be credited for the teacher's placement on the salary schedule. Failure to provide an official transcript from the post-graduate institution of the graduate hours earned will result in a loss of such credit for such school year.

General administrative guidelines to follow to advance on the salary schedule:

- A. All courses used for salary schedule movement must receive pre-approval from the Superintendent's office.
- B. Pre-approval must be obtained at least ten days in advance of the beginning date of the course. Failure to obtain pre-approval may result in using the class for the purposes of advancement on the salary schedule being denied.
- C. Pre-approval of the course may be obtained by completing a "Course Approval" form or having a signed and dated Master's Degree Program on file in the Superintendent's office
- D. Salary schedule advancement and professional growth are two separate and distinct items. Advancement on the salary schedule does not automatically happen when transcripts are provided for professional growth points.
- E. The Superintendent's office is responsible for granting approval for coursework to count towards salary schedule movement and the Professional Growth Secretary at Central Office is responsible for maintaining records for professional growth.
- F. Official college transcripts, not grade cards, shall serve as the method of proof for granting salary schedule movement.
- G. Transcripts are due to the superintendent's office by **September 1st** of each year for salary schedule movement to be allowed.
- H. Grade cards will be accepted as proof of course completion for professional growth purposes.
- I. All courses to be used for advancement on the salary schedule shall be graduate level courses.
- J. Certain exceptions to coursework for advancement on the salary schedule being graduate level exist. The secretary to the Superintendent is able to provide further details.
- K. A Human Relations course is required for certificate renewal and may be used for advancement on the salary schedule or professional growth. The pre-approval process shall be adhered to when this course is taken.

It is the intention of the district to be understanding and fair in the application of the course approval program. Each staff member will be dealt with consistently and in a timely manner.

Section 33 Extended Duty Pay

Extended duty for any teacher beyond the number of contract days established by the Board of Education for the school year shall be paid at 100% of schedule placement on a per diem basis for such teacher's extended time.

Section 34 Benefits

Teachers are provided benefits in accordance with the negotiated agreement, group health insurance plan requirements, and the school district's Section 125 Plan document. Teachers shall make annual fringe benefit elections by third Friday in August of each school year. Should a teacher fail to make such election, the teacher election from the immediately preceding school and contract year shall be continued. Each teacher is responsible for informing the payroll office in writing of any changes in benefit status.

Continued health insurance benefits are available through COBRA subject to certain qualifying requirements. A Notice of COBRA Continuation Coverage Rights is attached to this handbook as Appendix "A." The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) provides rights and protections for participants and beneficiaries in group health plans. HIPAA includes protections for coverage under group health plans that limit exclusions for preexisting conditions; prohibit discrimination against employees and dependents based on their health status; and allow a special opportunity to enroll in a new plan to individuals in certain circumstances. HIPAA may also give you a right to purchase individual coverage if you have no group health plan coverage available, and have exhausted COBRA or other continuation coverage. Further information may be obtained from the Plan Administrator of the group health plan.

Section 35 Payroll Deductions

Salary and benefits are paid in accordance with the individual employment contracts and negotiated agreement. Payroll deductions shall be made in accordance with law and the negotiated agreement.

Section 36 Expense Reimbursement

Reimbursement for authorized mileage will be paid to teachers required to drive their own vehicles during their regular scheduled working hours between two or more work sites. Claims for reimbursement should be submitted to the appropriate supervisor. The allowable rate shall be governed by board policy, unless otherwise required by law. The district is not liable for physical damage to employee vehicles.

Materials necessary for instruction are provided by the district. If teachers need additional materials for instruction or school-related purposes, the request should be made to the principal.

Reimbursement for purchase of materials or for meals or other expenses related to travel must be submitted to and approved by either the principal or, if the expense relates to an activity, by the athletic director. The request for reimbursement should include a voucher sufficient to establish that the expense was actually incurred and that the expense was reasonable and related to a school-purpose.

Section 37 403(b) Salary Reduction Agreements

The district will cooperate with any teacher who chooses to participate in an investment program under Internal Revenue Code Section 403(b) provided that the certificated employee executes a "Salary Reduction Agreement" provided by the district and the vendor of the 403(b) Plan elected by the teacher has entered in to a "Service Provider Agreement" with the district holding the district harmless from any liability that may arise out of such 403(b) Plan, including, but not limited to, the calculation of the maximum exclusion allowance, tax reporting, notices and income withholding.

Section 38 Overtime

Teaching professionals are classified as exempt from overtime under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). The overtime exemption for teaching professionals is not dependent on whether the employee is paid on a “salary basis.” Exempt employees are not eligible for overtime or compensatory time. A publication provided by the federal government which provides more information about the FLSA is attached as Appendix “A” to this handbook.

The district’s policy is to not permit improper deductions from the salary of exempt employees who are required to meet a “salaried basis” test for the exemption to be applicable. (Teaching professionals are not subject to the “salaried basis” test). An employee who feels an improper deduction affecting exemption status has occurred may submit a complaint to the Superintendent or the Superintendent’s designee, who shall promptly investigate the complaint. Reimbursement shall be made and a good faith commitment to comply in the future will be given in the event it is determined that an improper deduction affecting overtime exemption has been made.

The district’s policy is to authorize unpaid disciplinary suspensions of a full day or more for infractions of workplace conduct rules and to apply such policy uniformly to all similarly situated employees, including exempt employees who are required to meet a “salaried basis” test for the exemption to be applicable. Unpaid disciplinary suspensions of a partial day or of a full day or more may be implemented for infractions of safety rules of major significance. Deductions of pay of a partial day or of a full day or more may be made for FMLA leaves and in the first and last weeks of employment. In addition, based on principles of public accountancy, deductions from pay of a partial day or of a full day or more will be made for absences for illness, injury or personal reasons when accrued leave is not used or not available, and for absences due to any budget-required furlough.

