



Book	Policy Manual
Section	Vol 26, Jan and Feb 2026 Revisions
Title	Copy of TRAVEL AND EXPENSES
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Adopted	June 5, 2025

0147.1 - **TRAVEL AND EXPENSES**

Members of the School Board have a duty to promote the best interests of the District and are expected to engage in meaningful professional **learning development** to enhance their leadership abilities and fulfill their responsibilities. In doing so, members of the Board may need to travel from time-to-time in the county, out of the county, and/or out of the State.

Members of the Board seeking reimbursement for travel must utilize District-approved forms.

In-County Travel

Travel on official business performed within Clay County by members of the Board shall be reimbursed at the maximum rate allowed by F.S. Chapter 112.061; said mileage shall be determined by actual driving directions.

Reimbursable in-county travel for members of the Board is defined as that travel performed as part of a Board member's duties.

Out-of-County Travel (Within the State of Florida)

Expenditures for travel outside the District or for cellular phones, cellular phone service, personal digital assistants, or any other mobile wireless communication device or service, including text messaging, whether through purchasing, leasing, contracting, or any other method, are not permitted if any of the financial conditions outlined in F.S. 1011.051, and as set forth in Policy 6233, exist.

If such a financial condition does not exist, when approved in advance, expenses for out-of-county travel for members of the Board members shall be paid at the rate allowed by State law. Copies of receipts for lodging, transportation, tolls, registration fees, and parking must be attached to the traveler's request for reimbursement.

Travel outside the county that exceeds \$500.00 requires prior approval by the Board to confirm that such travel is for official business of the District and complies with rules of the State Board of Education.

Out-of-State Travel

Expenditures for travel outside the State or for cellular phones, cellular phone service, personal digital assistants, or any other mobile wireless communication device or service, including text messaging, whether through purchasing, leasing, contracting, or any other method, are not permitted if any of the financial conditions outlined in F.S. 1011.051, and as set forth in Policy 6233, exist.

If such a financial condition does not exist, when approved in advance, expenses for out-of-State travel for members of the Board shall be paid at the rate allowed by State law.

Any request by a member of the Board member to travel outside of Florida must include an itemized list detailing all anticipated travel expenses including, but not limited to, the anticipated costs of all means of travel, lodging, and subsistence. The public shall have an opportunity to speak on any member of the Board specific travel agenda item prior to the Board taking action on whether to approve or deny the travel request.

Travel Costs Paid or Reimbursed from Federal Funds

Travel payment and reimbursement provided from Federal funds must be authorized in advance and must be reasonable and consistent with the District's travel policy and administrative guidelines. For travel paid for with Federal funds, the travel authorization must include documentation that demonstrates that (1) the participation in the event by the individual traveling is necessary to the Federal award; and (2) the costs are reasonable and consistent with the District's travel policy.

Participation in Virtual Trainings and Conferences

Similar to in-person trainings and conferences, participation by a Board member in a virtual training or conference is defined as official business performed as part of a Board member's duties when all of the following apply:

- A. The main purpose of the virtual training or conference is in connection with the official business of the District and directly related to the performance of the statutory duties and responsibilities of the Board member participating.
- B. The virtual training or conference provides a direct educational or other benefit supporting the work and public purpose of the participating Board member.
- C. The duties and responsibilities of the participating Board member are compatible with the objectives of the virtual training or conference.

Any request by a member of the Board to participate in a virtual training or conference must include an itemized list detailing all anticipated expenses including, but not limited to, the anticipated costs of registration and meeting materials.

Expenses for participation in virtual trainings and conferences that exceeds \$250 requires prior approval by the Board to confirm that such participation is for official business of the District and complies with rules of the State Board of Education.

If a financial condition pursuant to F.S. 1011.051 does not exist, expenses for participation in a virtual training or conference for members of the Board shall be reimbursed at the rate allowed by State law.



Book	Policy Manual
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Adopted	June 5, 2025
Last Revised	November 6, 2025

1139 - **EDUCATOR MISCONDUCT**

As required by the provisions of State Board of Education rules and the Principles of Professional Conduct of the Education Profession in Florida, an administrator is required to self-report within forty-eight (48) hours to a District authority, as determined by the Superintendent, any arrest for a felony or misdemeanor offense listed in F.S. 435.04, including any arrests/charges involving the abuse of a child or the sale and/or possession of a controlled substance. Such self-report is not to be considered an admission of guilt nor shall such self-report be for any purpose in any proceeding, civil or criminal, administrative or judicial, investigatory or adjudicatory. In addition, self-reporting shall also be required for any conviction, finding of guilt, withholding of adjudication, commitment to a pretrial diversion program, or entering a plea of guilty or nolo contendere for any criminal offense other than a minor traffic violation within forty-eight (48) hours after the final judgment. When handling sealed and expunged records disclosed under this policy, the District shall comply with the confidentiality provisions in Florida statutes.

~~Furthermore, all~~ **All** legally sufficient complaints against an administrator shall be reported to the Department of Education within thirty (30) days after the date on which the subject matter of the complaint comes to the attention of the School Board or the office of the Superintendent. A complaint is legally sufficient for reporting if the subject matter of the complaint includes any of the grounds for discipline or dismissal set forth in Florida statutes.

The Superintendent shall require that all legally sufficient complaints are timely filed in writing with the Department of Education. The Superintendent shall file with the Department of Education all information relating to the complaint which is known to the Superintendent at the time of filing. Additionally, Policy 8141 sets forth the procedures for mandatory reporting of alleged misconduct by school administrators to the Florida Department of Education.

It is the responsibility of all employees of the Board to promptly report to the office of the Superintendent or the office of Human Resources Services any complaint against an administrator that comes to the employee's attention and that includes grounds for the revocation or suspension of a teaching certificate. The willful failure by an employee of the Board to promptly report a complaint shall constitute cause for discipline of the employee as provided by law and Board policy.

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Book	Policy Manual
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Adopted	June 5, 2025

1211 - WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION

The School Board expects all its employees to be honest and ethical in their conduct, and to comply with applicable State and Federal law, Board policies and administrative procedures. Pursuant to State law, the Board expects administrative staff members to report any violation or suspected violation of any Federal, State or local law, policy, or regulation committed by any employee, or agent of an agency or independent contractor which is doing business with the Board, which creates and presents a substantial or specific danger to the public's health, safety, or welfare to their immediate supervisors. Additionally, pursuant to State law, administrative staff members are expected to report any act or suspected act of gross mismanagement, malfeasance, misfeasance, gross waste of public funds, suspected or actual Medicaid fraud or abuse, or gross neglect of duty committed by an employee or agent of an agency or independent contractor which is doing business with the Board.

It is the responsibility of an employee who is aware of conduct on the part of any Board member or employee that possibly violates Federal or State law, or Board policy, to call this conduct to the attention of his/her their immediate supervisor. If the employee's immediate supervisor is not responsive or is the employee one whose behavior is in question, the employee should report the alleged misconduct to the Superintendent.

After such a report is made, the immediate supervisor will ask that the employee's report be put in writing.

Any employee making such a report shall be protected from discipline, retaliation, or reprisal for making such report as long as the employee made a reasonable and good faith effort to determine the accuracy of any information reported and such a reports meets the requirements of the Florida's Whistleblower's Act.

Employees are subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination, for purposely, knowingly, or recklessly making a false report under this policy. Conversely, employees are subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination, if they are aware of a violation of Federal, State, or local law that the Board has the authority to correct and they do not make a report confirmed in writing to their immediate supervisor.

If the alleged misconduct that is reported involves a Board member or the Superintendent, the report is to be filed directly with the Board Attorney who is hereby authorized to engage outside counsel to conduct the investigation concerning the alleged misconduct.

Upon receipt of a legally sufficient report made by an administrative staff member pursuant to this policy, an investigation shall be conducted by the Superintendent or Board Attorney consistent with the procedures described in F.S. 112.3189.



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Adopted	June 5, 2025

1220 - **EVALUATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL**

Pursuant to State law, each administrator shall be evaluated annually by the administrator's supervisor utilizing the approved District evaluation system. The purpose of this performance evaluation shall be continuous quality improvement of the professional skills of each administrator.

Each evaluation shall relate, but not be limited to, the duties specified in the job description.

The evaluation shall be completed and on file in accordance with the time schedule established by the Superintendent. The written report of the evaluation must be on file and provided to the employee within ten (10) days after the evaluation conference. The evaluator must discuss the written evaluation report with the employee. The employee shall have the right to initiate a written response to the evaluation, and the response shall become a permanent attachment to his/her personnel file. The evaluator may amend an evaluation based upon assessment data from the current year if the data becomes available within ninety (90) days after the close of the school year.

An administrator shall be given a copy of any documents relating to his/her performance that are to be placed in the personnel file.

School Administrators Evaluation System

The evaluation system for school administrators will:

- A. be designed to support effective instruction and student learning growth and performance evaluation results must be used when developing District and school-level improvement plans;
- B. provide appropriate instruments, procedures, timely feedback, and criteria for continuous quality improvement of the professional skills of school administrators, and performance evaluation results must be used when identifying professional learning development;
- C. include a mechanism to examine performance data from multiple sources, including opportunities for parents to provide input into employee performance evaluations when appropriate;
- D. differentiate among four (4) levels of performance as follows:

1. highly effective;
2. effective;
3. needs improvement;
4. unsatisfactory;

E. provide for training and monitoring programs based upon guidelines provided by the Department of Education to ensure that all individuals with evaluation responsibilities understand the proper use of the evaluation criteria and procedures.

Evaluation Procedures and Criteria

Evaluation procedures and criteria must comply with, but are not limited to, the following:

A. Performance of Students

As set forth in State law, at least one-third (1/3) of a school administrator's performance evaluation must be based upon learning growth or achievement of the students attending that school over the course of three (3) years. If less than three (3) years data are available, the years for which data are available must be used.

The District shall measure student learning growth using the formulas approved by the Commissioner and the standards for performance levels developed by the State Board for courses associated with the Statewide, standardized assessments administered under F.S. 1008.22 no later than the school year immediately following the year the formula is approved by the Commissioner. (see F.A.C. 6A-5.030 and 6A-5.0411)

For grades and subjects not assessed by Statewide, standardized assessments, the District shall measure student performance using the methodology set forth in the District's evaluation plan that is submitted to and approved by the FLDOE.

B. Instructional Leadership

At least one-third (1/3) of the performance evaluation must be based upon instructional leadership. Evaluation criteria for instructional leadership must include indicators based upon each of the leadership standards adopted by the State Board of Education under F.S. 1012.986 including performance measures related to the effectiveness of classroom teachers in the school, the administrator's appropriate use of evaluation criteria and procedures, recruitment and retention of effective and highly effective classroom teachers, improvement in the percentage of instructional personnel evaluated at the highly effective or effective level, and other leadership practices that result in student learning growth. The system may include a means to give parents and instructional personnel an opportunity to provide input into the administrator's performance evaluation.

C. Other Indicators of Performance

The remainder of a performance evaluation may include, but is not limited to, professional and job responsibilities as recommended by the State Board of Education or identified by the School Board.

The individual responsible for supervising the employee must evaluate the employee's performance. The evaluation system may provide for the evaluator to consider input from other personnel trained under F.S. 1012.34(2). The evaluator must submit a written report of the evaluation to the Superintendent for the purpose of reviewing the employee's contract. The evaluator must submit the written report to the employee no later than ten (10) days after the evaluation takes place. The evaluator must discuss the written evaluation report with the employee. The employee shall have the right to initiate a written response to the evaluation, and the response shall become a permanent attachment to his/her personnel file.

Annual Report of Evaluation Results

The Superintendent shall annually report the evaluation results of school administrators using the four (4) levels of performance set forth in State law to the FLDOE. The Superintendent shall also notify the FLDOE of any school administrators who receive two (2) consecutive unsatisfactory evaluations, as well as any school administrators who are given written notice by the District of intent to terminate or not renew their employment.

The school administrator assessment system shall be evaluated annually to determine compliance with State law and this policy. All substantial revisions to an approved system shall be approved by the Board, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, before being submitted to the Florida Department of Education for approval.

Annual Review of District School Administrator Evaluation System

The Superintendent may appoint a District Evaluation System Review Committee who shall be responsible for annually reviewing the school administrator evaluation system to analyze whether it complies with Florida law and this policy. The District Evaluation System Review Committee shall follow procedures adopted by the Superintendent when reviewing the evaluation system for compliance with Florida law. All substantial revisions to the evaluation system must be reviewed and approved by the Board before being used to evaluate school administrators.

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1243 - **PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS**

The School Board encourages opportunities for ~~administrative staff members~~ **administrators** to develop increased competence, beyond that which they may attain through the performance of their assigned duties through attendance at professional meetings.

For purposes of this policy, a professional meeting shall be defined as:

- A. any meeting that is related to the activities, duties, or responsibilities of ~~administrative staff members~~ **administrators** as determined by the Superintendent;
- B. a meeting through which direct value can be derived for the person in attendance for later use in the performance of District duties; **and**
- C. a collaborative effort with other districts, professional organizations, State foundations, and postsecondary educational institutions to, among other things, enhance classroom instructional strategies that promote rigor and relevance throughout the curriculum;
- D. ~~professional development plans established by the Board shall incorporate school improvement plans and shall be aligned with principal leadership training as a part of the plan.~~

Professional learning plans established by the Board shall incorporate school improvement plans and be aligned with principal leadership trainings.



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Adopted	July 29, 2025

2111 - **PARENT AND FAMILY INVOLVEMENT IN THE SCHOOL PROGRAM**

The School Board recognizes and values parents and families as children's first teachers and decision-makers in education. The Board believes that student learning is more likely to occur when there is an effective partnership between the school and the student's parents and family. Such a partnership between the home and school and greater involvement of parents in the education of their children generally result in higher academic achievement, improved student behavior, and reduced absenteeism.

In cultivating partnerships with families and communities, the Board is committed to the following:

A. Relationships with Families

1. cultivating school environments that are welcoming, supportive, and student-centered;
2. providing professional **learning development** for school staff that helps build partnerships between families and schools; ^{2,3}
3. providing family activities that relate to various cultures, languages, practices, and customs, and bridge economic and cultural barriers; ^{2,3}
4. providing coordination, technical support, and other support to assist schools in planning and implementing family involvement activities. ³

B. Effective Communication

1. providing information to families to support the proper health, safety, and well-being of their children;
2. providing information to families about school policies, procedures, programs, and activities; ^{2,3}
3. promoting regular and open communication between school personnel and students' family members;
4. communicating with families in a format and language that is understandable, to the extent practicable; ^{2,3}
5. providing information that will enable families to encourage and support their child(ren)'s academic progress, especially in the area of reading; ¹
6. providing information that will enable families to encourage and support their child(ren)'s citizenship, especially social skills and respect for others; ¹
7. providing information that will enable families to encourage and support their child(ren)'s realization of high expectations and setting life-long learning goals; ¹

8. providing information and involving families in monitoring student progress; ³

9. providing families with timely and meaningful information regarding Florida's academic standards, State and local assessments, and pertinent legal provisions; ^{2,3}

10. preparing families to be involved in meaningful discussions and meetings with school staff. ^{2,3}

C. Volunteer Opportunities

providing volunteer opportunities for families to support their children's school activities; ^{1,3}

D. Learning at Home

1. offering training and resources to help families learn strategies and skills to support at-home learning and success in school; ^{1,2,3}

2. working with families to establish learning goals and help their children accomplish these goals; ¹

3. helping families to provide a school and home environment that encourages learning and extends learning at home. ^{1,2}

E. Involving Families in Decision Making and Advocacy

involving families as partners in the process of school review and continuous improvement planning; ³

F. Collaborating with the Community

1. building constructive partnerships and connecting families with community-based programs and other community resources; ^{2,3}

2. coordinating and integrating family involvement programs and activities with District initiatives and community-based programs that encourage and support families' participation in their children's education, growth, and development. ^{2,3}

¹Indicates Florida Statutory Requirements

²Indicates IDEA 2004 Section 650 & 644 parent involvement requirements

³Indicates Title I parent involvement requirements in Subpart 1 - Basic Program Requirements



Book	Policy Manual
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2125 - **SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCILS FOR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

A school advisory council shall be established at each school in the District and include in its name the words "school advisory council". Each school advisory council shall be the sole body responsible for final decision-making at the school relating to the implementation of applicable provisions of F.S. 1001.42 and 1008.345.

Each advisory council shall perform functions prescribed by the School Board; however, no advisory council shall have any of the powers and duties now reserved by law to the Board. Each school advisory council shall assist in the preparation and evaluation of the school improvement plan and, with technical assistance from the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE), shall assist in the preparation of the school's annual budget and plan.

Council members may attend meetings in person or through the use of telecommunication networks such as telephonic and video conferencing.

Composition and Membership

The composition and membership of each **school** advisory council shall **meet the following requirements**:

- A. be composed of the principal and an appropriately balanced number of teachers, education support employees, students, parents, and other business and community citizens who are representative of the ethnic, racial, and economic community served by the school;
- B. high school advisory councils shall include students, and middle and junior high school advisory councils may include students;
- C. school advisory councils of adult education centers are not required to include parents as members;
- D. a majority of members of each council must not be employed by the District;
- E. council members representing teachers, education support employees, students and parents shall be elected by their respective peer groups at the school in a fair and equitable manner;
- F. business and other community members shall be selected by the school according to the written procedures for the school advisory councils for school improvement and accountability. Such procedures must include means of ensuring wide notice of vacancies and of taking input on possible members from local business, chambers of commerce, community and civic organizations and groups, and the public at large.

A simple majority is defined as fifty-one percent (51%) of the membership or one-half (1/2) of the number of members plus one (1). The number of parent representatives shall at least be equal to the number of teacher representatives.

The Board shall review the membership composition of each advisory council. School advisory councils for school improvement and accountability will comply with procedures set forth in Florida statutes and State Board of Education rules.

Election of Members

Written procedures for advisory councils shall include the following procedures for elections:

- A. Advance notice of election with a specific election date and an opportunity for write-in nominations and ballots for those unable to be present at the election;
- B. Ample advance notice will be given for nominations of all interested persons in the following categories before elections are held;
- C. Teachers shall be elected by teachers;
- D. Education support employees shall be elected by education support employees;
- E. Students shall be elected by students; and
- F. Parents shall be elected by parents.

Bylaws

Each school advisory council shall adopt bylaws establishing procedures for:

- A. requiring a quorum to be present before a vote may be taken by the school advisory council;
A majority of the membership of the council constitutes a quorum.
- B. requiring at least three (3) days' advance notice in writing to all members of the advisory council of any matter that is scheduled to come before the council for a vote;
- C. scheduling meetings when parents, students, teachers, business persons, and members of the community can attend;
- D. replacing any member who has two (2) unexcused consecutive absences from a school advisory council meeting that is noticed according to the procedures in the bylaws; and,
- E. recording minutes of meetings.

The Board may review all proposed bylaws of a school advisory council and shall maintain a record of minutes of council meetings.

School Improvement Plans

A. School Improvement Plans Approval Process

1. School improvement plans are submitted to the Board for approval. Any District review or revision of the school improvement plan in preparation for presentation to the Board must be done with the collaboration and approval of the school advisory council.
2. The Board approves or declines to approve each plan. If all plans are approved, the Superintendent and Board Chairman certify to the Commissioner of Education that the plans have been approved for the coming year together with any necessary report that a school has not made adequate progress. The plans themselves are not submitted to the Commissioner.
3. If a Board declines to approve a plan, in returning the plan to the school advisory council for revision it must state: (a) the elements within the plan is found to be problematic, and (b) recommendations for change which would enable the plan to be approved. The school advisory council is to then take the comments of the Board and consider revising and resubmitting the plan based upon the Board feedback. The Board then approves or disapproves any revision.
4. If the school advisory council determines that the Board's suggested changes are not consistent with their goals and/or does not desire to modify the plan, then the council and Board are asked to mutually agree to use a dispute resolution process. The Board is strongly encouraged to involve representatives of all the stakeholders in developing such a dispute resolution rule and to offer the broadest range of options.

5. The dispute resolution process is implemented in an effort to resolve the conflict. If the conflict is not resolved, then formal notice is given by the Board to the Department of Education that additional assistance will be required. The school advisory council may also notify the Department of Education.

B. Conflict/Dispute Resolution Process

Should the Board decide not to approve a plan, in returning the plan to the school advisory council, the Board shall state the elements within the plan found to be problematic and recommend changes. The school advisory council shall consider revising and resubmitting the plan based upon the Board's feedback. The Board shall approve or disapprove the school improvement plan. A plan that still does not receive Board approval shall be reviewed by a mediation committee.

1. The mediation committee shall be composed of the school principal, the advisory council chairperson or designated school advisory council member, Board Chairman or designated Board member, the Superintendent or designee, and a facilitator to be mutually agreed upon by the committee members.
2. The mediation committee shall work with the school advisory council to reach a resolution.
3. Upon resolution, the school advisory council shall submit the revised school improvement plan to the Board for approval in accordance with ~~State-mandated~~ **state-mandated** deadlines.
4. Should the Board not approve the school improvement plan after exhausting this process, the Department of Education shall be notified of the need for assistance. The school advisory council may also notify the **FLDOE** ~~Department of Education~~.

Florida's Sunshine Law

Pursuant to F.S. Chapter 286, advisory council meetings shall be publicly noticed and conducted in public are required under Bylaw 0165 - *School Board Meetings*.



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Adopted	June 5, 2025
Last Revised	November 6, 2025

2260 - **NONDISCRIMINATION AND ACCESS TO EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY**

I. General Statement

Any form of discrimination or harassment can be devastating to an individual's academic progress, social relationship and/or personal sense of self-worth. As such, the School Board will not discriminate nor tolerate harassment in its educational programs or activities on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, national origin, sex, disability, pregnancy, marital status, age (except as authorized by law), religion, military status, ancestry, or genetic information, which are classes protected by State and/or Federal law.

The Board does not, as a condition of employment, membership, certification, licensing, credentialing, or passing an examination, subject individuals to training, instruction or any other required activity that is prohibited under F.S. 760.10 and F.S. 1000.05. Prohibited discrimination also occurs when any student or employee is subjected to training or instruction that is unlawful under F.S. 1000.05.

Such prohibited activities include espousing, promoting, advancing, inculcating, or compelling employees or students to believe the following:

- A. Members of one (1) race, color, national origin, or sex are morally superior to members of another race, color, national origin, or sex.
- B. A person, by virtue of his/her race, color, national origin, or sex is inherently racist, sexist, or oppressive, whether consciously or unconsciously.
- C. A person's moral character or status as either privileged or oppressed is necessarily determined by his/her race, color, national origin, or sex.
- D. Members of one (1) race, color, national origin, or sex cannot or should not attempt to treat others without respect to race, color, national origin, or sex.
- E. A person, by virtue of his/her race, color, national origin, or sex bears responsibility for, or should be discriminated against or received adverse treatment because of, actions committed in the past by other members of the same race, color, national origin, or sex.
- F. A person, by virtue of his/her race, color, national origin, or sex should be discriminated against or received adverse treatment to achieve diversity, equity, or inclusion.
- G. A person, by virtue of his/her race, color, sex, or national origin, bears personal responsibility for and must feel guilt, anguish, or other forms of psychological distress because of actions, in which the person played no part, committed in the past by other members of the same race, color, national origin, or sex.
- H. Such virtues as merit, excellence, hard work, fairness, neutrality, objectivity, and racial colorblindness are racist or sexist, or were created by members of a particular race, color, national origin, or sex to oppress members of another race, color, national origin, or sex.

These prohibited activities should not be construed to exclude discussion of the concepts listed therein as part of a larger course of training or instruction, provided such training or instruction is given in an objective manner without endorsement of the concepts.

The Board also does not discriminate on the basis of protected classes in its employment policies and practices as they relate to students.

Equal educational opportunities shall be available to all students, without regard to the protected classes, age (unless age is a factor necessary to the normal operation or the achievement of any legitimate objective of the program/activity), place of residence within the boundaries of the District, or social or economic background, to learn through the curriculum offered in this District. Educational programs shall be designed to meet the varying needs of all students.

Further, nothing in this policy shall be construed to abridge the rights of students or school employees that are protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

In order to achieve the aforesaid goal, the Superintendent shall:

A. Curriculum Content

review current and proposed courses of study and textbooks to detect any bias based upon the protected classes; ascertaining whether or not supplemental materials, singly or taken as a whole, fairly depict the contribution of both genders, various races, ethnic groups, etc., toward the development of human society;

B. Staff Training

develop professional learning and training opportunities for school personnel designed to identify and solve problems of bias based upon the protected classes in all aspects of the program;

C. Student Access

1. review current and proposed programs, activities, facilities, and practices to verify that all students have equal access thereto and are not segregated on the basis of the protected classes in any duty, work, play, classroom, or school practice, except as may be permitted under State and Federal laws and regulations;
2. verify that facilities are made available for non-curricular student activities that are initiated by parents or other members of the community, including but not limited to any group that is officially affiliated with the Boy Scouts of America or any other youth group listed in Title 36 of the United States Code as a patriotic society, pursuant to Board Policy 7510 - *Use of District Facilities*;

D. District Support

verify that like aspects of the District's program receive like support as to staff size and compensation, purchase and maintenance of facilities and equipment, access to such facilities and equipment, and related matters;

E. Student Assessment

verify that tests, procedures, or guidance and counseling materials, which are designed to evaluate student progress, rate aptitudes, analyze personality, or in any manner establish or tend to establish a category by which a student may be judged, are not differentiated or stereotyped on the basis of the protected classes.

II. **Definitions**

Words used in this policy shall have those meanings defined herein; words not defined herein shall be construed according to their plain and ordinary meanings.

Complainant is the individual who alleges, or is alleged, to have been subjected to unlawful discrimination/retaliation, regardless of whether the person files a formal complaint or is pursuing an informal resolution to the alleged discrimination/retaliation.

Respondent is the individual who has been alleged to have engaged in unlawful discrimination/retaliation, regardless of whether the reporting party files a formal complaint or is seeking an informal resolution to the alleged discrimination/retaliation.

School District community means students and Board employees as well as Board members, agents, volunteers, contractors, or other persons subject to the control and supervision of the Board.

Third Parties include, but are not limited to, guests and/or visitors on School District property (e.g., visiting speakers, participants on opposing athletic teams, parents), vendors doing business with, or seeking to do business with, the Board, and other individuals who come in contact with members of the School District community at school-related events/activities (whether on or off District property).

Day(s): Unless expressly stated otherwise, the term "day" or "days" as used in this policy means business day(s) (i.e., a day(s) that the Board office is open for normal operating hours, Monday – Friday, excluding State-recognized holidays).

III. **District Compliance Officer(s)**

A. Section 504 Compliance Officer/ADA Coordinator

The Board designates the following individuals to serve as the District's Section 504 Compliance Officer/ADA Coordinator.

Director of Exceptional Student Education
904-336-6500

B. Title IX Coordinator

The Board designates the following individuals to serve as the District's Title IX Coordinator.

Chief of Secondary Education
904-336-6500

C. Publication

The name(s), title(s), and contact information of this/these individual(s) will be published annually in the staff handbooks, on the School District's website, and/or on each individual school's website.

D. Duties and Responsibilities

The CO(s), Section 504 Compliance Officer/ADA Coordinator(s), and Title IX Coordinator(s) are responsible for coordinating the District's efforts to comply with applicable Federal and State laws and regulations, including the District's duty to address in a prompt and equitable manner any inquiries or complaints regarding discrimination or denial of equal access. The CO(s) shall also verify that proper notice of nondiscrimination for Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (as amended), Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendment Act of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (as amended), the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Florida Civil Rights Act of 1992, the Florida Educational Equity Act, and/or their implementing regulations is provided to students, their parents, staff members, and the general public. A copy of each of the acts and regulations

on which this notice is based may be found in the CO's office.

E. Students with Disabilities, Limited English Proficiency, or Other Needing Additional Services

The Superintendent shall annually attempt to identify children with disabilities, ages 3-22, who reside in the District but do not receive a public education. In addition, s/he shall establish procedures to identify students who are Limited English Proficient (LEP), including immigrant children and youth, to assess their ability to participate in District programs, and develop and administer a program that meets the English language and academic needs of these students. This program shall include procedures for student placement, services, evaluation, and exit procedures and shall be designed to provide students with effective instruction that leads to academic achievement and timely acquisition of proficiency in English. As a part of this program, the District will evaluate the progress of students in achieving English language proficiency in the areas of listening, speaking, reading, and writing, on an annual basis (see AP 2260F). The Superintendent is responsible for verifying that a concentration of students who are Limited English Proficient (LEP) in one or more programs is not the result of discrimination.

- F. The Board is committed to educating (or providing for the education of) each qualified person with a disability with persons who are not disabled to the maximum extent appropriate. Generally, the District will place a person with a disability in the regular educational environment unless it is demonstrated that the education of the person in the regular environment, even with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily. If the Board operates a separate class or facility that is identifiable as being for persons with disabilities, the facility, program, and activities and services must be comparable to the facilities, programs, and activities and services offered to students without a disability.

IV. Reports and Complaints of Unlawful Discrimination and Retaliation

Students and Board employees are required, and all other members of the School District community and Third Parties are encouraged to promptly report incidents of unlawful discrimination and/or retaliation to a teacher, administrator, supervisor, or other District official so that the Board may address the conduct. Any teacher, administrator, supervisor, or other District employee or official who receives such a complaint shall file it with the CO within two (2) days.

Members of the School District community, which includes students or Third Parties, who believe they have been unlawfully discriminated/retaliated against are entitled to utilize the complaint process set forth below. Initiating a complaint, whether formally or informally, will not adversely affect the Complainant's employment or participation in educational or extra-curricular programs. While there are no time limits for initiating complaints under this policy, individuals should make every effort to file a complaint as soon as possible after the conduct occurs, while the facts are known and potential witnesses are available.

If, during an investigation of alleged bullying, aggressive behavior and/or harassment in accordance with Policy 5517.01 – *Bullying and Harassment*, the Principal believes that the reported misconduct may constitute unlawful discrimination based on a protected class, the Principal shall report the act to one of the COs who shall investigate the allegation in accordance with this policy. While the CO investigates the allegation, the Principal shall suspend the Policy 5517.01 investigation to await the CO's written report. The CO shall keep the Principal informed of the status of the Policy 2260 investigation and provide the Principal with a copy of the resulting written report.

The COs will be available during regular school/work hours to discuss concerns related to unlawful discrimination/retaliation. COs shall accept reports of unlawful discrimination/retaliation directly from any member of the School District community or a Third Party, or receive reports that are initially filed with another Board employee. Upon receipt of a report of alleged discrimination/retaliation, the CO will contact the Complainant and begin either an informal or formal complaint process (depending on the Complainant's request and the nature of the alleged discrimination/retaliation), or the CO will designate a specific individual to conduct such a process. The CO will provide a copy of this policy to the Complainant and the Respondent. In the case of a formal complaint, the CO will prepare recommendations for the Superintendent or oversee the preparation of such recommendations by a designee. All members of the School District community must report incidents of discrimination/retaliation that are reported to them to the CO within two (2) business days of learning of the incident/conduct.

Any Board employee who directly observes unlawful discrimination/retaliation of a student is obligated, in accordance with this policy, to report such observations to one of the COs within two (2) business days. Additionally, any Board employee who observes an act of unlawful discrimination/retaliation is expected to intervene to stop the misconduct, unless circumstances make such an intervention dangerous, in which case the staff member should immediately notify other Board employees and/or local law enforcement officials, as necessary, to stop the misconduct. Thereafter, the CO or designee must contact the Complainant, if age eighteen (18) or older, or the Complainant's parents/guardians if the Complainant is under the age of eighteen (18), within two (2) days to advise s/he/them of the Board's intent to investigate the alleged wrongdoing.

Nothing contained in this policy is intended to interfere with the rights of any individual to pursue a complaint of unlawful discrimination or retaliation with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights ("OCR"), the Florida Commission on Human Relations ("FCHR"), or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ("EEOC").

V. Investigation and Complaint Procedure

Except for sex discrimination and/or Sexual Harassment that is covered by ~~Policy 2264 – Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs and Activities~~ or Policy 2266 - *Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities (The Board's Policy and Grievance Procedures for Responding to Sexual Harassment Alleged to Have Occurred Prior to 8/1/2024)*, any student who alleges to have been subjected to unlawful discrimination or retaliation may seek resolution of the complaint through the procedures described below. The formal complaint procedures involve an investigation of the individual's claims of discrimination/retaliation and a process for rendering a decision regarding whether the charges are substantiated.

Due to the sensitivity surrounding complaints of unlawful discrimination or retaliation, timelines are flexible for initiating the complaint process; however, individuals are encouraged to file a complaint within thirty (30) days after the conduct occurs. Once the formal complaint process is begun, the investigation will be completed in a timely manner (ordinarily, within fifteen (15) business days of the complaint being received).

A. Informal Complaint Procedure

The goal of the informal complaint procedure is to promptly stop inappropriate behavior and facilitate resolution through an informal means, if possible. The informal complaint procedure is provided as a less formal option for a student who alleges unlawful discrimination/retaliation. This informal procedure is not required as a precursor to the filing of a formal complaint.

The informal process is only available in those circumstances where the Complainant and the Respondent mutually agree to participate in it.

Students who believe that they have been unlawfully discriminated/retaliated against may proceed immediately to the formal complaint process and individuals who seek resolution through the informal procedure may request that the informal process be terminated at any time to move to the formal complaint process.

All complaints involving a District employee or any other adult member of the School District community and a student will be formally investigated.

As an initial course of action, if a Complainant feels comfortable and safe doing so, the individual should tell or otherwise inform the Respondent that the allegedly discriminatory/retaliatory conduct is inappropriate and must stop. The Complainant should address the alleged misconduct as soon after it occurs as possible. The COs are available to support and counsel the Complainant when taking this initial step or to intervene on behalf of the individual if requested to do so. A Complainant who is uncomfortable or unwilling to directly approach the Respondent about the inappropriate conduct may file an informal or a formal complaint. In addition, with regard to certain types of unlawful discrimination (e.g., sex discrimination), the CO may advise against the use of the informal complaint process.

A Complainant who alleges unlawful discrimination/retaliation may make an informal complaint, either orally or in writing: (1) to a teacher, other employee, or building administrator in the school the student attends; (2) to the Superintendent or other District-level employee; and/or (3) directly to one of the COs.

All informal complaints must be reported to one of the COs who will either facilitate an informal resolution as described below or appoint another individual to facilitate an informal resolution.

The School District's informal complaint procedure is designed to provide the Complainant with a range of options aimed at bringing about a prompt resolution of their concerns. Depending upon the nature of the Complainant's wishes informal resolution may involve, but not be limited to, one (1) or more of the following:

1. Advising the Complainant about how to communicate concerns to the Respondent.
2. Distributing a copy of Policy 2260 – *Nondiscrimination and Access to Equal Educational Opportunity* to the individuals in the school building or office where the Respondent works or attends.
3. If both parties agree, the CO may arrange and facilitate a meeting or mediation between the Complainant and the Respondent to work out a mutual resolution.

While there are no set time limits within which an informal complaint must be resolved, the CO or designee is directed to attempt to resolve all informal complaints within fifteen (15) days of receiving the informal complaint. If the Complainant is dissatisfied with the informal complaint process, the Complainant may proceed to file a formal complaint. And, as stated above, either party may request that the informal process be terminated at any time to move to the formal complaint process.

B. Formal Complaint Procedure

If a complaint is not resolved through the informal complaint process, if one (1) of the parties requested that the

informal complaint process be terminated to move to the formal complaint process, or if the Complainant, from the outset, elects to file a formal complaint, or the Compliance Officer(s) determines the allegations are not appropriate for resolution through the informal process, the formal complaint process shall be implemented.

The Complainant may file a formal complaint, in writing, with a teacher, Principal, or other District official at the student's school, the CO, Superintendent, or another District official who works at another school or at the District level. Due to the sensitivity surrounding complaints of unlawful discrimination, timelines are flexible for initiating the complaint process; however, individuals should make every effort to file a formal complaint within thirty (30) days after the conduct occurs.

Throughout the course of the process, the CO should keep the parties reasonably informed of the status of the investigation and the decision-making process.

All formal complaints must include the following information to the extent known: the identity of the Respondent; a detailed description of the facts upon which the complaint is based (i.e., when where, and what occurred); a list of potential witnesses; and the resolution sought by the complainant.

If the complainant is unwilling or unable to provide a written statement including the information set forth above, the CO shall ask for such details in an oral interview. Thereafter, the CO will prepare a written summary of the oral interview, and the complainant will be asked to verify the accuracy of the reported charge by signing the document.

Upon receiving a formal complaint, the CO will consider whether any action should be taken in the investigatory phase to protect the complainant from further discrimination or retaliation, including, but not limited to, a change of work assignment or schedule for the Complainant and/or the Respondent. In making such a determination, the CO should consult the Complainant to assess whether the individual agrees with the proposed action. If the Complainant is unwilling to consent to the proposed change, the CO may still take whatever actions deemed appropriate in consultation with the Superintendent.

Within two (2) days of receiving the complaint, the CO or designee will initiate a formal investigation to determine whether the complainant has been subjected to unlawful discrimination/retaliation.

Simultaneously, the CO will inform the Respondent that a formal complaint has been received. The respondent will be informed about the nature of the allegations and provided access to any relevant policies and/or administrative guidelines, including Policy 2260 - *Nondiscrimination and Access to Equal Educational Opportunity*. The Respondent must also be informed of the opportunity to submit a written response to the complaint within five (5) business days.