The Superintendent or Superintendent’s designee may suspend a teacher with or without pay for the teacher’s violation of District policy or rules. Such suspensions and deductions (when applicable) will be made pursuant to law.

Section 39 Paid Leave

Paid Leaves

- A. *Paid Leaves Available.* Norfolk Public Schools makes the following forms of paid leaves available to non-certificated employees: **Sick Leave, Bereavement Leave and Personal Leave.**
- B. *Nature of Paid Leave.* Paid leave is available to employees when the following specific conditions are met: (1) the employee is currently employed by the district; (2) the paid leave day is taken on a day the employee would otherwise be expected to be at work; and (3) the employee has met the conditions that are applicable to the type of paid leave that has been requested.
- C. *Leave Year.* The leave year for paid leaves is the district’s fiscal year.
- D. *Leave Days.* Paid leave days are provided based on the same number of hours the employee is scheduled to work on the day the leave is taken. For example, if an employee is scheduled to work 6 hours on a day that sick leave is used, the use of the sick leave on that day constitutes the use of 1 full sick day. Paid leave days may not be used in increments of less than one-half day unless otherwise specified or approved.
- E. *Carry-over and Accumulation.* Unused sick leave may be carried over from one leave year to the next succeeding leave year to a maximum of 75 sick leave days. Once the maximum is accumulated, no further sick leave days will be available or granted for the ensuing leave year or years until the accumulated number of days is less than 75, and then only to the extent necessary to restore the total number of available sick leave days to the maximum of 75 days. Employees who have accumulated sick leave days in excess of said maximum prior to the 2016-2017 school year will continue to have the excess days available for use, but will not be given any additional sick leave days until their unused days are less than the maximum of 75, and then only to the extent necessary to restore the total number of available sick leave days to the maximum of 75 days in a leave year.

Section 40 Payroll Deductions for Absences in Excess of Paid Leave

Should a teacher be absent from work in excess of the teacher’s accumulated sick leave or other paid leaves called for in the negotiated agreement, the teacher’s salary and fringe benefits (including the cost of premiums for group health insurance) shall be reduced by the day or days of work missed on a per diem basis calculated using the number of days missed as the numerator, and the number of total contract days for the school years as the denominator; e.g. one day missed = 1/188th of total salary and fringe benefits.

Section 41 Unpaid Leaves

Norfolk Public Schools complies with laws that require leaves to be allowed without loss of pay, such as for FMLA leaves, military service and jury duty. Should an employee be absent from work in excess of the employee’s available paid leaves, the absence will be an unpaid leave. The employee’s salary and fringe benefits (including the cost of premiums for group health insurance) may be subject to reduction for the day or days of work missed.

Discretionary Leave of Absence

An employee may apply to the board for a leave of absence from duties. The board will consider such requests on a case-by-case basis. No leave of absence shall extend beyond one leave year. All discretionary leaves shall be without pay except as may be individually negotiated.

Section 42 Jury Duty Leave

A teacher who is summoned for jury service must promptly notify the Building Principal. The teacher will be allowed time off for jury duty, pursuant to law.

There will be no loss of salary or deduction to the teacher for time spent in jury service. The District may, at its discretion, reduce the teacher’s salary by an amount equal to any compensation, other than expenses, paid by the court for jury duty service.

If a teacher reports for jury duty in the morning and is then dismissed from jury duty for the remainder of the day, the employee is to report for work and resume duties for the balance of the day, except as may be otherwise arranged by the Building Principal.

Legal Reference: § 25-1640

Section 43 Subpoena to Testify Leave

A teacher must promptly notify the Building Principal when the teacher receives a lawfully issued subpoena to testify in court or to give a deposition that may require an absence from duty.

In the event the subpoena involves a job-related matter in which the teacher is testifying on behalf of the District, the absence will be treated similar to a jury duty leave.

In the event the subpoena involves a personal matter, the teacher will be required to use available leave days. The Superintendent shall make the final determination as to whether a matter is personal to the teacher.

Section 44 Crisis Team

Events such as the death of a teacher or student, natural or accidental disasters, and real or threatened violence may produce a crisis for students and faculty alike. The need to cope effectively is necessary. The purpose of the NPS Crisis Response Team is to evaluate crisis situations and plan intervention strategies based on district guidelines.

Section 45 State Tournament Guidelines – Grades 7-12

- A. Coaches in grades 9-12 are able to go to the state tournaments in the sports they are coaching each year.
- B. Seventh and eighth grade coaches will be allowed to go to the state tournament for the sports in which they are coaching on an every-other-year basis.
- C. Head varsity coaches may take up to two days of professional leave, assistant high school coaches may take up to one day of professional leave every year and 7th and 8th grade coaches (Head or Assistant) will get one day of professional leave every other year on a rotating basis.
- D. Coaches will have subs and be provided a car – no other expenses will be covered by the district.
- E. Coaches are expected to attend all Class A games, including the finals. This time should be used to evaluate teams and philosophies of other successful programs in the state.
- F. Coaches are encouraged to network with coaches from other schools.
- G. Building administrators have the final say on teachers leaving.

Article 6: Students

Section 1 Assignment of Students

Policy 5003

Academic placement decisions involving students are the responsibility of the administration. Decisions on grade and teacher placement will be based on what best fits the needs of the students and school district.

Section 2 Student Attendance

Policy 5008

Absences, Truancies, and Tardies:

- A. All questionable student absences should be carefully checked by the respective building principal or assistant principal.
- B. Students should be excused from school without penalty to take part in presenting programs for church groups, luncheon clubs, or any community, civic or patriotic organizations, or to keep an appointment with a doctor or a dentist. Here again, the parent should be consulted. If the student is called out of school so often that his school work is suffering, teachers should recommend to the parent that the child be kept in school.

Section 3 Student Discipline

Policy 5101

Discipline is everyone's responsibility. It begins with the student being responsible for his/her own behavior and understanding the consequences it may cause. The teacher is responsible for articulating classroom expectations at the beginning of the school year, implementing the classroom expectations on a consistent basis, and being familiar with the student handbook. All staff are responsible for **all students** in the hallways, in the rest rooms, at assemblies, at pep rallies, and during lunch. Consequences for inappropriate behavior may include students making up time before or after school, a student or a parent conference, or a referral to an administrator.

The following guidelines will assist in maintaining appropriate student conduct and complying with the process required for student discipline.

- A. On the first day of class make students aware of classroom expectations. Students will accept them if they know in advance and if they are fair and consistent. Students often appreciate giving input on classroom rules.

These expectations should be in writing. Give one copy to the students, post one copy in the room and provide one copy for the principal.

- B. It is important to document student behavior in your classroom, calls to parents, referrals, and/or communications with a student.
- C. If, after attempts to improve student behavior, the problems continue, talk to the student's counselor or the principal about possible alternatives in discipline procedures. Be attentive and respond to "bullying."
- D. If a student continues to cause problems, inform the administration for disciplinary action using the building reporting form. Be sure to state the problem clearly and expectations in terms of assistance, as at times the student's and teacher's stories are different. Be prepared to provide documentation.
- E. Follow up on any referral. The student may not go to the principal or the counselor when sent. The administrator or attendance coordinator will inform the teacher of the consequences.
- F. Refer students with continued and significant behavioral problems to the student assistance team for a determination of whether the student is in need of special services. Contact the counselor if you have questions as to the procedure.
- G. Talk with other teachers about the classroom management techniques they use to establish an atmosphere conducive to learning in their classroom. A large repertoire of classroom management techniques always enhances learning.
- H. Read and understand the student handbook and the student conduct rules of the district.
- I. Use good judgment when dealing with difficult situations involving students. Physical confrontation generally escalates tense situations. Corporal punishment is prohibited in our school district and is not to be used. Physical force may only be used to the extent reasonably necessary to protect the student, yourself and others, and to protect property as may be reasonable.
- J. Violations of student rules which are also violations of state law are required to be reported to law enforcement. Make a report of such conduct to the principal so this law may be followed.

Section 4 Promotion and Retention

Policy 5201

A student may be retained at a grade level or be required to repeat a course when such is determined in the judgment of the principal in collaboration with teachers, parents, and counselor.

Section 5 Student Records

Policy 5202

School staff shall maintain student records, student files and other educational reports. These shall not be circulated or disclosed except in conformity with state and federal law.

Section 6 Academic Progress

Policy 5203

Every teacher is required to keep a complete and easily understandable written or electronic record of the attendance and achievement of every student in a class using a record book and/or Infinite Campus. This record must be kept current and include the following minimum information in a readily understandable fashion:

- A. The names and any assigned student numbers of all students enrolled in the class at the beginning of the semester.
- B. The name and date of entry for each student who enrolls after the semester opens.
- C. The date of withdrawal for each student who withdraws from the class previous to the close of the semester—dropouts or early withdrawals.
- D. A complete record of the attendance of each student enrolled showing:
 - 1. Days on which the student was tardy.
 - 2. Days on which the student was absent, with a differentiation between excused and unexcused absences.
- E. A complete report of all recorded grades for each student. There is no minimum requirement for the frequency of recorded grades (or for the giving of written lessons or examinations). Be sure that you test frequently

(Remember, though, that this type of information may be confidential—do not share confidential information about students except with other staff who need to know the information to perform their jobs).

5. Be careful with touching students. Use of corporal punishment is prohibited at Norfolk Public Schools. Touching students should be limited to that necessary to protect the student from harm (e.g., falling from playground equipment) and that which professional educators determine appropriate for purposes of proper student relationships.
6. Be careful with your language. Profanity or abusive language should not be used. Teachers must be good role models for students. If a student uses such language, the teacher should correct the student and take such disciplinary action as is appropriate, which may include making a report to administration.

B. Proper Instructions

1. Proper instructions are important to reduce the risk of injury when students undertake an activity, especially an activity that has an increased risk of harm to students.
2. Repeat the instructions on how to complete a task that has a heightened risk of danger as often as needed. Do not assume because students heard the directions once that they will be remembered.
3. When going over safety rules with students note it in your written records (e.g., your lesson plan book or daily reports).
4. Review playground and classroom safety rules with students at least once each semester and note it in your written records. Also, if any students are absent when reviewing the rules, the teacher will contact the student(s) to review the same information and also note that contact in written records.

C. Proper Maintenance of Buildings, Grounds, and Equipment

1. Conduct periodic inspections of equipment under your control or in your area of supervision.
2. If equipment is broken and presents a risk of injury, immediately take it out of service (if it can't be moved, tape a "Do Not Use" sign) and notify the principal so those repairs may be undertaken.
3. Check communication devices (whether it be a school phone, a walkie-talkie, intercom, e-mail, or a cell phone) periodically to make sure teachers can communicate with the office immediately in the event of an emergency.

D. Proper Warnings

If you have knowledge of a hazard that can likely cause injury, take steps to warn other staff and students. Tell the principal immediately so additional warnings may be given.