Although certain cases may require additional time, the CO or designee will attempt to complete an investigation into the allegations of discrimination/retaliation within fifteen (15) business days of receiving the formal complaint. The investigation will include:

1. interviews with the complainant;
2. interviews with the respondent;
3. interviews with any other witnesses who may reasonably be expected to have any information relevant to the allegations;
4. consideration of any documentation or other information presented by the complainant, respondent, or any other witness that is reasonably believed to be relevant to the allegations.

At the conclusion of the investigation, the CO or designee shall prepare and deliver a written report to the Superintendent that summarizes the evidence gathered during the investigation and provides recommendations based on the evidence and the definition of unlawful discrimination/retaliation as provided in Board policy and State and Federal law as to whether the Respondent has engaged in unlawful discrimination/retaliation of the Complainant. The CO's recommendations must be based upon the totality of the circumstances, including the ages and maturity levels of those involved. In determining if unlawful discrimination or retaliation occurred, a preponderance of evidence standard will be used. The CO may consult with the Board's legal counsel before finalizing the report to the Superintendent.

Absent extenuating circumstances, within five (5) business days of receiving the report of the CO or designee, the Superintendent must either issue a written decision regarding whether the charges have been substantiated or request further investigation. A copy of the Superintendent's final decision will be delivered to both the complainant and the respondent.

If the Superintendent requests additional investigation, the Superintendent must specify the additional information that is to be gathered, and such additional investigation must be completed within five (5) days. At the conclusion of the additional investigation, the Superintendent shall issue a final written decision as described above.

If the Superintendent determines the Respondent engaged in unlawful discrimination/retaliation toward the Complainant, the Superintendent must identify what corrective action will be taken to stop, remedy, and prevent the recurrence of the discrimination/retaliation. The corrective action should be reasonable, timely, age-appropriate and effective, and tailored to the specific situation.

The decision of the Superintendent shall be final.

The right of a person to a prompt and equitable resolution of the complaint shall not be impaired by the person's pursuit of other remedies such as the filing of a complaint with the Office for Civil Rights, the filing of charges with local law enforcement, or the filing of a civil action in court. Use of this internal complaint process is not a prerequisite to the pursuit of other remedies.

VI. Privacy/Confidentiality

The School District will employ all reasonable efforts to protect the rights of the complainant, the respondent(s), and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with the Board's legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to conform with any discovery or disclosure obligations. All records generated under the terms of this policy shall be maintained as confidential to the extent permitted by law. Confidentiality, however, cannot be guaranteed. Additionally, the Respondent must be provided the Complainant's identity.

During the course of a formal investigation, the CO or designee will instruct each person who is interviewed about the importance of maintaining confidentiality. Any individual who is interviewed as part of an investigation is expected not to disclose to third parties any information that is learned or provided during the course of the investigation.

All records created as a part of an investigation of a complaint of discrimination/retaliation will be maintained by the CO in accordance with the Board's records retention policy. Any records that are considered student education records in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act or under Florida's student records law will be maintained in a manner consistent with the provisions of the Federal and State law.

VII. Sanctions and Monitoring

The Board shall vigorously enforce its prohibitions against unlawful discrimination/retaliation by taking appropriate action reasonably calculated to stop and prevent further misconduct. While observing the principles of due process, a violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including the discharge of an employee or the suspension/expulsion of a student. All disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with applicable State law and the terms of the relevant collective bargaining agreement(s). When imposing discipline, the Superintendent shall consider the totality of the circumstances involved in the matter, including the ages and maturity levels of those involved. In those cases where unlawful discrimination/retaliation is not substantiated, the Board may consider whether the alleged conduct nevertheless warrants discipline in accordance with other Board policies, consistent with the terms of the relevant collective bargaining agreement(s).

Where the Board becomes aware that a prior remedial action has been taken against a member of the School District community, all subsequent sanctions imposed by the Board and/or Superintendent shall be reasonably calculated to end such conduct, prevent its reoccurrence, and remedy its effects.

VIII. Retaliation

Retaliation against a person who makes a report or files a complaint alleging unlawful discrimination/retaliation or participates as a witness in an investigation is prohibited. Neither the Board nor any other person may intimidate, threaten, coerce or interfere with any individual because the person opposed any act or practice made unlawful by any Federal or State civil rights law, or because that individual made a report, formal complaint, testified, assisted or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under those laws and/or this policy, or because that individual exercised, enjoyed, aided or encouraged any other person in the exercise or enjoyment of any right granted or protected by those laws and/or this policy.

Retaliation against a person for making a report of discrimination, filing a formal complaint, or participating in an investigation or meeting is a serious violation of this policy that can result in imposition of disciplinary sanctions/consequences and/or other appropriate remedies.

Formal complaints alleging retaliation may be filed according to the internal complaint process set forth above.

The exercise of rights protected under the First Amendment of the United States Constitution does not constitute retaliation prohibited under this policy.

IX. Education and Training

In support of this policy, the Board promotes preventative educational measures to create greater awareness of unlawful discriminatory practices. The Superintendent or designee shall provide appropriate information to all members of the School

District community related to the implementation of this policy and shall provide training for District students and staff where appropriate. All training, as well as all information, provided regarding the Board's policy and discrimination in general, will be age and content-appropriate.

X. Retention of Investigatory Records and Materials

The Compliance Officer(s) is responsible for overseeing retention of all records that must be maintained pursuant to this policy. All individuals charged with conducting investigations under this policy shall retain all information, documents, electronically stored information ("ESI"), and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315) created and received as part of an investigation, including, but not limited to:

- A. all written reports/allegations/complaints/statements;
- B. narratives of all verbal reports/allegations/complaints/statements;
- C. a narrative of all actions taken by District personnel;
- D. any written documentation of actions taken by District personnel or individuals contracted or appointed by the Board to fulfill its responsibilities related to the investigation and/or the District's response to the alleged violation of this policy;
- E. written witness statements;
- F. narratives of, notes from, or audio, video, or digital recordings of witness statements;
- G. all documentary evidence;
- H. e-mails, texts, or social media posts pertaining to the investigation;
- I. contemporaneous notes in whatever form made (e.g., handwritten, keyed into a computer or tablet, etc.) pertaining to the investigation;
- J. written disciplinary sanctions issued to students or employees and a narrative of verbal disciplinary sanctions issued to students or employees for violations of the policies and procedures prohibiting discrimination or harassment;
- K. dated written determinations to the parties;
- L. dated written descriptions of verbal notifications to the parties;
- M. written documentation of any interim measures offered and/or provided to complainants, including no contact orders issued to both parties, the dates issued, and the dates the parties acknowledged receipt;
- N. documentation of all actions taken, both individual and systemic, to stop the discrimination or harassment, prevent its recurrence, eliminate any hostile environment, and remedy its discriminatory effects;
- O. documentation of any supportive measures offered and/or provided to the Complainant and/or the Respondent, including no contact orders issued to both parties, the dates the no contact orders were issued, and the dates the parties acknowledged receipt of the no contact orders;
- P. copies of the Board policy and/or procedures/guidelines used by the District to conduct the investigation, and any documents used by the District at the time of the alleged violation to communicate the Board's expectations to students and staff with respect to the subject of this policy (e.g., Student Codes of Conduct and/or Employee Handbooks);
- Q. copies of any documentation that memorializes any formal or informal resolutions to the alleged discrimination, harassment, or retaliation;
- R. documentation of any training provided to District personnel related to this policy, including but not limited to, notification of the prohibitions and expectations of staff set forth in this policy and the role and responsibility of all District personnel involved in enforcing this policy, including their duty to report alleged violations of this policy and/or conducting an investigation of an alleged violation of this policy.

The information, documents, ESI, and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315) retained may include public records and records exempt from disclosure under Federal and/or State law (e.g., student records).

The information, documents, ESI, and electronic media (as defined in Policy 8315) created or received as part of an investigation shall be retained in accordance with Policy 8310, Policy 8315, Policy 8320, and Policy 8330 for not less than three (3) years, but longer if required by the District's records retention schedule.

Revised 11/6/25

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Book	Policy Manual
Section	Vol 26, Jan and Feb 2026 Revisions
Title	Copy of TITLE I - PARENTS' RIGHT TO KNOW
Code	*po2261.02 knw 4/7/26 - Needs review
Status	
Legal	20 U.S.C. 6311, Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 34 C.F.R. Part 200 et seq.
Adopted	June 5, 2025

2261.02 - **TITLE I - PARENTS' RIGHT TO KNOW**

In accordance with the requirement of Section 1111 of Title I, **at the beginning of each school year for** for each school receiving Title I funds, the ~~Superintendent~~ District shall ~~make sure that~~ notify all parents of students in that school ~~are notified~~ that they may request, and the District will provide **in a timely manner** the following information- **regarding the professional qualifications of** ~~on~~ the student's classroom teachers:

- A. Whether the teacher(s) have met the State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade level and subject areas they are teaching.
- B. Whether the teacher(s) is teaching under any emergency or provisional status in which the State requirements have been waived.
- C. ~~The undergraduate major of the teacher(s) and the area of study and any certificates for any graduate degrees earned.~~ **Whether the teacher(s) is teaching in the field of discipline of the certification of the teacher.**
- D. The qualifications of any paraprofessionals providing services to their child(ren).
- E. In addition, the parents shall be provided:

- 1. information on the level of achievement **and academic growth, if applicable and available,** of their child(ren) on the required State academic assessments; **and,**
- 2. timely notice if the student is assigned to **, or has been taught for four (4) or more consecutive weeks by, a teacher** ~~a teacher who does not meet applicable State certification or licensure requirements at the grade level and subject area in which the teacher has been assigned. is not "highly qualified" as required, or if the student is taught for more than four (4) weeks by a teacher who is not "highly qualified".~~

Testing Transparency

At the beginning of each school year for each school receiving Title I funds, the District shall notify parents in that school that the parents may request, and the District will provide in a timely manner, information regarding any State or District policy regarding student participation in any assessments mandated by the State to comply with federal law, State law, and/or District policy. The notice will also advise parents of the right to opt their child out of such assessment, where applicable.

The District shall also make widely available through public means (including by posting in a clear and easily accessible manner on the District's website and, where practicable, on the website of each school operated by the District) for each grade served by the District, information on each assessment required by the State to comply with federal law, other assessments required by the State and, where such information is available and feasible to report, assessments required by the District.

Language Instruction for English Learners

The District shall, not later than thirty (30) days after the beginning of each school year, inform parents of an English learner identified for participation or participating in a language instruction educational program of the following information:

- A. the reasons for the identification of their child as an English learner and in need of placement in a language instruction educational program;
- B. the child's level of English proficiency, how such level was assessed, and the status of the child's academic achievement;
- C. the methods of instruction used in the program in which their child is, or will be, participating and the methods of instruction used in other available programs, including how such programs differ in content, instructional goals, and the use of English and a native language in instruction;
- D. how the program in which their child is, or will be, participating will meet the educational strengths and needs of their child;
- E. how such program will specifically help their child learn English and meet age-appropriate academic achievement standards for grade promotion and graduation;
- F. the specific exit requirements for the program, including the expected rate of transition from such program into classrooms that are not tailored for English learners, and the expected rate of graduation from high school (including four-year adjusted cohort graduation rates and extended-year adjusted cohort graduation rates for such program) if funds under Title I are used for children in high schools;
- G. in the case of a child with a disability, how such program meets the objectives of the individualized education program of the child under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; and,
- H. information pertaining to parental rights that includes written guidance:
 - 1. detailing the right that parents have to have their child immediately removed from such program upon their request;
 - 2. detailing the options that parents have to decline to enroll their child in such program or to choose another program or method of instruction, if available; and,
 - 3. assisting parents in selecting among various programs and methods of instruction, if more than one (1) program or method is offered by the eligible entity.

For those children who have not been identified as English learners prior to the beginning of the school year but are identified as English learners during such school year, the District shall notify the child's parents during the first two (2) weeks of the child being placed in a language instruction educational program consistent with this Policy.

The District shall implement an effective means of outreach to parents of English learners to inform the parents regarding how the parents can:

- A. be involved in the education of their children; and,
- B. be active participants in assisting their children to attain English proficiency, achieve at high levels within a well-rounded education, and meet the challenging State academic standards expected of all students.

The District's outreach shall include holding, and sending notice of opportunities for, regular meetings for the purpose of formulating and responding to recommendations from parents of students assisted under Title I or Title III.

The notices and information shall be provided in an understandable format, and to the extent possible, in a language the parent(s) understand.



Book	Policy Manual
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Title	Copy of TITLE I SERVICES
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Status	
Legal	20 U.S.C. 2701 et seq., Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965
Adopted	June 5, 2025

2261 - **TITLE I SERVICES**

The School Board elects to augment the educational program of educationally disadvantaged students by the use of Federal funds and in accordance with Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act.

The Superintendent shall prepare and present to the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) a plan for the delivery of services which meets the requirements of the law, including those described below. The plan shall be developed by appropriate ~~staff~~ **members personnel** and parents of students who will be served by the plan.

A. Assessment

Assessment shall be the same as the assessment for all students in the District.

B. Scope

Funds will be used to supplement the educational program of an entire school in Title I schools that qualify as schoolwide schools. The schoolwide program, for an entire school shall include the components required by law as well as those agreed upon by participating staff and parents.

C. Participation

The Title I program shall be developed and evaluated in consultation with parents and professional staff members, including teachers, principals, other school leaders, paraprofessionals, specialized instructional support personnel, administrators, and parents involved in its implementation. Appropriate training will be provided to staff members who provide Title I services. Parent participation shall be in accord with Federal requirements.

D. Supplement ~~not~~ Not Supplant and Comparability of Services

Title I funds will be used only to supplement, not to supplant, State and local funds. The District will document its compliance with the supplement not supplant provisions by using a written methodology that ensures State and local funds are allocated to each school on the same basis, regardless of whether a school receives Title I funding.

The Superintendent shall use State and local funds to provide educational services in schools receiving Title I assistance that, taken as a whole, are at least comparable to services being provided in schools that are not receiving Title I assistance.

The determination of the comparability of services may exclude State and local funds expended for language instruction educational programs and the excess costs of providing services to children with disabilities as determined by the District.

The determination of comparability will not take into account unpredictable changes in student enrollments or personnel assignments that occur after the beginning of a school year in determining comparability of services.

In order to achieve comparability of services, the Superintendent shall assign teachers, administrators, and auxiliary personnel, and provide curriculum materials and instructional supplies in such a manner as to ensure equivalence throughout the District.

E. Professional Learning Development

The Superintendent may develop administrative procedures whereby ~~members of the professional staff~~ personnel may participate in the design and implementation of staff development activities. The procedures should:

1. involve parents in the training, when appropriate;
2. combine and consolidate other available Federal funds, when permissible, and District funds;
3. foster cooperative training with institutions of higher learning and other educational organizations including other school districts;
4. allocate part of the staff development to the following types of strategies:
 - a. performance-based student assessment;
 - b. use of technology;
 - c. working effectively with parents;
 - d. early childhood education;
 - e. meeting children's special needs;
 - f. fostering gender-equitable education;
5. provide opportunities for paraprofessionals to work toward licensing as professional educators.



Book	Policy Manual
Section	Vol 26, Jan and Feb 2026 Revisions
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Status	
Legal	20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq., Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX) 20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq., The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEIA) 42 U.S.C. 2000c et seq., Title IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq. 42 U.S.C. 2000e et seq. 42 U.S.C. 1983 34 C.F.R. Part 106 Dear Colleague Letter on Sexual Violence (Office for Civil Rights, 2011) F.S. 1000.05 OCR's Revised Sexual Harassment Guidance (2001)
Adopted	June 5, 2025

2266 – **NONDISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF SEX IN EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES**

Introduction

The School Board does not discriminate on the basis of sex in its education programs or activities, and is required by Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, and its implementing regulations, not to discriminate in such a manner. The requirement not to discriminate in its education program or activity extends to registration and employment. The Board is committed to maintaining an education and work environment that is free from discrimination based on sex, including sexual harassment.

The Board prohibits Sexual Harassment that occurs within its education programs and activities. When the District has actual knowledge of Sexual Harassment in its education program or activity against a person in the United States, it shall promptly respond in a manner that is not deliberately indifferent.

Pursuant to its Title IX obligations, the Board is committed to eliminating Sexual Harassment and will take appropriate action when an individual is determined responsible for violating this policy. Board employees, students, third-party vendors and contractors, guests, and other members of the School District community who commit Sexual Harassment are subject to the full range of disciplinary sanctions set forth in this policy. The Board will provide persons who have experienced Sexual Harassment ongoing remedies as reasonably necessary to restore or preserve access to the District's education programs and activities.

Coverage

This policy applies to Sexual Harassment that occurs within the District's education programs and activities and that is committed by a member of the School District community or a Third Party.

This policy does not apply to Sexual Harassment that occurs off school grounds, in a private setting, and outside the scope of the District's education programs and activities; such Sexual Misconduct/Sexual Activity may be prohibited by the Student Code of Conduct if committed by a student, or by Board policies and administrative procedures, applicable State and/or Federal laws and/or Employee Handbook(s) if committed by a Board employee.

Consistent with the U.S. Department of Education's implementing regulations for Title IX, this policy does not apply to Sexual Harassment that occurs outside the geographic boundaries of the United States, even if the Sexual Harassment occurs in the District's education programs or activities. Sexual Harassment that occurs outside the geographic boundaries of the United States is governed by the Student Code of Conduct if committed by a student, or by Board policies and administrative procedures, applicable State and/or Federal laws and/or Employee Handbook(s) if committed by a Board employee.

Definitions

Words used in this policy shall have those meanings defined herein; words not defined herein shall be construed according to their plain and ordinary meanings.

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

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

"Sexual assault" means any sexual act directed against another person, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent. Sexual assault includes rape, sodomy, sexual assault with an object, **criminal sexual contact (f.k.a fondling)**, incest, and statutory rape.

- 1. *Consent* refers to words or actions that a reasonable person would understand as agreement to engage in the sexual conduct at issue. A person may be incapable of giving consent because of age or because of temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity. A person who is incapacitated is not capable of giving consent.
- 2. *Incapacitated* refers to the state where a person does not understand and/or appreciate the nature or fact of sexual activity due to the effect of drugs or alcohol consumption, medical condition, disability, or due to a state of unconsciousness or sleep.

D. "Domestic violence" includes felony or misdemeanor crimes of violence committed by:

- 1. a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim;
- 2. a person with whom the victim shares a child in common;
- 3. a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner;
- 4. a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction in which the crime occurred; or
- 5. any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction in which the crime occurred.

E. "Dating violence" means violence committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim. The existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on consideration of the length of the relationship, the type of relationship, and the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

F. "Stalking" means engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to – (1) fear for the person's safety or the safety of others; or (2) suffer substantial emotional distress.

Complainant: "Complainant" means an individual who is alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute Sexual Harassment.

Respondent: "Respondent" means an individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of conduct that could constitute Sexual Harassment.

Formal Complaint: "Formal Complaint" means a document filed by a Complainant or signed by the Title IX Coordinator alleging Sexual Harassment against a Respondent and requesting that the District investigate the allegation(s) of Sexual Harassment. At the time of filing a Formal Complaint with the District, a Complainant must be participating in or attempting to participate in the District's education program or activity. A "document filed by a complainant" means a document or electronic submission (such as by electronic mail or through an online portal that the Board provides for this purpose) that contains the Complainant's physical or digital signature, or otherwise indicates that the Complainant is the person filing the Formal Complaint. Where the Title IX Coordinator signs a Formal Complaint, the Title IX Coordinator is not a Complainant or a party to the Formal Complaint and must not have a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or an individual complainant or respondent.

Actual Knowledge: "Actual knowledge" means notice of Sexual Harassment or allegations of Sexual Harassment to the District's Title IX Coordinator, or any District official who has authority to institute corrective measures on behalf of the Board, or any Board employee. The mere ability or obligation to report Sexual Harassment or to inform a student about how to report Sexual Harassment, or having been trained to do so, does not qualify an individual as one who has the authority to institute corrective measures on behalf of the District. "Notice" includes, but is not limited to, a report of Sexual Harassment to the Title IX Coordinator. This standard is not met when the only District official with actual knowledge is the Respondent.

Supportive Measures: "Supportive measures" means non-disciplinary, non-punitive individualized services offered as appropriate, as reasonably available, and without fee or charge to the Complainant or the Respondent before or after the filing of a Formal Complaint or where no Formal Complaint has been filed. Such measures are designed to restore or preserve equal access to the District's education program or activity without unreasonably burdening the other party, including measures designed to protect the safety of all parties or the District's educational environment or deter Sexual Harassment. Supportive measures may include counseling, extensions of deadlines or other course-related adjustments, modifications of work or class schedules, school/campus escort services, mutual restrictions of contact between the parties, changes in work locations, leaves of absence, increased security and monitoring of certain areas of the campus (including school buildings and facilities), referral to Employee Assistance Program, and other similar measures.

Education Program or Activity: "Education program or activity" refers to all operations of the District, including but not limited to in-person and online educational instruction, employment, extracurricular activities, athletics, performances, and community engagement and outreach programs. The term applies to all activity that occurs on school grounds or on other property owned or occupied by the Board. It also includes locations, events, and circumstances that take place off-school property/grounds over which the Board exercises substantial control over both the Respondent and the context in which the Sexual Harassment occurs.

School District community: "School District community" refers to students and Board employees (i.e., administrators, and professional and classified staff), as well as Board members, agents, volunteers, contractors, or other persons subject to the control and supervision of the Board.

Third Parties: "Third Parties" include, but are not limited to, guests and/or visitors on School District property (e.g., visiting speakers, participants on opposing athletic teams, parents), vendors doing business with, or seeking to do business with the Board, and other individuals who come in contact with members of the School District community at school-related events/activities (whether on or off District property).

Inculpatory Evidence: "Inculpatory evidence" is evidence that tends to establish a Respondent's responsibility for alleged Sexual Harassment.

Exculpatory Evidence: "Exculpatory evidence" is evidence that tends to clear or excuse a Respondent from allegations of Sexual Harassment.

Day(s): Unless expressly stated otherwise, the term "day" or "days" as used in this policy means business day(s) (i.e., a day(s) that the Board office is open for normal operating hours, Monday – Friday, excluding State-recognized holidays).

Eligible Student: "Eligible Student" means a student who has reached eighteen (18) years of age or is attending an institution of postsecondary education.

Title IX Coordinator(s)

The Board designates and authorizes the following individual(s) to oversee and coordinate its efforts to comply with Title IX and its implementing regulations:

Chief of Secondary Education
904-336-6919
23 South Green Street
Green Cove Springs, Florida 32043

The Title IX Coordinator shall report directly to the Superintendent except when the Superintendent is a Respondent. In such matters, the Title IX Coordinator shall report directly to the Board Attorney. Questions about this policy should be directed to the Title IX Coordinator.

The Superintendent shall notify applicants for employment, students, parents or legal guardians of elementary and secondary school students, Board employees, and all unions or professional organizations holding collective bargaining or professional agreements with the Board of the following information:

The School Board of Clay County, Florida does not discriminate on the basis of sex in its education program or activity, and is required by Title IX and its implementing regulations not to discriminate in such a manner. The requirement not to discriminate in its education program or activity extends to registration employment. The District's Title IX Coordinator(s) is/are:

Chief of Secondary Education
904-336-6919
23 South Green Street
Green Cove Springs, Florida 32043

Any inquiries about the application of Title IX and its implementing regulations to the District may be referred to the Title IX Coordinator(s), the Assistant Secretary for the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, or both.

The Board has adopted a grievance process that provides for the prompt and equitable resolution of student and employee complaints alleging any action that is prohibited by Title IX and/or its implementing regulations. The grievance process is included in Policy 2266 – Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs and Activities, which is available at: www.oneclay.net. The grievance process specifically addresses how to report or file a complaint of sex discrimination, how to report or file a formal complaint of Sexual Harassment, and how the District will respond.

The Superintendent shall also prominently display the Title IX Coordinator's(s') contact information – including name(s) and/or title(s), phone number(s), office address(es), and e-mail address(es) – and this policy on the District's website and in each handbook or catalog that the Board makes available to applicants for employment, students, parents or legal guardians of elementary and secondary school students, Board employees, and all unions or professional organizations holding collective bargaining or professional agreements.

Grievance Process

The Board is committed to promptly and equitably resolving student and employee complaints alleging Sexual Harassment. The District's response to allegations of Sexual Harassment will treat Complainants and Respondents equitably, including providing supportive measures to the Complainant and Respondent, as appropriate, and following this Grievance Process before imposition of any disciplinary sanctions or other actions, other than supportive measures, against the Respondent.

The Title IX Coordinator(s), along with any investigator(s), decision-maker(s), or any person(s) designated to facilitate an informal resolution process, shall not have a conflict of interest or bias for or against Complainants or Respondents generally or an individual Complainant or Respondent.

If a determination of responsibility for Sexual Harassment is made against the Respondent, the Board will provide remedies to the Complainant. The remedies will be designed to restore or preserve equal access to the District's education program or activity. Potential remedies include, but are not limited to, individualized services that constitute supportive measures. Remedies may also be disciplinary or punitive in nature and may burden the Respondent.

Report of Sexual Discrimination/Harassment

Any person may report sex discrimination, including Sexual Harassment (whether or not the person reporting is the person alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sex discrimination or Sexual Harassment), in person, by mail, by telephone, or by electronic mail, using the Title IX Coordinator's(s') contact information listed above, or by any other means that results in the Title IX Coordinator receiving the person's oral or written report. Reports may be made at any time (including during non-business hours), by using the telephone number(s) or electronic mail address(es), or by mail to the office address(es), listed for the Title IX Coordinator(s).

Students, Board members, and Board employees are required, and other members of the School District community and Third Parties are encouraged, to report allegations of sex discrimination or Sexual Harassment promptly to the/a Title IX Coordinator or to any Board employee who will, in turn, notify the/a Title IX Coordinator. Reports can be made orally or in writing and should be as specific as possible. The person making the report should, to the extent known, identify the alleged victim(s), perpetrator(s), and witness(es), and describe in detail what occurred, including date(s), time(s), and location(s).

If a report involves allegations of Sexual Harassment by or involving the Title IX Coordinator, the person making the report should submit it to the Superintendent, or another Board employee who, in turn, will notify the Superintendent of the report. The Superintendent will then serve in place of the Title IX Coordinator for purposes of addressing that report of Sexual Harassment.

The Board does business with various vendors, contractors, and other third-parties who are not students or employees of the Board. Notwithstanding any rights that a given vendor, contractor, or third-party Respondent may have under this policy, the Board retains the right to limit any vendor's, contractor's, or third-party's access to school grounds for any reason. The Board further retains all

rights it enjoys by contract or law to terminate its relationship with any vendor, contractor, or third-party irrespective of any process or outcome under this policy.

A person may file criminal charges simultaneously with filing a Formal Complaint. A person does not need to wait until the Title IX investigation is completed before filing a criminal complaint. Likewise, questions or complaints relating to Title IX may be filed with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights at any time.

Any allegations of Sexual Misconduct/Sexual Activity not involving Sexual Harassment will be addressed through the procedures outlined in Board policies, the applicable Student Code of Conduct, applicable collective bargaining agreement, and/or Employee Handbook.

Because the Board is considered to have actual knowledge of Sexual Harassment or allegations of Sexual Harassment if any Board employee has such knowledge, and because the Board must take specific actions when it has notice of Sexual Harassment or allegations of Sexual Harassment, a Board employee who has independent knowledge of or receives a report involving allegations of sex discrimination and/or Sexual Harassment must notify the/a Title IX Coordinator within two (2) business days of learning the information or receiving the report. The Board employee must also comply with mandatory reporting responsibilities regarding suspected abuse, abandonment, or neglect of a child pursuant to F.S. 39.201 and Policy 8462 – Student Abuse, Abandonment, and Neglect, if applicable. If the Board employee's knowledge is based on another individual bringing the information to the Board employee's attention and the reporting individual submitted a written complaint to the Board employee, the Board employee must provide the written complaint to the Title IX Coordinator.

If a Board employee fails to report an incident of Sexual Harassment of which the Board employee is aware, the Board employee may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

When a report of Sexual Harassment is made, the Title IX Coordinator shall promptly (i.e., within two (2) business days of the Title IX Coordinator's receipt of the report of Sexual Harassment) contact the Complainant (including the parent/guardian if the Complainant is under eighteen (18) years of age or under guardianship) to discuss the availability of supportive measures, consider the Complainant's wishes with respect to supportive measures, inform the Complainant of the availability of supportive measures with or without the filing of a Formal Complaint, and explain to the Complainant the process for filing a Formal Complaint. The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for coordinating the effective implementation of supportive measures. Any supportive measures provided to the Complainant or Respondent shall be maintained as confidential, to the extent that maintaining such confidentiality will not impair the ability of the District to provide the supportive measures.

Emergency Removal: Subject to limitations and/or procedures imposed by State and/or Federal law, the District may remove a student Respondent from its education program or activity on an emergency basis after conducting an individualized safety and risk analysis. The purposes of the individualized safety and risk analysis is to determine whether the student Respondent poses an immediate threat to the physical health or safety of any student or other individual arising from the allegations of Sexual Harassment that justifies removal. If the District determines the student Respondent poses such a threat, it will so notify the student Respondent and the student Respondent will have an opportunity to challenge the decision immediately following the removal. See Policy 5610 – Removal, Out-of-School Suspension, Disciplinary Placement, and Expulsion of Students, Policy 5610.01 – Emergency Removal of Students, and Policy 5611 – Due Process Rights.

If the Respondent is a non-student employee, the District may place the Respondent on administrative leave during the pendency of the grievance process.

For all other Respondents, including other members of the School District community and Third Parties, the Board retains broad discretion to prohibit such persons from entering onto its school grounds and other properties at any time and for any reason, whether after receiving a report of Sexual Harassment or otherwise.

Formal Complaint of Sexual Harassment

A Formal Complaint may be filed with the Title IX Coordinator in person, by mail, or electronically. If a Formal Complaint involves allegations of Sexual Harassment by or involving the Title IX Coordinator, the Complainant should submit the Formal Complaint to the Superintendent, who will designate another person to serve in place of the Title IX Coordinator for the limited purpose of implementing the grievance process with respect to that Formal Complaint.

When the Title IX Coordinator receives a Formal Complaint or signs a Formal Complaint, the District will follow its Grievance Process, as set forth herein. Specifically, the District will undertake an objective evaluation of all relevant evidence – including both inculpatory and exculpatory evidence – and provide that credibility determinations will not be based on a person's status as a Complainant, Respondent, or witness.

It is a violation of this policy for a Complainant(s), Respondent(s), and/or witness(es) to knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during the grievance process, including intentionally making a false report of Sexual Harassment or submitting a false Formal Complaint. The Board will not tolerate such conduct, which is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct and the Employee Handbook.

The Respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged conduct until a determination regarding responsibility is made at the conclusion of the grievance process.

Timeline

The District will seek to conclude the grievance process, including resolving any appeals, within sixty (60) days of receipt of the Formal Complaint.

If the Title IX Coordinator offers informal resolution processes, the informal resolution processes may not be used by the Complainant or Respondent to unduly delay the investigation and determination of responsibility. The timeline, however, may be subject to a temporary delay of the grievance process or a limited extension for good cause with written notice to the Complainant and the Respondent of the delay or extension and the reasons for the action. Good cause may include considerations such as the absence of a party, a party's advisor, or a witness; concurrent law enforcement activity; and the need for language assistance or an accommodation of disabilities.

Upon receipt of a Formal Complaint, the Title IX Coordinator will provide written notice of the following to the parties who are known:

- A. Notice of the Board's grievance process, including any informal resolution processes;
- B. Notice of the allegations of misconduct that potentially constitutes Sexual Harassment as defined in this policy, including sufficient details known at the time and with sufficient time to prepare a response before any initial interview. Sufficient details include the identities of the parties involved in the incident, if known, the conduct allegedly constituting Sexual Harassment, and the date and location of the alleged incident, if known. The written notice must:
 1. include a statement that the Respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged conduct and that a determination regarding responsibility will be made at the conclusion of the grievance process;
 2. inform the parties that they may have an advisor of their choice, who may be, but is not required to be, an attorney, and may inspect and review evidence.
 3. inform the parties of any provision in the Student Code of Conduct, this policy, and/or Employee Handbook that prohibits knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during the grievance process.

If, during the course of the investigation, the investigator becomes aware of allegations about the Complainant or Respondent that are not included in the original notice provided to the parties, the investigator will notify the Title IX Coordinator and the Title IX Coordinator will decide whether the investigator should investigate the additional allegations; if the Title IX Coordinator decides to include the new allegations as part of the investigation, the Title IX Coordinator will provide notice of the additional allegations to the parties whose identities are known.

Dismissal of a Formal Complaint

The District shall investigate the allegations in a Formal Complaint, *unless* the conduct alleged in the Formal Complaint:

- A. would not constitute Sexual Harassment (as defined in this policy) even if proved;
- B. did not occur in the District's education program or activity; or
- C. did not occur against a person in the United States.

If one of the preceding circumstances ~~exist~~ **exists**, the Title IX Coordinator *shall* dismiss the Formal Complaint. If the Title IX Coordinator dismisses the Formal Complaint due to one of the preceding reasons, the District may still investigate and take action with respect to such alleged misconduct pursuant to another provision of an applicable code of conduct, Board policy, and/or Employee/ Handbook.

The Title IX Coordinator *may* dismiss a Formal Complaint, or any allegations therein, if at any time during the investigation :

- A. a Complainant notifies the Title IX Coordinator in writing that the Complainant would like to withdraw the Formal Complaint or any allegations therein;
- B. the Respondent is no longer enrolled in the District or employed by the Board; or
- C. specific circumstances prevent the District from gathering evidence sufficient to reach a determination as to the Formal Complaint or allegations therein.

If the Title IX Coordinator dismisses a Formal Complaint or allegations therein, the Title IX Coordinator must promptly send written notice of the dismissal and the reason(s) therefor simultaneously to the parties.

Consolidation of Formal Complaints

The Title IX Coordinator may consolidate Formal Complaints as to allegations of Sexual Harassment against more than one Respondent, or by more than one Complainant against one or more Respondents, or by one party against the other party, where the allegations of Sexual Harassment arise out of the same facts or circumstances.

Where a grievance process involves more than one Complainant or more than one Respondent, references in this policy to the singular "party," "Complainant," or "Respondent" include the plural, as applicable.

Informal Resolution Process

Under no circumstances shall a Complainant be required as a condition of enrollment or continuing enrollment, or employment or continuing employment, or enjoyment of any other right, to waive any right to an investigation and adjudication of a Formal Complaint of Sexual Harassment. Similarly, no party shall be required to participate in an informal resolution process.

If a Formal Complaint is filed, the Title IX Coordinator may offer to the parties an informal resolution process. If the parties mutually agree to participate in the informal resolution process, the Title IX Coordinator shall designate a trained individual to facilitate an informal resolution process, such as mediation, that does not involve a full investigation and adjudication. The informal resolution process may be used at any time prior to the decision-maker(s) reaching a determination regarding responsibility.

If the Title IX Coordinator is going to propose an informal resolution process, the Title IX Coordinator shall provide to the parties a written notice disclosing:

- A. the allegations;
- B. the requirements of the informal resolution process including the circumstances under which it precludes the parties from resuming a Formal Complaint arising from the same allegations; and
- C. any consequences resulting from participating in the informal resolution process, including the records that will be maintained or could be shared.

Any time prior to agreeing to a resolution, any party has the right to withdraw from the informal resolution process and resume the grievance process with respect to the Formal Complaint.

Before commencing the informal resolution process, the Title IX Coordinator shall obtain from the parties their voluntary, written consent to the informal resolution process.

During the pendency of the informal resolution process, the investigation and adjudication processes that would otherwise occur have stayed and all related deadlines are suspended.

The informal resolution process is not available to resolve allegations that a Board employee or another adult member of the School District community or Third Party sexually harassed a student.

The informal resolution process is not available to resolve allegations involving a sexual assault involving a student Complainant and a student Respondent.

Investigation of a Formal Complaint of Sexual Harassment

In conducting the investigation of a Formal Complaint and throughout the grievance process, the burden of proof and the burden of gathering evidence sufficient to reach a determination regarding responsibility is on the District, not the parties.

In making the determination of responsibility, the decision-maker(s) is(are) directed to use the preponderance of the evidence standard. The decision-maker(s) is charged with considering the totality of all available evidence, from all relevant sources.

The District is not permitted to access, consider, disclose, or otherwise use a party's records that are made or maintained by a physician, psychiatrist, psychologist, or other recognized professional or paraprofessional acting in the professional's or paraprofessional's capacity, or assisting in that capacity, and which are made and maintained in connection with the provision of treatment to the party, unless the party provides the District with voluntary, written consent to do so; if a student party is not an Eligible Student, the District must obtain the voluntary, written consent of a parent.

Similarly, the investigator(s) and decision-maker(s) may not require, allow, rely upon or otherwise use questions or evidence that constitute, or seek disclosure of, information protected under a legally recognized privilege, unless the person holding such privilege has waived the privilege in writing.

As part of the investigation, the parties have the right to:

- A. present witnesses, including fact and expert witnesses, and other inculpatory and exculpatory evidence; and
- B. have others present during any grievance proceeding, including the opportunity to be accompanied to any related meeting or proceeding by the advisor of their choice, who may be, but is not required to be, an attorney. The District may not limit the

choice or presence of an advisor for either the Complainant or Respondent in any meeting or grievance proceeding.

The District establishes the following restrictions, which apply equally to both parties, regarding the extent to which an advisor may participate in the proceedings:

Advisors will be reminded that their role in the Title IX process is limited to a supportive, rather than participatory, role. Advisors shall not interfere with or disrupt the investigative process. No advisor will be allowed to cross-examine witnesses or speak for their advisee.

Board Policy 2461 controls whether a person is allowed to audio record or video record any meeting or grievance proceeding.

Neither party shall be restricted in their ability to discuss the allegations under investigation or to gather and present relevant evidence.

The District will provide to a party whose participation is invited or expected written notice of the date, time, location, participants, and purpose of all investigative interviews, or other meetings, with sufficient time for the party to prepare to participate. The investigator(s) and decision-maker(s) must provide a minimum of five (5) days' notice with respect to investigative interviews and other meetings

Both parties shall have an equal opportunity to inspect and review any evidence obtained as part of the investigation that is directly related to the allegations raised in the Formal Complaint, including the evidence upon which the District does not intend to rely in reaching a determination regarding responsibility and inculpatory or exculpatory evidence whether obtained from a party or other source, so that each party can meaningfully respond to the evidence prior to the conclusion of the investigation.

Prior to completion of the investigative report, the Title IX Coordinator will send to each party and the party's advisor, if any, the evidence subject to inspection and review in an electronic format or a hard copy, and the parties will have at least ten (10) calendar days to submit a written response, which the investigator will consider prior to completion of the investigative report.

At the conclusion of the investigation, the investigator shall create an investigative report that fairly summarizes relevant evidence and send the report to each party and the party's advisor, if any, for their review and written response. The investigator will send the investigative report in an electronic format or a hard copy, at least ten (10) calendar days prior to the decision-maker(s) issuing a determination regarding responsibility.

Determination of Responsibility

The Title IX Coordinator shall appoint a decision-maker(s) to issue a determination of responsibility. The decision-maker(s) cannot be the same person(s) as the Title IX Coordinator(s) or the investigator(s).

After the investigator sends the investigative report to the parties and the decision-maker(s), and before the decision-maker(s) reaches a determination regarding responsibility, the decision-maker(s) will afford each party the opportunity to submit written, relevant questions that a party wants asked of any party or witness, provide each party with the answers, and allow for additional, limited follow-up questions from each party. The decision-maker(s) must explain to the party proposing the questions any decision to exclude a question as not relevant.

Questions and evidence about the Complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant, unless such questions and evidence about the Complainant's prior sexual behavior are offered to prove that someone other than the Respondent committed the conduct alleged by the Complainant, or if the questions and evidence concern specific incidents of the Complainant's prior sexual behavior with respect to the Respondent and are offered to prove consent. The decision-maker(s) must explain to the party proposing the questions any decision to exclude a question as not relevant.

Determination regarding responsibility: The decision-maker(s) will issue a written determination regarding responsibility. To reach this determination, the decision-maker(s) must apply the preponderance of the evidence standard.

The written determination will include the following content:

- A. Identification of the allegations potentially constituting Sexual Harassment pursuant to this policy;
- B. A description of the procedural steps taken from the receipt of the Formal Complaint through the determination, including any notifications to the parties, interviews with parties and witnesses, site visits, and methods used to gather other evidence,
- C. Findings of fact supporting the determination;
- D. Conclusions regarding the application of the applicable code of conduct to the facts;
- E. A statement of, and rationale for, the result as to each allegation, including a determination regarding responsibility, any disciplinary sanctions the decision-maker(s) is recommending that the District impose on the Respondent(s), and whether remedies designed to restore or preserve equal access to the District's education program or activity should be provided by

the District to the Complainant(s); and

F. The procedures and permissible bases for the Complainant(s) and Respondent(s) to appeal.

The following disciplinary sanctions/consequences may be imposed on a student Respondent who is determined responsible for violating this policy (i.e., engaging in Sexual Harassment):

A. Informal Discipline

1. writing assignments;
2. changing of seating or location;
3. pre-school, lunchtime, and/or after-school detention;
4. in-school discipline.

B. Formal Discipline

1. suspension of bus riding/transportation privileges;
2. removal from co-curricular and/or extra-curricular activity(ies), including athletics;
3. emergency removal;
4. suspension for up to ten (10) school days;
5. expulsion not to exceed the remainder of the term or school year and one (1) additional year of attendance;
6. any other sanction authorized by the Student Code of Conduct.

If the decision-maker(s) determines the student Respondent is responsible for violating this policy (i.e., engaging in Sexual Harassment), the decision-maker(s) will recommend appropriate remedies, including disciplinary sanctions/consequences. The Title IX Coordinator will notify the Superintendent of the recommended remedies, so an authorized administrator can consider the recommendation(s) and implement an appropriate remedy(ies) in compliance with Policy 5600 – Student Discipline, Policy 5605 – Suspension/Expulsion of Disabled Students, Policy 5610 – Removal, Out-of-School Suspension, Disciplinary Placement, and Expulsion of Students, Policy 5601.01 – Emergency Removal of Students, Policy 5610.02 – In-School Discipline, Policy 5610.04 – Suspension of Bus Riding/Transportation Privileges, Policy 5610.05 – Participation in Extra-Curricular Activities, and Policy 5611 – Due Process Rights. Discipline of a student Respondent must comply with the applicable provisions of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1972, and their respective implementing regulations.

The following disciplinary sanctions/consequences may be imposed on an employee Respondent who is determined responsible for violating this policy (i.e., engaging in Sexual Harassment):

- A. oral or written warning;
- B. written reprimands;
- C. performance improvement plan;
- D. required counseling;
- E. required training or education;
- F. demotion;
- G. suspension with pay;
- H. suspension without pay;
- I. termination, and any other sanction authorized by any applicable Employee Handbook and/or collective bargaining agreement.

If the decision-maker(s) determines the employee Respondent is responsible for violating this policy (i.e., engaging in Sexual Harassment), the decision-maker(s) will recommend appropriate remedies, including disciplinary sanctions/consequences. The Title IX Coordinator will notify the Superintendent of the recommended remedies, so an authorized administrator can consider the

recommendation(s) and implement an appropriate remedy(ies) in compliance with applicable due process procedures, whether statutory or contractual.

Discipline of an employee will be implemented in accordance with Federal and State law, Board policy, and applicable provisions of any relevant collective bargaining agreement.

The following disciplinary sanctions/consequences may be imposed on a non-student/non-employee member of the School District community or Third Party who is determined responsible for violating this policy (i.e., engaging in Sexual Harassment):

- A. oral or written warning;
- B. suspension or termination/cancellation of the Board's contract with the third-party vendor or contractor;
- C. mandatory monitoring of the third-party while on school property and/or while working/interacting with students;
- D. restriction/prohibition on the third-party's ability to be on school property; and
- E. any combination of the same.

If the decision-maker(s) determines the third-party Respondent is responsible for violating this policy (i.e., engaging in Sexual Harassment), the decision-maker(s) will recommend appropriate remedies, including imposition of sanctions. The Title IX Coordinator will notify the Superintendent of the recommended remedies, so appropriate action can be taken.

The decision-maker(s) will provide the written determination to the Title IX Coordinator who will provide the written determination to the parties simultaneously.

In ultimately imposing a disciplinary sanction/consequence, the Superintendent (or the Board when the appointed Superintendent is the Respondent) will consider the severity of the incident, previous disciplinary violations (if any), and any mitigating circumstances. If the Respondent is an elected Superintendent or Member of the Board, the Board shall notify the appropriate Florida governmental authority(ies).

The District's resolution of a Formal Complaint ordinarily will not be impacted by the fact that criminal charges involving the same incident have been filed or that charges have been dismissed or reduced.

At any point in the grievance process, the Superintendent (or the Title IX Coordinator if the Superintendent is the Respondent) may involve local law enforcement and/or file criminal charges related to allegations of Sexual Harassment that involve a sexual assault.

The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for effective implementation of any remedies.

Appeal

Both parties have the right to file an appeal from a determination regarding responsibility, or from the Title IX Coordinator's dismissal of a Formal Complaint or any allegations therein, on the following bases:

- A. Procedural irregularity that affected the outcome of the matter (e.g., material deviation from established procedures);
- B. New evidence that was not reasonably available at the time the determination regarding responsibility or dismissal was made, that could affect the outcome of the matter; and
- C. The Title IX Coordinator, investigator(s), or decision-maker(s) had a conflict of interest or bias for or against Complainants or Respondents generally or the individual Complainant(s) or Respondent(s) that affected the outcome of the matter.

The Complainant(s) may not challenge the ultimate disciplinary sanction/consequence that is imposed.

Any party wishing to appeal the decision-maker(s)'s determination of responsibility, or the Title IX Coordinator's dismissal of a Formal Complaint or any allegations therein, must submit a written appeal to the Title IX Coordinator within five (5) business days after receipt of the decision-maker(s)'s determination of responsibility or the Title IX Coordinator's dismissal of a Formal Complaint or any allegations therein.

Nothing herein shall prevent the Superintendent from implementing appropriate remedies; however, excluding disciplinary sanction, while the appeal is pending.

As to all appeals, the Title IX Coordinator will notify the other party in writing when an appeal is filed and implement appeal procedures equally for both parties.

The decision-maker(s) for the appeal shall not be the same person(s) as the decision-maker(s) that reached the determination regarding responsibility or dismissal, the investigator(s), or the Title IX Coordinator(s). The decision-maker(s) for the appeal shall not have a conflict of interest or bias for or against Complainants or Respondents generally or an individual Complainant(s) or

Respondent(s) and shall receive the same training as required of other decision-makers.

Both parties shall have a reasonable, equal opportunity to submit a written statement in support of, or challenging, the outcome.

The parties' written statements in support of, or challenging, the determination of responsibility must be submitted within five (5) business days after the Title IX Coordinator provides notice to the non-appealing party of the appeal.

The decision-maker(s) for the appeal shall issue a written decision describing the result of the appeal and the rationale for the result. The original decision-maker(s') determination of responsibility will stand if the appeal request is not filed in a timely manner or the appealing party fails to show clear error and/or a compelling rationale for overturning or modifying the original determination. The written decision will be provided to the Title IX Coordinator who will provide it simultaneously to both parties. The written decision will be issued within five (5) business days of when the parties' written statements were submitted.

The determination of responsibility associated with a Formal Complaint, including any recommendations for remedies/disciplinary sanctions, becomes final when the time for filing an appeal has passed or, if an appeal is filed, at the point when the decision-maker(s) for the appeal's decision is delivered to the Complainant and the Respondent. No further review beyond the appeal is permitted.

Retaliation

Neither the Board nor any other person may intimidate, threaten, coerce, or discriminate against any individual for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by Title IX, its implementing regulations, or this policy, or because the individual made a report or complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under this policy. Intimidation, threats, coercion, or discrimination, including charges against an individual for code of conduct violations that do not involve sex discrimination or Sexual Harassment, but arise out of the same facts or circumstances as a report or complaint of sex discrimination, or a report or Formal Complaint of Sexual Harassment, for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by Title IX, its implementing regulations, or this policy, constitutes retaliation. Retaliation against a person for making a report of Sexual Harassment, filing a Formal Complaint, or participating in an investigation, is a serious violation of this policy that can result in imposition of disciplinary sanctions/consequences and/or other appropriate remedies.

Complaints alleging retaliation may be filed according to the grievance process set forth above.

The exercise of rights protected under the First Amendment of the United States Constitution does not constitute retaliation prohibited under this policy.

Charging an individual with a code of conduct violation for making a materially false statement in bad faith in the course of a grievance proceeding under this policy shall not constitute retaliation, provided, however, that a determination regarding responsibility, alone, is not sufficient to conclude that any party made a materially false statement in bad faith.

Confidentiality

The District will keep confidential the identity of any individual who has made a report or complaint of sex discrimination, including any individual who has made a report or filed a Formal Complaint of Sexual Harassment, any Complainant, any individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of sex discrimination, any Respondent, and any witness, except as may be permitted by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA"), 20 U.S.C. 1232g, or FERPA regulations, 34 CFR part 99, F.S. 1002.22-1002.222, or as required by law, or to carry out the purposes of 34 CFR part 106, including the conduct of any investigation, hearing, or judicial proceeding arising thereunder (i.e., the District's obligation to maintain confidentiality shall not impair or otherwise affect the Complainant's and Respondent's receipt of the information to which they are entitled related to the investigative record and determination of responsibility).

Application of the First Amendment

The Board will construe and apply this policy consistent with the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Training

The District's Title IX Coordinator, along with any investigator(s), decision-maker(s), or person(s) designated to facilitate an informal resolution process, must receive training on:

- A. the definition of Sexual Harassment (as that term is used in this policy);
- B. the scope of the District's education program or activity;
- C. how to conduct an investigation and implement the grievance process, appeals, and informal resolution processes, as applicable; and
- D. how to serve impartially, including by avoiding prejudgment of the facts at issue, conflicts of interests, and bias.

All Board employees will be trained concerning their legal obligation to report Sexual Harassment to the Title IX Coordinator. This training will include practical information about how to identify and report Sexual Harassment.

Recordkeeping

As part of its response to alleged violations of this policy, the District shall create, and maintain for a period of seven (7) calendar years, records of any actions, including any supportive measures, taken in response to a report or Formal Complaint of Sexual Harassment. In each instance, the District shall document the basis for its conclusion that its response was not deliberately indifferent, and document that it has taken measures designed to restore or preserve equal access to the District's education program or activity. If the District does not provide a Complainant with supportive measures, then the District will document the reasons why such a response was not clearly unreasonable in light of the known circumstances. The documentation of certain bases or measures does not limit the District in the future from providing additional explanations or detailing additional measures taken.

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

- A. each Sexual Harassment investigation including any determination regarding responsibility, any disciplinary sanctions recommended and/or imposed on the Respondent(s), and any remedies provided to the Complainant(s) designed to restore or preserve equal access to the District's education program or activity
- B. any appeal and the result therefrom
- C. any informal resolution and the result therefrom, and
- D. all materials used to train Title IX Coordinators, investigators, decision-makers, and any person who facilitates an informal resolution process.

The District will make its training materials publicly available on its website.

Outside Appointments, Dual Appointments, and Delegations

The Board retains discretion to appoint suitably qualified persons who are not Board employees to fulfill any function of the Board under this policy, including, but not limited to, Title IX Coordinator, investigator, decision-maker, decision-maker for appeals, facilitator of informal resolution processes, and advisor.

The Board also retains discretion to appoint two or more persons to jointly fulfill the role of Title IX Coordinator, investigator, decision-maker, decision-maker for appeals, facilitator of informal resolution processes, and advisor.

The Superintendent may delegate functions assigned to a specific Board employee under this policy, including but not limited to the functions assigned to the Title IX Coordinator, investigator, decision-maker, decision-maker for appeals, facilitator of informal resolution processes, and advisor, to any suitably qualified individual and such delegation may be rescinded by the Superintendent at any time.

Discretion in Application

The Board retains discretion to interpret and apply this policy in a manner that is not clearly unreasonable, even if the Board's interpretation or application differs from the interpretation of any specific Complainant and/or Respondent.

Despite the Board's reasonable efforts to anticipate all eventualities in drafting this policy, it is possible unanticipated or extraordinary circumstances may not be specifically or reasonably addressed by the express policy language, in which case the Board retains discretion to respond to the unanticipated or extraordinary circumstance in a way that is not clearly unreasonable.

The provisions of this policy are not contractual in nature, whether in their own right, or as part of any other express or implied contract. Accordingly, the Board retains discretion to revise this policy at any time, and for any reason. The Board may apply policy revisions to an active case provided that doing so is not clearly unreasonable.



Book	Policy Manual
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Title	Copy of HOPE SCHOLARSHIPS
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Adopted	June 5, 2025

2371 - **HOPE SCHOLARSHIPS**

Students subjected to an incident of violence or bullying at school have the opportunity to seek a transfer to another District school with capacity or request a scholarship to attend an eligible private school.

Eligibility

A student in grade K-12 is eligible for certain educational options if the student was subjected to, and subsequently reported to the Principal, any of the following incidents (as set forth in F.S. 1002.40(3)) at school, on a school bus, at a school bus stop, at a school-related/sponsored program or activity, or at any other school location:

- A. battery;
- B. harassment (see Policy 5517.01 - *Bullying and Harassment*);
- C. hazing (see Policy 5516 - *Student Hazing*);
- D. bullying (see Policy 5517.01 - *Bullying and Harassment*);
- E. kidnapping;
- F. physical attack;
- G. robbery;
- H. sexual offenses (including harassment, assault, or battery) (see ~~Policy 2264 - Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs and Activities~~ or Policy 2266 - *Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities (The Board's Policy and Grievance Procedures for Responding to Sexual Harassment Alleged to Have Occurred Prior to 8/1/2024)*);
- I. threat or intimidation; or
- J. fighting.

Investigation and Parental Notification of Hope Scholarship Program

Upon receipt of a report from a student of any of the incidents set forth herein, the Principal shall provide a copy of the report to the parent of the student and investigate the incident within fifteen (15) days to determine if the incident must be reported to the Florida Department of Education's (FLDOE) Automated Student Information System.

Within twenty-four (24) hours after receipt of the report, the Principal shall provide a copy of the report to the parent of the alleged offender and to the superintendent.

Upon conclusion of the investigation or within fifteen (15) days after the incident was reported, whichever occurs first, the District shall notify the parent of opportunities to enroll the student in another public school that has capacity, and notify the parent of the student's eligibility to apply for a scholarship to attend an eligible private school under F.S. 1002.394 and 1002.395.

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[29 U.S.C. 216](#)

[29 U.S.C. 216b](#)

[29 U.S.C. 217](#)

[29 U.S.C. 218](#)

[29 U.S.C. 218b](#)

[29 U.S.C. 218c](#)

[29 U.S.C. 219](#)

Adopted

June 5, 2025

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November 6, 2025

2421 - **CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION**

The School Board recognizes that education is a function of both knowledge and the application of knowledge. Education that ties abstract ideas to practical applications also prepares students to use their minds, as well as preparing them to be citizens, parents, and members of a civilized culture. Career and Technical Education and academic education are complementary, rather than exclusive.

Career and Technical Education (CTE) will provide experiences that complement and reinforce academic concepts that are particularly amenable to contextualized learning in a distinct career area and provide occupationally specific skills.

The Board shall provide career and technical education program offerings that include, but are not limited to:

- A. job preparatory courses designed to provide students with the competencies necessary for effective entry into an occupation;
- B. exploratory courses designed to give students initial exposure to skills and attitudes associated with a broad range of occupations in order to assist them in making informed decisions regarding their future academic and occupational goals;
- C. career education instruction which is designed to strengthen and integrate basic academic skills and career/technical skills and occupational awareness;
- D. accelerated career and technical programs such as career dual enrollment designed to enable high school students to earn elective credit toward graduation and postsecondary credit toward an A.S. degree or a technical certificate.

Additionally, the District shall host a career fair during the school year and establish a process to provide students in grades 11 and 12 the opportunity to meet or interview with potential employers during the career fair. The career fair must be held on the campus of the high school, except that a group of high schools in the District or the District and other school districts may hold a joint career fair at an alternative location to satisfy this requirement. A joint career fair must be held at a location within reasonable driving distance for students at all participating schools. The career fair must be held during the school day and may use Florida's online career planning and work-based learning system as part of the career fair activities. Alternatively, the District may consult with local

workforce development boards, advisory committees, and business groups to determine free or cost-effective methods to provide other career and industry networking opportunities during the school day for secondary students, and exposure for elementary and secondary students to a representative variety of industries, business, and careers.

Any effort to recruit students to participate in a particular career and technical program shall follow applicable State and Federal laws regarding the provision of information.

Career and technical education program offerings are available to middle and high school students.

Procedures for program operation in accordance with applicable labor laws are incorporated in the Florida Department of Education, Curriculum Frameworks, and Student Performance Standards.

CAPE Industry Certifications

The Board, in consultation with the Superintendent, shall make available CAPE industry certifications for students. The Board may seek partnerships with other school districts, private businesses, postsecondary institutions, or consultants to offer classes and instruction to teachers and students to assist the District in providing CAPE industry certifications established pursuant to F.S. 1003.4203.

Career and Professional Academies; Career-Themed Courses

The District shall offer career and professional academies at the middle and high school levels, and at least two (2) career-themed courses. A "career and professional academy" is a research-based program that integrates a rigorous academic curriculum with an industry-specific curriculum aligned directly to priority workforce needs established by the regional workforce board or the Department of Florida Commerce. Students completing career and professional academy programs must receive a standard high school diploma, the highest available industry certification, and opportunities to earn postsecondary credit if the academy partners with a postsecondary institution approved to operate in the state.

A "career-themed course" is a course, or a course in a series of courses, that leads to an industry certification identified in the CAPE Industry Certified Funding List pursuant to rules adopted by the State Board of Education. Career-themed courses have industry-specific curriculum aligned directly to priority workforce needs established by the regional workforce board or the Department of Florida Commerce. Students completing a career-themed course will be provided opportunities to earn postsecondary credit if the credit for the career-themed course can be articulated to a postsecondary institution approved to operate in the State.

The Board expects career and professional academies offered in the District's high schools to provide rigorous and relevant career-themed courses that articulate to postsecondary-level coursework and provide students with the opportunity to receive a standard high school diploma or the Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars award, the opportunity to earn industry certification, the opportunity to attain the Florida Gold Seal CAPE scholarship, and the opportunity to earn postsecondary credit.

The Board further provides the opportunity for middle school students who successfully complete the curriculum of the career and professional academies or a career-themed course to transfer to a high school career and professional academy or a career-themed course currently operating within the District. Students who complete such courses at the middle school level shall have the opportunity to earn an industry certificate, high school credit, and participate in career planning, and business leadership development activities. The District shall inform students and parents during course selection for middle school of the career and professional academy or career-themed courses available within the District.

The Board encourages the Superintendent to forge partnerships with local businesses in the development of career and professional academies. These partnerships will help prepare students for the State's workforce needs, as well as help attract, expand, and retain targeted, high-value industry and jobs in the community.

The District's career and professional academies should increase student academic achievement and graduation rates through integrated academic and career curriculum. Each middle school career exploration program, middle and high school career, and professional academies leading to industry certification, and high school graduation requirements shall be aligned.

Each career and professional academy and career-themed course at the high school level must:

- A. provide a rigorous standards-based academic curriculum integrated with a career curriculum; consider multiple styles of student learning; promote learning by doing through application and adaptation; maximize the relevance of the subject matter; enhance each student's capacity to excel; and include an emphasis on work habits and work ethics.
- B. include one or more partnerships with postsecondary institutions, businesses, industry, employers, economic development organizations, or other appropriate partners from the local community. Such partnerships with postsecondary institutions shall be delineated in articulation agreements and include any career and professional academy courses or career-themed courses that earn postsecondary credit. Such agreements may include articulation between the secondary school and public

or private two (2) year and four (4) year postsecondary institutions and technical centers. Such partnerships can provide opportunities for:

1. instruction from highly skilled professionals who possess industry-certification credentials for courses they are teaching;
 2. internships, externships, and on-the-job training;
 3. a postsecondary degree, diploma, or certificate;
 4. the highest available level of industry certification;
 5. maximum articulation of credits pursuant to F.S. 1007.23 upon program completion.
- C. promote and provide opportunities for students enrolled in a career and professional academy or a career-themed course to attain, at a minimum, the Florida Gold Seal CAPE scholarship pursuant to F.S. 1009.536.
- D. provide instruction in careers designated as high-skill, high-wage, and high-demand by the regional workforce development board, the chamber of commerce, economic development agencies, or the Department of Florida Commerce.
- E. deliver academic content through instruction relevant to the career, including intensive reading and mathematics intervention required by F.S. 1003.428, with an emphasis on strengthening reading for information skills.
- F. offer applied courses that combine academic content with technical skills.
- G. provide instruction resulting in competency, certification, or credentials in workplace skills, including, but not limited to, communication skills, interpersonal skills, decision-making skills, the importance of attendance and timeliness in the work environment, and work ethics.

Each career and professional academy at the middle school level must:

- A. lead to careers in occupations aligned to the CAPE Industry Certified Funding List approved under rules adopted by the State Board of Education.
- B. integrate content from core subject areas.
- C. integrate career and professional academy or career-themed course content with intensive reading and mathematics pursuant to F.S. 1003.428.
- D. coordinate with high schools to maximize opportunities for middle school students to earn high school credit.
- E. provide access to virtual instruction courses provided by virtual education providers legislatively authorized to provide part-time instruction to middle school students. The virtual instruction courses must be aligned to State curriculum standards for middle school career and professional academy courses or career-themed courses, with priority given to students who have required course deficits.
- F. provide instruction from highly skilled professionals who hold industry certificates in the career area in which they teach.
- G. provide personalized student advisement that includes a parent-participation component.

An adult student who is enrolled in an apprenticeship program that is registered with the Department of Education in accordance with F.S. Chapter 446, Job Training, is exempt from the provisions of F.S. 1004.91 relating to career preparatory instruction.

High School Credit for Career and Technical Student Organization Participation

Students in grades 6 through 12 may earn one (1) high school credit upon providing their school with verifiable documentation showing an accumulation of at least 135 hours of participation in career and technical student organization activities that occur outside of regular class time. The 135-hour threshold may be accumulated over the course of one (1) or more academic years.

- A. "Career and technical education program" means a comprehensive program of secondary instruction for which a curriculum framework has been adopted in accordance with F.A.C. 6A-6.0571.
- B. "Career and technical student organizations" or "CTSOs" are organizations for students enrolled in a career and technical education program that engages in career and technical education activities as an integral part of the instructional program to develop knowledge and skills by participating in activities, events, and competitions.

CTSO experiences and activities may count toward a high school credit if they provide the opportunity for students to apply academic and technical content to career experiences. These activities may include events, projects, competitions, and workshops, including preparation or practice time for such activities, supervised agricultural experiences, or any other activity that meets the definition of work-based learning under F.S. 446.0915, that is related to a CTSO.

To apply for a high school credit, a student, including a transfer student, must provide the CTE Office with the following forms of verifiable documentation of demonstrable CTSO participation no later than April 30th:

- A. dates/times the student participated in a career or technical student organization activity outside of regular class time;
- B. the name of the student organization;
- C. time sheets, sign-in sheets, or other time reports;
- D. a signed statement from the administrator or supervisor of the student organization verifying that the student has completed the reported number of hours.

Within thirty (30) school days of receipt of the student's documents related to CTSO participation, the District's CTE Office/school administrator will review the documentation and notify the student if the student's CTSO participation meets the requirements of F.A.C. 6A-1.09442 and this policy.

CTSO advisors, CTSO teachers, and other relevant District personnel will be provided training on the requirements to award credit for CTSO participation.

Industry Certification in Industry-Certified Career Education Programs

Secondary schools offering career-themed courses and career and professional academies shall enable students in such programs to earn industry certification in an industry that is:

- A. within an industry that addresses a critical local or Statewide economic need;
- B. linked to an occupation that is included in the workforce system's targeted occupation list; or
- C. linked to an occupation that is identified as emerging.

To earn industry certification, the student must demonstrate the required proficiency on an assessment evaluated by an independent, third-party certifying entity using predetermined standards for knowledge, skills, and competencies.

Registration and Enrollment Reporting Requirements for Adult Students

Districts must comply with the specific requirements and procedures outlined in F.A.C. 6A-10.0381 for registration and reporting of enrollment of students in adult general education and postsecondary career and technical education (CTE) programs. The District must maintain written policies and procedures to ensure implementation of this rule and must comply with the information database requirements of the Comprehensive Management Information System as specified in F.A.C. 6A-1.0014.

Strategic Plan to Address Local and Regional Workforce Demands

Florida statutes require each Board to develop, in collaboration with regional workforce boards, economic development agencies, and postsecondary institutions approved to operate in the state, a strategic three (3) year plan to address and meet local and regional workforce demands. If involvement of a regional workforce board or an economic development agency in the strategic plan development is not feasible, the Board, with the approval of the Department of Florida Commerce, shall collaborate with the most appropriate regional business leadership board.

The Board authorizes the Superintendent to collaborate with one (1) or more neighboring counties in the development of the strategic plan, and, upon approval of the plan, to offer career-themed courses, as defined in F.S. 1003.493(1)(b), or a career and professional academy as a joint venture.

The strategic plan must describe in detail provisions for the efficient transportation of students, the maximum use of shared resources, access to courses aligned to State curriculum standards through virtual education providers legislatively authorized to provide part-time instruction to middle school students, and an objective review of proposed career and professional academy courses and other career-themed courses to determine if the courses will lead to the attainment of industry certifications included on the CAPE Industry Certified Funding List pursuant to rules adopted by the State Board of Education.

The strategic three (3) year plan shall be constructed and based upon the elements set forth in F.S. 1003.491. Each strategic plan shall be reviewed, updated, and jointly approved every three (3) years by the School District, regional workforce boards, economic development agencies, and State-approved postsecondary institutions.

Maintenance of Records for Workforce Education Programs Funded with State Appropriations

If the District receives State appropriations for workforce education, it will maintain adequate and accurate records, including a system to record District workforce education funding and expenditures, to maintain the separation of postsecondary workforce education expenditures and secondary workforce education expenditures. These records will be submitted to the FLDOE in accordance with rules of the State Board of Education.

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Adopted	June 5, 2025

3129.01 - **TUTORING**

Instructional staff members who tutor students within their school unit and receive compensation for this work shall have prior approval of their principal.

Staff members may not accept fees for remedial tutoring of students currently enrolled in one (1) or more of their classes for which a grade is given. For purposes of this policy, "remedial tutoring" does not include ~~The New Worlds Reading Scholarship Account~~ **Tutoring Program** services permitted under Policy 3129.

In accordance with this policy, Board facilities and materials shall not be utilized for such tutoring unless such tutoring is provided as part of the District's participation in the RAISE Program.

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Book	Policy Manual
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3129 - **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

The proper performance of school business is dependent upon high standards of honesty, integrity, impartiality, and professional conduct by School Board employees. Further, such characteristics are essential to the Board's commitment to earn and keep the public's confidence. For these reasons, the Board adopts the following procedures to assure that conflicts of interest do not occur. These procedures are not intended to be all inclusive, nor to substitute for good judgment on the part of all District Board members, employees, officers, and agents.

- A. No employee, officer, agent, or Board member shall engage in or have a financial interest, directly or indirectly, in any activity that conflicts with the employee's job duties and responsibilities in the school system.
- B. No employee, officer, agent, or Board member shall engage in business, private practice of their profession, the rendering of services, or the sale of goods of any type where advantage is taken of any professional relationship they may have with any student, or parents of such students, or clients in the course of their employment with the District.

Included, by way of illustration rather than limitation, are the following:

- 1. the provision of any private lessons or services for a fee;
 - 2. the use, sale, or improper divulging of any privileged information about a student or client gained in the course of the employee's employment or through access to District records;
 - 3. the referral of any student or client for lessons or services to any private business or professional practitioner if there is any expectation of reciprocal referrals, sharing of fees, or other remuneration;
 - 4. the requirement of students or clients to purchase any private goods or services provided by an employee or any business, or professional practitioner with whom any employee has a financial relationship, as a condition of receiving any grades, credits, promotions, approvals, or recommendations.
- C. No employee, officer, agent, or Board member shall make use of materials, equipment, or facilities of the District in private practice. Examples would be the use of facilities before, during, or after regular business hours for service to private practice clients, or the checking out of items from an instructional materials center for private practice.

Exceptions to any provision in parts A through C of this policy shall be approved in advance by the Superintendent and shall be consistent with State law, including providing services in accordance with The New Worlds Tutoring Program as permitted under F.S. 1008.366.

No employee, officer, agent, or Board member with a real or apparent conflict of interest may participate in the selection, award, or administration of a contract supported by the Federal award. A conflict of interest includes when the employee, officer, agent, or Board member, any member of their immediate family, their partner, or an organization that employs or is about to employ any of the parties indicated herein, has a financial or other interest in or a tangible personal benefit from an entity considered for a contract.

An employee, officer, agent, and Board member of the District may neither solicit nor accept gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value from contractors.

If the District has a parent, affiliate, or subsidiary organization that is not a State, local government, or Indian tribe, the District may not conduct a procurement action involving the parent, affiliate, or subsidiary organization if the District is unable, or appears to be unable, to be impartial in conducting a procurement action involving a related organization.

Employees, officers, agents, and Board members must promptly disclose any potential conflict of interest that may lead to a violation of this policy to the District. Upon discovery of any potential conflict of interest, the District will promptly disclose, in writing, the potential conflict of interest to the appropriate Federal agency or, if applicable, the pass-through entity.

The District will also promptly disclose whenever, in connection with the Federal award (including any activities or subawards thereunder), it has credible evidence of the commission of a violation of Federal criminal law involving fraud, conflict of interest, bribery, or gratuity violations found in Title 18 of the United States Code or a violation of the civil False Claims Act (31 U.S.C. 3729–3733). The disclosure must be made in writing to the Federal agency, the agency's Office of Inspector General, and pass-through entity. The District is also required to report matters related to recipient integrity and performance in accordance with Appendix XII of 2 C.F.R. Part 200.

Employees, officers, agents, and Board members found to be in violation of this conflict of interest policy will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination, consistent with substantive and procedural due process and as permitted by applicable Board policy, State law, and/or applicable provisions of the collective bargaining agreement.

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Adopted	June 5, 2025
Last Revised	November 6, 2025

3130 - **APPOINTMENT and ASSIGNMENT OF INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF**

The School Board believes that the appropriate placement of qualified and competent staff is essential to the successful functioning of the District.

Appointment and Assignment

When developing his/her their recommendations for appointments of instructional staff, the Superintendent shall consider nominations for staff appointments submitted by the principals. Further, if the Superintendent intends to recommend placement of a staff member in a school who was not nominated by the principal, the Superintendent will consult with that principal. In accordance with State law, a principal may refuse to accept the Superintendent's proposed assignment of an instructional staff member to the principal's school unless that instructional staff member has a performance rating of effective or highly effective under F.S. 1012.34.

After such required consideration and consultation, the Superintendent shall submit written recommendations with regard to the appointment and assignment of instructional staff for Board action.

In accordance with State law, the Board may reject the Superintendent's recommendation for initial appointment and assignment, or re-appointment and assignment, for good cause.

The Board authorizes the Superintendent to reassign employees when the Superintendent determines that it is in the employee's and/or School District's best interest(s).

Assignment to Schools Graded "D" or "F"

Pursuant to statutory requirements, the percentage of inexperienced teachers, teachers in need of improvement, or out-of-field teachers assigned to schools graded "D" or "F" under State law shall not be greater than the District average. As used in this policy, "inexperienced teacher" means a teacher who has been teaching for three (3) years or less. Such assignments shall be consistent with the collective bargaining agreement.

A newly hired instructional staff member may be assigned to a school that has earned a grade of "F" in the previous year, or any combination of three (3) consecutive grades of "D" or "F" in the previous years, if the individual:

- A. has received an "effective" or "highly effective" rating in the immediate prior year's performance evaluation;
- B. has successfully completed or is enrolled in a teacher preparation program, is provided with high-quality mentoring during the first two (2) years of employment, holds a professional certificate and holds a probationary contract; or
- C. holds a probationary contract, holds a professional certificate and has successful teaching experience, and if, in the judgment of the school principal students would benefit from the placement of that individual.

The Superintendent will annually certify to the Commission of Education that these requirements are being met.

Assignment to Teacher Preparation Programs

All instructional personnel who supervise or direct teacher preparation students during field experience courses or internships in which candidates demonstrate an impact on student learning growth must have evidence of "clinical educator" training, a valid professional certificate and at least three (3) years K-12 teaching experience and must have earned an "effective" or "highly effective" rating on the prior year's performance evaluation or be a peer evaluator under the District's evaluation system. All instructional personnel who supervise or direct teacher preparation students during internships in kindergarten through third grade or who are enrolled in a teacher preparation program for a certificate area identified pursuant to F.S. 1012.585(3)(f) must have a certificate of endorsement in reading.

Teachers Teaching Out-of-Field

"Out-of-field" means a teacher is assigned to a course covering subject matter outside the field for which the teacher holds a certificate pursuant to F.S. 1012.55 or for which the teacher has not demonstrated sufficient subject matter expertise pursuant to F.S. 1012.42 and as determined by F.A.C. 6A-1.0503, (2)(a)-(h).

A. Out-of-Field Teacher Plan

The Superintendent shall prepare a plan to assist any teacher teaching out-of-field with priority consideration to be given in professional ~~development~~ **learning development** activities.

The plan must include provisions that require out-of-field teachers to participate in a certification or staff development program designed to provide the teachers with the competencies required for their assigned duties.

The plan must also include duties of administrative personnel and other instructional personnel to provide students with instructional services.

B. Approval of Out-of-Field Teachers

A teacher considered out-of-field per F.A.C. 6A-1.0503, (1)(c), shall be approved by the Board to teach out-of-field after a determination that a teacher with appropriate certification coverage is not available. All evidence of such qualifications and approval must be reflected in the individual's official personnel record; however, such approval may be granted by the Board only under one (1) of the conditions listed in F.A.C. 6A-1.0503, (3) (a)-(c).