Contact the Office for Assistance

The Principal should be contacted immediately when a situation exists which could cause injury to students or others. Examples include:

- A. student fight
- B. student health problem (fainting, bleeding, high temperature, difficulty breathing, etc.); if the Principal cannot be immediately located, call 911 if the problem appears to be of immediate and serious concern
- C. a report or a suspicion that a student has a weapon or other dangerous item or drugs, alcohol, or other illegal substances
- D. presence of an intruder (a non-student or staff member who refuses to go to the office)

Student Searches

Office administration should also be contacted before performing searches of students or their belongings. You may direct a student suspected of having an item in violation of school rules to wait with you until another adult is present, or to follow you to the office if you can leave your assigned area without causing risk of harm to others. Do not use physical force to detain the student or make the student accompany you except as reasonably necessary to protect the student or others.

Student Rights

Students should be treated fairly and given the same treatment without consideration of race, color, religion, gender, or disability. Students who need special accommodations should be given those accommodations as needed for them to participate in school and school activities. Further, students have the right to have their school records kept confidential. Such information should be shared only with other school staff with a need to know the information to perform their duties.

Section 11 Dispensing Medication

Policy 6910

Teachers are not permitted to give any medication to students unless trained under the Medication Aid Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. §71-6718 to 71-6743. Students who need to take prescription medicine must have a signed parent release form on file in the office. Medications are to be taken in the presence of the office staff, the nurse, or medication aide and are to be stored in the office. Medical procedures are not to be administered in the classroom except in accordance with the district's Safety and Security Management Plan and the district's Emergency Protocol (asthma/anaphylaxis protocol).

If students must take medication and/or perform medical procedures prescribed by a duly licensed physician or, for asthma and anaphylaxis, a health care professional who prescribed the medication for treatment of the student's condition, during school hours, it is the responsibility of the parents or guardians to sign permission slips to dispense the medicine at the school and to submit a note or prescription from the physician authorizing the medicine and/or medical procedure or, for asthma and anaphylaxis, a health care professional who prescribed the medication for treatment of the student's condition. School district personnel will not administer medicine, including over the counter medicine, without this signed form and note or prescription. Any medication brought to school needs to be properly labeled. The label should include the following information: Student's name, name of medication, dosage needed, and time of dispensing the medication. Any questions about these rules are to be addressed with the Principal

Section 12 Homeless Students

The **Every Student Succeeds Act** requires that homeless students not be stigmatized or segregated on the basis of their status as homeless. Homeless children generally include children who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. The Superintendent serves as the district's designated Homeless Coordinator. The Superintendent or Director of Student Services should be contacted for questions relating to a homeless student.

Section 13 Reporting Child Abuse

Policy: 5402

Nebraska state law and District policy mandates school officials to promptly make a report to the proper law enforcement agency or the Department of Health and Human Services (Child Protective Services) when the teacher has reasonable cause to believe that a child has been abused or neglected, or a child is in a situation which would reasonably result in abuse or neglect. According to Nebraska state law, abuse or neglect means knowingly, intentionally, or negligently causing or permitting a minor child to be:

- A. Placed in a situation that endangers his or her life or physical or mental health;
- B. Cruelly confined or cruelly punished;
- C. Deprived of necessary food, clothing, shelter, or care;
- D. Left unattended in a motor vehicle if such minor child is six years of age or younger;
- E. Sexually abused; or
- F. Sexually exploited by allowing, encouraging, or forcing such person to solicit for or engage in prostitution, debauchery, public indecency, or obscene or pornographic photography, films, or depictions.

Teachers are to promptly report to the appropriate law enforcement agency and the Principal when they have reasonable cause to believe that a child has been subjected to abuse or neglect, including sexual abuse, or

circumstances which reasonably would result in abuse or neglect. Administrative staff may sometimes choose to make the report for a teacher. However, simply informing a Principal or supervisor does not end the teacher's responsibility; teachers are obligated by law to make certain a report was made if they do not do it themselves.

This requirement shall apply to all school employees, including coaches and volunteers, participating in interstate amateur athletic competition. The term "promptly" means "within a 24-hour period."

It is vital that the report be made as accurately and as soon as possible. To assure accuracy, you are encouraged to document the date of the incident and specific statements or explanations made by a child regarding an abuse/neglect concern. Timeliness in making a report will assist in minimizing further risk to the child by allowing the police or Child Protective Services workers to interview the child during the school day and prior to an evening or weekend. In cases of physical injury (e.g., bruising or other marks), it is essential the police observe and document the injury. A counselor or an administrator will help you with any questions or concerns you may have.

Section 14 Confidentiality of Student Records (FERPA)

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) gives parents and students over 18 years of age rights of access and confidentiality with respect to education records. Employees are expected to provide access rights and maintain the confidentiality of education records in accordance with FERPA and board policy. Further information about FERPA and the district's policies under FERPA are found in board policy and in the student handbook.

Section 15 Disclosure of Student Information to Military Recruiters and Colleges

The **Every Student Succeeds Act** (ESSA) requires the district to provide military recruiters and institutions of higher education access to secondary school students' names, addresses, and telephone listings. Parents and secondary students have the right to request that the school not provide this information (i.e., not provide the student's name, address, and telephone listing) to military recruiters or institutions of higher education, without their prior written consent. Employees are expected to follow these requirements.

Section 16 Student Privacy Protection

The **Every Student Succeeds Act** (ESSA) requires the district to protect the privacy of students. Further information about student privacy and the district's policies with regard to student privacy are found in board policy and in the student handbook. In general, employees are expected to comply with these provisions of **ESSA** and related board policy, as follows:

- A. Student surveys created by and administered by either the United States Department of Education or a third party (a group or person other than the district)—give parent/guardian the opportunity to inspect the survey upon request before the survey is administered or distributed to the students;
- B. Student surveys which involve "sensitive" matters—make suitable arrangements to protect student privacy (that is, do not include the name or other identifying information about a particular student) and give parents the opportunity, in advance, to "opt-out" their child from the survey. Sensitive matters include:
 1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent;
 2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or the student's parent;
 3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
 4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating or demeaning behavior;
 5. Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom the student has close family relationships;
 6. Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers;
 7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the students or the student's parent;
 8. Income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program).