C. Notification Requirements and Transfer Requests

When a teacher is assigned instructional duties in a class containing subject matter outside the field in which the teacher is certified, outside the field that was the applicant's minor field of study, or outside the field in which the applicant has demonstrated sufficient subject area expertise, as determined by the State Board of Education rule (F.A.C. 6A-1.0503), the parents of all students in the class shall be notified in writing of such assignment.

The Board shall report out-of-field teachers on the District's website within thirty (30) days before the beginning of each semester.

Duties, Days, and Hours

The Superintendent shall make known through administrative channels the duties, days, and hours of the various classes of instructional personnel.

- A. Instructional staff members shall perform the duties required by Florida statutes, Board policy, and the collective bargaining agreement, as well as other reasonable duties as may be assigned by their immediate supervisor. Failure to perform such duties in an acceptable manner shall constitute a violation of the instructional staff member's contract and just cause for disciplinary action.
- B. Instructional staff members are responsible for student control and supervision at any location on campus or during school-sponsored activities.
- C. Instructional staff members shall not permit their family members or friends by their presence to interfere with the performance of their duties during working hours.

Employment and Supervision of Relatives (Nepotism)

For purposes of this policy, a "relative" is an individual included within the definition of "relative" set forth in F.S. 112.3135, which includes the following individuals: father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, first cousin, nephew, niece, husband, wife, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, stepfather, stepmother, stepson, stepdaughter, stepbrother, stepsister, half-brother, or half-sister.

Neither the superintendent nor a Board member may appoint or employ a relative to work under their direct supervision. These limitations do not apply to employees appointed or employed before the election or appointment of the superintendent or a Board member.

Two (2) or more relatives shall not work in the same administrative unit except by permission of the Superintendent. In the event that an instructional staff member, due to some unusual circumstance, may have been placed in the same working unit with a relative, the instructional staff member may continue in the position until s/he can be reassigned to a position of comparable grade, pay, and reasonable personal convenience.

- A. A relative may be employed in the same school when specifically recommended by the principal and approved by the Superintendent on the grounds that it is to the educational advantage of the school.
- B. Under no circumstances shall a person supervise the work of a relative.

All employees shall disclose to the Superintendent, the names of all relatives working at the same work location. Failure to immediately make such disclosures shall be grounds for disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

Work location is defined to include payroll cost center or any administrative unit under the direct supervision of a permanent employee of the District.

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3211 - WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION

The School Board expects all its employees to be honest and ethical in their conduct, and to comply with applicable State and Federal law, Board policies and administrative procedures. Pursuant to State law, the Board expects instructional staff members to report any violation or suspected violation of any Federal, State or local law, policy, or regulation committed by any employee, or agent of an agency or independent contractor which is doing business with the Board, which creates and presents a substantial or specific danger to the public's health, safety, or welfare to their immediate supervisors. Additionally, pursuant to State law, instructional staff members are expected to report any act or suspected act of gross mismanagement, malfeasance, misfeasance, gross waste of public funds, suspected or actual Medicaid fraud or abuse, or gross neglect of duty committed by an employee or agent of an agency or independent contractor which is doing business with the Board.

It is the responsibility of an employee who is aware of conduct on the part of any Board member or employee that possibly violates Federal or State law, or Board policy, to call this conduct to the attention of ~~his/her~~ **their** immediate supervisor. If the employee's immediate supervisor is not responsive or is the ~~employee~~ **one** whose behavior is in question, the employee should report the alleged misconduct to the Superintendent.

After such a report is made, the immediate supervisor will ask that the employee's report be put in writing.

Any employee making such a report shall be protected from discipline, retaliation, or reprisal for making such report as long as the employee made a reasonable and good faith effort to determine the accuracy of any information reported, **and such a report meets the requirements of the Florida's Whistleblower's Act.**

Employees are subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination, for purposely, knowingly, or recklessly making a false report under this policy. Conversely, employees are subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination, if they are aware of a violation of Federal, State, or local law that the Board has the authority to correct and they do not make a report confirmed in writing to their immediate supervisor.

If the alleged misconduct that is reported involves a Board member or the Superintendent, the report is to be filed directly with the Board Attorney, who is hereby authorized to engage outside counsel to conduct the investigation concerning the alleged misconduct.

Upon receipt of a **legally sufficient** report made by an instructional staff member pursuant to this policy, an investigation shall be conducted by the Superintendent or Board Attorney consistent with the procedures described in F.S. 112.3189.



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3220 - **EVALUATION OF INSTRUCTIONAL PERSONNEL**

Pursuant to State law, evaluations shall be conducted for the purpose of increasing student learning growth by improving the quality of instructional services in the District. Except for classroom teachers who are newly hired in the District a performance evaluation must be conducted for each instructional staff member at least once per year. Newly hired teachers must be observed and evaluated twice during their first year of teaching in the District.

The Principal is responsible for the performance of all personnel employed by the School Board and assigned to his/her school. The Principal shall appropriately and effectively apply the personnel evaluation system that has been recommended by the Superintendent and approved by the Board, and approved, as required by State law, by the Florida Department of Education.

Instructional Personnel Evaluation System

The performance evaluation system must be based upon sound educational principles and contemporary research in effective educational practices. The District's performance evaluation system is not limited to basing unsatisfactory performance of instructional personnel and school administrators solely upon student performance, but may include other criteria to evaluate instructional personnel performance, or any combination of student performance and other criteria. All personnel must be fully informed of the criteria, data sources, methodologies, and procedures associated with the evaluation process before the evaluation takes place. Additionally, the Principal shall assist the teachers within the school to use student assessment data, as measured by student learning growth gains pursuant to State law for self-evaluation and improvement.

The evaluation system for instructional personnel will:

- A. be designed to support effective instruction and student learning growth, and performance evaluation results must be used when developing District and school-level improvement plans;
- B. provide appropriate instruments, procedures, timely feedback, and criteria for continuous quality improvement of the professional skills of instructional personnel, and performance evaluation results must be used when identifying professional development learning;
- C. include a mechanism to examine performance data from multiple sources, including opportunities for parents to provide input into employee performance evaluations when appropriate;

D. identify those teaching fields for which special evaluation procedures and criteria are necessary;

E. differentiate among four (4) levels of performance as follows:

1. highly effective
2. effective
3. needs improvement
4. unsatisfactory

F. provide for training and monitoring programs based upon guidelines provided by the Department of Education to ensure that all individuals with evaluation responsibilities understand the proper use of the evaluation criteria and procedures.

Evaluation Procedures and Criteria

Evaluation procedures and criteria must comply with, but are not limited to, the following:

A. Performance of Students

At least one-third (1/3) of the performance evaluation of instructional personnel must be based upon the data and indicators of student performance of the teacher's students as determined by the District in accordance with F.S. 1012.34(7). The performance of students shall also include growth or achievement data of the teacher's students for at least three (3) years or, if less than three (3) years is available, the years for which data are available. The proportion of growth or achievement data may be determined by instructional assignment.

For classroom teachers of grades and subjects for which their students' performance is not assessed by Statewide standardized assessments, the District shall use the methodology set forth in the District's evaluation plan that is submitted to and approved by the FLDOE to measure the student's performance upon which to base one-third (1/3) of the performance evaluation.

For instructional personnel who are not classroom teachers, the District shall use the methodology set forth in the District's evaluation plan that is submitted to and approved by the FLDOE to measure the student's performance upon which to base one-third (1/3) of the performance evaluation.

Pursuant to State law, the proportion of growth or achievement data in the District-determined student performance measures may be determined by instructional assignment.

B. Instructional Practice

At least one-third (1/3) of the performance evaluation must be based upon instructional practice. Evaluation criteria used when annually observing classroom teachers, as defined in F.S. 1012.01(2)(a) must include indicators based upon each of the Florida Educator Accomplished Practices adopted by the State Board of Education. For instructional personnel who are not classroom teachers, evaluation criteria must be based upon indicators of the Florida Educator Accomplished Practices and may include specific job expectations related to student support. This section does not preclude a school administrator from visiting and observing classroom teachers throughout the school year for purposes of providing mentorship, training, instructional feedback, or professional learning.

C. Other Indicators of Performance

The remainder of a performance evaluation may include, but is not limited to, professional and job responsibilities as recommended by the State Board of Education or identified by the Board.

The individual responsible for supervising the employee must evaluate the employee's performance. The evaluation system may provide for the evaluator to consider input from other personnel trained under F.S. 1012.34(2). The Superintendent may use the evaluation for the purpose of reviewing the employee's contract. The evaluator must provide access to the employee no later than ten (10) days after the evaluation takes place. The evaluator must discuss the evaluation report with the employee. The employee shall have the right to initiate a written response to the evaluation, and the response shall become a permanent attachment to his or her personnel file.

An instructional staff member shall be given access to a copy of any documents relating to his/her performance that are to be placed in the personnel file.

A portion of each instructional staff member's compensation shall be based on the employee's performance evaluation as required by State law.

In addition, the Superintendent shall annually report the evaluation results of instructional staff members using the four (4) levels of performance set forth in State law to the FLDOE. The results shall be provided by the school and shall be disaggregated by classroom teachers, as defined in State law and all other instructional personnel, also as defined in State law.

The Superintendent shall also notify the FLDOE of any instructional staff members who receive two (2) consecutive unsatisfactory evaluations.

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3242 - **PROFESSIONAL LEARNING**

Professional Learning System

Pursuant to State law, the School District will work collaboratively with the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE), public postsecondary institutions, State education foundations, teachers, consortia, professional organizations, and business/community representatives in Florida to maintain a coordinated system of professional learning.

Pursuant to Florida law, the term "professional learning" means learning that is aligned to Florida's standards for effective professional learning, educator practices, and leadership practices; incorporates active learning; is collaborative; provides models; and is sustained and continuous.

The purpose of the system is to increase student achievement, enhance classroom instructional strategies that promote rigor and relevance throughout the curriculum and prepare students for continuing education and the workforce.

The District's comprehensive professional learning system will incorporate school improvement plans and align with the professional learning standards adopted by the State. Furthermore, the results of the performance evaluations of instructional staff members conducted pursuant to State law and School Board Policy 3220 will be used when identifying the areas for which professional learning is needed. As part of its effort to develop and refine its professional learning system, the District will review and monitor school discipline data; school environment surveys; assessments of parental satisfaction; performance appraisal data of teachers, managers, and administrative personnel; and other performance indicators to identify school and student needs that can be met by improved professional performance.

The District's professional learning system shall include the following:

- A. an overview of the system;
- B. a list of the collaborative partnerships established and a description of how a diverse group of stakeholders was consulted during development of the system;
- C. a description of the organizational structure of professional learning in the District;
- D. a list of the District- and school-based positions with the primary responsibility for planning, providing, implementing, and supporting, or evaluating professional learning, and a brief description of their roles related to professional learning;
- E. a description of the District's systems of professional learning programs and supports that enable instructional personnel and school administrators to continually develop throughout their career, and provide opportunities for meaningful teacher leadership and the identification and preparation of aspiring school leaders;
- F. a description of how the District implements each of the professional learning standards outlined in State Board Rule;
- G. a list of the technology platforms and programs the District uses to manage, provide, or support professional learning, and a brief description of how they are utilized;
- H. a list of the funding sources and amounts allocated for the District's professional learning resources, and the percentage of the District's total operating expenses that is allocated for professional learning for each of the last three (3) school years; and
- I. confirmation that the system meets the requirements of F.S. 1012.98.

The Board will provide funding for professional learning as required by State law and the General Appropriations Act and will authorize expenditures from other sources to continuously strengthen the District's system of professional learning. The plan will also provide for training for each teacher who will use materials that were purchased with funds allocated by the State for instructional materials, provide for in-service credit for the training, and document satisfactory completion of the training by each teacher.

The in-service activities for instructional personnel shall focus on analysis of student achievement data, ongoing formal and informal assessments of student achievement, identification and use of enhanced and differentiated instructional strategies that emphasize rigor, relevance, and reading in the content areas, enhancement of subject content expertise, integrated use of classroom technology that enhances teaching and learning, classroom management, parent involvement, and school safety.

The District shall also provide in-service activities and support targeted to the individual needs of new teachers participating in the professional learning certification and education competency program.

Additionally, in-service activities will be made available for instructional personnel of nonpublic schools in the District and the State-certified teachers who are not employed by the Board on a fee basis not to exceed the cost of the activity per all participants.

School principals may, but are not required to, establish and maintain an individual professional learning plan for each instructional employee assigned to the school. The individual professional learning plan must:

- A. be related to specific performance data for the students to whom the teacher is assigned;
- B. define the in-service objectives and specific measurable improvements expected in student performance as a result of the in-service activity;
- C. include an evaluation component that determines the effectiveness of the professional learning plan.

Professional learning activities must be linked to student learning, and provide professional growth for instructional staff and meet the following criteria:

- A. Utilize materials aligned to the Florida Educational Leadership Standards adopted in rule by the State Board of Education.
- B. Have clear, defined, and measurable outcomes for both individual in-service activities and multiple-day sessions.
- C. Employ multiple measurement tools for data on teacher growth, participants' use of new knowledge and skills, student learning outcomes, instructional growth outcomes, and leadership growth outcomes, as applicable.
- D. Utilize active learning and engage participants directly in designing and trying out strategies, providing participants with the opportunity to engage in authentic teaching and leadership experiences.
- E. Utilize artifacts, interactive activities, and other strategies to provide deeply embedded and highly contextualized professional learning.

- F. Create opportunities for collaboration.
- G. Utilize coaching and expert support to involve the sharing of expertise about content and evidence-based practices, focused directly on the needs of the role.
- H. Provide opportunities to think about, receive input on, and make changes to practice by facilitating reflection and providing feedback.
- I. Provide sustained duration with follow-up to have adequate time to learn, practice, implement, and reflect upon new strategies that facilitate changes in practice.
- J. Provide training, when such training is available, on the use of instructional materials included on the State-adopted instructional materials list pursuant to F.S. 1006.28, materials evaluated and identified pursuant to F.S. 101.215 (4), materials developed pursuant to F.S. 1006.39, and materials posted online by the FLDOE, including when and how to use intervention materials.

Professional ~~Development~~ Learning Certification and Education Competency Program

The District will develop and implement, upon approval of the FLDOE, a competency-based professional learning certification program by which members of the District's instructional staff with a State-issued temporary certificate may satisfy the mastery of professional preparation and education competence requirements specified in State law and rules of the State Board of Education.

The program shall include the components set forth in State law, including but not limited to the specification of a minimum period of initial preparation before the participating staff member assumes the duties as the teacher of record, an assessment of teaching performance pursuant to Policy 3220 - *Evaluation of Instructional Personnel*, and the assignment of an experienced peer mentor to each participant. Peer mentors utilized in this program must hold a valid professional certificate pursuant to State law, must have earned at least three (3) years of teaching experience in prekindergarten through grade 12, and must have earned an effective or highly effective rating on the prior year's performance evaluation.

Certification of an Approved Comprehensive Professional Learning Plan

Annually by August 1, the Superintendent shall certify to the Commissioner of Education that the Board has approved a comprehensive professional learning plan that supports fidelity of implementation of instructional materials programs, including verification that training was provided, that the materials are being implemented as designed, and that core reading materials and reading intervention materials used in kindergarten through grade 5 meet the requirements of F.S. 1001.215.

The District shall submit its professional learning system to the FLDOE for review and approval in accordance with timelines adopted by the FLDOE and as set forth in F.A.C. 6A-5.069.

Professional Learning Catalog

A. Components

As part of its coordinated system of learning development, the District will establish a Professional Learning Catalog (catalog) that outlines all professional learning opportunities, referred to as components, for all District employees from all funding sources. For each component, the catalog will include the following:

1. a title;
2. an identifying number assigned in accordance with the FLDOE Information Database Requirements: Volume II – Automated Staff Information System pursuant to F.S. 1008.385(2) and F.A.C. 6A-1.0014;
3. the maximum number of in-service points to be awarded for successful completion of the component, assigned in accordance with the specifications outlined in F.A.C. 6A-5.071(7);
4. a description of the specific objectives and activities to be completed; and,
5. the component evaluation criteria for determining the effectiveness of professional learning in:
 - a. addressing the specific objectives;
 - b. increasing educator knowledge and skills;
 - c. changing educator dispositions or practice in the educational setting; and
 - d. improving student outcomes.

For each component for which in-service points will be awarded, the catalog will also include a description of any follow-up activities that will be required and support that will be provided to allow for successful completion of the component.

B. Review, Amendment, and Submission

Annually, the District shall conduct a review of the previous year's catalog program operations that results in a determination of its effectiveness in the educational setting as measured by changes in educator practice and student outcomes, and use this information to make decisions about which components to continue, modify, or eliminate.

Based on the results of the review, and by September 1st, annually, the catalog will be updated and approved by the Board.

By October 1st of each year, the District will submit a letter to the Commissioner of Education verifying that the Board has approved the District's catalog and that it meets the criteria set forth in F.A.C. 6A-5.071. Any components of the District's catalog developed or modified after the annual approval of the catalog will be approved as an amendment by the Board.

C. Record Maintenance and Data Reporting

The following information will be maintained for each component:

1. dates the component was delivered;
2. names of component leaders;
3. names of participants and performance records;
4. evaluation of the component; and
5. criteria for successful completion.

The following information will be maintained for each component participant:

1. title and number of the component;
2. dates of participation;
3. satisfactory or unsatisfactory completion; and
4. number of in-service points to be awarded, eligibility of the points to be used for certification, and expiration date of the educator's certificate(s), if applicable. All requirements for renewal of a Professional Certificate on the basis of completion of in-service points pursuant to F.S. 1012.585 and F.A.C. 6A-4.0051 shall be met.

The District shall submit its professional learning catalog to the FLDOE for review and approval as set forth in F.A.C. 6A-5.071.

The District will report data information for all approved professional learning components through the FLDOE's automated data reporting procedures.

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3243 - **PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS**

The School Board encourages opportunities for instructional ~~personnel~~ **staff members** to develop increased competence, beyond that which they may attain through the performance of their assigned duties through attendance at professional meetings.

For purposes of this policy, a professional meeting shall be defined as:

- A. any meeting that is related to the activities, duties, or responsibilities of instructional staff members as determined by the Superintendent;
- B. a meeting through which direct value can be derived for the person in attendance for later use in the performance of District duties;
- C. a collaborative effort with other districts, professional organizations, State foundations, and postsecondary educational institutions to, among other things, enhance classroom instructional strategies that promote rigor and relevance throughout the curriculum;
- D. ~~professional development plans established by the Board shall incorporate school improvement plans and shall be aligned with principal leadership training as a part of the plan.~~

Professional learning plans established by the Board shall incorporate school improvement plans and be aligned with principal leadership trainings.



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4211 - WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION

The School Board expects all its employees to be honest and ethical in their conduct, and to comply with applicable State and Federal law, Board policies and administrative procedures. Pursuant to State law, the Board expects support staff members to report any violation or suspected violation of any Federal, State or local law, policy, or regulation committed by any employee, or agent of an agency or independent contractor which is doing business with the Board, which creates and presents a substantial or specific danger to the public's health, safety, or welfare to their immediate supervisors. Additionally, pursuant to State law, support staff members are expected to report any act or suspected act of gross mismanagement, malfeasance, misfeasance, gross waste of public funds, suspected or actual Medicaid fraud or abuse, or gross neglect of duty committed by an employee or agent of an agency or independent contractor which is doing business with the Board.

It is the responsibility of an employee who is aware of conduct on the part of any Board member or employee that possibly violates Federal or State law, or Board policy, to call this conduct to the attention of his/her their immediate supervisor. If the employee's immediate supervisor is not responsive or is the employee-one whose behavior is in question, the employee should report the alleged misconduct to the Superintendent.

After such a report is made, the immediate supervisor will ask that the employee's report be put in writing. Any employee making such a report shall be protected from discipline, retaliation, or reprisal for making such report as long as the employee made a reasonable and good faith effort to determine the accuracy of any information reported and such a report meets the requirements of the Florida's Whistleblower's Act. Employees are subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination, for purposely, knowingly, or recklessly making a false report under this policy. Conversely, employees are subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination, if they are aware of a violation of Federal, State, or local law that the Board has the authority to correct and they do not make a report confirmed in writing to their immediate supervisor.

If the alleged misconduct that is reported involves a Board member or the Superintendent, the report is to be filed directly with the Board Attorney who is hereby authorized to engage outside counsel to conduct the investigation concerning the alleged misconduct.

Upon receipt of a legally sufficient report made by a support staff member pursuant to this policy, an investigation shall be conducted by the Superintendent or Board Attorney consistent with the procedures described in F.S. 112.3189.



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Legal	F.S. 381.88 F.S. 1002.20 F.A.C. 6A-6.0251, Use of Epinephrine Auto-Injectors F.A.C. 6A-6.0252, Use of Prescribed Pancreatic Enzyme Supplements F.A.C. 6A-6.0253, Diabetes Management
Adopted	June 5, 2025
Last Revised	November 6, 2025

5330.01 - **EPINEPHRINE, ANAPHYLAXIS, AND SELF-ADMINISTERED MEDICATION** ~~AND EPINEPHRINE USE~~

The School Board authorizes the Superintendent to adopt a protocol developed by a licensed physician for the administration of epinephrine by school personnel who are trained to recognize an anaphylactic reaction and to administer an epinephrine auto-injection.

A student may carry and self-administer a short-acting bronchodilator, epinephrine auto-injector, prescribed pancreatic enzyme supplement, FDA-approved headache medication and/or may carry diabetic supplies and equipment to manage and care for their diabetes provided the student's parent or guardian provides the following:

A. For self-administration of a short-acting bronchodilator, the parent or guardian must provide the District with a written authorization that is signed and dated by both the parent or guardian and physician. The written approval by the physician must include the following:

1. name of the medication in the metered dose inhaler;
2. the prescribed dosage;
3. the times or the special circumstances under which the medication is to be administered; and
4. any other special related information regarding the administration of the metered dose inhaler.

B. For self-administration of an epinephrine auto-injector, the parent or guardian must provide the District with a written authorization that is signed and dated by both the parent or guardian and the physician. The written approval by the physician must include:

1. the times or the special circumstances under which the medication is to be administered; and
2. any other special related information regarding the administration of the epinephrine auto-injected.

C. For self-administration of prescribed pancreatic enzyme supplements, the parent or guardian must provide the District with a written authorization that is signed and dated and provide the prescription label containing the following:

1. name of the medication;
 2. the prescribed dosage;
 3. the times or the special circumstances under which the medication is to be administered; and
 4. any other special related information regarding the administration of the medication.
- D. For the use of diabetic supplies and equipment, the parent or guardian must submit written authorization from the student's physician, containing the following:
1. an identification of the diabetic supplies and equipment the student is authorized to carry;
 2. a description of which activities the child is capable of performing without assistance;
 3. the times or the special circumstances under which the medication is to be administered;
 4. any other special related information regarding the administration of the medication.

When providing the District with written authorization that is signed and dated by both the parent or guardian and the physician as required by State law and this policy, that written authorization must also include indemnification by the parent or guardian of the District, county health department, public-private partner, and their employees and volunteers for any and all liability for a student who does any of the following:

- A. self-administer an epinephrine auto-injector;
- B. carries diabetic supplies and equipment on their person and attends to the management and care of their diabetes while in school, participating in school-sponsored activities, or in transit to or from school or school-sponsored activities to the extent authorized by the parent and physician and within the parameters set forth by the State Board of Education; or
- C. use prescribed pancreatic enzyme supplements.

Emergency Allergy Treatment Educational Training Programs

Educational training programs in the District pertaining to emergency allergy treatment required by State law must be conducted by a nationally recognized organization experienced in training laypersons in emergency health treatment or an entity or individual approved by the Department of Health. The Principal shall arrange for staff who may administer an epinephrine auto-injector. The curriculum must include at a minimum:

- A. recognition of the symptoms of systemic reactions to food, insect stings, and other allergens; and
- B. the proper administration of an epinephrine auto-injector.

Training on the Prevention and Response to Allergic Reactions, Including Anaphylaxis

Each school serving students in kindergarten through grade 8 shall provide training to an adequate number of school personnel and contracted personnel on the prevention and response to allergic reactions, including anaphylaxis. This training or other training which meets the requirements of F.S.1002.20 may be used as part of the training required under F.A.C. 6A-6.0251.

In determining what constitutes an adequate number of school personnel and contracted personnel identified for training, each school shall consider the following:

- A. the number of students with an Individualized Healthcare Plan at the school;
- B. the number of students who have experienced or are at risk of experiencing an allergic reaction, including anaphylaxis;
- C. the accessibility of healthcare personnel at the school; and
- D. the number of trained persons needed to ensure coverage of areas where there is a higher probability of student exposure to allergens, such as the cafeteria and playgrounds.

The training provided at each school must include, at a minimum, the following:

- A. recognition of the signs and symptoms of an anaphylactic reaction; and

- B. administration of a United States Food and Drug Administration-approved epinephrine delivery device that contains a pre-measured, appropriate weight-based dose in accordance with F.S. 1006.062.

Emergency Action Plans

Emergency action plans (EAP) are child-specific action plans distributed to appropriate school and contracted personnel to facilitate an appropriate response for an anticipated health emergency. The EAP is a component of the Individualized Healthcare Plan developed in accordance with F.S. 1006.062 and F.A.C. 64F-6.004. It is the policy of the Board that:

- A. a student's EAP must be in effect and accessible at all times when the student is on school grounds during the school day or participating in school-sponsored activities, including before and after school programs at the school;
- B. personnel designated to implement a student's EAP receive training in order to implement the plan; and
- C. this policy and any applicable procedures apply, at a minimum, to students in kindergarten through grade 8.

(see also Policy 5780 - Student/Parent Rights)

T.C. 11/6/25

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Book Policy Manual

Section Vol 26, Jan and Feb 2026 Revisions

Title Copy of ADMINISTRATION OF EPINEPHRINE BY TRAINED SCHOOL PERSONNEL

Code *po5330.03 RESCINDED BY NEOLA - REPLACED WITH 5330.01

Status

Legal [F.S. 381.88](#)
[F.S. 1002.20](#)

Adopted June 5, 2025

~~5330.03 ADMINISTRATION OF EPINEPHRINE BY TRAINED SCHOOL PERSONNEL~~

~~The School Board authorizes the Superintendent to adopt a protocol developed by a licensed physician for the administration of epinephrine by school personnel who are trained to recognize an anaphylactic reaction and to administer an epinephrine auto injection.~~

~~Pursuant to State law, educational training programs for school personnel must be conducted by a nationally recognized organization experienced in training laypersons in emergency health treatment or by an entity or individual approved by the Department of Health. The Principal shall arrange for staff who may administer an epinephrine auto injector.~~

~~The curriculum for this training must include at a minimum:~~

- ~~A. recognition of the symptoms of systemic reactions to food, insect stings, and other allergens; and~~
- ~~B. the proper administration of an epinephrine auto injector.~~



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Adopted	June 5, 2025

5350 - **STUDENT SUICIDE PREVENTION, AWARENESS, AND SCREENING**

The School Board will provide access to suicide prevention educational resources to all instructional and administrative staff as part of the District's professional development program. The suicide educational resources will include material approved by the Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention, the Florida Suicide Prevention Coalition, and the Coordinated School Health Resource Center. The District's student personnel services staff will be responsible for providing suicide prevention, awareness, and screening training and resources to students and staff.

Signs of Suicidal Ideations

All school personnel should be alert to signs of suicide ideation and to students who threaten or attempt suicide. Suicide ideation is the process of fantasizing, planning, practicing, and motivating oneself to commit suicide. Any such signs or the report of such signs from another student or staff member should be taken with the utmost seriousness. Families, community members, and students are encouraged to report any such signs to the Principal.

Suicide Risk Assessments

All schools and local mobile response teams shall use the same suicide risk assessment instruments approved by the **FLDOE Florida Department of Education** pursuant to F.S. 1012.583. Only school-based mental health service providers who have been trained in the use of the instruments utilized by the District may give a risk assessment to a student expressing suicidal ideation or suicidal intent.

A "school-based mental health services provider" means a school psychologist certified under F.A.C. 6A-4.0311, a school social worker certified under F.A.C. 6A-4.035, a school counselor certified under F.A.C. 6A-4.0181, or a mental health professional licensed under F.S. Chapters 490 or 491, who is employed or contracted by the District to provide mental health services in its schools.

If a trained school-based mental health services provider is unavailable, a contracted certified or licensed mental health provider may evaluate students in the District for suicide risk, including the mobile response teams serving the District.

When a suicide risk assessment results in the initiation of an involuntary examination, the Principal is required to make a reasonable attempt to notify the student's parent(s) before the student is removed from school, school transportation, or a school-sponsored activity, unless notification is delayed pursuant to F.S. 1002.20.

When a suicide risk assessment results in a change in related services or monitoring, a student's parent(s) must be notified as soon as possible, unless ~~notification notified~~ is withheld or delayed pursuant to AP 1213, AP 3213, or AP 4213 - *Student Supervision and Welfare*.

Youth Suicide Awareness and Prevention Training

In-service training in youth suicide awareness prevention shall be provided for student personnel services staff, administration, and instructional staff. Further, additional professional ~~learning development training~~ regarding risk assessment and intervention shall be provided to mental health employees, counselors, psychologists, and school nurses

Resources Listed on Student Identification Cards (Grades 6 Through 12)

Any student identification cards issued to students in grades 6 through 12 will include the telephone numbers for national or Statewide crisis and suicide hotlines and text lines.

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[F.S. 1003.4286](#)
[F.S. 1003.4295](#)
[F.S. 1003.433](#)
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[F.A.C. 6A-1.09961](#)
[F.A.C. 6A-1.09963](#)
[F.A.C. 6A-6.0573](#)

Adopted June 5, 2025
Last Revised November 6, 2025

5460 - **GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

It shall be the policy of the School Board to acknowledge each student's successful completion of the instructional program appropriate to the achievement of District goals and objectives as well as personal proficiency by the awarding of a diploma at a fitting graduation ceremony.

Standards for Graduation

For students entering grade 9 before the 2023-2024 school year.

Receipt of a standard high school diploma requires successful completion of twenty-four (24) credits, an International Baccalaureate curriculum, an Advanced International Certificate of Education completion, an Accelerated Diploma, or the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Graduation Pathway Option as outlined in F.S.1003.42, F.S.1003.429, and F.S.1003.43.

The twenty-four (24) credits shall be distributed as follows:

Subject	Credits
English Language Arts	4
Social Studies	3
Mathematics	4
Science	3
Fine or performing arts, speech and debate, or career and technical education	1
Electives	8
Basic Physical Education/ Health (including CPR/AED instruction)	1

A financial literacy course consisting of at least one-half (1/2) credit as an elective shall be offered.

Beginning with the 2023-24 school year, high school students enrolled in the U.S. Government classes required by F.S. 1003.4282 must receive at least forty-five (45) minutes of instruction on "Victims of Communism Day" to include topics such as Mao Zedong and the Cultural Revolution, Joseph Stalin and the Soviet System, Fidel Castro and the Cuban Revolution, Vladimir Lenin and the Russian Revolution, Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge, and Nicolás Maduro and the Chavismo movement, and how victims suffered under these regimes through poverty, starvation, migration, systemic lethal violence, and suppression of speech.

Beginning in the 2023-2024 school year, middle school and high school students enrolled in the civics education class required by F.S. 1003.4156 or the United States Government class required by F.S. 1003.4282(3) must receive at least forty (45) minutes of instruction on "9/11 Heroes' Day" topics involving the history and significance of September 11, 2001, including remembering the sacrifice of military personnel, government employees, civilians, and emergency responders who were killed, wounded, or suffered sickness due to the terrorist attacks on or after that date, including, but not limited to:

- A. the historical context of global terrorism.
- B. a timeline of events on September 11, 2001, including the attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and United Airlines Flight 93.
- C. the selfless heroism of police officers, firefighters, paramedics, other first responders, and civilians involved in the rescue and recovery of victims and the heroic actions taken by the passengers of United Airlines Flight 93.
- D. the unprecedented outpouring of humanitarian, charitable, and volunteer aid occurring after the events of September 11, 2001.
- E. the global response to terrorism and importance of respecting civil liberties while ensuring safety and security.

Receipt of a standard high school diploma requires successful completion of twenty-four (24) credits, an International Baccalaureate curriculum, an Advanced International Certificate of Education completion, or the Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathway.

The twenty-four (24) credits shall be distributed as follows:

Subject	Credits
English Language Arts	4
Social Studies	3
Mathematics	4
Science	3
Fine or performing arts, speech and debate, or career and technical education	1
Electives	7.5
Basic Physical Education/Health (including CPR/AED instruction)	1
Personal Financial Literacy and Money Management	.5

Basic training in first aid, including cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) instruction, shall be provided for students once in middle school or junior high school in a physical education or health class and once in high school in a physical education or health class. Instruction in the use of cardiopulmonary resuscitation must allow students to practice the psychomotor skills associated with performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation and include the use of an automated external defibrillator.

High school students will be provided opportunities to take computer science courses and earn technology-related industry certifications to satisfy high school graduation requirements. Computer science courses and technology-related industry certifications that are identified as eligible for meeting mathematics or science requirements for high school graduation will be included in the

Course Code Directory.

The required credits may be earned through equivalent, applied, or integrated courses or career education courses as defined in F.S. 1003.01(4), including work-related internships approved by the State Board of Education and identified in the course code directory. Such internships must be included in counseling materials and presented with courses required for graduation. However, any must-pass assessment requirements must be met.

An equivalent course is one (1) or more courses identified by content-area experts as being a match to the core curricular content of another course, based upon a review of the State academic standards and includes real-world applications of a career and technical education standard used in business or industry. An integrated course includes content from several courses within a content area or across content areas.

The earning and awarding of high school credits will be in accordance with Florida law, including, but not necessarily limited to, the provisions of F.S. 1003.4282 and those identified in the Student Progression Plan.

For courses that require Statewide standardized end-of-course assessments, a minimum of thirty percent (30%) of a student's course grade shall be comprised of performance on the Statewide standardized end-of-course assessment.

In order to graduate, students must earn passing scores on the Florida State Assessment (State-mandated testing) or scores on a standardized test that are concordant with passing scores on the State-mandated testing. Additionally, a student must earn a cumulative GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale.

Students with Disabilities

~~A parent of a student with a disability shall, in collaboration with the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) Team during the transition planning process pursuant to F.S. 1003.5716, declare an intent for the student to graduate from high school with a standard high school diploma. A student with a disability who has not earned a standard high school diploma will be provided the required notification form as set forth in F.S. 1003.4282.~~

The options set forth in F.S. 1003.4282, as specified in a student's IEP, may be used to satisfy ~~the~~ standard high school diploma requirements. A student with a disability who meets standard high school diploma requirements may defer receipt of a standard high school diploma if the student:

- A. has an IEP that prescribes special education, transition planning, transition services, or related services through age twenty-one (21); and
- B. is enrolled in accelerated college credit instruction pursuant to F.S. 1007.27, industry certification courses that lead to college credit, an early college program, courses necessary to satisfy the scholar designation requirements, or a structured work-study, internship, or preapprenticeship program.

~~A student with a disability who receives a certificate of completion and has an IEP that prescribes special education, transition planning, transition services, or related services through twenty-one (21) years of age may continue to receive the specified instruction and services.~~

Any waiver of the Statewide, standardized assessment requirements by the IEP team, pursuant to F.S. 1008.22, must be approved by the parent and is subject to verification for appropriateness by an independent reviewer selected by the parent as provided for in F.S. 1003.572.

High School Diploma

The Board shall award a standard high school diploma to every student enrolled in this District who meets the requirements of graduation established by this Board or who properly completes the goals and objectives specified in the student's + IEP including either the exemption from or the requirement to complete the State-mandated tests and the recommendation of the IEP Team.

Each student's standard high school diploma will include, as applicable, the following designations, if the student meets the criteria:

A. Scholar Designation

In order to earn the Scholar Designation, the student must, in addition to the requirements for a standard high school diploma, satisfy the following:

1. English Language Arts (ELA) - When the State transitions to common core assessments, pass the 11th grade ELA common core assessment.
2. Mathematics - Earn one (1) credit in Algebra II or an equally rigorous course and one (1) credit in statistics or an equally rigorous course. When the State transitions to common core assessments, students must pass the Geometry common core assessment.

3. Science - Pass the Statewide standardized Biology I end-of-course assessment and earn one (1) credit in chemistry or physics and one (1) credit in a course equally rigorous to chemistry or physics.
4. Social Studies - Pass the Statewide standardized United States History end-of-course assessment.
5. Foreign Language - Earn two (2) credits in the same foreign language.
6. Electives - Earn at least one (1) credit in an Advanced Placement, an International Baccalaureate, an Advanced International Certificate of Education, or a dual enrollment course.

B. Industry Scholar Designation

In order to earn the Industry Scholar Designation, a student must, in addition to the requirements for a standard high school diploma, attain one (1) or more industry certifications on the Florida Department of Education's (FLDOE's) current Industry Certification Funding List.

Students and parents shall be provided information about diploma designations through an online education and career planning tool, which allows students to monitor their progress toward the attainment of each designation.

Honorary Diploma

An honorary diploma may be awarded in the case of such unfortunate circumstances as the severe disability or death of a student prior to graduation. The student must have been a senior in good standing to meet the requirements of graduation established by the Board at the time of the disability/death.

Florida Seal of Fine Arts Program

Additionally, students who develop an exemplary level of proficiency in the performing or visual arts may be awarded a seal on a standard high school diploma through the FLDOE's Florida Seal of Fine Arts Program. Beginning with the 2024-25 school year, students are eligible for the Florida Seal of Fine Arts if they meet the following requirements:

- A. The student earned a standard high school diploma.
- B. The student completed at least three (3) year-long courses in dance, music, theatre, or visual arts with a grade of "A" or higher in each course, or earned three (3) sequential course credits in such courses with a grade of "A" or higher in each course pursuant to F.A.C. 6A-1.09441.
- C. The student completed at least two (2) of the following requirements:
 1. completed a fine arts International Baccalaureate, an Advanced International Certificate of Education, advanced placement, dual enrollment, or honors course with a grade of "B" or higher;
 2. participated in a District or Statewide organization's juried event as a selected student participant for two (2) or more years (a "juried event" means a District or Statewide organization's event where a student or group of students are judged by one (1) or more judges on the selected fine arts discipline of their choosing and receive a scored rating and written or oral feedback);
 3. recorded at least twenty-five (25) volunteer hours of arts-related community service in their community and presents a comprehensive presentation on their experiences pursuant to District procedures;
 4. submits a portfolio that demonstrates the student is an exemplary practitioner of fine arts, as described in F.A.C. 6A-1.09952; or,
 5. received District, State, or National recognition for the creation and submission of an original work of art (i.e., a musical or theatrical composition, visual artwork, or choreographed routine or performance created by the student).

The District shall maintain records showing which students earned the Florida Seal of Fine Arts and report such information to the FLDOE in accordance with F.A.C. 6A-1.0014.

Early Admission Program

High school graduation by means of the Early Admission to College Program is an alternative for the college-bound student during the normal senior year in high school. When the prescribed District conditions as set forth in the student handbook have been met, the student shall be awarded a high school diploma with the regular high school graduating class. The official college transcript shall be made a part of the student's high school permanent record file.

When students leave high school as Early Admission to College Program students, they may participate in graduation exercises with their graduation class and may be ranked in the class pursuant to Policy 5430.

Early High School Graduation

For the purposes of this policy, the term early graduation means graduation from high school in less than eight (8) semesters or the equivalent by completion of the required number of credits.

For a student who enters grade 9 before the 2023-2024 school year

A student who meets the requirements of F.S. 1003.4282(3)(a)-(e), earns three (3) credits in electives (a total of eighteen (18) credits), and earns a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale shall be awarded a standard high school diploma.

For a student who enters grade 9 in the 2023-2024 school year and thereafter

A student who meets the requirements of F.S. 1003.4282(3)(a)-(e), earns two and one-half (2.5) credits in electives and one-half (.5) credit in financial literacy and money management (a total of eighteen (18) credits), and earns a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale shall be awarded a standard high school diploma.

A student also has the option of early graduation if the student has completed a minimum of twenty-four (24) credits and otherwise meets the requirements for graduation.

Academically Challenging Curriculum to Enhance Learning (ACCEL)

The following ACCEL options are available: subject-matter acceleration; virtual instruction in higher grade-level subjects; and the Credit Acceleration Program described below. Additional options may be available.

Students shall be advised of courses through which they can earn college credit, including Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Advanced Certificate of Education, dual enrollment, and early admission courses, and career academy courses, and courses that lead to industry certification, as well as the availability of course offerings through virtual instruction.

Credit Acceleration Program (CAP)

High school credit in courses required for high school graduation may be earned through the passage of an end-of-course assessment administered under F.S. 1008.22, an advanced placement examination, or a College Level Examination Program (CLEP). Course credit shall be awarded to a student who is not enrolled in the course or who has not completed the course if the student attains a passing score on the end-of-course assessment, advanced placement examination, or CLEP. Public school or home education students in the District shall take the assessment or examination during the regular administration of the assessment or examination.

The District shall notify the parent of a student who is eligible to graduate early.

A student who graduates early may continue to participate in school activities and social events and to attend and participate in graduation events with the student's cohort. The student will be included in the class ranking, honors, and award determinations for the student's cohort. The student must comply with Board rules and policies regarding access to the school facilities and grounds during normal operating hours.

Career and Technical Education Graduation Pathway Option

A student is eligible to complete an alternative pathway to earning a standard high school diploma through the CTE pathway option. Receipt of a standard high school diploma awarded through the CTE pathway option requires the student's successful completion of at least eighteen (18) credits. A student completing the CTE pathway option must earn at least a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale. In order for a student to satisfy the requirements of the CTE pathway option, the student must meet the GPA requirement and:

For a student who enters grade 9 before the 2023-2024 school year

- A. meet the requirements as set forth in F.S. 1003.4282;
- B. complete two (2) credits in career and technical education; and

The courses must result in a program completion and an industry certification.

- C. complete two (2) credits in work-based learning programs. A student may substitute up to two (2) credits of electives, including one-half (1/2) credit in financial literacy, for work-based learning program courses to fulfill this requirement.

For a student who enters grade 9 in the 2023-2024 school year and thereafter

- A. meet the requirements as set forth in F.S. 1003.4282;
- B. complete two (2) credits in career and technical education; and

The courses must result in a program completion and an industry certification.

C. complete one and one-half (1.5) credits in work-based learning programs.

The CTE pathway option to graduation will be incorporated into the District's Student Progression Plan.

High School Equivalency Diploma

The Board shall offer the high school equivalency diploma examination and the subject area examinations to all candidates pursuant to the rules of the State Board of Education. To be eligible to be a candidate for a high school equivalency diploma, a student must be at least eighteen (18) years of age on the date of the examination. However, if the student resides or attends school in the District, the student may take the examination after reaching the age of sixteen (16) if they have first filed a formal declaration of intent to terminate school enrollment pursuant to F.S. 1003.21 in accordance with Policy 5465 - *General Education Development (GED) Tests*. All high school equivalency diplomas have equal status with other high school diplomas. A student may be awarded a standard high school diploma pursuant to FLDOE rules.

The Board shall notify each candidate for a high school equivalency diploma of adult secondary and postsecondary education options available in or near the District, including the Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education Program under F.S. 1004.933, as well as the eligibility requirements and any minimum academic requirements for each available option.

Certificate of Completion

~~A student who completes the minimum number of credits and other requirements for graduation but cannot earn a passing score on the State-mandated testing, achieve a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent, or complete all other applicable requirements prescribed by the Board pursuant to Florida statutes.~~

~~may elect to remain as a full time student or a part time student for up to one (1) additional year and receive special instruction designed to remedy the student's identified deficiencies. The Board will provide each student who fails to earn a standard diploma under this paragraph a document from the FLDOE detailing available postsecondary options, along with the student's official transcript.~~

Notice to Students and Parents

The District will notify students and parents of the requirements for a standard high school diploma, available designations, and the eligibility requirements for State scholarship programs and postsecondary admissions.

Commencement Exercises

Commencement exercises will include only those students who have successfully completed requirements for a standard high school diploma, Early Admission to College Program, or completion of all graduation requirements ~~except passing the grade 10 statewide standardized ELA assessment and/or Algebra 1 End of Course exam (EOC)~~ for graduation as certified by the high school principal. No student who has completed the requirements for graduation shall be denied a diploma as a disciplinary measure. A student may be denied participation in the ceremony of graduation when personal conduct so warrants.

Students are permitted to lawfully wear dress uniforms of any of the Armed Forces of the United States or of the State at their graduation ceremony.

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Book Policy Manual

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[F.S. 1002.39](#)

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[F.S. 1002.395](#)

[F.S. 1002.40](#)

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[F.S. 1003.22](#)

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[F.S. 1003.47](#)

[F.S. 1003.52](#)

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[F.S. 1003.55](#)

[F.S. 1003.56](#)

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[F.S. 1006.40](#)
[F.S. 1007.271](#)
[F.S. 1008.22](#)
[F.S. 1008.25](#)
[F.S. 1008.386](#)
[F.S. 1012.42](#)
[F.S. Chapter 1014](#)
[F.A.C. 6A-6.0521](#)

Adopted June 5, 2025
Last Revised November 6, 2025

5780 - **STUDENT/PARENT RIGHTS**

The School Board recognizes that students possess not only the right to an education but the rights of citizenship as well. Federal and State law prohibits the Board from adopting any policy or rule, or from entering into any agreement, that infringes upon or waives the rights of freedoms afforded to students by the United States Constitution.

In providing students the opportunity for an education to which they are entitled, the District shall attempt to offer nurture, counsel, and custodial care appropriate to their age and maturity. The District shall, at the same time, guarantee that no student is deprived of the basic right to equal treatment and equal access to the educational program, due process, a presumption of innocence, free expression and association, and the privacy of his/her own thoughts.

Attendant to the rights guaranteed to each student, however, are certain responsibilities, which include respect for the rights of others, obedience to properly constituted school authority, and compliance with the procedures and rules of the District.

The Board realizes that as students differ in age and maturity, so they differ in ability to handle both the rights of citizens and the concomitant responsibilities. The exercise of each right shall be granted, therefore, with due regard for the degree of responsibility possessed by the student and the student's need for the continuing guidance and control of those responsible for his/her education.

Since a student who has reached the age of majority possesses the full rights of an adult, they may authorize those school matters previously handled by their parents, but the student also assumes the responsibility for their performance in school, attendance, and compliance with school rules.

All K-12 students in Florida are entitled to a uniform, safe, secure, efficient, and high-quality system of education, one that allows students the opportunity to obtain a high-quality education. Parents are responsible to ready their children for school; however, neither the State of Florida nor the District can be a guarantor of any individual student's success.

Parental Access at School

Each parent has the right to pick-up, visit, and meet with their student at school, without interference of or the need for consent from the other parent, unless the school has received a certified copy of an enforceable court order that provides to the contrary. The Principal may restrict the times, location, frequency, and length of parent visitations at school, based on legitimate pedagogical or scheduling reasons. The District will abide by enforceable no-contact orders which have been provided to the school.

Educational Decisions

Both parents have an equal right to make decisions about the education and welfare of their student unless the school has received a certified copy of an enforceable court order that specifies that one of the parents, or someone else, has the sole right to make educational and/or general welfare decisions for the student.

If the parents cannot agree on a significant decision about the student's education or on matters affecting the health, safety, or welfare of the student, the school will take action based on what it considers to be in the best interests of the child.

Parental Notice

Parents normally receive notice by U.S. Mail of the school's suspension of their student or intended placement of their student in a dropout prevention/academic intervention program. A parent may agree to receive such notices by an alternative method other than U.S. Mail. Such agreement may be made before the need for notice arises or at the time the notice becomes required.

Attendance

A. Termination of Enrollment

A student who attains the age of sixteen (16) years during the school year has the right to file a formal declaration of intent to terminate school enrollment if the declaration is signed by the parent. The parent has the right to be notified by the District of its receipt of the student's declaration of intent to terminate school enrollment. (see also Policy 5130 - *Withdrawal from School*)

B. Married or Pregnant

Students who become or have become married or who are pregnant and parenting have the right to attend school and receive the same or equivalent educational instruction as other students. (see also Policy 5751 - *Parental-Married Status of Students*)

C. Compulsory Attendance

Parents of students who have attained the age of six (6) years by February 1st of any school year but who have not attained the age of sixteen (16) years must comply with the compulsory school attendance laws. Parents have the option to comply with the school attendance laws by attendance of the student in a public school; a parochial, religious, or denominational school; a private school; a home education program; or a private tutoring program. (see also Policy 5112 - *Entrance Requirements* and Policy 5200 - *Attendance*)

D. Absence for Religious Purposes

A parent of a student may request and be granted permission for absence of the student from school for religious instruction or religious holidays. (see also Policy 5223 - *Absences for Religious Instruction* and Policy 5225 - *Absences for Religious Holidays*)

E. Dropout Prevention and Academic Intervention Programs

The parent of a student has the right to receive written notice by certified mail or other method agreed to by the parent before a student initially receives services under a dropout prevention and academic intervention program. The parent will be notified in writing and entitled to an administrative review of any action by school personnel relating to the student's placement. Thereafter, the parent must be notified annually. The notification must be in the parent's primary language or other mode of communication commonly used by the parent unless clearly not feasible pursuant to F.A.C. 6A-6.0908.

F. Absence for Treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorder

A parent of a student may request and be granted permission for absence of the student from school for an appointment scheduled to receive a therapy service provided by a licensed health care practitioner or behavior analyst certified pursuant to Florida law for the treatment of autism spectrum disorder including, but not limited to, applied behavioral analysis, speech therapy, and occupational therapy.

Health Issues

A. Notice of Health Care Services

At the beginning of the school year, the District will provide notice to parents of all health care services offered at their student's school and of the option to withhold consent to or decline any specific service. Before administering a student well-being questionnaire or health screening form to a student in kindergarten through grade 3, the District will provide the

questionnaire or form to the parent and obtain the permission of the parent.

B. School-Entry Health Examinations

The parent of any student shall be exempt from the requirement of a health examination upon written request stating objections on religious grounds. (see also Policy 5112 - *Entrance Requirements*)

C. Immunizations

The parent of any student shall be exempt from the school immunization requirements upon meeting any of the specified exemptions. (see also Policy 5320 - *Immunizations* and Policy 5112 - *Entrance Requirements*)

D. Biological Experiments

Parents may request that their child be excused from performing surgery or dissection in biological science classes.

E. Reproductive Health and Disease Education

A public school student whose parent makes written request to the school Principal shall be exempted from the teaching of reproductive health or any disease, including HIV/AIDS. (see also Policy 2417 - *Comprehensive Health Education*)

F. Career Education Courses Involving Hazardous Substances

High school students must be given plano safety glasses or devices in career education courses involving the use of hazardous substances likely to cause eye injury.

G. Substance Abuse Reports

The parent of a student must be timely notified of any verified report of a substance abuse violation by the student.

H. Short-Acting Bronchodilator Use

Asthmatic students whose parent and physician provide their approval to the Principal may carry a short-acting bronchodilator and components on their person while in school. The school Principal shall be provided a copy of the parent's and physician's approval. (see also Policy 5330.01 - *Self-Administered Medication and Epinephrine Use*; Policy 5330.04 - *Administration of Short-Acting Bronchodilators and Components by Trained School Personnel*)

I. Epinephrine Use and Supply

A student who has experienced or is at risk for life-threatening allergic reactions may carry an epinephrine auto-injector and self-administer epinephrine by auto-injector while in school, participating in school-sponsored activities, or in transit to or from school or school-sponsored activities if the school has been provided with written parental and physician authorization.

The School District shall be indemnified by the parent of a student who is authorized to carry an epinephrine auto-injector for any and all liability with respect to the student's use of an epinephrine auto-injector pursuant to this policy.

The District and its employees and agents, including the physician who provides the standing protocol for school epinephrine auto-injectors, are not liable for any injury arising from the use of an epinephrine auto-injector administered by trained school personnel who follow the adopted protocol and whose professional opinion is that the student is having an anaphylactic reaction:

1. unless the trained school personnel's action is willful and wanton;
2. notwithstanding that the parents or guardians of the student to whom the epinephrine is administered have not been provided notice or have not signed a statement acknowledging that the School District is not liable; and
3. regardless of whether authorization has been given by the student's parents or guardians or by the student's physician, physician's assistant, or advanced registered nurse practitioner.

(see also Policy 5330.01 - *Self-Administered Medication and Epinephrine Use*)

J. Diabetes Management

The District may not assign a student who has diabetes to a particular school on the basis that the student has diabetes, that the school does not have a full-time school nurse, or that the school does not have trained diabetes personnel.

Diabetic students whose parent and physician provide their written authorization to the school Principal may carry diabetic supplies and equipment on their person and attend to the management and care of their diabetes while in school,

participating in school-sponsored activities, or in transit to or from school or school-sponsored activities, to the extent authorized by the parent and physician and within the parameters set forth by State Board of Education rule and F.S. 1002.20. The written authorization shall identify the diabetic supplies and equipment that the student is authorized to carry and shall describe the activities the child is capable of performing without assistance, such as performing blood-glucose level checks and urine ketone testing, administering insulin through the insulin-delivery system used by the student, and treating hypoglycemia and hyperglycemia. An authorized health care practitioner as defined in F.S. 1002.20 may prescribe glucagon in the name of the District or student's school for use in accordance with F.S. 1002.20, and a licensed pharmacist may dispense glucagon pursuant to a prescription issued in the name of the District or student's school in accordance with F.S. 1002.20. Undesignated glucagon that is able to be administered as ordered in a student's diabetes medical management plan or health care practitioner's orders shall be made available at the student's school.

A school nurse or trained school personnel shall administer glucagon to students only if they have completed training and believe in good faith that the student is experiencing a hypoglycemic emergency. Immediately after undesignated glucagon has been administered to a student, the Principal or an employee at the student's school shall call for emergency assistance, notify the school nurse, and notify the student's parent or guardian or emergency contact.

Schools may acquire and maintain a supply of undesignated glucagon for the purpose of treating a student with diabetes experiencing a hypoglycemic emergency. "Hypoglycemic emergency" is a medical condition characterized by dangerously low blood glucose levels, often below 70 mg/dL. Undesignated glucagon must be stored in a secure location on the school's premises that is immediately accessible to a school nurse or other school personnel trained to administer glucagon pursuant to F.S. 1002.20. Undesignated glucagon must be stored in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

The District and its employees and volunteers shall be indemnified by the parent of a student who is authorized to carry diabetic supplies or equipment for any and all liability with respect to the student's use of such supplies and equipment pursuant to this policy.

(see also Policy 5330.01 - *Self-Administered Medication and Epinephrine Use*)

K. Use of Prescribed Pancreatic Enzyme Supplements

A student who has experienced or is at risk for pancreatic insufficiency or who has been diagnosed as having cystic fibrosis may carry and self-administer a prescribed pancreatic enzyme supplement while in school, participating in school-sponsored activities, or in transit to or from school or school-sponsored activities, IF the school has been provided with written authorization from the student's parent and prescribing practitioner.

The District and its employees and volunteers shall be indemnified by the parent of a student who is authorized to use prescribed pancreatic enzyme supplements for any and all liability with respect to the student's use of the supplements under this policy.

(see also Policy 5330.01 - *Self-Administered Medication and Epinephrine Use*)

L. Involuntary Examinations of Students

Before a Principal contacts a law enforcement officer for possible removal of a student from school for involuntary examination, the Principal must verify that the school has used de-escalation strategies and initiated outreach to a mobile response team, unless the Principal reasonably believes that any delay in removing the student will increase the likelihood of harm to the student or others.

The Principal shall make a reasonable attempt to notify a parent of a student before the student is removed from school, school transportation, or a school-sponsored activity to be taken to a receiving facility for an involuntary examination pursuant to F.S. 394.463. Reasonable attempt to notify means the exercise of reasonable diligence and care by the Principal to make contact with the student's parent, guardian, or other known emergency contact whom the student's parent or guardian has authorized to receive notification of an involuntary examination. At a minimum, the Principal must take the following actions:

1. Use available methods of communication to contact the student's parent, guardian, or other known emergency contact, including but not limited to, telephone calls, text messages, e-mails, and voicemail messages, following the decision to initiate an involuntary examination of the student;
2. Document the method and number of attempts made to contact the student's parent, guardian, or other known emergency contact, and the outcome of each attempt.

The Principal who successfully notifies any other known emergency contact may share only the information necessary to alert such contact that the parent or caregiver must be contacted. All such information must be in compliance with Federal and State law.

The Principal may delay the required notification for no more than twenty-four (24) hours after a student is removed if:

1. the Principal deems the delay to be in the student's best interest and if a report has been submitted to the central abuse hotline, pursuant to F.S. 39.201, based upon knowledge or suspicion of abuse, abandonment, or neglect (see also Policy 2410 - *School Health Services*); or
2. the Principal reasonably believes that such delay is necessary to avoid jeopardizing the health and safety of the student.

M. Sun-protective Measures in School

A student may possess and use a topical sunscreen product while on school property or at a school-sponsored event or activity without a physician's note or prescription if the product is regulated by the FDA for over-the-counter use to limit ultraviolet light-induced skin damage.

N. Face Covering and Quarantine Mandates in Response to COVID-19

Neither the Board nor any agent or employee of the Board may:

1. require a student to wear a face mask, a face shield, or any other facial covering that fits over the mouth or nose. However, a parent, at the parent's sole discretion, may allow their child to wear a face mask, a face shield, or any other facial covering that fits over the mouth or nose;

This prohibition does not apply to safety equipment required as part of a course of study consistent with occupational or laboratory safety requirements. See Policy 8450.01, *Protective Facial Coverings During Pandemic/Epidemic Events*.

2. prohibit a student from attending school or school-sponsored activities, prohibit a student being on school property, or subject a student to restrictions or disparate treatment, based on an exposure to COVID-19, so long as the student remains asymptomatic and has not received a positive test for COVID-19.

O. Medication to Relieve Headaches

A student may possess and use a medication to relieve headaches while on school property or at a school-sponsored event/activity without a physician's note or prescription if the medication is regulated by the United States Food and Drug Administration for over-the-counter use to treat headaches.

P. Emergency Opioid Antagonist Use and Supply

Schools shall purchase a supply of an emergency opioid antagonist (e.g., Naloxone) approved by the FDA from a wholesale distributor as defined in F.S. 499.003 or may enter into an arrangement with a wholesale distributor or manufacturer as defined in F.S. 499.003 for an FDA-approved emergency opioid antagonist at fair-market, free, or reduced prices for use in the event that a student has an opioid overdose. The FDA-approved emergency opioid antagonist must be maintained in a secure location on the school's premises.

A District employee who administers an approved emergency opioid antagonist to a student in compliance with F.S. 381.887 and 768.13 is immune from civil liability under F.S. 768.13.

Q. Anaphylaxis Policy

Each school serving students in kindergarten through grade 8 shall provide training to an adequate number of school personnel and contracted personnel on the prevention and response to allergic reactions, including anaphylaxis. This training or other training which meets the requirements of F.S.1002.20 may be used as part of the training required under F.A.C. 6A-6.0251.

Discipline

A. Suspension

A student may be suspended only as provided by policy of the District. A good faith effort must be made to immediately inform the parent by telephone of the student's suspension and the reason. Each suspension and the reason must be reported in writing within twenty-four (24) hours to the parent by United States mail or other method agreed to by the parent. A good faith effort must be made to use parental assistance before suspension unless the situation requires immediate suspension. (see also Policy 5610 - *Removal, Suspension, and Expulsion of Students*)

A student with a disability may only be recommended for suspension or expulsion in accordance with State Board of Education rules.

B. Expulsion

Public school students and their parents have the right to written notice of a recommendation of expulsion, including the

charges against the student and a statement of the right of the student to due process. (see also Policy 5610 - *Removal, Suspension, and Expulsion of Students*)

Safety

Students who have been victims of certain felony offenses by other students, as well as the siblings of the student victims, have the right to be kept separated from the student offender, both at school and during school transportation.

Educational Choice

A. Public School Choices

Parents may seek whatever public school options are applicable and available to students in the School District.

Options also include the public educational choice options of the Hope Scholarship Program (see Policy 2371 - *Hope Scholarships*), the Opportunity Scholarship Program, the McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program, the Family Empowerment Scholarship Program, and the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program. (see also Policy 2370 - *Educational Options*, Policy 2370.01 - *Virtual Instruction*, and Policy 5113 - *School Choice Options Provided by the No Child Left Behind Act*)

B. Private School Choices

Parents may seek private educational choice options under certain programs established under F.S. Chapter 1002.

C. Home Education

The parent may choose to place the student in a home education program, in accordance with State law. (see also Policy 9270 - *Home-Education Programs*)

D. Private Tutoring

The parent of a student may choose to place the student in a private tutoring program in accordance with State law.

E. New Worlds Scholarships

The parent of a student in kindergarten through grade 5 ~~who (1) exhibits a substantial deficiency in early literacy skills based upon the results of the most recent progress monitoring administered pursuant to F.S. 1008.25 (2) has a substantial reading deficiency identified under F.S. 1008.25 or scored below a Level 3 on the most recent Statewide, standardized English Language Arts (ELA) assessment, (3) exhibits a substantial deficiency in early mathematics skills based upon the results of the most recent progress monitoring administered pursuant to F.S. 1008.25, or (4) has a substantial deficiency in mathematics or the characteristics of dyscalculia as identified under F.S. 1008.25, or scored below a Level 3 on the most recent Statewide, standardized Mathematics assessment~~ may seek a scholarship in accordance with State law.

The District will notify the parent of each eligible student of the process to request and receive a scholarship, subject to available funds, when providing results from the standardized coordinated screening and progress monitoring pursuant to F.S. 1008.25.

F. Request to Transfer to Different Classroom Teacher

Although parents do not have a right to choose a specific classroom teacher, parents may request that their child be transferred to a different classroom teacher. As part of the request, the parent must state with specificity the grounds supporting the request. Requests must be in writing and must be provided to the Principal.

All requests for a student to be transferred to another classroom teacher shall be considered by the Principal. If denied, the Principal shall specify the reasons for the denial.

G. Request to Transfer to In-Field Classroom Teacher

A parent whose student is assigned an out-of-field teacher may request that their child be transferred to an in-field classroom teacher within the school and grade in which the student is currently enrolled. Although parents do not have a right to choose a specific classroom teacher, parents may request that their child be transferred. As part of the request, the parent must submit a request in writing to the Principal.

All requests for a student to be transferred to another classroom teacher shall be considered by the Principal. The Principal shall notify the parent in writing as to whether the request is approved or denied.

If an in-field teacher for the student's course and grade level is employed by the school and the transfer would not violate maximum class size requirements, the request shall be approved. The student shall be transferred no later than two (2)

weeks from the date of the request.

If denied, the Principal shall specify the reasons for the denial.

ACCEL Options

Parents may request student participation in Academically Challenging Curriculum to Enhance Learning (ACCEL) options, including whole grade promotion, midyear promotion or subject matter acceleration. If the parent selects one of these ACCEL options and the student meets eligibility and procedural requirements in the student progression plan, the student will have the opportunity to participate in the ACCEL option.

Nondiscrimination

All education programs, activities, and opportunities offered by the District are available without discrimination on the basis of race (including anti-Semitism [as defined in Bylaw 0100]), color, ethnicity, national origin, sex, disability, pregnancy, marital status, age (except as authorized by law), religion, military status, ancestry, or genetic information, which are classes protected by State and/or Federal law (collectively, protected classes). (see also Policy 2260 - *Nondiscrimination and Access to Equal Educational Opportunity* and Policy 2260.01 - *Section 504/ADA Prohibition Against Discrimination Based on Disability*)

Exceptional Students

Parents may enroll their eligible child in gifted or special education. (See also Policy 2460 - *Exceptional Student Education*)

A. Notice and Due Process

Parents of students with disabilities and parents of students in residential care facilities are entitled to notice and due process. (see also Policy 2460 - *Exceptional Student Education*)

B. Graduation

Students with disabilities are provided the opportunity to meet the graduation requirements for a standard high school diploma. Certain students with disabilities may be awarded a special diploma upon high school graduation. (see also Policy 2623 - *Student Assessment*)

C. Meetings with District Personnel

Parents of students with disabilities, or eligible students with disabilities, may be accompanied by another person of their choice at any meeting with District personnel.

District personnel will not object to the attendance of such adult or discourage or attempt to discourage through any action, statement, or other means, parents or an eligible student, from inviting another person of their choice to attend any meeting. Parents, eligible students, or other individuals invited to attend such meetings by parents or eligible students on school grounds shall sign-in at the front office of such school as a guest.

Parents, or eligible students, and District personnel shall sign a form at the meeting's conclusion which states whether or not any District personnel have prohibited, discouraged, or attempted to discourage the parents, or eligible student from inviting a person of their choice to the meeting pertaining to their child's, or their own, educational environment, placement, or discipline.

Blind Students

Students who are blind have the right to an individualized written education program and appropriate instructional materials to attain literacy.

Limited English Proficient Students

Limited English proficient students have the right to receive English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) instruction designed to develop the student's mastery of listening, speaking, reading, and writing in English as rapidly as possible. The students' parents have the right of parental involvement in the ESOL program.

Students with Reading Deficiencies

~~Each elementary school shall regularly assess the reading ability of each K-3 student. The parent of any K-3 student who exhibits a reading deficiency shall be immediately notified of the student's deficiency with a description and explanation, in terms understandable to the parent, of the exact nature of the student's difficulty in learning and lack of achievement in reading; shall be consulted in the development of a progress monitoring plan; and shall be informed that the student will be given intensive reading instruction until the deficiency is corrected.~~

Students with Substantial Math Deficiencies

The parent of any K-4 student who exhibits a substantial deficiency in mathematics will be notified that the child has been identified as having a deficiency, with a description and explanation, in terms understandable to the parent, of the exact nature of the student's difficulty in learning and lack of achievement in mathematics; a description of current services provided to the child; a description of proposed intensive interventions and supports that will be provided to remediate the identified area of math deficiency; and strategies through a home-based plan the parent can use in helping the child succeed in mathematics, including resources in an electronic format.

Students with Deficiencies in Reading and Mathematics

The parent of any K-3 student who exhibits a substantial deficiency in reading or the characteristics of dyslexia pursuant to F.S. 1008.25, and the parent of any K-4 student who exhibits a substantial deficiency in mathematics or the characteristics of dyscalculia pursuant to F.S. 1008.25, shall be immediately notified in writing of the student's deficiency with sufficient specificity to tailor interventions and consulted in the development of a plan to address the specific deficiency, as described in F.S. 1008.25 and Policy 5410.01 - *Promotion, Acceleration, Placement, and Retention*.

Pledge of Allegiance

A student will be excused from reciting the Pledge of Allegiance or the Declaration of Independence, upon written request by the student's parent, in accordance with State law. See also Policy 8800, *Religious/Patriotic Ceremonies and Observances*.

Student Records

- A. Each parent has an equal right of access, right to waive access, right to challenge and hearing and right of privacy in the education records of their student who is a minor or a dependent adult pursuant to law, unless the school has received a certified copy of an enforceable court order that provides to the contrary. (see also Policy 8330 - *Student Records*)
- B. A student is not required to provide their social security number as a condition for enrollment or graduation. (see also Policy 8330 - *Student Records*)
- C. The school will not collect, obtain or retain information on the political affiliation, voting history, religious affiliation or biometric information of a student, parent or siblings.

Student Report Cards

Students and their parents have the right to receive student report cards on a regular basis that clearly depict and grade the student's academic performance in each class or course, the student's conduct, and the student's attendance.

Student Progress Reports

Parents shall be informed at regular intervals of the academic progress and other needed information regarding their child, including ways they can help their child to succeed in school. (see also Policy 5420 - *Reporting Student Progress*)

Student Accountability and School Improvement Rating Reports

Parents of public school students are entitled to an easy-to-read report card about the school's grade designation or, if applicable, school's improvement rating, and the school's accountability report, including the school financial report.

High School Athletics

A. Eligibility

A student is eligible in the school in which they first enrolls each school year, the school in which the student makes himself/herself a candidate for an athletic team by engaging in practice before enrolling, or the school to which the student has transferred with approval of the Board, in accordance with State law. (see also Policy 2431 - *Interscholastic Athletics*)

B. Medical Evaluation

Students must satisfactorily pass a medical evaluation each year before participating in athletics, unless the parent objects in writing based on religious tenets or practices, in accordance with State law. (see also Policy 2431 - *Interscholastic Athletics*)

C. Electrocardiogram

Beginning in the 2026-2027 school year and thereafter, and applicable under State law, students must receive an

electrocardiogram before participating in athletics, unless the parent objects in writing based on religious tenets or practices or secures a certificate of medical exception or the District is unable to obtain a public or private partnership for the provisions of an electrocardiogram pursuant to F.S. 1006.165. (see also Policy 2431 - *Interscholastic Athletics*)

Extra-Curricular Activities

A. Eligibility

Students who meet specified academic and conduct requirements are eligible to participate in extra-curricular activities. (see also Policy 2430 - *District-Sponsored Clubs and Activities*)

B. Home Education Students

Home education students, including those in a full-time virtual instruction program under F.S. 1002.45, who meet specified academic and conduct requirements are eligible to participate in extra-curricular activities at the public school to which the student would be assigned or could choose to attend according to Board policies, or may develop an agreement to participate at a private school.

C. Charter School Students

Charter school students, including full-time virtual charter school students, who meet specified academic and conduct requirements are eligible to participate in extra-curricular activities at the school to which the student would be assigned or could choose to attend according to Board policies unless such activity is provided by the student's charter school.

D. Florida Virtual School Full-Time Students

Florida Virtual School full-time students who meet specified academic and conduct requirements are eligible to participate in extra-curricular activities at the public school to which the student would be assigned or could choose to attend according to Board policies.

Instructional Materials

A. Core Courses

Students are entitled to adequate instructional materials in the core courses of mathematics, language arts, social studies, science, reading, and literature.

B. Curricular Objectives

The parent of each student has the right to receive effective communication from the school Principal as to the manner in which instructional materials are used to implement the school's curricular objectives.

C. Dual Enrollment Students

Instructional materials purchased by the District or a Florida College System institution board of trustees on behalf of dual enrollment students is available to the dual enrollment students free of charge.

D. Parent Access to Instructional Materials

Parents have the ability to access their child's instructional materials and may object to the use of a specific instructional material or contest the adoption of instructional material (See Policy 2520, *Selection and Adoption of Instructional Materials*).

Juvenile Justice Programs

Students who are in juvenile justice programs have the right to receive educational programs and services, in accordance with State law.

Parental Input and Meetings

A. Meetings with School District Personnel

Parents may be accompanied by another adult of their choice at a meeting with School District personnel.

B. District Educational Facilities Program

Parents and other members of the public have the right to receive proper public notice and opportunity for public comment regarding the District's educational facilities work program, in accordance with State law.

C. Parent-Teacher Associations and Organizations

Parents have the right to participate in parent-teacher associations and organizations that are sanctioned by the Board or by the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE).

Transportation

A. Transportation to School

Students are provided transportation to school in accordance with the provisions of State law. (see also Policy 8600 - *Transportation*)

B. Hazardous Walking Conditions

Students in grades K-6 are provided transportation if they are subjected to hazardous walking conditions, in accordance with State law.

C. Parental Consent

Each parent of a public school student must be notified in writing and give written consent before the student may be transported in a privately owned motor vehicle to a school function in accordance with State law. (see also Policy 8660 - *Transporting Students by Private Vehicles*)

Orderly, Disciplined Classrooms

Students will be in orderly, disciplined classrooms conducive to learning without the distraction caused by disobedient, disrespectful, violent, abusive, uncontrollable, or disruptive students. (see also Policy 5600 - *Student Discipline*)

Safe Schools

Parents of District students will be timely notified pursuant to procedures adopted by the Superintendent of threats and the following unlawful acts or significant emergencies that occur on school grounds, during school transportation, or during school-sponsored activities:

- A. Weapons possession or use when there is intended harm toward another person;
- B. Murder, homicide, or manslaughter;
- C. Sex offenses, including rape, sexual assault or sexual misconduct with a student by school personnel;
- D. Natural emergencies, including hurricanes, tornadoes, and severe storms.
- E. Exposure as a result of a manmade emergency.

Parental Notification of Arrests of Employees

Notwithstanding F.S. 1012.31(3)(a)1 and 1012.796(4), within twenty-four (24) hours after a law enforcement agency provides the Superintendent with written notification pursuant to F.S. 1012.797 that a District employee has been arrested for a felony or a misdemeanor involving the abuse of a minor child or the sale or possession of a controlled substance, the Principal shall notify parents of enrolled students who had direct contact with the employee and include, at a minimum, the name and specific charges against the employee.

Revised 11/6/25



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6325 - **PROCUREMENT – FEDERAL GRANTS/FUNDS**

Procurement of all supplies, materials, equipment, and services paid for from Federal funds or District matching funds shall be made in accordance with all applicable Federal, State, and local statutes and/or regulations, the terms and conditions of the Federal grant, School Board policies, and administrative procedures.

The Superintendent shall have and use a procurement and contract administration system in accordance with Federal requirements (2 C.F.R. 200.317-.326; 7 C.F.R. 210.21) for the administration and management of Federal grants and Federally-funded programs. The District shall maintain oversight that requires contractors to perform in accordance with the terms, conditions, and specifications of their contracts or purchase orders. Except as otherwise noted, procurement transactions shall conform to the provisions of the District's documented general purchasing policies.

When required by Federal program legislation, all Federally-funded contracts in excess of \$2,000 related to construction, alteration, repairs, painting, decorating, etc. of public buildings or public works must comply with Davis-Bacon and Related Acts prevailing wage requirements.

The District will not request documentation of, consider, or give a preference based on a vendor's social, political, or ideological interests.

The District shall take affirmative steps to assure that small businesses, minority businesses and women's business enterprises, veteran-owned businesses, and labor surplus area firms are used when possible in accordance with 2 C.F.R. 200.321.

All District employees, officers, and agents who have purchasing authority shall abide by the standards of conduct covering conflicts of interest and governing the actions of its employees, officers, and agents engaged in the selection, award, and administration of contracts as established in District Board policies.

The District will avoid acquisition of unnecessary or duplicative items. Consideration shall be given to consolidating or breaking out procurements to obtain a more economical purchase. When appropriate, an analysis shall be made between leasing and purchasing property or equipment to determine the most economical approach. These considerations are given as part of the process to determine the allowability of each purchase made with Federal funds.

To foster greater economy and efficiency, the District may enter into State and local intergovernmental agreements where appropriate for procurement or use of common or shared goods and services.