- C. Instructional materials—permit parents upon reasonable request to inspect any instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum for their child. The term “instructional materials” does not include academic tests or academic assessments for purposes of this parent inspection requirement. If you receive such a request, direct the parent to contact your building principal and also inform the building principal yourself about the request to get instructions.
- D. The district policy is to not collect, disclose, or use personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or selling that information.

Section 17 Mental Health Assessment or Service

The District shall obtain informed consent from the parent of each child who is under 18 years of age to participate in any mental-health assessment or service that is funded under the Every Student Succeeds Act (“ESSA”). Before obtaining the consent, the District shall provide the parent written notice describing in detail such mental health assessment or service, including the purpose for such assessment or service, the provider of such assessment or service, when such assessment or service will begin, and how long such assessment or service may last.

Article 7: Instruction

Section 1 Emergencies Policy 6114

All employees of Norfolk Public Schools are accountable for upholding the protection of students. School district procedures for implementing the **Standard Response Protocol** shall be consistent across the district. These Standard Response Protocols are posted and accessible in every school building in the district.

Section 2 Fire Drills, Emergency Plans Policy 6115

Each building shall coordinate and exercise at least nine fire drills, two tornado drills, and two intruder drills each school year.

Section 3 Ceremonies, Observances, and the Pledge of Allegiance Policy 6117

Exercises may be held for Veteran’s Day, Martin Luther King Day, President’s Day, Flag Day, Memorial Day, and State Fire Day. Each school shall establish a time during each school day when students will be led in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Section 4 Curriculum – Assessments Policy 6211

- A. State Assessments.
Norfolk Public Schools has adopted an assessment plan and has aligned the curriculum with the state approved content standards. The assessment plan includes a schedule and procedures for assessing success in achieving state standards.

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

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

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

B. Achieving Valid Assessments.

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

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

The following specific assessment expectations and rules apply:

1. Integrity of the Assessment Instrument. The integrity of the assessment instrument is to be maintained.
 - a. Standardized Assessments. Standardized assessment instruments are not to be made available to students at any time before the student takes the assessment. The assessment instrument is to be maintained in a secure manner.
 - b. Coursework Assessments. Coursework assessment instruments are to be periodically modified to keep the assessments current and prevent students from effectively using “test banks.” For coursework assessments that are given on a repeat basis to students at different times (e.g., a test that is given to students throughout the school day), the educator is to remind students to not share the content of the assessment with students who will be taking the assessment later.
2. Teaching for Success on Assessments.
 - a. It is appropriate for educators to prepare students to do well on assessments. This is to be accomplished in a manner that assures the assessment accurately reflects the student’s knowledge, and not simply test preparation.
 - b. Teach the Content. Educators are to prepare students to do well on assessments by teaching the subject content. Educators are not to “teach to the test” by teaching based solely on the content of the assessment. The content is to be taught to the students over an appropriate amount of time prior to the assessment. “Cramming” assessment content just before the assessment is to be taken is not appropriate. Review of content previously taught is appropriate.
 - c. Practice Tests. Educators are to prepare students by teaching test taking skills independent of the subject matter being assessed. Educators are not to conduct reviews (drills) using earlier (no longer published) versions of the same test, using alternate (parallel) forms of the same published test, or using actual items from the current form of a standardized test that will be administered to students. Educators are not to conduct reviews (drills) using items of identical format (for example, multiple choice) to the exclusion of other formats.
3. Conditions for Successful Assessments.
 - a. Communications. Educators are to communicate to students and parents when assessments will be administered, the purpose of the assessment and how the assessment results will be used. Educators are to motivate students to do their best on assessments. Educators are to read and be familiar with assessment administration directions in advance and communicate the rules to students accurately and clearly.

Section 8 Multicultural Education

Policy 6370

Norfolk Public Schools incorporates multicultural education in all curriculum areas in all grades. It is believed that through the multicultural education program students will improve an understanding of (and sensitivity to) diverse cultures and races.

Section 9 Free and Reduced Price Meals

Policy 6500

The district participates in the National School Lunch Program. Employees are expected to keep information about the participation of students in the program confidential.

Section 10 Computer – Internet Safety and Acceptable Use Policy

Policy 6800

Teachers have access to the district’s computer network and the Internet for the enhancement and support of student instruction. It is important to remember that the equipment and the software are the property of the school district.

In using the computers and the Internet, teachers are agreeing to the following:

- A. Since copyright laws protect software, teachers will not make unauthorized copies of software found on school computers by any means. Teachers will not give, lend, or sell copies of software to others unless the original software is clearly identified as shareware or in the public domain.
- B. If a teacher downloads public domain programs for personal use or non-commercially redistributes a public domain program, the teacher assumes all risks regarding the determination of whether a program is in the public domain.
- C. Teachers shall not access material that is obscene, child pornography or otherwise inappropriate matter for educational or work-related uses or contrary to the district’s mission. Teachers are not permitted to knowingly access information that is profane, obscene or offensive toward a group or individual based upon race, color, national origin, religion, disability, age, sex, or other protected category. Further, teachers are prohibited from placing such information on the Internet.
- D. Teachers will protect the privacy of other computer users' areas by not accessing their passwords without written permission. Teachers will not copy, change, read, or use another person's files. Teachers will not engage in “hacking” or otherwise attempt to gain unauthorized access to system programs or computer equipment.
- E. Teachers will not use computer systems to disturb or harass other computer users by sending unwanted mail or by other means.
- F. Teachers will not disclose their passwords and account names to anyone or attempt to ascertain or use anyone else's password and account name.
- G. Teachers will not attempt to login to the system as a system administrator.
- H. Teachers understand that the intended use of all computer equipment is to meet instructional objectives.
- I. Teachers will not waste or take supplies, such as paper, printer ribbons, toner, or other materials that are provided by the district.
- J. Teachers will not use the network for financial gain or for any commercial or illegal activity.
- K. Attempts to bypass security systems on computer workstations or servers, or vandalism will result in cancellation of privileges and may result in further consequences. Malicious attempts to harm or destroy data of another teacher, or data that resides anywhere on the network or on the Internet, or the uploading or creation of computer viruses are forbidden.
- L. The district will not be responsible for any liabilities, costs, expenses, or purchases incurred by the use of the district’s telecommunications systems such as the Internet. This includes, but is not limited to, the purchase of online services or products. The teacher is solely responsible for any such charges. The teacher’s acceptance of an email account is an acceptance of the teacher’s agreement to indemnify the district for any expenses, including legal fees, arising out of the teacher’s use of the system in violation of the agreement.

- M. The Internet will be supplied for your use on an "as is, as available" basis. The district does not imply or expressly warrant that any information you access will be valuable or fit for a particular purpose or that the system will operate error free.
- N. The district is not responsible for the integrity of information accessed, or software downloaded from the Internet.
- O. The district reserves the right to refuse posting of files, and to remove files.
- P. The district further reserves the right to inspect a teacher's computer and computer usage at any time. Teachers have no privacy rights or expectations of privacy with regard to use of the district's computers or Internet system.
- Q. The computer system is not a public forum. It is provided for the limited purpose of advancing the district's mission.
- R. A technology protection measure is in place that blocks and/or filters Internet access to prevent access to Internet sites that are not in accordance with policies and regulations. In addition to blocks and/or filters, the district may also use other technology protection measures or procedures as deemed appropriate. The technology protection measure that blocks and/or filters Internet access may be disabled only by an authorized staff member for bona fide research or educational purposes: (a) who has successfully completed district training on proper disabling circumstances and procedures, (b) with permission of the immediate supervisor of the staff member requesting said disabling, or (c) with the permission of a building administrator. An authorized staff member may override the technology protection measure that blocks and/or filters Internet access for a minor to access a site for bona fide research or other lawful purposes provided the minor is monitored directly by an authorized staff member.

Any violation of any part of this agreement or any other activity which school administrators deem inappropriate will be subject to disciplinary action. Discipline could include but would not be limited to, the immediate suspension or termination of the teacher's Internet account and computer privileges, reprimand, suspension, or termination.

Section 11 Lesson Plans

Teachers will prepare written lesson plans. These plans must be consistently communicated to building principals according to building expectations. The lesson plans should be specific, up to date and contain information about curriculum, classroom procedures, emergency plans, and current student needs. The lesson plans must be accessible to others in the teacher's absence. If a physical plan book is kept, please keep the plan book, including lesson plans, class rosters, etc. in the top right hand drawer of the teacher's desk. If that is not possible, the plan book should be kept in a place in which the plan book will be readily available in the teacher's absence. If the lesson plans are digital, the teacher must give the Building Principal access to these materials.

The lesson plans must be sufficiently clear in establishing instructional objectives, curricular learning targets, and related activities so that they are easily used by a substitute teacher or other staff member not familiar with previous classroom activities or progress. The plan book must give specific reference to other instructional sources immediately available which will enhance the instructional lesson.

Section 12 Classroom and School Procedures

Teachers are expected to adhere to the following classroom and school procedure in the performance of their duties:

- A. Bulletin Boards
Each teacher shall be responsible for completing an appropriate bulletin board regarding curriculum related matters in their primary classroom. Bulletin boards should be changed as needed to ensure current and relevant information is available.
- B. Text Book and Room Inventory
All school purchased materials must be inventoried with the building bookkeeper or secretary. Textbooks are to be numbered and either have cards in pockets or a form for writing the name of the student whom the book

is assigned. Teachers should keep good records of who has which book. At the start of the year, note the condition of the textbook on the inventory sheet and keep this sheet for future reference. When a book is turned in, again note its condition, and if the book shows abuse (other than normal wear) assess a fine that you consider is fair. Insist that students put covers on their books by the end of the first week after receiving them.

C. Use of Cell Phones

1. Teachers shall not use personal cell phones for any non-school purpose during teacher duty time.
2. Teachers are not to use wireless devices or otherwise engage in distracted driving while transporting students. This rule applies to the driver when the vehicle is in motion. The only exception would be in the case of emergencies.
3. Teachers will abide by all rules of the road and any applicable rules of the Nebraska Department of Education and the district relating to driving a motor vehicle. Seat belts and child restraint systems will be utilized by all occupants. Cell phones will not be used while the vehicle is in motion.

D. Use of Paraprofessionals

Paraprofessionals provide valuable assistance in the educational process and allow teachers to carry out their responsibilities in a more efficient and effective manner. A paraprofessional must not, however, assume teaching responsibilities. The teacher must maintain the role of leadership and responsibility for the students, with the paraprofessional in a supportive role. *Teachers ultimately bear responsibility of the actions that occur in their classroom.* Paraprofessionals may be used to assist the teacher by, among other tasks, assisting with instructional activities under the direction of the teacher, helping to supervise students, copying tests and other written material, organizing class materials, preparing bulletin boards, grading tests or class work, and calculating grades and recording grades. Paraprofessionals are to work only on their assigned work days and within their assigned work day. If the teacher desires the paraprofessional to work hours other than the assigned work hours or assigned work day, contact the administration for approval.