Competition

All procurement transactions under the Federal award paid for from Federal funds or District matching funds shall be conducted in a manner that provides full and open competition and that is in accordance with 2 C.F.R. Part 200, good administrative practice, and sound business judgment. To ensure objective contractor performance and eliminate unfair competitive advantage, the District shall exclude any contractor that has developed or drafted specifications, requirements, statements of work, or invitations for bids from competition for such procurements.

Examples of situations that may restrict competition include, but are not limited to:

- A. unreasonable requirements on firms for them to qualify to do business
- B. unnecessary experience and excessive bonding requirements
- C. noncompetitive pricing practices between firms or between affiliated companies
- D. noncompetitive contracts to consultants that are on retainer contracts
- E. organizational conflicts of interest
- F. specification of only a "brand name" product instead of allowing for an "or equal" product to be offered and describing the performance or other relevant requirements of the procurement
- G. any arbitrary action in the procurement process

To the extent consistent with established practices and legal requirements applicable to the recipient or subrecipient, this subpart does not prohibit recipients or subrecipients from developing written procedures for procurement transactions that incorporate a scoring mechanism that rewards bidders that commit to specific numbers and types of U.S. jobs, minimum compensation, benefits, on-the-job-training for employees making work products or providing services on a contract, and other worker protections. This subpart also does not prohibit recipients and subrecipients from making inquiries of bidders about these subjects and 2 C.F.R. Revisions 2024: Unofficial Comparison Version assessing the responses. Any scoring mechanism must be consistent with the U.S. Constitution, applicable Federal statutes and regulations, and the terms and conditions of the Federal award.

Solicitation Language (Purchasing Procedures)

The District shall have written procurement procedures (in accordance with 2 C.F.R. 200.319(b)) that require that all solicitations made pursuant to this policy incorporate a clear and accurate description of the technical requirements for the property, equipment, or service being procured. The description may include a statement of the qualitative nature of the property, equipment, or service to be procured. When necessary, the description must set forth those minimum essential characteristics and standards to which the property, equipment, or service shall conform. Detailed product specifications should be avoided if at all possible.

When it is impractical or uneconomical to clearly and accurately describe the technical requirements, a "brand name or equivalent" description of features to provide procurement requirements may be used. The specific features of the named brand must be clearly stated and the District must identify any additional requirements which the offerors must fulfill and all other factors that will be used in evaluating bids or proposals.

Any solicitation for the procurement of commodities, contractual services, or leases will include a provision notifying vendors that the Board will not request documentation of, consider, or give a preference based on the vendor's social, political, or ideological interests.

The Board will not approve any expenditure for an unauthorized purchase or contract.

Procurement Methods

The District shall have and use documented procedures, consistent with the standards described above, for the following methods of procurement:

A. Informal Procurement Methods

Informal procurement methods for small purchases expedite the completion of transactions, minimize administrative burdens, and reduce costs. Informal procurement methods may be used when the value of the procurement transaction under a Federal award does not exceed the simplified acquisition threshold, or a lower threshold established by the State, formal procurement methods are not required. The informal procurement methods include:

1. Micro-Purchases

Procurement by micro-purchase is the acquisition of supplies or services, the aggregate dollar amount of which does not exceed ~~\$10,000~~ \$15,000. To the extent practicable, the District should distribute micro-purchases equitably among qualified suppliers. Micro-purchases may be made without soliciting competitive quotations if the Superintendent considers the price to be reasonable based on research, experience, purchase history or other relevant information and maintains documents to support its conclusion. The District shall maintain evidence of this reasonableness in the records of all purchases made by this method.

Unless otherwise defined by State or local law, districts are responsible for determining and documenting an appropriate micro-purchase threshold in accordance with 2 C.F.R. 200.320(a)(iv) based on internal controls, an evaluation of the risk, and its documented procurement procedures. The micro-purchase threshold used by the District shall be authorized or not prohibited under State, local, or tribal laws or regulations. An eligible District may self-certify a threshold up to \$50,000 on an annual basis and must maintain documentation to be made available to the Federal agency or pass-through entity and auditors in accordance with C.F.R. 200.334. The self-certification, in accordance with 2 C.F.R. 200.334, must include a justification, clear identification of the threshold, and supporting documentation of any of the following:

- a. A qualification as a low-risk auditee, in accordance with the criteria in C.F.R. 200.520;
- b. An annual internal institutional risk assessment to identify, mitigate, and manage financial risks; or
- c. For public institutions, a higher threshold is consistent with State law.

2. Small Purchases

Small purchases include the acquisition of property or services, the aggregate dollar amount of which is higher than the micro-purchase threshold but does not exceed the simplified acquisition threshold of \$350,000. Small purchase procedures require that price or rate quotations shall be obtained from an adequate number of qualified sources.

Districts are responsible for determining an appropriate simplified acquisition threshold based on internal controls, an evaluation of risk, and its documented procurement procedures which must not exceed the threshold established in the Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR). When applicable, a lower simplified acquisition threshold used by the District must be authorized or not prohibited under State, local, or tribal laws or regulations.

B. Formal Procurement Methods

When the value of the procurement for property or services under a Federal award exceeds the simplified acquisition threshold, or a lower threshold established by the State, formal procurement methods are required. Formal procurement methods require following documented procedures. Formal procurement methods also require public advertising unless a non-competitive procurement method can be used in accordance with the standards on competition in 200.319 or non-competitive procurement. The formal methods of procurement are:

1. Sealed Bids

Sealed, competitive bids shall be obtained when the purchase of, and contract for, single items of supplies, materials, or equipment which amounts to more than \$350,000. For construction projects see Policy 6322.

In order for sealed bidding to be feasible, the following conditions shall be present:

- a. a complete, adequate, and realistic specification or purchase description is available;
- b. two (2) or more responsible bidders have been identified as willing and able to compete effectively for the business; and
- c. the procurement lends itself to a firm fixed price contract and the selection of the successful bidder can be made principally based on price.

When sealed bids are used, the following requirements apply:

- a. Bids shall be solicited in accordance with the provisions of State law and Policy 6320. Bids shall be solicited from an adequate number of qualified suppliers, providing sufficient response time prior to the date set for the opening of bids. The invitation to bid shall be publicly advertised.
- b. The invitation for bids must define the items or services with specific information, including any required specifications, for the bidder to properly respond.
- c. All bids will be opened at the time and place prescribed in the invitation for bids; bids will be opened publicly.

- d. A firm fixed price contract is awarded in writing to the lowest responsive bid and responsible bidder. When specified in the invitation for bids, factors such as discounts, transportation cost, and life cycle costs shall be considered in determining which bid is lowest. Payment discounts must only be used to determine the low bid when the District determines they are a valid factor based on prior experience.
- e. The Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids, but must document and provide justification for all bids it rejects.

2. Proposals

Procurement by proposals is a method in which either a fixed price or cost-reimbursement contract is awarded. This method is used when conditions are not appropriate for the use of sealed bids or in the case of a recognized exception to the sealed bid method.

If this method is used, the following requirements apply:

- a. Requests for proposals require public notice, and must identify all evaluation factors and their relative importance. To the maximum extent practicable, any proposals submitted in response to the public notice must be considered.
- b. Proposals shall be solicited from an adequate number of sources.
- c. The District must have written procedures for conducting technical evaluations and for making selections.
- d. Contracts must be awarded to the responsible offeror whose proposal is most advantageous to the District considering price and other factors.
- e. All Requests for Proposals (RFPs) and Invitations to Bid (ITBs) shall be opened publicly in accordance with F.S. 287.057.

The District may use competitive proposal procedures for qualifications-based procurement of architectural/engineering (A/E) professional services whereby the competitors' qualifications are evaluated and the most qualified competitor is selected, subject to negotiation of fair and reasonable compensation. The method, where the price is not used as a selection factor, can only be used to procure A/E professional services. The method cannot be used to purchase other types of services provided by A/E firms that are a potential source to perform the proposed effort.

3. Noncompetitive Procurement

Procurement by noncompetitive proposals may be used only when one or more of the following circumstances apply:

- a. the aggregate amount of the procurement transaction does not exceed the micro-purchase threshold;
- b. the procurement transaction can only be fulfilled by a single source;
- c. the public exigency or emergency for the requirement will not permit a delay resulting from providing public notice of a competitive solicitation;
- d. the District requests in writing to use a noncompetitive procurement method, and the Federal agency or pass-through entity provides written approval; or
- e. soliciting several sources, competition is determined to be inadequate.

Domestic Preference for Procurement

The District should, to the extent practicable and consistent with law, provide a preference for the purchase, acquisition, or use of goods, products, or materials produced in the United States. (See 7 C.F.R. 210.21(d)). If a non-domestic agricultural product is to be provided, the vendor must obtain written approval of the product to be used in advance. Such requirements shall be included in all subawards, contracts, and purchase orders under the Federal award.

Procurement of Recovered Materials

The District must comply with Section 6002 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 6962. These requirements include:

- A. procuring only items designated in the guidelines of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) at 40 C.F.R. part 247 that contain the highest percentage of recovered materials practicable, consistent with maintaining a satisfactory level of

competition, where the purchase price of the item exceeds \$10,000 or the value of the quantity acquired during the preceding fiscal year exceeded \$10,000;

- B. procuring solid waste management services in a manner that maximizes energy and resource recovery; and
- C. establishing an affirmative procurement program for the procurement of recovered materials identified in the EPA guidelines.

The District should, to the greatest extent practicable and consistent with law, purchase, acquire, or use products and services that can be reused, refurbished, or recycled; contain recycled content, are biobased, or are energy and water efficient; and are sustainable.

This may include purchasing compostable items and other products and services that reduce the use of single-use plastic products.

Contract/Price Analysis

The District shall perform a cost or price analysis for every procurement transaction, including contract modifications, in excess of the Simplified Acquisition Threshold (~~currently \$250,000~~ **\$350,000 effective October 1, 2025**). The method and degree of analysis conducted depend on the facts surrounding the particular procurement transaction. For example, the District should consider potential workforce impacts in their analysis if the procurement transaction will displace public sector employees. However, as a starting point, the District must make independent estimates before receiving bids or proposals.

A cost analysis generally means evaluating the separate cost elements that make up the total price, while a price analysis means evaluating the total price, without looking at the individual cost elements. The District must not use the "cost plus a percentage of cost" and "percentage of construction costs" methods of contracting.

Costs or prices based on estimated costs for contracts under the Federal award are allowable only to the extent that the costs incurred or cost estimates included in negotiated prices would be allowable for the District according to cost principle requirements.

Time and Materials Contracts

The District uses a time and materials type contract only (1) after a determination that no other contract is suitable, and (2) if the contract includes a ceiling price that the contractor exceeds at its own risk. Time and materials type contract means a contract whose cost to the District is the sum of the actual costs of materials, and direct labor hours charged at fixed hourly rates that reflect wages, general and administrative expenses, and profit.

Because this formula generates an open-ended contract price, a time-and-materials contract provides no positive profit incentive to the contractor for cost control or labor efficiency. Therefore, the District sets a ceiling price for each contract that the contractor exceeds at its own risk. Further, the District shall assert a high degree of oversight to obtain reasonable assurance that the contractor is using efficient methods and effective cost controls.

Suspension and Debarment

The District will award contracts only to responsible contractors that possess the ability to perform successfully under the terms and conditions of the proposed contract. All purchasing decisions shall be made in the best interests of the District and shall seek to obtain the maximum value for each dollar expended. When making a purchasing decision, the District shall consider such factors as (1) contractor integrity; (2) public policy; (3) compliance; (4) proper classification of employees; (5) record of past performance; and (6) financial and technical resources.

The District shall not subcontract with or award subgrants to any person or company who is debarred or suspended. For contracts over \$25,000, the District shall confirm that the vendor is not debarred or suspended by either checking the Federal government's System for Award Management, which maintains a list of such debarred or suspended vendors at www.sam.gov; collecting a certification from the vendor; or adding a clause or condition to the covered transaction with that vendor. (2 C.F.R. Part 180 Subpart C)

Bid Protest

The District maintains the following protest procedures to handle and resolve disputes relating to procurements and, in all instances, discloses information regarding the protest to the agency.

A bidder who wishes to file a bid protest shall file such notice and follow procedures prescribed by the Request For Proposals (RFPs) or the individual bid specifications package for resolution. Bid protests shall be filed in writing with the Superintendent within seventy-two (72) hours of the opening of the bids in protest.

Within five (5) days of receipt of a protest, the Superintendent shall review the protest as submitted and render a decision regarding the merits of the protest and any impact on the acceptance and rejection of bids submitted. Notice of the filing of a bid protest shall be communicated to the Board and shall be so noted in any subsequent recommendation for the acceptance of bids and awarding of contracts.

Failure to file a notice of intent to protest or failure to file a formal written protest within the time prescribed shall constitute a waiver of proceedings.

Maintenance of Procurement Records

The District shall maintain records sufficient to detail the history of all procurements. These records will include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following: rationale for the method of procurement, selection of contract type, contractor selection, or rejection, and the basis for the contract price (including a cost or price analysis).

Record Retention

The District must retain all Federal award records for three (3) years from the date of submission of the final financial report **and five (5) fiscal years after completion of grant cycle or project, whichever is greater**. For awards that are renewed quarterly or annually, the District must retain records for three (3) years from the date of submission of the quarterly or annual financial report, respectively, **and five (5) fiscal years after completion of grant cycle or project, whichever is greater**. Records to be retained include, but are not limited to, financial records, supporting documentation, and statistical records. Other records retention requirements shall be in accordance with 2 C.F.R. 200.334.

The District must collect, transmit, and store Federal award information in an open file, non-licensed, and machine-readable formats. The District may substitute electronic versions of original paper records through duplication or other forms of electronic conversion, provided that the procedures are subject to periodic quality control reviews. Quality control reviews must ensure that electronic conversion procedures provide safeguards against the alteration of records and assurance that records remain in a format that is readable by a computer system.



Book	Policy Manual
Section	Vol 26, Jan and Feb 2026 Revisions
Title	Revised Policy - Vol. 26, No. 2, Feb. 2026 - School Support Organizations - GIFTS TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT
Code	*po7230 Revised 5-21
Status	
Legal	F.S. 112.312 F.S. 1001.32 F.S. 1001.41 F.S. 1001.42 F.S. 1001.43

Revised Policy - Vol. 26, No. 2 - School Support Organizations

7230 - GIFTS TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT

The School Board is duly appreciative of public interest in and goodwill toward the schools manifested through gifts.

The Board shall not discriminate in the approval and administration of gifts, grants, and/or bequests. on the basis of any protected class consistent with Board Policy 2260 - Nondiscrimination and Access to Equal Educational Opportunity. Complaints of discrimination in the acceptance or administration of gifts, grants, or bequests are governed by the complaint procedure outlined in Policy 2260 - Nondiscrimination and Access to Equal Educational Opportunity.

"Gifts" include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following:

- A. Real property.
- B. Tangible or intangible personal property.
- C. Food or beverage.
- D. Plants, flowers, or floral arrangements.
- E. Donations.
- F. Bequests.
- G. Equipment.
- H. Materials.
- I. Funds.
- J. Artwork.
- K. Grants.
- L. **(X) Graphic Design Services**

M. () _____

Pursuant to F.S. 1001.43, the Board has authority to govern all public gifts and donations to schools and therefore reserves the right to specify the manner in which gifts are made, to define and identify the type of gift which it considers appropriate, and to reject those which it deems inappropriate or unsuitable. Gifts shall become the property of the Board and will be subject to use by the District as determined by the policies and administrative procedures applying to all properties, equipment, materials, and funds owned by the Board. The title of all gifts shall be in the name of ~~The School Board of _____~~, Clay County School Board, Florida.

Any monetary gift or donation shall be properly receipted and processed in accordance with applicable District procedures.

Any gift to an employee shall be consistent with the Board's adopted policies regarding conflicts of interest, standards of ethical conduct, and employee solicitation or acceptance of gifts.

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Book	Policy Manual
Section	Vol 26, Jan and Feb 2026 Revisions
Title	Copy of SMOKING AND TOBACCO-FREE ENVIRONMENT
Code	*po7434 KNW 4-2-26 Technical
Status	
Legal	F.S. 381.84 F.S. 386.202 F.S. 386.204 F.S. 386.212 20 U.S.C. 6081 et seq. 20 U.S.C. 7182 Florida Department of Health and the Public Health Law Center's publication "Commercial Tobacco-Free K-12 School Model Policy: Questions and Answers"
Adopted	June 5, 2025

7434 - **SMOKING AND TOBACCO-FREE ENVIRONMENT**

The School Board recognizes that the use of tobacco products, including electronic smoking devices, is a health, safety, and environmental hazard for students, staff, visitors, and school facilities. The Board is committed to providing students, staff, and visitors with a smoking and tobacco-free environment on school property and at off-campus, school-sponsored events.

The Board also believes accepting gifts or materials from the tobacco industry will send an inconsistent message to students, staff, and visitors.

The Board recognizes that adult staff and visitors serve as role models for students. The Board embraces its obligation to promote positive role models in schools and to provide an environment for learning and working that is safe, healthy, and free from unwanted smoke or aerosol and other tobacco use for the students, staff, and visitors.

Definitions

- A. "Any time" means twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week, 365 days a year.
- B. "Electronic smoking device" means any product containing or delivering nicotine, or any other substance, whether natural or synthetic, intended for human consumption through the inhalation of aerosol or vapor from the product. "Electronic smoking device" includes, but is not limited to, devices manufactured, marketed, or sold as e-cigarettes, e-cigars, e-pipes, vape pens, or similar devices. "Electronic smoking device" also includes any component part of a product, whether or not marketed or sold separately, including but not limited to e-liquids, e-juice, cartridges, or pods.
- C. "School property" means all facilities and property, including land, whether owned, rented, or leased by the Board, and also includes all vehicles owned, leased, rented, contracted for, or controlled by the Board and used for transporting students, staff, or visitors.
- D. "Tobacco product" means any product containing, made, or derived from tobacco or that contains nicotine, whether synthetic or natural, that is intended for human consumption, whether chewed, smoked, absorbed, dissolved, inhaled, snorted, sniffed, or ingested by any other means, or any component, part, or accessory of a tobacco product, including but not limited to: cigarettes; electronic smoking devices; cigars; little cigars; and other kinds and forms of tobacco.

General Statement of Policy

- A. Students are prohibited from possessing, using, consuming, displaying, or selling any tobacco products, tobacco-related devices, electronic smoking devices, imitation tobacco products, or lighters at any time on school property or at any off-campus, school-sponsored event.
- B. Administrators, staff, or visitors are prohibited from using, consuming, displaying, activating, or selling any tobacco products, tobacco-related devices, imitation tobacco products, or lighters at any time on school property or at any off-campus, school-sponsored events. This includes products or paraphernalia displaying tobacco industry brands.
- C. It is a violation of this policy for administrators or staff to solicit or accept any contributions, gifts, money, curricula, or materials from the tobacco industry. This includes, but is not limited to, donations, monies for sponsorship, advertising, alleged educational materials, promotions, loans, scholarships, or support for equipment, uniforms, and sports and/or training facilities. It is also a violation of this policy to participate in any type of service funded by the tobacco industry while in the scope of employment for the Board.
- D. It is a violation of this policy for any person to promote tobacco products on the school property or at off-campus, school-sponsored events via the display of images of tobacco products on gear, technology accessories, bags, clothing, any personal articles, signs, structures, vehicles, flyers, or any other material.
- E. Instruction to discourage the use of tobacco products shall be included in the education provided for all students. Staff responsible for teaching tobacco use prevention shall have adequate training and participate in ongoing professional ~~development~~ **learning** activities in order to be able to effectively deliver the education program. The curriculum for this instruction will not be paid for or developed by the tobacco industry or its subsidiaries.

Exceptions

It is not a violation of this policy:

- A. for a staff member or approved visitor to include tobacco products, tobacco-related devices, imitation tobacco products, or lighters in an instructional or work-related activity in District school buildings, if the activity does not include smoking, chewing, or otherwise ingesting the product; or
- B. for a person to use or possess a product that has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for sale as a tobacco cessation product, as a tobacco dependence product, or for other medical purposes, and if the product is being marketed and sold solely for such an approved purpose.

Enforcement

The success of this policy depends upon the thoughtfulness, consideration, and cooperation of the entire school community. All individuals on school premises, including students, staff, administrators, and visitors, are responsible for adhering to and enforcing this policy. Members of the school community are encouraged to communicate this policy with courtesy and diplomacy. Any person acting in violation of this policy will be informed or reminded of the policy and asked to comply.

Visitors observed violating this policy will be asked to comply with this tobacco-free policy.

If a visitor fails to comply with the request, this policy violation may be referred to the building principal or other available school district supervisory personnel. The supervisor will decide on further action that may include a directive that the visitor leave school property and forfeit any fee charged for admission to a school-sponsored event.

Dissemination of Policy

Notice of this policy will be provided through:

- A. appropriate "No Tobacco" signage posted in the District on school buildings, building entrances, vehicles, vehicular entrances to school grounds, and indoor and outdoor athletic facilities;
- B. written notice to students and parents/guardians in student handbooks and orientations;
- C. written notice in staff handbooks, in orientations and employee or staff trainings, and when offering employment;
- D. reminder announcements of this policy at school and District events, as appropriate.

Program Evaluation

This smoking and tobacco-free policy shall be assessed by the District or its designated evaluator at regular intervals, but at least once a year, to determine whether policies, policy enforcement, communication, education, staff training, and cessation programs are effective. Policies and programs shall be updated and revised accordingly.



Book	Policy Manual
Section	Vol 26, Jan and Feb 2026 Revisions
Title	Copy of STAFF TECHNOLOGY ACCEPTABLE USE AND SAFETY
Code	*po7540.04 knw 4-2-26 Technical
Status	
Legal	F.S. 112.22 F.S. 847.012 F.S. 1001.41 F.S. 1003.02 F.S. 1012.32 P.L. 106-554, Children's Internet Protection Act of 2000 47 U.S.C. 254(h),(1), Communications Act of 1934, as amended 20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq., Part F, Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended 20 U.S.C. 6777 (2003) 20 U.S.C. 9134 (2003) 18 U.S.C. 2256 18 U.S.C. 1460 18 U.S.C. 2246 47 C.F.R. 54.500 47 C.F.R. 54.501 47 C.F.R. 54.502 47 C.F.R. 54.503 47 C.F.R. 54.504 47 C.F.R. 54.505 47 C.F.R. 54.506 47 C.F.R. 54.507 47 C.F.R. 54.508 47 C.F.R. 54.509 47 C.F.R. 54.511 47 C.F.R. 54.513 47 C.F.R. 54.514 47 C.F.R. 54.515 47 C.F.R. 54.516 47 C.F.R. 54.517 47 C.F.R. 54.518

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[47 C.F.R. 54.522](#)

[47 C.F.R. 54.523](#)

Adopted

June 5, 2025

7540.04 - **STAFF TECHNOLOGY ACCEPTABLE USE AND SAFETY**

Technology has fundamentally altered the ways in which information is accessed, communicated, and transferred in society. As a result, educators are continually adapting their means and methods of instruction, and the way they approach student learning, to incorporate the vast, diverse, and unique resources available through the Internet. The School Board provides technology and information resources (as defined by Bylaw 0100) to support the educational and professional needs of its staff and students. The Board provides staff with access to the Internet for limited educational purposes only and utilizes online educational services/apps to enhance the instruction delivered to its students and to facilitate the staff's work. The District's computer network and Internet system do not serve as a public access service or a public forum and the Board imposes reasonable restrictions on its use consistent with its limited educational purpose.

The Board regulates the use of District technology and information resources by principles consistent with applicable local, State, and Federal laws and the District's educational mission. This policy and its related administrative procedures, Policy 7544, and any applicable employment contracts and collective bargaining agreements govern the staff's use of the District's technology and information resources and staff's wireless communication devices when they are connected to the District's computer network, Internet connection, and/or online educational services/apps, or when used while the staff member is on Board-owned property or at a Board-sponsored activity (see Policy 7530.02).

Users are required to refrain from actions that are illegal (such as libel, slander, vandalism, harassment, theft, plagiarism, inappropriate access, and the like) or unkind (such as personal attacks, invasion of privacy, injurious comment, and the like). Because its technology resources are not unlimited, the Board has also instituted restrictions aimed at preserving these resources, such as placing limits on use of bandwidth, storage space, and printers.

Users have no right or expectation to privacy when using District technology and information resources (including, but not limited to, privacy in the content of their personal files, e-mails, and records of their online activity when using the District's computer network and/or Internet connection).

Staff members are expected to utilize District technology and information resources to promote educational excellence in our schools by providing students with the opportunity to develop the resource sharing, innovation, and communication skills and tools that are essential to both life and work. The Board encourages the faculty to develop the appropriate skills necessary to effectively access, analyze, evaluate, and utilize these resources in enriching educational activities. The instructional use of the Internet and online educational services will be guided by Board Policy 2520 - Selection of and Adoption of Instructional Materials.

The Internet is a global information and communication network that brings incredible education and information resources to our students. The Internet connects computers and users in the District with computers and users worldwide. Through the Internet, students and staff can access relevant information that will enhance their learning and the education process. Further, District technology resources provide students and staff with the opportunity to communicate with other people from throughout the world. Access to such an incredible quantity of information and resources brings with it, however, certain unique challenges and responsibilities.

Staff must follow the District's Internet Safety Plan which:

- A. limits access by students to only age-appropriate subject matter and materials on the Internet;
- B. protects the safety and security of students when using e-mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications;
- C. prohibits access by students to data or information, including so-called "hacking," and other unlawful online activities by students; and
- D. prevents access to websites, web applications, or software that does not protect against the disclosure, use, or dissemination of students' personal information.

The Board may not be able to technologically limit access, through its technology resources, to only those services and resources that have been authorized for the purpose of instruction, study, and research related to the curriculum. Unlike in the past when educators and community members had the opportunity to review and screen materials to assess their appropriateness for

supporting and enriching the curriculum according to adopted guidelines and reasonable selection criteria (taking into account the varied instructional needs, learning styles, abilities, and developmental levels of the students who would be exposed to them), access to the Internet, because it serves as a gateway to any publicly available file server in the world, opens classrooms and students to electronic information resources that may not have been screened by educators for use by students of various ages.

Pursuant to Federal law, the Board has implemented technology protection measures that protect against (e.g., filter or block) access to visual displays/depictions/materials that are obscene, constitute child pornography, and/or are harmful to minors, as defined by the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA). At the discretion of the Board or Superintendent, the technology protection measures may also be configured to protect against access to other material considered inappropriate for students to access. The Board also utilizes software and/or hardware to monitor online activity of staff members to restrict access to child pornography and other material that is obscene, objectionable, inappropriate, and/or harmful to minors. The technology protection measures may not be disabled at any time that students may be using the District technology resources if such disabling will cease to protect against access to materials that are prohibited under the CIPA. Any staff member who attempts to disable the technology protection measures without the express written consent of an appropriate administrator will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

In accordance with Florida law, no prohibited application as identified by the Florida Department of Management Services (DMS) shall be installed or utilized on a Board-owned WCD. Upon notice of any changes to DMS's list of prohibited applications, District employees shall have fifteen (15) calendar days to remove such applications.

The Superintendent may temporarily or permanently unblock access to websites or online educational services/apps containing appropriate material if access to such sites has been inappropriately blocked by the technology protection measures. The determination of whether the material is appropriate or inappropriate shall be based on the content of the material and the intended use of the material, not on the protection actions of the technology protection measures. The Superintendent may also disable the technology protection measures to enable access for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

Staff members will participate in professional ~~development~~ learning programs in accordance with the provisions of law and this policy. Training shall include:

- A. the safety and security of students while using e-mail, chat rooms, social media, and other forms of direct electronic communications;
- B. the inherent danger of students disclosing personally identifiable information online;
- C. the consequences of unauthorized access (e.g., "hacking", "harvesting", "digital piracy", "data mining", etc.), cyberbullying, and other unlawful or inappropriate activities by students or staff online; and
- D. unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personally identifiable information regarding minors;
- E. the ethical, responsible, and safe use of artificial intelligence.

Furthermore, staff members shall provide instruction for their students regarding the appropriate use of technology and online safety and security as specified above, and staff members will monitor students' online activities while at school.

Monitoring may include, but is not necessarily limited to, visual observations of online activities during class sessions or use of specific monitoring tools to review browser history and network, server, and computer logs.

The disclosure of personally identifiable information about students online is prohibited.

Building principals are responsible for providing training so that Internet users under their supervision are knowledgeable about this policy and its accompanying procedures. The Board expects that staff members will provide guidance and instruction to students in the appropriate use of the District technology resources. Such training shall include, but not be limited to, education concerning appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social media, including in chat rooms and cyberbullying awareness and response. All users of District technology resources are required to sign a written agreement to abide by the terms and conditions of this policy and its accompanying procedures.

Staff will be assigned a school email address that they are required to utilize for all school-related electronic communications, including those to students, parents, and other constituents, fellow staff members, and vendors or individuals seeking to do business with the District.

With prior approval from the Superintendent, staff may direct students who have been issued school-assigned email accounts to use those accounts when signing-up/registering for access to various online educational services, including mobile applications/apps that will be utilized by the students for educational purposes under the teacher's supervision.

Staff members are responsible for good behavior when using District technology and information resources - i.e., behavior comparable to that expected when they are in classrooms, school hallways, and other school premises and school-sponsored events. Communications on the Internet are often public in nature. The Board does not approve any use of its technology and

information resources that is not authorized by or conducted strictly in compliance with this policy and its accompanying procedures and Policy 7544.

Staff members may only use District technology resources to access or use social media if it is done for educational or business purposes.

Staff members' use of District technology resources to access or use social media is to be consistent with Policy 7544.

An employee's personal or private use of social media may have unintended consequences. While the Board respects its employees' First Amendment rights, those rights do not include permission to post inflammatory comments that could compromise the District's mission, undermine staff relationships, or cause a substantial disruption to the school environment. This warning includes staff members' online conduct that occurs off school property including from the employee's private computer. Postings to social media should be done in a manner sensitive to the staff member's professional responsibilities.

General school rules for behavior and communication apply.

Users who disregard this policy and its accompanying procedures may have their use privileges suspended or revoked and disciplinary action taken against them. Users are personally responsible and liable, both civilly and criminally, for uses of District technology and information resources that are not authorized by this policy and its accompanying guidelines.

The Board designates the Superintendent and Director of Information Services and Network Security as the administrators responsible for initiating, implementing, and enforcing this policy as it applies to staff members' use of District technology and information resources.

In addition, Federal and State confidentiality laws forbid schools and their employees from using or disclosing student education records without parental consent (see Policy 8330). Education records include a wide variety of information; posting personally identifiable information about students is not permitted. Staff members who violate State and Federal confidentiality laws or privacy laws related to the disclosure of confidential student or employee information may be disciplined.

Staff members retain rights of communication for collective bargaining purposes and union organizational activities.

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Book	Policy Manual
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Title	Copy of MANDATORY REPORTING OF MISCONDUCT
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Adopted	June 5, 2025

8141 - MANDATORY REPORTING OF MISCONDUCT

The School Board recognizes its responsibilities to effectively address employee misconduct and, where determined appropriate, to provide a measured disciplinary response consistent with due process.

For purposes of this policy, the term "employee(s)" includes all employees of the District.

Reporting Misconduct

All employees are required to report to the Superintendent alleged misconduct by District employees which affects the health, safety, or welfare of a student, including misconduct that involves engaging in or soliciting sexual, romantic, or lewd conduct with a student.

If the alleged misconduct to be reported is regarding the Superintendent, the District employee shall report the alleged misconduct to the Board attorney. Failure to report such alleged misconduct shall result in appropriate disciplinary action (F.S. 1012.796(d)). The report shall be made in accordance with Policy 9130 - *Public Complaints*.

The Superintendent shall investigate any allegation of misconduct by District employees which affects the health, safety, or welfare of a student, including misconduct that involves engaging in or soliciting sexual, romantic, or lewd conduct with a student, and shall report the alleged misconduct to the Department of Education as required in F.S. 1012.796, 1001.51(12)(b), 1001.42(7)(b), and must notify the Florida Department of Education of the result of the investigation and whether the misconduct warranted termination, regardless of whether the person resigned or was terminated before the conclusion of the investigation.

The Superintendent shall report to law enforcement agencies with jurisdiction any misconduct that would result in disqualification from educator certification or employment as set forth in F.S. 1012.315.

Staff alleged to have committed such misconduct shall be reassigned pending the outcome of a misconduct investigation.

Parental Notification of Alleged Misconduct

Within thirty (30) days of the date on which the District learns of misconduct by any employee of the District that involves engaging in or soliciting sexual, romantic, lewd conduct with a student, or any conduct that would result in disqualification from educator certification or employment as provided in F.S. 1012.315, the parent of a student who was subjected to or affected by such misconduct shall receive written notification informing the parent of the following:

- A. the alleged misconduct, including which allegations have been substantiated, if any;
- B. whether the District reported the misconduct to the FLDOE if required by F.S. 1012.796;
- C. the sanctions imposed by the District against the employee, if any and;
- D. support the District will make available to the student subjected to or affected by the misconduct.

Parental notification shall be provided consistent with the provisions set forth in Policy 1590, Policy 3590, and Policy 4590, including the statutory requirement that school administrators, educational support personnel, and instructional staff members be provided ten (10) days notice before the disclosure of derogatory material.

Parental Notification of Arrests of Employees

Notwithstanding F.S. 1012.31(3)(a)1 and 1012.796(4), within twenty-four (24) hours after a law enforcement agency provides the Superintendent with written notification pursuant to F.S. 1012.797 that a District employee has been arrested for **an offense listed in F.S. 435.04(2)**, a felony or a misdemeanor involving the abuse of a minor child or the sale or possession of a controlled substance, the Principal shall notify parents of enrolled students who had direct contact with the employee and include, at a minimum, the name and specific charges against the employee.

Filing a Complaint with the Department of Education

If it is alleged that an instructional staff member, educational support personnel, or administrator has committed a violation as provided in F.S. 1012.795, and defined by rule of the State Board of Education, the Superintendent shall file with the Department of Education a legally sufficient complaint within thirty (30) days after the date on which the subject matter of the complaint came to the attention of the Superintendent, regardless of whether the subject of the complaint is still an employee of the District. A complaint is legally sufficient if it contains ultimate facts that show a violation has occurred as provided in F.S. 1012.795 and defined by rule of the State Board of Education. The Superintendent shall include all known information relating to the complaint with the filing of the complaint. This paragraph does not limit or restrict the power and duty of the Department of Education to investigate complaints, regardless of the District's untimely filing, or failure to file, complaints and follow-up reports (F.S. 1012.796(e)).

Report of Resignation or Termination

If the Superintendent determines that a legally sufficient complaint of misconduct by an instructional staff member or an administrator who holds a certificate issued by the Florida Department of Education, or by any educational support personnel that affects the health, safety, or welfare of a student and the misconduct warrants termination, the staff member may resign or be terminated and the Superintendent must immediately report the misconduct to the Department of Education in the format prescribed by the Department even if the instructional staff member, educational support personnel, or administrator resigns or is terminated before the conclusion of the District's investigation. The Department shall maintain each report of misconduct as a public record in the instructional personnel's certification files (F.S. 1012.796(d)).

Transmittal of False or Incorrect Report

The Superintendent shall not knowingly sign and transmit to any State official a report that the Superintendent knows to be false or incorrect.

The superintendent may not knowingly sign and transmit to any State official a report that the superintendent knows to be false or incorrect or knowingly fail to complete the investigation of any allegation of misconduct, that affects the health, safety, or welfare of a student, that would be a violation of F.S. 800.101 or that would be a disqualifying offense under F.S. 1012.315, or any allegation of sexual misconduct with a student. The superintendent may not knowingly fail to report the alleged misconduct to the Florida Department of Education as required in F.S. 1012.796, or knowingly fail to report misconduct to the law enforcement agencies with jurisdiction over the conduct pursuant to Board policy under F.S. 1001.42.

Pursuant to F.S. 1001.42(7), a Board member may not knowingly sign and transmit to any State official a report of alleged misconduct by instructional personnel, educational support personnel, or school administrators which affects the health, safety, or welfare of a student which the Board member knows to be false or incorrect.

Requirement of Disclosure of Employee Misconduct

The Board, Superintendent, or any other District employee, may not enter into a confidentiality agreement regarding terminated or dismissed instructional personnel, educational support personnel, or school administrators, or personnel or administrators who resign in lieu of termination, based in whole or in part on misconduct that affects the health, safety, or welfare of a student, and may

not provide instructional or educational support personnel, or administrators with employment references or discuss the personnel's performance with prospective employers in another educational setting, without disclosing the personnel's or administrators' misconduct. Any part of an agreement or contract that has the purpose or effect of concealing misconduct by instructional or educational support personnel or administrators that affects the health, safety, or welfare of a student is void, is contrary to public policy, and may not be enforced (F.S. 1001.42(6)).

Liability

Employees who report misconduct which affects the health, safety, or welfare of a student may be entitled to certain statutory liability protections as set forth in F.S. 39.203 and 768.095.

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Book Policy Manual
Section Vol 26, Jan and Feb 2026 Revisions
Title Copy of STUDENT RECORDS
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Status

Legal [F.S. Chapter 119](#)
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[20 U.S.C. 1232f \(FERPA\)](#)
[20 U.S.C. 1232g \(FERPA\)](#)
[20 U.S.C. 1232h \(FERPA\)](#)
[20 U.S.C. 1232i \(FERPA\)](#)
[20 U.S.C. 7908](#)
[26 U.S.C. 152](#)
[20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq., Individuals with Disabilities Act](#)
[Privacy Rights of Parents and Students - P.L. 90-247](#)
[2021 Solomon Amendment: Subtitle C- General Service Authorities and Correction of Military Records SEC. 521](#)

Adopted June 5, 2025

8330 - **STUDENT RECORDS**

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

Definitions

- A. "Education records" means records that are directly related to a student and that are maintained by the District or a party acting for or on behalf of the District, as defined in 20 U.S.C. Section 1232g(a)(4).
- B. "Eligible student" refers to students who are eighteen (18) years of age or older, or who are enrolled in a postsecondary institution, regardless of age.

- C. "Online educational service" means computer software, mobile applications (apps), and web-based tools that students or parents are required to use and access through the internet and as part of a school activity or function. Examples include online services that students or parents use to access class readings, assignments, or videos, to view learning progression, or to complete assignments. This does not include online services that students or parents may use in their personal capacity or to online services that districts or schools may use to which students or parents do not have access, such as a district student information system.
- D. "Parent" or "parents" includes parents or guardians of students who are or have been in attendance at a school or institution.
- E. "Personally identifiable information" or "PII" means information that can be used to distinguish or trace a student's identity either directly or indirectly through linkages with other information, as defined in 34 CFR §99.3. PII includes, but is not limited to, direct identifiers (such as a student's or other family member's name), indirect identifiers (such as a student's date of birth, place of birth, or mother's maiden name), and other personal identifiers (such as a student's social security number or Florida Education Identifier (FLEID) number). PII also includes information that, alone or in combination, is linked or linkable to a specific student that would allow a reasonable person in the school community, who does not have personal knowledge of the relevant circumstances, to identify the student with reasonable certainty.
- F. "Student" means any individual who is or has been in attendance in a District school and regarding whom the District maintains education records.
- G. "Therapeutic treatment plan" means a plan that identifies the mental health diagnosis, or condition, the therapy or intervention goal(s), the type of school-based mental health intervention, and the school-based mental health services provider responsible for providing the mental health intervention or therapy.
- H. "Therapy progress notes" means notes maintained by a school-based mental health services provider that summarize the focus and progress toward treatment goals(s) of each therapy or intervention session.
- I. "Third-party vendor" or "Third-party service provider" means any entity, whether public or private, that provides services to the Board through a contract or agreement. The term does not include the Florida Department of Education, the Department's contractors and subcontractors, school boards, and school districts.

Maintenance of Student Records

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

Each school shall maintain a permanent cumulative record for each student enrolled in the school which shall contain the data as prescribed by F.A.C. 6A-1.0955 and this policy.

Information contained in student education records shall be classified as follows:

- A. Category A Records, Information for each student which shall be kept current while the student is enrolled and retained permanently in the manner prescribed by F.S. 1001.52
 - 1. Student's full legal name.
 - 2. Authenticated birthdate, place of birth, race, ethnicity, and sex.
 - 3. Last known address of the student.
 - 4. Name(s) of the student's parent(s) or guardian(s).
 - 5. Name and location of last school attended.
 - 6. Number of days present and absent, date enrolled, date withdrawn.
 - 7. Courses taken and record of achievements, such as grades, credits, or certification of competence.
 - 8. Date of graduation or date of program completion.
 - 9. Records of requests for access to and disclosure of personally identifiable information from the student's educational records.
 - 10. Health Immunization Certification
 - 11. Threat management records, subject to the following:

All reports of concerning behavior, concerning communications, or threats documented using the Florida Harm Prevention and Threat Management Instrument prescribed by F.A.C. 6A-1.0019 are Category A records and must be permanently maintained in the Florida School Safety and Threat Management Portal upon its availability. Threat management records include all corresponding documentation and any additional information required by the Florida Model for Harm Prevention and Threat Management related to the reporting, evaluation, intervention, and management of threat assessment evaluations and intervention services.

B. Category B Records, Information which is subject to periodic review and elimination when the information is no longer useful in the manner prescribed by F.S. 1001.52

1. Health information, family background data, standardized test scores, State-mandated achievement test scores, educational and career plans, honors and activities, work experience reports, and teacher comments.
2. Reports of student services or exceptional student staffing committees including all information required by F.S. 1001.42.
3. Correspondence from community agencies or private professionals.
4. Discipline records.
5. School Environmental Safety Incident Reports (SESIR) collected under F.S. 1006.07.

6. ~~Threat assessments done by the threat assessment team pursuant to F.S. 1006.07, subject to the following:~~

~~All reports of concerning behavior, concerning communications, or threats documented using the Florida Harm Prevention and Threat Management Instrument prescribed by F.A.C. 6A 1.0019 are Category B records and shall be maintained in a student's file as long as determined useful by a threat management team, pursuant to F.S. 1006.07 and F.A.C. 6A 1.0019. These records include all corresponding documentation and any additional information required by the Florida Model for threat management related to the reporting, evaluation, intervention, and management of threat assessment evaluations and intervention services.~~

7. A list of schools attended.
8. Written agreements of corrections, deletions, or expunctions as a result of meetings or hearings to amend educational records.
9. Academic and behavioral intervention services.
10. Psychological evaluations.
11. Therapeutic treatment plans and therapy progress notes.
12. Such other records of educational importance as the school shall deem necessary.
13. Records designated for retention by the Florida Department of State in General Records Schedule GS7 for *Public Schools Pre-K - 12, Adult and Vocational/Technical*.

Category A and B records shall be maintained in compliance with the approved District records retention schedule.

Individual exceptional student records shall be kept separate from regular cumulative records. These records shall be sent to each succeeding school the student attends in the District and shall be maintained in accordance with Policy 8320 - *Records Management*.

Periodic review for elimination of outdated information in student records by the custodian or designees shall be made in accordance with F.S. 1001.52, and the approved District records retention plan. The custodian of the student records shall be responsible for maintaining the accuracy of information by purging student records in accordance with the General Records Schedule for Public Schools (GS-7). Explanations placed in the education record and the record of access shall be maintained for as long as the education record to which it pertains is maintained. This procedure must be implemented before records are released to any vocational-technical centers, community colleges, or institutions of higher learning in which the student seeks or intends to enroll.

Type Record	Location	Custodian	Address
Active and inactive student records as specified in the current Student Records Manual for the District	Last school attended	Principal of last school attended	As shown in local directory

Inactive student cumulative records (Category A) as specified in the current Student Records Manual for the District	Central District office	Superintendent or designee	900 Walnut Street, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043
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Individual exceptional student education records as specified in the current Student Records Manual for the District	Last school attended	Principal of last school attended	As shown in local directory
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Individual student psychological records as specified in the current Student Records Manual for the District	Last school attended	Principal of last school attended	As shown in local directory
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Limitations on Collection and Retention of Certain Information

The District shall not collect, obtain, or retain information on the political affiliation, voting history, religious affiliation, or biometric information of a student or a parent or sibling of a student. For purposes of this paragraph, the term "biometric information" means information collected from the electronic measurement or evaluation of any physical or behavioral characteristics that are attributable to a single person, including fingerprint characteristics, hand characteristics, eye characteristics, vocal characteristics, and any other physical characteristics used for the purpose of electronically identifying that person with a high degree of certainty. Examples of biometric information include, but are not limited to, a fingerprint or hand scan, a retina or iris scan, a voice print, or a facial geometry scan.

The District shall not maintain any report or record relative to a student that includes a copy of a student's fingerprints.

The Superintendent or designee will be responsible for the privacy and security of records that are not under the supervision of the school principal.

Requests to Deviate from Students Legal Name

Parents who approve of their student being referred to by a deviation from their legal name must fully complete the District's electronic or hard copy parental consent form.

Access to Student Records

The rights of students and their parents with respect to education records created, maintained, or used by the District must be protected in accordance with FERPA, State law, and the implementing regulations and rules issued pursuant thereto. Students and their parents have the right to access their education records, including the right to inspect and review those records, have the right to waive their access to their education records in certain circumstances, have the right to challenge the content of education records, have the right of privacy with respect to such records and reports, and receive annual notice of their rights with respect to education records.

In addition to students and their parents and eligible students, student records shall be available only to designated school officials and personnel, to such other persons as the parent or eligible student authorizes in writing, a court of competent jurisdiction or to other individuals or organizations as permitted by law.

Schools may, without consent of parents, guardians, or eligible students, provide access to school officials to perform an administrative, supervisory, or instructional task, or to perform a service or benefit for the student or the student's family, and psychologists within the School District providing they have a legitimate educational interest. Support employees may be designated by the principal for the purpose of doing clerical work and maintaining student records. However, such persons shall receive in-service training concerning the confidentiality of student records and work under the supervision and control of an administrative staff member.

Whenever a student has attained eighteen (18) years of age, the permission and consent required of and rights accorded to the parents of the student as to student records maintained by the District, shall thereafter be required of and accorded to the eligible student only, unless the eligible student is a dependent of their parents as defined in Title 26 U.S.C. Section 152 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. The School District may, in this instance, disclose personally identifiable information from the education records to the parents without the prior consent of the eligible student.

Whenever a student has enrolled in a postsecondary institution, regardless of age, the permission and consent required of and rights accorded to the parents of the student as to student records maintained by the postsecondary institution shall thereafter be required of and accorded to the eligible student only. However, if the student is not eighteen (18) years of age, then the permission and consent required of and rights as to the student's records maintained by the District shall be retained by the parents.

The custodian of the student record shall permit the eligible student or the parents or guardians of the student who is or has been in attendance in the School District to inspect and review the education records of the eligible student or student. Provisions for such inspection and review shall be made within a reasonable period of time of the request, but in no case shall be more than thirty (30) days after the request has been made.

The District presumes that the eligible student or either parent of the student has the right to inspect, review, and receive copies of the education records of the student or eligible student unless the Board, its staff, or the individual school has been provided a legally binding instrument or court order governing such matters as divorce, separation, or custody which provides to the contrary.

In instances where records are opened to parents, guardians, or eligible students, schools shall make available a member of the professional staff to interpret the record and shall provide copies, upon request and payment of the current District copy rate, which shall not exceed the maximum rate for copies of public records as set forth in F.S. Chapter 119.

The copy rate will include actual reproduction costs and will not include the labor costs for retrieval.

School officials shall provide requesting parents, guardians, or eligible students an opportunity for a hearing to challenge the content of their child's or the eligible student's school records, to ensure that the records are not inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the privacy or other rights of students, and to provide an opportunity for the correction or deletion of any such inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise inappropriate data contained therein.

Parents, guardians, and eligible students may waive their right of access to confidential letters or statements of recommendations or evaluation. Such waiver shall be made in writing to the custodian of the records and shall be signed by the parent, guardian, or eligible student. Such waiver shall apply to recommendations or evaluation only if:

- A. the parent, guardian, or eligible student is, upon request, notified of the names of all persons submitting confidential letters or statements; and
- B. such recommendations or evaluations are used solely for the purpose for which they were specifically intended.

The waiver of the right of access may be revoked in writing with respect to actions occurring after the revocation.

Court Request of Records

- A. Student records may be disclosed to a court of competent jurisdiction provided that reasonable notification is given in advance to the parents and student. If the Principal is unable to notify prior to the time for compliance set forth in the court order, they shall bring to the court's attention the provision of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 and comply with the court's instruction.
- B. Student records may be disclosed pursuant to a lawfully issued subpoena, upon the condition that the student, or their parent if the student is either a minor and not attending an institution of postsecondary education or a dependent of such parent as defined in 26 U.S.C. 152 (s. 152 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954), is notified of the order or subpoena in advance of compliance therewith by the educational institution or agency.

The Superintendent may, in writing, authorize access to student records to representatives of the Federal, State, or local educational authorities.

Transcripts of a student's records may be released without written consent from the students' parents, guardians, or eligible student, to any vocational-technical center, community college, or any postsecondary institutions of higher learning in which the student seeks or intends to enroll. A copy of the records may be released to the student's parents, guardians, or eligible student upon request. This policy is also applicable in instances where such a request is in connection with a student's application for, or receipt of, financial aid.

Hearing Procedure to Correct Student Records

Whenever a parent, guardian, or eligible student believes the content of the student record is inaccurate, misleading, or in violation of their privacy, they may request in writing an informal meeting with the custodian of the record for the purpose of requesting the correction, deletion, or expunction of any inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise inappropriate data or material contained in the

student record.

If the parties at the informal meeting agree to make deletions, to expunge material, or to add a statement of explanation or rebuttal to the file, such agreement shall be reduced to writing and signed by the parties, and the appropriate school officials shall take the necessary actions to implement the agreement. If an agreement is not reached, denial of the request and notification of the right to a formal hearing shall be made in writing to the parent, guardian, or eligible student with a copy to the Superintendent or designee.

Upon the request of a parent, guardian, or eligible student, a formal hearing shall be held. Such hearing shall be requested, in writing, within ten (10) days of the written notice of denial at the informal meeting, to the Superintendent or designee, who shall appoint a hearing officer who shall be any official of the school system with no direct interest in the outcome of the hearing. The hearing officer shall convene and conduct the hearing and shall render a decision in writing to all concerned parties within ten (10) days of the conclusion of the hearing. Such hearing shall be held within a reasonable period of time but in no case shall be held more than thirty (30) days from the date of the written request.

The parents, guardian, eligible student, and officials of the school shall be afforded a full and fair opportunity to present evidence relevant to the issues raised. The hearing shall be recorded and available to all parties. However, the record of such hearings are exempt from disclosure under F.S. Chapter 119.

If the decision of the hearing officer is that the records are not inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of privacy rights, the parent, guardian, or eligible student shall be allowed to comment in writing on the information in the education record and set forth any reasons for disagreeing with the decision. This written response shall be filed in the education records of the student.

Disclosure of Personally Identifiable Information

Notwithstanding any other provision in this policy, student education records shall not be disclosed to any person, public body, body politic, political subdivision, or agency of the Federal government except when authorized by State or Federal law or in response to a lawfully issued subpoena or court order. In accordance with State law, student education records are exempt from the provisions of F.S. Chapter 119.

A. Prior Written Consent

1. Prior written consent of the parent, guardian, or eligible student shall be obtained prior to disclosing personally identifiable student information other than directory information. The written consent shall include: signature of the parent, guardian, or eligible student; date; specification of records or information to be disclosed; purpose of the disclosure; and the party or class of parties to whom a disclosure is to be made.
2. Disclosures of personally identifiable student information will be made only on the condition that the party or parties to whom the information is disclosed shall not disclose the information to any other party without prior written consent of the parent, guardian, or eligible student, as appropriate. Personally identifiable student information which is disclosed to an institution, agency, or organization may be used by its officers, employees, and agents, but only for the purpose for which the disclosure was made. The District presumes the parent, guardian, or eligible student has the authority to grant permission for disclosure of personally identifiable student information unless the District has been provided with evidence that there is a legally binding instrument or State law or court order governing such matters as divorce, separation, or custody which provides to the contrary.

B. Without Prior Written Consent

Personally identifiable information or records of a student may be released to the following persons or organizations without the prior written consent of the student or the student's parent or guardian:

1. Officials of schools, school systems, career centers, or public postsecondary educational institutions in which the student seeks or intends to enroll; and a copy of such records or reports shall be furnished to the parent or student upon request.
2. Other school officials, including teachers within the educational institution or agency, who have a legitimate educational interest in the information contained in the records.
3. The United States Secretary of Education, the Director of the National Institute of Education, the Assistant Secretary for Education, the Comptroller General of the United States, or State or local educational authorities who are authorized to receive such information subject to the conditions set forth in applicable Federal statutes and regulations of the United States Department of Education, or in applicable State statutes and rules of the State Board of Education.

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

This written agreement must include:

- a. designation of the receiving individual or entity as an authorized representative;
- b. specification of the information to be disclosed;
- c. specification that the purpose of the disclosure is to carry out an audit or evaluation of a government-supported educational program or to enforce or comply with the program's legal requirements;
- d. a summary of the activity that includes a description of the methodology and an explanation of why personally identifiable information is necessary to accomplish the activity;
- e. a statement requiring the organization to destroy all personally identifiable information when it is no longer needed to carry out the audit or evaluation, along with a specific time period in which the information must be destroyed; and
- f. a statement of policies and procedures that will protect personally identifiable information from further disclosure or unauthorized use.

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

4. Appropriate parties in connection with a student's application for or receipt of financial aid, if necessary to determine the eligibility for the aid; determine the amount of the aid; determine the conditions of the aid; and/or enforce the terms and conditions of the aid.
5. Individuals or organizations conducting studies for or on behalf of an institution or a board of education for the purpose of developing, validating, or administering predictive tests, administering student aid programs, or improving instruction, if the studies are conducted in a manner that does not permit the personal identification of students and their parents by persons other than representatives of such organizations and if the information will be destroyed when no longer needed for the purpose of conducting such studies.

In order to release information under this provision, the District will enter into a written agreement with the recipient organization that specifies the purpose of the study.

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

While the disclosure of personally identifiable information without consent is allowed under this exception, it is recommended that whenever possible the administration either release de-identified information or remove the students' names and social security identification numbers to reduce the risk of unauthorized disclosure of personally identifiable information.

6. Accrediting organizations, in order to carry out their accrediting functions.
7. School Readiness programs as provided in State law in order to carry out their assigned duties.
8. For use as evidence in student expulsion hearings conducted by a district school board under F.S. Chapter 120; however, public records of expulsion hearings shall not contain any personally identifiable information.
9. Appropriate parties in connection with an emergency, if knowledge of the information in the student's educational records is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other individuals.
10. The Auditor General and the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability in connection with their official functions; however, except when the collection of personally identifiable information is specifically authorized by law, any data collected by the Auditor General and the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability is confidential and exempt from F.S. 119.07 (1) and shall be protected in a way that does not permit the personal identification of students and their parents by other than the Auditor General, the Office of Program

Policy Analysis and Government Accountability, and their staff, and the personally identifiable data shall be destroyed when no longer needed for the Auditor General's and the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability's official use.

11. A court of competent jurisdiction in compliance with an order of that court or the attorney of record in accordance with a lawfully issued subpoena, upon the condition that the student and the student's parent are notified of the order or subpoena in advance of compliance therewith by the educational institution or agency.

Student records may be disclosed pursuant to a lawfully issued subpoena, upon the condition that the student, or his/her parent if the student is either a minor and not attending a postsecondary educational institution or a dependent of such parent as defined in 26 U.S.C. 152 (section 152 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954), is notified of the order or subpoena in advance of compliance therewith by the educational institution or agency.

12. Credit bureaus, in connection with an agreement for financial aid that the student has executed, if the information is disclosed only to the extent necessary to enforce the terms or conditions of the financial aid agreement. Credit bureaus shall not release any information obtained under this paragraph to any person.
13. Parties to an interagency agreement among the Department of Juvenile Justice, school and law enforcement authorities, and other signatory agencies for the purpose of reducing juvenile crime and especially motor vehicle theft by promoting cooperation and collaboration, and the sharing of appropriate information in a joint effort to improve school safety, to reduce truancy and in-school and out-of-school suspensions, and to support alternatives to in-school and out-of-school suspensions and expulsions that provide structured and well supervised educational programs supplemented by a coordinated overlay of other appropriate services designed to correct behaviors that lead to truancy, suspensions, and expulsions, and that support students in successfully completing their education. Information provided in furtherance of such interagency agreements is intended solely for use in determining the appropriate programs and services for each juvenile or the juvenile's family, or for coordinating the delivery of such programs and services, and as such is inadmissible in any court proceedings prior to a dispositional hearing unless written consent is provided by a parent or other responsible adult on behalf of the juvenile.
14. Consistent with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, the Department of Children and Families or a community-based care lead agency acting on behalf of the Department of Children and Families, as appropriate.
15. Parents of a dependent student as defined by the Internal Revenue Service Tax Code of 1986 and in this policy.
16. Directory information as specified in this policy.
17. If the District initiates legal action (a lawsuit) against a parent, or if the parent initiates legal action against the District. In such circumstances, the District may disclose to the court, without a court order or subpoena, the education records of the student that are relevant for the District to proceed with legal action as the plaintiff or to defend itself.
18. If the release is to the Attorney General of the United States or to his/her designee in response to an ex parte order in connection with the investigation or prosecution of terrorism crimes specified in Sections 2331 and 2332 of Title 18, U.S. Code.

Under this exception, school officials are not required to record (i.e., on an access log) the disclosure of information from a student's education record when the school makes pursuant to an ex parte order.

Further, an educational institution that, in good faith, produces information from education records in compliance with an ex parte order shall not be liable to any person for that disclosure.

19. If the release is otherwise permitted under Federal law.

C. Record of Disclosures

Record of any requests or disclosures of personally identifiable student information shall be maintained except for disclosures to the parent, guardian, or eligible student; disclosure of directory information; or to any other school officials with a legitimate educational interest. The record of requests for disclosure shall include the following: the parties who have requested or obtained personally identifiable student information, the legitimate interests of the persons requesting or obtaining the information, and date parental/eligible student consent was obtained.

With regard to such disclosures, a school official is determined to be any employee of the Board with direct responsibility for providing services to students. A legitimate educational interest is determined to mean responsibility for providing direct educational services to students which will include teaching, counseling, psychological services, or other services to students which require access to personally identifiable information and/or those specified in the law.

D. Disclosures - Health or Safety Emergencies

Disclosure of personally identifiable student information may be made by school officials in the event of a health or safety emergency. Such emergency situations shall be declared in writing to the Superintendent by a recognized legal official with authority to declare such emergency. The declaration of a health or safety emergency shall include the need for specific personally identifiable student information, the time requirements for the information, and the parties to whom the information is disclosed who are responsible for utilizing the information to deal with the emergency.

DIRECTORY INFORMATION

The District may make available, upon request, certain information known as directory information without prior permission of the parents or the eligible student. The District shall charge fees for copies of designated directory information as provided in State law. Directory information means information contained in an education record of a student that would not generally be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed. The Board designates as student directory information: a student's name; photograph; address; telephone number, if it is a listed number; e-mail address; participation in officially-recognized activities and sports; height and weight, if a member of an athletic team; dates of attendance; grade level; enrollment status; date of graduation or program completion; awards received; and most recent educational agency or institution attended. Designation of directory information shall occur at a regularly scheduled Board meeting. At the meeting, the Board shall consider whether designation of such information would put students at risk of becoming targets of marketing campaigns, the media, or criminal acts.

An annual written notice shall be given to inform parents, guardians, and eligible students of their rights of access, waiver of access, challenge and hearing, privacy, categories of personally identifiable student information designated as directory information data, and the location and availability of the District's policy on education records of students. Alternate methods of notice shall be made for parents, guardians, or eligible students unable to comprehend a written notice in English. Parents or eligible students may, by providing a written statement to the principal within two (2) weeks of the first day of the school year or entry into the school system request that all specific portions of directory information for that specific student not be released.

Directory information shall not be provided to any organization for profit-making purposes, unless the request is approved, in a nondiscriminatory manner, by the Superintendent.

In accordance with Federal law, the District shall release the names, addresses, District-assigned e-mail addresses (if available), and telephone listings of students in grades ten through twelve (10-12) to a recruiting officer for any branch of the United States Armed Forces or an institution of higher education who requests such information. Such data shall not be released if the eligible student or student's parents submit a written request not to release such information. The Superintendent is authorized to charge mailing fees for providing this information to a recruiting officer. A secondary school student or parent of the student may request that the student's name, address, District-assigned e-mail address (if available), and telephone listing not be released without parental consent.

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

The District may disclose directory information on former students without student or parental consent.

Transfer of Student Records

Student records shall be transferred in accordance with the requirements of F.A.C. Rule 6A-1.0955.

While all reasonable efforts shall be made to collect for damaged or lost library books or textbooks, under no conditions shall the transfer of a student's cumulative record be delayed or denied for failure to pay any fine or fee assessed by the school. Progress reports to parents (report cards) may not be withheld for failure to pay any fine, fee, or an assessment for lost or damaged books.

Liability

No liability shall attach to any member, officer, or employee of this District specifically as a consequence of permitting access or furnishing student records in accordance with this policy.

Additional Safeguards for Student Education Records

- A. Any entity receiving personally identifiable information pursuant to a study, audit, evaluation or enforcement/compliance activity must comply with all FERPA regulations. Further, such an entity must enter into a written contract with the Board delineating its responsibilities in safeguarding the disclosed information. Specifically, the entity must demonstrate the existence of a sound data security plan or data stewardship program, and must also provide assurances that the personally identifiable information will not be re-disclosed without prior authorization from the Board. Further, the entity conducting the study, audit, evaluation or enforcement/compliance activity is required to destroy the disclosed information once it is no longer needed or when the timeframe for the activity has ended, as specified in its written agreement with the Board.

- B. Required use of online educational services by students and parents

In order to protect a student's PII from potential misuse and in order to protect students from data mining or targeting for marketing or other commercial purposes, the Board requires the review and approval of any online educational service that students or their parents are required to use as part of a school activity (1) regardless of whether there is a written agreement governing student use, (2) whether or not the online educational service is free, and (3) even if the use of the online educational service is unique to specific classes or courses. The following requirements also apply to online educational services:

1. The Superintendent is responsible for reviewing the online educational service's terms of service and privacy policy for compliance with State and Federal privacy laws, including FERPA and its implementing regulations, the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA), 15 U.S.C. 6501-6506, and F.S. 1002.22;
2. The Superintendent is responsible for the review and approval of online educational services that will be required for students to use;
3. Parents and eligible students will be notified via the District website any time they are required to use an online educational service that collects student PII;
4. If student PII will be collected by the online educational service, parents and eligible students will be provided notification regarding the information that will be collected, how it will be used, when and how it will be destroyed, and the terms of re-disclosure, if any, via the District website.
5. The Board will not utilize any online educational service that will share or sell a student's PII for commercial purposes.
6. If a student is required to use an online educational service, the Board will include on its website a description of the student PII that may be collected, how it will be used, when it will be destroyed and the terms of re-disclosure. The website will also include a link to the online educational service's terms of service and privacy policy, if publicly available.

C. Contracts or agreements with third-party vendors

1. All contracts or agreements executed by or on behalf of the Board with a third-party vendor or a third-party service provider must protect the privacy of education records and student PII contained therein. Any agreement that provides for the disclosure or use of student PII must:
 - a. require compliance with FERPA, its implementing regulations, and F.S. 1002.22;
 - b. where applicable, require compliance with COPPA, 15 U.S.C. 6501-6506, and its implementing regulations;
 - c. ensure that only the student PII necessary for the service being provided will be disclosed to the third party;
 - d. prohibit disclosure or re-disclosure of student PII unless one of the conditions set forth in F.A.C. 6A-1.0955(11)(b) has been met.
2. Contracts or agreements with a third-party vendor or third-party service provider may permit the disclosure of student PII to the third party only where one or more of the following conditions has been met:
 - a. the disclosure is authorized by FERPA and 34 CFR §99.31;
 - b. the disclosure is authorized by the Board's directory information provisions set forth in this policy and implemented in accordance with FERPA and 34 CFR §99.37; or
 - c. the disclosure is authorized by written consent of an eligible student or parent. Consent must include, at a minimum, an explanation of who the student PII would be disclosed to, how it would be used, and whether re-disclosure is permitted. Any re-disclosure must meet the requirements of F.A.C. 6A-1.0955(11)(b) and this policy.

Request for Student Social Security Numbers at Enrollment

When a student enrolls in a District school, the District shall request that the student provide their social security number and shall indicate whether the student identification number assigned to the student is their social security number. A student satisfies this requirement by presenting his/her social security card or a copy of the card to a school enrollment official. However, a student is not required to provide their social security number as a condition for enrollment or graduation.



Book	Policy Manual
Section	Vol 26, Jan and Feb 2026 Revisions
Title	Copy of SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY
Code	*po8405 MB 5/27/26
Status	
Legal	F.S. 1001.212 F.S. 1006.07 F.S. 1006.13 F.S. 1006.1493 Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool Threat Assessment in Schools: A Guide to Managing Threatening Situations and to Creating Safe School Climates (U.S. Secret Service and U.S. Department of Education) F.A.C. 6A-1.0018 F.A.C. 6A-1.0019 F.A.C. 6AER23-02 Ref-15897 Florida Harm Prevention and Threat Management Manual, Form OSS-001 Ref-15898 Florida Harm Prevention and Threat Management Instrument, Form OSS-002 Ref-15899 Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines, Form CSTAG-2022 Ref-15900 Model Behavioral Threat Assessment Policies and Best Practices for K-12 Schools, Form BTAP-2022
Adopted	June 5, 2025

8405 - **SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY**

The School Board is committed to maintaining a safe, secure, and drug-free environment in all of the District's schools.

School crime and violence are multifaceted problems that need to be addressed in a manner that utilizes all available resources in the community through a coordinated effort of District personnel, law enforcement agencies, first responders, and families. The Board further believes that school administrators and local law enforcement officials must work together to provide for the safety and welfare of students while they are at school or at a school-related event or are on their way to and from school.

The Superintendent, in conjunction with the School Safety Specialist, shall develop a *School Safety and Security Plan* with input from representatives of the local law enforcement agencies; the local Fire Marshall(s) or their designee(s); representative(s) from emergency medical services;

- A. building administrators;
- B. representative(s) from the local emergency management agency;
- C. District Office of Safety and Security.

Included within the District's School Safety and Security Plan shall be a District Active Assailant Response Plan (DAARP). The DAARP shall include, at a minimum, procedures addressing the following:

- A. security assessments;
- B. roles and responsibilities of District personnel;
- C. roles and responsibilities of Safe-School Officers (Policy 8407 - *Safe-School Officers*);
- D. information sharing;
- E. training of District personnel and exercises/drills, including training standards;
- F. identification of Safe Spaces and Command Posts;
- G. response to the threat of an active assailant, including the following three (3) strategies: evading or evacuating, taking cover or hiding, and responding to or fighting back;
- H. response to the presence of an active assailant on school grounds;
- I. communication with law enforcement prior to and after law Enforcement arrives on school grounds;
- J. responsibilities prior to law enforcement arrival;
- K. responsibilities when law enforcement arrives on school grounds;
- L. communication with the public; and
- M. post-incident recovery.

The District will adopt its DAARP annually by October 1.

Further, by October 1st of each year, the Superintendent shall certify to the Office of Safe Schools and document in the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool that all school personnel has received annual training on the procedures contained in the District's DAARP.

School Safety Specialist

The Superintendent is responsible for designating the District's School Safety Specialist. The School Safety Specialist must be an administrator employed by the District or a law enforcement officer employed by the Clay County Sheriff's Office. Prior to appointing a law enforcement officer to serve as the School Safety Specialist, the Superintendent must verify that the law enforcement officer has met all statutory requirements and has been authorized and approved by the Clay County Sheriff's Office to serve as the School Safety Specialist.

By August 1 of each year, the District will submit the School Safety Specialist's name, phone number, and email address to the Office of Safe Schools at SafeSchools@fldoe.org. The District will notify the Office of Safe Schools within one (1) school day whenever there is a change related to the contact information for the School Safety Specialist.

A. Training

Within thirty (30) calendar days of appointment, the District's School Safety Specialist must complete and thereafter maintain certificates of completion of the following online Federal Emergency Management Agency Independent Study courses: Preparedness for Childcare Providers; Introduction to the Incident Command System, ICS 100; Preparing for Mass Casualty Incidents: A Guide for Schools, Higher Education, and Houses of Worship; Multi-Hazard Emergency Planning for Schools; and Planning for the Needs of Children in Disasters.

Within one (1) year of appointment, and annually thereafter, the District School Safety Specialist must earn a certificate of completion of school safety specialist training provided by the Office of Safe Schools.

The District's School Safety Specialist shall earn, or designate one (1) or more individuals to earn, certification as a youth mental health awareness and assistance trainer as set forth in F.S. 1012.584.

B. Responsibilities

The School Safety Specialist is responsible for the supervision and oversight for all school safety and security personnel, policies, and procedures in the District, including at charter schools. The School Safety Specialist's responsibilities include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. reviewing at least annually District and charter schools policies and procedures for compliance with Florida law and applicable rules, as provided by F.S. 1006.07 (6)(a)1., including the District's timely and accurate submission of school

environmental safety incident reports to the Department pursuant to F.S. 1001.212;

The School Safety Specialist is responsible for submitting all Board and District charter school policies and procedures pertaining to the health, safety, or welfare of students to the Office of Safe Schools by July 1 of each year.

2. providing necessary training and resources to students and staff in matters relating to youth mental health awareness and assistance; emergency procedures, including active shooter training; and school safety and security;
3. serving as the District liaison with local public safety agencies and national, State, and community agencies and organizations in matters of school safety and security;
4. conduct annually on or before October 1, in collaboration with the appropriate public safety agencies, a school security risk assessment at each District school using the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool developed by the Office of Safe Schools;

The District will report to FLDOE by October 15th of each year that all public schools within the District have completed the assessment using the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool. For purposes of this section, public safety agencies means a functional division of a public agency which provides firefighting, law enforcement, medical, or other emergency services.

The District will ensure the accuracy of current school listings within the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool application, including school name, address, and MSID number. The District will report to the Office of Safe Schools via e-mail within five (5) school days of a school opening or closing, or when any other change occurs that impacts the accuracy of the District-provided information in the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool.

5. make unannounced inspection visits to all District schools, including charter schools;

The inspection must be done using the form adopted by the OSS. Any violations discovered must be reported to the Superintendent or charter school principal.

6. presenting quarterly reports to the Board at a public meeting regarding the OSS inspection of District schools and during the first quarter of every school year, providing the Board with an annual report including the number of schools inspected by OSS the prior year and the number of those schools found to be in compliance;
7. providing a copy of any Florida School Safety Compliance Inspection Report prepared by OSS following an unannounced visit to the school principal or charter school administrator, as appropriate;
8. coordinating with appropriate public safety agencies, as defined in F.S. 365.171, that are designated as first responders to a school's campus to conduct a tour of such campus once every three (3) years and to provide recommendations related to school safety. Completion of such tours and any recommendations must be documented in each school's security risk assessment within the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool;

Any changes related to school safety, emergency issues, and recommendations provided by the public safety agencies will be considered as part of the recommendations by the School Safety Specialist to the Board.

9. providing, or arranging for the provision of, youth mental health awareness and assistance training to all school personnel within the District as set forth in F.S. 1012.584, F.A.C. 6A-1.094120 and F.A.C. 6A-1.0018;

By July 1st of each year, the Superintendent shall certify to the FLDOE, in a format determined by the FLDOE, that at least eighty percent (80%) of school personnel in elementary, middle, and high schools have received the training required under this paragraph.

The training program shall include, but is not limited to, the following:

- a. an overview of mental illnesses and substance abuse disorders and the need to reduce the stigma of mental illness;
 - b. information on the potential risk factors and warning signs of emotional disturbance, mental illness, or substance use disorders, including, but not limited to, depression, anxiety, psychosis, eating disorders, and self-injury, as well as common treatments for those conditions and how to assess those risks; and
 - c. information on how to engage at-risk students with skills, resources, and knowledge required to assess the situation, and how to identify and encourage the student to use appropriate professional help and other support strategies, including, but not limited to, peer, social, or self-help care.
10. coordinating with charter schools to address charter school safety requirements as set forth under Florida law and F.A.C. 6A-1.0018;

The School Safety Specialist must coordinate with charter school personnel to allow input access to the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool. Where input access is restricted to District personnel, the School Safety Specialist is responsible for gathering information from charter schools so that Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool reporting requirements, including those for FortifyFL, threat management teams and active assailant response plans, include data from charter schools.

11. completing surveys provided by the Office of Safe Schools regarding Safe-School officer assignment;
12. investigating and responding to notices from the Office of Safe Schools containing suspected deficiencies at a District school and at or by a charter school.

C. Identification of and Corrections to Instances of Noncompliance with Florida Laws and Rules Relating to Safety

The School Safety Specialist is responsible for identifying and correcting instances of noncompliance with F.A.C. 6A-1.0018 or any other Florida laws or rules relating to safety at any District school. Such actions may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. resolving deficiencies relating to Safe-School officer coverage by no later than the next school day;
2. notifying the Office of Safe Schools within twenty-four (24) hours at SafeSchools@fldoe.org of any deficiencies relating to Safe-School officer coverage and any instance of noncompliance that is determined to be an imminent threat to the health, safety, or welfare of students or staff. The notification must contain particularized facts beyond noncompliance with rules or Florida Statutes that explain the imminent threat;
3. notifying the Office of Safe Schools within three (3) days at SafeSchools@fldoe.org of any instance of noncompliance not corrected within sixty (60) days;
4. the School Safety Specialist shall identify any instances of noncompliance through their duties identified throughout this policy;

Additionally, if and when any employee of the District becomes aware of an instance of noncompliance at a school with a requirement of this policy or other State law or rules relating to student safety must notify the School Safety Specialist within twenty-four (24) hours, unless such noncompliance involves an imminent threat to the health, safety, or welfare of students or staff. In such instances, notice must be provided immediately.

If the School Safety Specialist identifies, or is made aware of an instance of noncompliance by an employee, the School Safety Specialist shall investigate the alleged noncompliance and, if it is determined that there was an instance of noncompliance, the School Safety Specialist shall develop a written plan of correction no later than seven (7) days following their investigation. Alleged noncompliance that creates an imminent threat to the health, safety, or welfare of students or staff shall be addressed immediately and in accordance with subsections (1) through (3) above.