E. Use of Student Aides

Student aides are to be directly supervised by the teacher or office staff and are not to leave the building or be in the halls or anywhere they are not being supervised. Student aides are not to be used to assist the teacher by helping supervise another student, grade tests or class work, calculate student grades or record grades. Keys should **NEVER** be given to students, whether they are student aides or not. A student aide should not be present and assisting a teacher without another adult present after the end of regular teacher duty hours.

F. Checking Out of Equipment

All equipment must be checked out through the Building Principal. All school equipment may be used only for school purposes. No school equipment may be directed to the personal use of a teacher or another district employee.

G. Requisition of Equipment and Supplies

Books and supplies which are needed for instruction should be requested through the Principal's office. No equipment or supplies ordered through the district may be directed to the personal use of a teacher or another district employee. If approved, the Principal will assign a purchase order number/budget code.

H. E-mail

Each teacher will be assigned a school e-mail address for purposes of intra-school and inter-school e-mail correspondence. Teachers should respond to e-mails which require a response in a timely fashion, but should avoid checking and responding to e-mails during instructional time. Use of the district's e-mail system for personal communications should be limited, and is subject to the rules governing overall computer usage found in board policy and this handbook.

I. Teacher Mail Box

Each teacher will be assigned a mailbox. Teachers should check for mail each morning and also later in the school day, if possible. If something requires an answer, teachers are responsible for responding promptly. Teacher mail boxes are to be limited to communications regarding school business.

J. Teacher Meetings

Teacher meetings will be held as designated by building/district administrators. **ALL** teachers are expected to be present for meetings, unless they are absent from school for good cause or have made prior arrangements.

Section 13 Purpose and Goals of Academic Achievement

The Norfolk Public Schools' Board of Education is committed to providing a quality education for all Norfolk Public School students consistent with the school's mission statement. Effective, quality instruction by teachers is an essential means of meeting the district's mission of providing a quality education.

Section 14 Teaching to Student Understanding

Each teacher is responsible for teaching in a manner to meet the mission of the district and to assure student understanding and learning of the principles and concepts to be presented to students within the curriculum adopted by the district. Teachers will model classroom instruction on the educational model implemented by the district and reflected in the teacher evaluation instrument adopted by the Board of Education. Teachers are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the district instructional model and the principles of instruction set forth in the evaluation instrument. The administration shall provide periodic in-services regarding current instructional practices.

State and federal laws and regulations have been enacted which require that students with certain needs be provided instruction and services consistent with those special needs. Examples include students who have been verified as in need of special education ("special education students"), students with other disabilities which impact the educational program ("504 students"), and Limited English Proficient students ("LEP or ELL students"). The district's policy is to comply with the state and federal laws and regulations in all respects. Teachers who are assigned special education, 504, or LEP/ELL students are required to provide instruction and services consistent with legal requirements and the requirements of board policy and regulation.

Section 15 Instruction in the Curriculum

Teachers shall instruct students in the curriculum, including the use of curriculum materials, adopted and implemented by the Board of Education and as directed by the administration.

Section 16 Measuring and Reporting Academic Achievement

Grades and Grading. Measuring and accurately reporting the level of each student's academic achievement is of critical importance to students, parents, staff, the Board of Education and community. To this end, each teacher shall develop a variety of assessment instruments and techniques to measure student achievement in the curriculum adopted and implemented by the school district, record the results of such assessment, and report such results on progress reports. Teachers should endeavor to measure student learning and understanding on a frequent basis during each quarter to provide an accurate evaluation of each student's academic achievement for that period. It is recommended that the teacher record several grades per week. It is generally preferable to give numerical grades for tests, quizzes, and daily work. **GRADES MUST BE RECORDED FOR ALL CURRICULAR AREAS.**

Recording Grades. Each teacher shall record grades in the Daily Class Record (Infinite Campus). A sufficient number of grades must be recorded in the grade book and/or Infinite Campus to justify all quarter and semester grades for each student. Please keep consistent and complete records. Teachers must be able to support and justify the grades that each individual student earns.

Grade Scales. Teachers are to use only the grading scales set forth below. Any deviation from the approved grade scales must be approved by the building principal.

Elementary Schools

Grades K-2

- O Outstanding
- S Satisfactory
- N Needs Improvement
- U Unsatisfactory

Grades 3-4 will be evaluated in achievement, level of work performed, effort/assignments

Achievement	Level	Effort/Assignments
A = 94-100%	1 = working above grade level	O = Outstanding
B = 86-93%	2 = working at grade level	S = Satisfactory
C = 78-85%	3 = working below grade level	N = Needs Improvement
D = 70-77%		U = Unsatisfactory
F = Below 70%		

Norfolk Middle School

- A 94-100
- B 86-93
- C 78-85
- D 70-77
- F Below 70

Norfolk Junior High School

- A 94-100
- B 86-93
- C 78-85
- D 70-77
- F Below 70
- NC No Credit
- INC Incomplete
- WDP Withdrew passing
- WDF Withdrew failing

Norfolk Senior High School

- A 94-100 Outstanding
- B 86-93 Above Average
- C 78-85 Average
- D 70-77 Below Average
- F Below 70 Failing
- P Pass
- INC Incomplete
- WD Withdrawal
- NC No Credit

The preceding grade scales are expected to be used according to the following guidelines:

- A. No other grade scales are to be used on official records or reports unless approved by the Superintendent.
- B. "Failing," "unsatisfactory" or equivalent terms indicate that student performance does not meet the minimum requirements established for the course. A final mark of "failing" or "unsatisfactory" in a credit-bearing course means that credit hours will not be granted.
- C. The mark given at the end of each reporting period is considered an evaluation of the pupil's status at the time (for example, the final mark in a semester course is an evaluation of the pupil's status as of the close of the semester; not an average of two nine-week marks).
- D. Teachers may exercise professional judgment in distributing marks. Marks are not expected to be distributed on a normal curve.

Reconsideration of Grades/Marks

Questions raised concerning duly assigned grades will be resolved cooperatively with the teacher(s) involved and the Principal. In the event a grade is questioned by parents or students, the parents/guardians and/or student may be included.

Failure to initially resolve the issue will result in an appeal involving the superintendent or designee and the participants described above. The grades designated by teachers will not be changed unilaterally by the Superintendent unless the Superintendent determines that the grade is not consistent with the requirements of law, board policy, or the best interests of the district.

Reduced Credit. Some students in certain situations may qualify for less than the number of credits normally granted for a course. Late entry or a serious injury at an awkward point in the semester would be a couple of examples. If a student is excessively absent from a class for any particular reason, a teacher may request reduced credit. All cases of reduced credit should be recorded on a "Reduced Credit/Error Summary" form and be approved by the Principal.

Transfer Grades. A student transferring into Norfolk Public Schools at the 15 to 18 week time period will have all grades on transcript from an accredited school accepted for semester credit. Grades must be approved for credit by the Principal.

Reports to Parents. Grades and credit are assigned on a quarter (9 weeks) or semester basis (18 weeks). Reports are sent to parents at the close of each nine weeks during the school year; the reporting periods are referred to as first quarter, first semester, third quarter, and second semester.

The grade reports are produced from information supplied by teachers and distributed to students at school or are mailed to parents.

All term or mid-quarter grades are calculated on a cumulative basis; i.e., the grade given at the end of the first quarter represents an evaluation of work done during that quarter, and the grade given at the close of the semester represents an evaluation of all the work done during the entire 18 weeks.

The end-of-quarter and end-of-semester reports are directed to parents, not to students. Students probably know quite well how they stand in such areas as citizenship, attitude, cooperation, attendance, preparation of assignments, etc. The parents do not have this knowledge. If any such factors have significant bearing on the student's grades or their relationship with teachers, communication should be sent to parents. Arrangements will be made to include this communication with the grade report forms. The communication may call attention to deficiencies, faults, or failures; or it may be commendatory in nature. If carefully prepared, this communication can be most valuable. Parents need to have information about areas of strengths and areas needing improvement and progress being made by their child. For their instruction, and for our ultimate well-being, if and when problems arise, it is essential that all communication be as informative as possible. Teachers should, in all cases, keep on file copies of all communication sent to parents.

Please accept, cooperatively and professionally, the responses that parents may make subsequent to the distribution of term or mid-quarter reports. Parents are not always helpful or reasonable under these circumstances, but they do need information and direction. Please encourage parents to discuss their student-centered problems with you and give them all possible assistance.

Mid-Quarter Progress Reports To Parents. Mid-quarter progress reports are prepared at or near the middle of the fourth and the thirteenth weeks of each semester.

Section 17 Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-Teacher conferences are a critical opportunity for teachers to dialogue with parents (or guardians) of students regarding student achievement and learning. To this end, Parent-Teacher conferences will be scheduled and held each semester. Teacher attendance at Parent-Teacher conferences is mandatory. A teacher may only be excused from attendance at Parent-Teacher conferences in writing by the Superintendent. Please check the Staff Calendar for the dates/times of Parent-Teacher Conferences.

Teachers are expected to be prepared for such conferences. Being prepared includes having completed grade books which include all student assignments, work or tests completed within five (5) days of the date of the Parent-Teacher conference.

Section 18 Copyright and Fair Use Policy

It is the school's policy to follow the federal copyright law. Teachers are reminded that, when using school equipment and when performing school duties, they also must follow the federal copyright laws. The federal copyright law governs the reproduction of works of authorship. Copyrighted works are protected regardless of the medium in which they are created or reproduced; thus, copyright extends to digital works and works transformed into a digital format. Copyrighted works are not limited to those that bear a copyright notice.

The "fair use" doctrine allows limited reproduction of copyrighted works for educational and research purposes. The relevant portion of the copyright statute provides that the "fair use" of a copyrighted work, including reproduction "for purposes such as criticism, news reporting, teaching (including multiple copies for classroom use), scholarship, or research" is not an infringement of copyright. The law lists the following factors as the ones to be evaluated in determining whether a particular use of a copyrighted work is a permitted "fair use," rather than an infringement of the copyright:

- A. the purpose and character of the use, including whether such use is of a commercial nature or is for nonprofit educational purposes;
- B. the nature of the copyrighted work;
- C. the amount and substantiality of the portion used in relation to the copyrighted work as a whole, and
- D. the effect of the use upon the potential market for or value of the copyrighted work.

Although all of these factors will be considered, the last factor is the most important in determining whether a particular use is "fair." Teachers should seek assistance from administration if there are any questions regarding what may be copied.

**RECEIPT OF 2018-2019 TEACHER HANDBOOK
OF NORFOLK PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

This signed receipt acknowledges receipt of the 2018-2019 Teacher Handbook of Norfolk Public Schools. This receipt acknowledges that it is understood that I am to read and be familiar with the handbook, that I understand the handbook contains a disclaimer of contract and that I understand that the handbook includes the District's policies of non-discrimination and equity, and that specific complaint and grievance procedures exist in the handbook which should be used for responding to harassment or discrimination.

Date: _____

Teacher's Signature

Please return the signed document to your building secretary.