D. Response to Notice of Suspected Deficiency from the Office of Safe Schools

The School Safety Specialist is responsible for notifying the Superintendent immediately and no later than the same day of receipt of any notice of suspected deficiency the School Safety Specialist receives from the Office of Safe Schools.

Within one (1) school day after receipt of a Florida school safety compliance inspection report from the Office of Safe Schools that contains a noted deficiency, the School Safety Specialist must acknowledge receipt of the report in writing. The school safety specialist must provide the Office of Safe Schools written notice of how the noncompliance has been remediated within three (3) school days after receipt of the report.

When the notice of suspected deficiency concerns a failure to have a Safe-School officer established or assigned at each school facility, as required by F.S. 1006.12, the School Safety Specialist must respond in writing and verify to the Office of Safe Schools that the school(s) identified in the notice have a Safe-School officer on site by the next school day. In all other cases, the School Safety Specialist must respond in writing to the Office of Safe Schools within five (5) school days and verify that the District or school has corrected the suspected deficiency, or within that same time period, submit a written plan describing how the District will bring the identified school(s) into compliance. The plan must include an estimated date of completion and an explanation of alternate security measures designed to maintain a safe learning environment.

Recommendations of the School Safety Specialist

Based on the findings of the school security risk assessment, the School Safety Specialist must provide recommendations to the Superintendent and Board which identify strategies and activities that the Board should implement in order to address the findings and improve school safety and security. The School Safety Specialist's report to the Board shall also include school safety recommendations made by public safety agencies. The Board will review the school security risk assessment findings and the recommendations of the School Safety Specialist at a publicly noticed Board meeting to provide the public an opportunity to hear the Board members discuss and take action. The *School Safety and Security Plan* is, however, confidential and is not subject to review or release as a public record.

The School Safety Specialist shall report the school security risk assessment findings and recommendations and the Board's action(s) to the Office of Safe Schools no later than thirty (30) days after the Board meeting and prior to November 1 of each year. The School Safety Specialist shall also submit a best-practices assessment in the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool.

As a part of the *School Safety and Security Plan*, the Board shall verify that it has procedures in place for keeping schools safe and drug-free that include (see also, Form 8330 F15 entitled *Checklist of Policies and Guidelines Addressing No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*):

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

Threat Management Coordinator

The Superintendent will designate a **Primary** Threat Management Coordinator to oversee threat management at all public K-12 District schools, including charter schools sponsored by or under contract with the District, in accordance with the requirements set forth in Florida law and State Board of Education rules. **The Superintendent will also designate a Secondary Threat Management Coordinator to provide support to the threat management process, at the discretion of the Primary Threat Management Coordinator.**

Among other duties as may be assigned, the Threat Management Coordinator shall serve as the primary point of contact regarding the District's coordination, communication, and implementation of the threat management program. The Threat Management Coordinator is also responsible for reporting quantitative data to the Office of Safe Schools in accordance with its guidelines.

The Superintendent will report the name and contact information of the **Primary and Secondary** Threat Management Coordinators to the Office of Safe Schools **annually** by **July 1, 2023. August.** Any changes in the name and contact information of the Threat Management Coordinator will be updated with the Office of Safe Schools within one (1) school day of the change.

Mental Health Coordinator

The Board shall identify a mental health coordinator for the District. The mental health coordinator shall serve as the District's primary point of contact regarding the District's coordination, communication, and implementation of student mental health policies, procedures, responsibilities, and reporting. The mental health coordinator is responsible for:

- A. Coordinating with the Office of Safe Schools, established pursuant to F.S. 1001.212.
- B. Maintaining records and reports regarding student mental health as it relates to school safety and the mental health assistance allocation under F.S. 1011.62(14).
- C. Facilitating the implementation of District policies relating to the respective duties and responsibilities of the District, the Superintendent, and District Principals.
- D. Coordinating with the School Safety Specialist on the staffing and training of threat management teams and facilitating referrals to mental health services, as appropriate, for students and their families.
- E. Coordinating with the School Safety Specialist on the training and resources for students and District staff relating to youth mental health awareness and assistance.
- F. Reviewing annually the District's policies and procedures related to student mental health for compliance with Florida law and alignment with current best practices and make recommendations, as needed, for amending such policies and procedures to

the Superintendent and the Board.

Safety and Security Best Practices

The Superintendent shall develop administrative procedures for the prevention of violence on school grounds, including the assessment and intervention with individuals whose behavior poses a threat to the safety of the school community.

The Board shall adopt, in coordination with local law enforcement agencies and local governments, a family reunification plan to reunite students and employees with their families in the event that a school is closed or unexpectedly evacuated due to a natural or man-made disaster. The reunification plan must be reviewed annually and updated, as applicable.

Threat Management Teams

The purpose of the threat management team is to establish a process focusing on behaviors that pose a threat to school safety while serving as a preventative measure to identify needs and provide support to students. This process is also known as a care assessment. Threat management teams are responsible for the coordination of resources and assessment and intervention with students whose behavior may pose a threat to the safety of school staff or students.

All threat management teams shall use the operational process prescribed in the Florida Harm Prevention and Threat Management Model as required by F.S. 1001.212 and F.A.C. 6A-1.0019.

Each school-based threat management team must meet as often as needed to fulfill its duties of assessing and intervening with persons whose behavior may pose a threat to school staff or students, but no less than monthly. Threat management teams shall maintain documentation of their meetings, including meeting dates and times, team members in attendance, cases discussed, and actions taken.

A. Location and Membership

1. Threat management teams are located at each school in the District and composed of **at least four (4) individuals (Core Four) individuals** with expertise in counseling, instruction, school administration, and law enforcement. **The principal is responsible for appointing team members.** All members of the threat management team must be involved in the threat assessment and threat management process and final decision-making. At least one (1) member of the threat management team must have a personal familiarity with the individual who is the subject of the threat assessment. If no member of the threat management team has such familiarity, an instructional personnel or administrative personnel who is personally familiar with the individual who is the subject of the threat assessment must consult with the threat management team for the purpose of assessing the threat. The instructional or administrative personnel who provides such consultation shall not participate in the decision-making process.
 - a. The counseling team member must be a school-based mental health services provider who is able to access student mental health records. **This must not be the school principal or equivalent.**
 - b. **The school administrator team member must not be the school principal, unless the principal is the only administrator at the school. If the Principal is the only administrator at the school, the Principal must notify the District's Threat Management Coordinators, who must in turn notify the Office of Safe Schools at FloridModel@fldoe.org.**
 - c. The law enforcement team member must be a sworn law enforcement officer, as defined by F.S. 943.10, including a School Resource Officer, school safety officer, or other active law enforcement officer. At a minimum, a law enforcement officer serving on a threat management team must have access to local Records Management System information, the Criminal Justice Information System, and the Florida Crime Information Center and National Crime Information Center databases. Officers serving on school-based threat management teams must also have clearance to review Criminal Justice Information and Criminal History Record Information.
2. The Board authorizes the Superintendent to create procedures for the purpose of:
 - a. identifying team participants by position and role;
 - b. designating the individuals (by position) who are responsible for gathering and investigating information; and
 - c. identifying the steps and procedures to be followed from initiation to conclusion of the threat assessment inquiry or investigation.

B. Responsibilities and Activities of Threat Management Teams

At a minimum, the Core Four members of each Threat Management Team must meet as often as needed to fulfill its duties of assessing and intervening with students whose behavior may pose a threat of harm to themselves or others, but no less often than monthly. Each Threat Management Team is required to maintain documentation of their meetings, including

meeting dates, team members in attendance, SSMPs discussed, and actions taken. If the Threat Management Team has no active Student Support Management Plans to discuss, they must document any other discussion points discussed at their meeting. The responsibilities and activities of threat management teams include but are not limited to, the following:

1. identification of individuals in the school community to whom threatening behavior should be reported and provide guidance to students, faculty, and staff regarding recognition of threatening or aberrant behavior that may represent a threat to the community, school, or self;
2. all threat management teams shall use the Florida Harm Prevention and Threat Management Instrument when evaluating the behavior of students who may pose a threat to the school, school staff, or students, and to coordinate intervention and services for such students;
3. consult with law enforcement when a student exhibits a pattern of behavior, based upon previous acts or the severity of an act, that would pose a threat to school safety;
4. consult with law enforcement when a student commits more than one (1) misdemeanor to determine if the act should be reported to law enforcement;
5. if a preliminary determination is made by the threat management team that a student poses a threat of violence or physical harm to himself/herself or others, the threat management team will report its determination to the Superintendent;

The Superintendent shall immediately attempt to notify the student's parent or legal guardian. However, nothing in this paragraph precludes District personnel from acting immediately to address an imminent threat.

6. if a preliminary determination is made by the threat management team that a student poses a threat of violence to themselves or others or exhibits significantly disruptive behavior or need for assistance, authorized members of the threat management team may obtain criminal history record information pursuant to F.S. 985.04(1);

Members of the threat management team may not disclose any criminal history record information obtained pursuant to this paragraph or otherwise use any record of an individual beyond the purpose for which such disclosure was made to the threat management team.

7. create procedures related to engaging behavioral health crisis resources.

All reported threats, even those determined not to be a threat, must be documented by the threat management team. Documentation must include the evaluation process and any resultant action.

Upon availability, the District and each school will use the threat management portal developed by the Office of Safe Schools pursuant to F.S. 1001.212.

C. Sharing of Information

The District and other agencies and individuals that provide services to students experiencing, or at risk of, an emotional disturbance or a mental illness and any service or support provider contracting with such agencies may share with each other records or information that are confidential or exempt from disclosure under F.S. Chapter 119 if the records or information are reasonably necessary to ensure access to appropriate services for the student or to ensure the safety of the student or others.

D. Immediate Mental Health or Substance Abuse Crisis

If an immediate mental health or substance abuse crisis is suspected, school personnel shall follow steps established by the threat management team to engage behavioral health crisis resources. Behavioral health crisis resources, including, but not limited to, mobile crisis teams and school resource officers trained in crisis intervention shall provide emergency intervention and assessment, make recommendations, and refer the student for appropriate services. Onsite school personnel shall report all such situations and actions taken to the threat management team, which shall contact the other agencies involved with the student and any known service providers to share information and coordinate any necessary follow-up actions. Upon the student's transfer to a different school, the threat management team shall verify that any intervention services provided to the student remain in place until the threat management team of the receiving school independently determines the need for intervention services.

E. Threat Assessment Report

The threat management team shall prepare a threat assessment report using the Florida Harm Prevention and Threat Management Instrument. A threat assessment report, all corresponding documentation, and any other information required by the Florida Harm Prevention and Threat Management Instrument in the threat management portal is an education record.

F. Behavior Threat Assessment Instrument Training

All threat management team members must be trained on the Florida Harm Prevention and Threat Management Instrument in accordance with Florida law.

G. Office of Safe Schools Reporting

The Threat Management Coordinator shall report quantitative data on its activities to the Office of Safe Schools in accordance with guidance from the Office of Safe Schools.

Beginning in the 2022-2023 school year, the total number of threat assessments conducted, disaggregated by the total number of non-threats, the total number of transient threats, the number of substantive threats, and the sex, race, and grade level of all students assessed by the threat assessment team. The initial reporting period for the Florida Harm Prevention and Threat Management Instrument will be from January 1-May 31, 2024, and information will be due by June 15, and annually thereafter for the preceding school year.

H. Threat Assessment Records

Threat management and assessment records shall be maintained in accordance with Policy 8330 - *Student Records* and Florida law.

Referral to Mental Health Services

All school personnel who receive training pursuant to F.S. 1012.584 shall be notified of the mental health services that are available in the District.

School Environmental Safety Incident Reporting

The superintendent is responsible for ensuring the accurate and timely reporting of incidents related to school safety and discipline in accordance with Florida law and rules promulgated by the FLDOE. Parents of District students have a right to access school safety and discipline incidents as reported pursuant to F.S. 1006.07 (9) and will be timely notified of threats, unlawful acts, and significant emergencies pursuant to F.S. 1006.07 (4) and (7).

Student Crime Watch Program

The Board shall implement a Student Crime Watch Program to promote responsibility among students and improve school safety. Through a Board resolution, the Board will require each school Principal to distribute information (including a reference to Policy 8406) at their respective schools notifying students and the community as to how they can anonymously relay information concerning unsafe and potentially harmful, dangerous, violent, or criminal activities, or the threat of these activities, to appropriate public safety agencies and school officials.

Promotion of School Safety Awareness

In furtherance of Policy 8406 (*Reports of Suspicious Activity and Potential Threats to Schools*), the Board shall promote the use of the Florida Department of Education's mobile suspicious reporting tool (FortifyFL) and the consequences of knowingly submitting false information on the District's website, in newsletters, on school campuses, and in school publications. FortifyFL shall also be installed on all mobile devices issued to students and bookmarked on all computer devices issued to students.

Records Related to Compliance with F.A.C. 6A-1.0018

The District and all school staff will retain records demonstrating that the requirements of F.A.C. 6A-1.008 are met and provide such records to the Office of Safe Schools upon request.



Book	Policy Manual
Section	Vol 26, Jan and Feb 2026 Revisions
Title	Copy of EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE AGENCIES
Code	*po8420 MB 5/27/26
Status	
Legal	Florida Fire Prevention Code (F.S. 633.202) F.S. 1001.43 F.S. 1006.07 F.S. 1013.13 Fire Code (NFPA 1) Life Safety Code (NFPA 101) F.A.C. 6A-1.0018
Adopted	June 5, 2025
Last Revised	November 6, 2025

8420 - **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE AGENCIES**

Emergency Management and Emergency Preparedness

The School Board recognizes that its responsibility for the safety of students and staff requires that it formulate and prescribe in consultation with appropriate public safety agencies emergency management and emergency preparedness procedures for all public schools in the District, including emergency notification procedures for life-threatening emergencies, including, but not limited, fires; natural disasters; bomb threats; weapon-use, hostage and active assailant situations; hazardous materials or toxic chemical spills; weather emergencies, including hurricanes, tornadoes, and severe storms; and exposure as a result of a manmade emergency and that such emergencies are best met by preparedness and planning. Such procedures shall meet the requirements of the State Board of Education rules.

Policies and procedures for emergency drills and fire drills shall be developed in consultation with the appropriate public safety agencies, including at a minimum, law enforcement, fire service, and emergency management.

The active assailant situation training for each school must invite the participation of the School Safety Specialist, threat assessment team members, faculty, staff, and students and must include the law enforcement agency or agencies that are designated as first responders to each school's campus.

Pursuant to Policy 8405 - *School Safety and Security*, the Superintendent (in conjunction with the School Safety Specialist) shall develop, and revise as necessary, a School Safety Plan to provide for the safety and welfare of the students and staff, as well as a system of emergency preparedness and accompanying procedures that provide for the following:

- A. a listing of the commonly used alarm system response for specific types of emergencies and verification by each school that drills have been provided as required by law, State Board of Education rules, and fire protection codes (such drills shall include accommodations conducted at exceptional student education centers);
- B. the health and safety of students and staff are safeguarded;

- C. embraces a collaborative effort with community emergency responders;
 - D. the time necessary for instructional purposes is not unduly diverted;
 - E. minimum disruption to the educational program occurs;
 - F. students are helped to learn self-reliance and trained to respond sensibly to emergency situations;
 - G. the system is supported by ongoing training that will include practical application and appropriate drills as required by F.S. 1001.42;
 - H. evacuation drills should represent actual emergencies
 - I. emergency egress and relocation drills (including, but not necessarily limited to, fire drills) in accordance with the requirements of the Florida Fire Prevention Code, the Fire Code (NFPA 1), and the Life Safety Code (NFPA 101);
 - J. drills for active assailant and hostage situations must be conducted in accordance with developmentally appropriate and age-appropriate procedures as specified in State Board of Education rules; and
- A Law enforcement officer responsible for responding to the school in the event of an active assailant emergency, as determined necessary by the sheriff in coordination with the District's School Safety Specialist, must be physically present on campus and directly involved in the execution of active assailant drills. The Principal must notify the law enforcement officer(s) at least twenty-four (24) hours before conducting an active assailant emergency drills at which such law enforcement officers are expected to attend.
- K. floor plans of each school must be provided to all community emergency responders in support of evacuation procedures.

The District shall comply with the school safety requirements, which apply from thirty (30) minutes before the school start time until thirty (30) minutes after the end of the school day, in accordance with F.S. 1006.07(6)(f), including the following:

- A. All gates or other access points that restrict ingress to or egress from the exclusive zone of a school campus shall remain closed and locked when students are on campus. "Exclusive zone" means the area within a gate or door allowing access to the interior perimeter of a school campus beyond a single point of entry. A gate or access point to the exclusive zone may only be open or unlocked if one of the following conditions is met:
 - 1. It is attended or actively staffed when students are on campus;
 - 2. The use complies with a shared use agreement pursuant to F.S. 1013.101;
 - 3. Another closed and locked gate or access point separates the open or unlocked gate from the areas occupied by students;
 - 4. the School Safety Specialist, or designee, has documented in the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool (FSSAT) portal maintained by the Office of Safe Schools (OSS) that the gate or other access point is not subject to this requirement based upon other safety measures at the school, or based upon compliance with the Florida Fire Prevention Code. Documentation in the FSSAT must include a description of the other safety measures present and a photograph of the gate or access point not subject to this requirement. The office may conduct a compliance visit pursuant to F.S. 1001.212(14) to review if such determination is appropriate.

This paragraph does not apply to the nonexclusive zone of a school campus. "Nonexclusive zone" means the area outside of the exclusive zone, but contained on school property. Nonexclusive zones may include, but are not limited to, such spaces as parking lots, athletic fields and stadiums, mechanical buildings, playgrounds, bus ramps, agricultural spaces, and other areas that do not give direct, unimpeded access to the exclusive zone.

- B. All school classrooms and other instructional spaces must be locked to prevent ingress when occupied by students, except between class periods when students are moving between classrooms or other instructional spaces. If a classroom or other instructional space door must be left unlocked or open for any reason other than between class periods when students are moving between classrooms or other instructional spaces, the door must be actively staffed by a person standing or seated at the door. All school classrooms and other instructional spaces with a permanently installed door lock may also use temporary door locks during an active assailant incident. The temporary door lock must be able to be engaged or removed without opening the door; must be easily removed in a single operation from the egress side of the door without the use of a key and from the ingress side of the door with the use of a key or other credential; may be installed at any height; must otherwise be in compliance with the Florida Fire Prevention Code; and must be integrated into the active assailant response plan.

Instructional spaces for career and technical education that are designed as open areas must meet the requirements of paragraph B, unless they are exempted from compliance by the School Safety Specialist. To be exempt, the School Safety Specialist, or designee, for which compliance with the requirements in paragraph B. above would affect the health and safety of students, may be exempted from compliance with that paragraph by the school safety specialist. To be

~~exempt, the school safety specialist, or designee,~~ must document in the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool portal maintained by the Office of Safe Schools that the instructional space is exempt from these requirements due to negative impacts to student health and safety and the presence of other safety measures at the school that prevent egress from the instructional space to hallways or other classrooms or instructional spaces.

Common areas on a school campus, including but not limited to, cafeterias, auditoriums and media centers, when used for instructional time or student testing, must meet the requirements of paragraph B. only when such areas are being used for instructional time or student testing.

- C. For schools that do not have a secure exclusive zone, all campus access doors, gates, and other access points that allow ingress to or egress from a school building shall remain closed and locked at all times to prevent ingress, unless
1. A person is actively entering or exiting the door, gate, or other access point;
 2. The door, gate, or access point is actively staffed by school personnel to prevent unauthorized entry; or
 3. The School Safety Specialist, or designee, has documented in the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool portal maintained by the Office of Safe Schools that the open and unlocked door, gate, or other access point is not subject to this requirement based upon other safety measures at the school. **Documentation in FSSAT must include a description of the other safety measures present and a photograph of each unlocked door, gate, or other access point not subject to this requirement.** The office may conduct a compliance visit pursuant to F.S. 1001.212(14) to review if such determination is appropriate. All campus access doors, gates, and other access points may be electronically or manually controlled by school personnel to allow access by authorized visitors, students, and school personnel.
- D. All school classrooms and other instructional spaces must clearly and conspicuously mark the safest areas in each classroom or other instructional space where students must shelter in place during an emergency. Students must be notified of these safe areas within the first ten (10) days of the school year. If it is not feasible to clearly and conspicuously mark the safest areas in a classroom or other instructional space, the school safety specialist, or designee, must document such determination in the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool portal maintained by the OSS, identifying where affected students must shelter in place. The OSS shall assist the School Safety Specialist with compliance during the inspection required under F.S. 1001.212(14).

Persons who are aware of a violation of the requirements must report the violation to the Principal. The Principal must report the violation to the school safety specialist no later than the next business day after receiving such report. If the person who violated this paragraph is the Principal or charter school administrator, the report must be made directly to the Superintendent or charter school governing board, as applicable.

Instructional and administrative personnel as well as educational support employees and managers, as defined in F.S. 1012.01, who knowingly violate school safety requirements shall be subject to progressive discipline which may include, but is not limited to, verbal warning up to termination of employment. The seriousness of the employee's violation of a school safety requirement and any prior disciplinary offenses will be taken into consideration in determining the appropriate discipline to be implemented.

All threats to the safety of District facilities, students, and staff shall be identified by appropriate personnel and responded to promptly in accordance with the plan for emergency preparedness. Any aspect of the emergency preparedness plan and/or procedures that are included in the School Safety Plan shall remain confidential and exempt from public records disclosure in accordance with State law.

Substitute Teachers

Each substitute teacher must be provided all school safety protocols and policies before beginning their first day of substitute teaching at a school.

Emergency Communication Systems

The Superintendent, as part of the development of the emergency preparedness plan and procedures, shall establish a schedule to test the functionality and coverage capacity of all emergency communication systems and determine if adequate signal strength is available in all areas of school campuses.

Drills

Completion of emergency drills shall be documented at all school facilities in the District.

An after-action report must be completed following each emergency drill and fire drill. After-action reports must:

- A. identify the type of drill, location, and date of the drill, participants, and involvement of law enforcement or other public safety agencies;
- B. describe actions taken by participants;

- C. analyze areas of success and areas where improvement is needed;
- D. include any input provided from public safety agencies; and
- E. include a plan for corrective action.

After-action reports must be submitted to the District school safety specialist for review fifteen (15) calendar days following completion of the drill.

The District shall maintain a record that is accessible at each school or by the OSS of all current school year and prior school year drills conducted, including the names of law enforcement personnel present for each active assailant emergency drill.

Alyssa's Alert/Mobile Panic Alert System

In accordance with the requirements of F.S. 1006.07, the District shall implement a mobile panic alert system. The District will select a system under contract with FL DOE or procure a different system. The District will maintain current listings of mobile panic alert systems implemented by all public schools, including charter schools, within the District. Such list shall include the school name, address, and MSID number, and vendor or application implemented. The list will be provided to the Office of Safe Schools via-email by August 1, 2022, and will be updated within five (5) school days of a school opening or closing, or when any other change occurs that impacts the accuracy of District-provided information.

The District's mobile panic alert system will include mobile devices placed throughout each school campus. In determining the number and placement of devices needed to afford all staff members the ability to silently and easily activate a panic alert in the event of an on-campus emergency, the District will consider using a combination of fixed panic alert buttons, mobile and desktop applications, landline phone capabilities, and wearable panic alerts (such as on a lanyard).

The District's policies and procedures related to Alyssa's Alert/Mobile Panic Alert Systems will be developed in consultation with the County 911 authority and local emergency management office to ensure that the system integrates with local public safety answering point (PSAP) infrastructure to transmit calls and mobile activations.

List of Primary Emergency Response Agencies

The primary emergency response agencies that are responsible for notifying the District for each type of emergency are as follows:

A. Fires:

1. Clay County Fire Rescue
2. Town of Orange Park Fire Department
3. City of Green Cove Springs Fire Department

B. Natural Disasters:

Clay County Division of Emergency Management

C. Bomb Threats:

1. Clay County Sheriff's Office
2. Orange Park Police Department
3. Green Cove Springs Police Department

D. Weapon-Use, Hostage, and Active Assailant/Shooter Situations:

1. Clay County Sheriff's Office
2. Orange Park Police Department
3. Green Cove Springs Police Department

E. Hazardous Materials or Toxic Chemical Spills:

1. Clay County Fire Rescue
2. Clay County Division of Emergency Management

F. Weather Emergencies, Including Hurricanes, Tornadoes, and Severe Storms:

1. Jax NWS
2. Clay County Division of Emergency Management

G. Exposure as a Result of a Manmade Emergency:

Clay County Division of Emergency Management

Parents of District students will be timely notified pursuant to procedures adopted by the Superintendent of threats and the following unlawful acts and significant emergencies that occur on school grounds, during school transportation, or during school-sponsored activities:

- A. weapons possession or use when there is intended harm toward another person, hostage, and active assailant situations;
- B. murder, homicide, or manslaughter;
- C. sex offenses, including rape, sexual assault, or sexual misconduct with a student by school personnel;
- D. natural emergencies, including hurricanes, tornadoes, and severe storms.
- E. exposure as a result of a manmade emergency.

The individual(s) responsible for contacting the primary emergency response agencies listed above are as follows:

- A. School Principal or assistant principal; OR
- B. School Safety Specialist; OR
- C. School Safety Officer.

The information in this section shall be part of the School Safety and Security Plan, and, therefore, confidential.

Revised 11/6/25



Book	Policy Manual
Section	Vol 26, Jan and Feb 2026 Revisions
Title	Copy of BUS OPERATOR QUALIFICATIONS, CERTIFICATION, DISCIPLINE, AND TERMINATION
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Legal	F.S. 316.305 F.S. 316.306 F.S. 1012.45 F.S. 1012.465 F.S. Chapter 316 F.S. Chapter 1006 F.A.C. 6A-3.0121 F.A.C. 6A-3.0141 F.A.C. 6A-3.0171 49 C.F.R. Part 40 49 C.F.R. Part 382 49 C.F.R. Part 391
Adopted	June 5, 2025

8600.04 - **BUS OPERATOR QUALIFICATIONS, CERTIFICATION, DISCIPLINE, AND TERMINATION**

Purpose

The safety and welfare of District students is of paramount importance to the School Board and transportation personnel of the District are charged with the responsibility of student transportation safety. Thus, it is essential that school buses be operated by properly qualified and licensed drivers who meet all other requirements of State and Federal laws, State Board rules, and Board policies for the transport of students.

For purposes of this policy, "bus operator" is defined as any person employed or contracted by the District to transport prekindergarten through grade 12 students in school buses as defined in F.S.1006.25 or any vehicle with a seating capacity of eleven (11) or more including the driver.

Applicants

The Board requires that each applicant for a bus operator's position possess a valid Florida Commercial Driver License Class B with Passenger and S Endorsements, together with an acceptable driving record, a current valid medical examiner's certificate, and such other licenses and endorsements as may be required by applicable law and regulation, and meet all other minimum qualifications as may be required by Federal law, State law, State Board Rule, Board policy, and the District's safe driver plan. The driving record of all applicants shall be obtained from the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) and reviewed by the District as and when required by law to verify an acceptable driving history and compliance with the standards of this policy and applicable law and regulation.

At the time of initial employment, the Board shall require that the operator of a school bus meet the requirements as described in the official job description of Bus Driver or Bus Driver/Driver Trainer.

Employees

Prior to transporting students on a school bus, each operator employed or contracted by the District shall meet the following requirements:

- A. hold a valid ~~commercial driver license with a passenger endorsement and a school bus endorsement;~~ driver's licenses for the respective weight class of the bus that will be operated, in accordance with F.A.C. 6A-3.0141 and F.S. 1006.25

~~A Class E driver's license without endorsements is required for school buses and multifunction school activity buses (MFSABs) with a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of 26,000 pounds or less with a seating capacity of fifteen (15) or fewer, including the driver. A Class B commercial driver's license (CDL) with a passenger endorsement and a school bus endorsement is required for school buses and MFSABs with a GVWR of 26,001 pounds or more and/or a seating capacity of sixteen (16) or more, including the driver.;~~
- B. successfully complete forty (40) hours of pre-service training, which must include certified cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and first aid training, and must consist of at least twenty (20) hours of classroom instruction and eight (8) hours of behind-the-wheel training. The classroom instruction and behind-the-wheel training shall be based upon the Department's Basic School Bus Operator Curriculum, Revised 2006;
- C. demonstrate the ability to prepare required written reports;
- D. be physically capable of operating the vehicle as determined by physical examination, given by a physician designated by the Board, and as determined by a dexterity test administered by the District;
- E. demonstrate physical and mental capabilities required to carry out all assigned responsibilities as a school bus operator; and
- F. meets the qualifications described in 49 C.F.R. Part 391, relating to physical qualifications and examination, which includes the physical standards established by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration pursuant to 49 C.F.R. Sections 391.41 and 391.43

In addition to the requirements set forth above, a bus operator employed by the Board shall at all times during the term of their employment maintain an acceptable driving record, possess a current valid medical examiner's certificate, hold such other licenses and endorsements as may be required by applicable law and regulation, and meet all other minimum qualifications as may be required by Federal law, State law, State Board rule, Board policy, and the District's safe driver plan.

It is the intent of this Board to protect its students from drivers whose certification is invalidated under Florida law or the District's safe driver plan. Any employee who operates a school bus with a license s/he knows, or should have known, is suspended or revoked shall be subject to discipline, up to and including termination.

The driving record of all school bus operators shall be obtained and reviewed prior to each fall semester, and shall be subject to continuous screening by using the Motor Vehicle Operator Tracking and Reporting System (MOTRS) through the Florida Department of Motor Vehicles and Highway Safety database.

Any bus operator whose driving record is found to include a plea of guilty, nolo contendere, or adjudication withheld of guilt for any of the following infractions shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination in accordance with the District's safe driver plan:

- A. driving under the influence
- B. falsifying an accident report
- C. at fault accident resulting in a fatality
- D. passing a stopped school bus
- E. reckless driving
- F. more than two (2) careless driving infractions within any one (1) year period
- G. failing to give notice of a crash to a local police department or county sheriff when such crash results in injury to or death of any persons or damage to any vehicle or other property in an apparent amount of at least \$500
- H. speeding in a school zone

- I. railroad crossing offenses
- J. leaving the scene of an accident involving injuries or property damage
- K. speeding in excess of twenty-one (21) miles per hour over posted speed limit
- L. loss of or suspension of driver's license for traffic-related offenses/violations of F.S. Chapter 316, or multiple non-traffic related offenses
- M. more than seven (7) points on license

In addition, a bus operator who violates Board policies regarding the unnecessary idling of school buses or using a wireless communication device while operating a school bus shall be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the District's safe driver plan.

All bus operators must conform to the provisions of 49 C.F.R., Part 40 and Part 382, relating to the substance abuse testing and alcohol detection program. A driver testing positive for a controlled substance under the provisions noted above shall be terminated from school bus driving duties.

All bus operators are required to submit to follow-up criminal background checks in accordance with State law.

At least annually, the Board shall require that each operator of a school bus meets the following requirements:

- A. successfully complete the requirements prescribed by this policy;
- B. successfully complete a minimum of eight (8) hours of in-service training related to the operator's responsibilities for transporting students, which may include training hours from the required certified CPR and first aid training, pursuant to F.A.C. Rule 6A-3.0121;
- C. successfully pass a dexterity test administered by the District and maintain a valid Medical Examiners Certificate verifying that the operator meets the requirements of 49 C.F.R. Part 391.

At the time of reemployment, the Board shall assure that each school bus operator meets all of the requirements contained herein. If not more than a twelve (12) continuous calendar month break in service has occurred, an operator shall be required to complete eight (8) hours of in-service training related to their responsibilities for transporting students prior to driving a school bus with students. If a period exceeding twelve (12) calendar months has occurred, the operator shall be required to successfully complete all of the requirements of this policy.



Book	Policy Manual
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Title	Copy of ANTI-FRAUD
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Status	
Legal	F.S. 112.3187 F.S. 112.3188 F.S. 112.3189 F.S. 112.31895
Adopted	June 5, 2025

8700 - **ANTI-FRAUD**

This policy is implemented to make employees aware of activities that may be fraudulent, illegal, or otherwise unethical. The District will not tolerate such activities, and disciplinary measures will be implemented as appropriate.

Scope

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

Policy

Fraud and fraudulent activity are strictly prohibited. The obligation to report fraud includes instances when the employee knew or should have known that an incident of fraud had occurred. All administrators shall be vigilant for any conduct that appears to constitute fraud or fraudulent activity within the scope of their responsibility.

Each employee or agent of the District shall be responsible for reporting any observed or suspected fraud or fraudulent activity to the Superintendent who shall serve as agency chief inspector. If the observed or suspected fraud or fraudulent activity involves a School Board member or the Superintendent, the report should be made to the Board Attorney or the State of Florida's Chief Inspector General. Reports to the State of Florida's Chief Inspector General may be filed by connecting to the State's Chief Inspector General's fraud hotline (<http://www.floridaoig.com/reportfraud.htm>), by calling the fraud hotline maintained by the Chief Inspector General (1-800- 543-5353), or by faxing the complaint to the Chief Inspector General (1-850-921-0817).

Further, the District will provide a link on its website so that tips about alleged fraud or fraudulent activity can be made anonymously. However, an investigation of misconduct will not be conducted solely on the basis of an anonymous allegation. If corroborating evidence can be found, then disciplinary action will be taken.

However, whistleblower protection provided by State law will not apply to individuals who utilize the State's Chief Inspector General's fraud hotline as well as those who use the link on the District's website. Whistleblower protection may apply to individuals who comply with the requirements for whistleblower protection under State law and who report alleged fraud or fraudulent activity directly to the Superintendent who serves as the agency chief inspector.

When the information provided meets the criteria for fraud or fraudulent activity that is set forth in State law, this policy, and Policy 1211, Policy 3211, Policy 4211, a staff member, former staff member, applicant, or any other person who files the complaint can keep their identity confidential unless:

- A. disclosure is necessary to protect the public's health, safety, and welfare;

B. absolutely necessary or unavoidable during the investigation; or

C. if disclosure is required by State law.

Pursuant to Policy 1550, Policy 3550, or Policy 4550, an allegation of fraud or fraudulent activity and all information obtained pursuant to an investigation by the Superintendent of the allegation of fraud or fraudulent conduct will be confidential and exempt from inspection or copying until the investigation ceases to be active or until the Superintendent provides written notice to the employee who is the subject of the investigation.

Anonymous complaints for which no corroboration can be found will be retained by the District but, pursuant to State law, shall not be placed in any employee's personnel file.

Fraud – Definitions

Fraud is defined as the intentional, false representation or concealment of a material fact in order to personally benefit or induce another to act to his/her detriment.

Actions constituting fraud include, but are not limited to the following:

A. falsifying, unauthorized altering, or forgoing District documents, including but not limited to the following:

1. claims for payments or reimbursements, which would include, but not be limited to, submitting false claims for travel or overtime
2. absence or leave forms, an example of which would be reporting falsely an absence as a sick day or failing to report an absence
3. files, either in electronic or printed format, photographic records or audio records that are maintained by the District or accounts belonging to the District
4. a check, bank draft, wire transfer, or any other District financial document
5. student records that are maintained in either electronic or printed formats
6. fire, health, sanitation, and safety reports that are maintained in either electronic or printed formats

B. misappropriating funds, supplies, or other assets of the District

C. handling or reporting money or financial transactions in an improper or illegal manner

D. disclosing, either directly or indirectly, confidential and proprietary information to outside parties for personal gain

E. disclosing to other persons the purchasing/bidding activities engaged in or contemplated by the District so that any entity, person, or business has an unfair advantage in the purchasing/bid process

F. causing the District to pay excessive prices or fees where justification is not documented

G. accepting or offering a bribe, gifts, or other favors under circumstances that indicate that the bribe, gift, or favor was intended to influence a decision that was, or needed to be, made

H. removing, destroying, or using for personal gain records, furniture, fixtures and/or equipment

I. using State or Federal funds for other than their designated and approved purposes, or

J. using District equipment or work time for any outside private business activity.

This list is meant to illustrate the types of activities that are prohibited and is not intended to be all-inclusive. Other misconduct of a similar nature is prohibited.

Investigation

Investigations of alleged fraud or fraudulent activity shall be conducted in accordance with this policy and the District's whistleblower policy and procedure (Policy 1211, Policy 3211, and Policy 4211).

If the allegations of fraudulent misconduct involve a District employee, former employee, applicants, or independent contractor, the Superintendent shall conduct a thorough investigation. If the Superintendent determines that the allegations appear to involve criminal misconduct, the matter shall be referred to the Sheriff's Office.

If the allegation involves the Superintendent or a Board member, the allegation shall be referred to the Board Attorney. If the Board Attorney determines that the allegations appear to involve criminal misconduct, the matter shall be referred to the Sheriff's Office. If the Board Attorney determines that the allegations do not appear to involve criminal misconduct, the matter shall be assigned by the Board Attorney to a third party, who is not an employee of the District, for the purpose of conducting an investigation concerning the allegations. Upon the conclusion of this investigation, the investigator shall forward the report to the Board Attorney. The Board Attorney shall forward the report to the Board so that such action as is appropriate can be taken.

Any investigation conducted pursuant to this policy shall be conducted without regard for the length of service, position/title, or relationship of the individual who is alleged to have committed or concealed fraud.

Confidentiality

The District will maintain confidentiality with regard to the reports of suspected misconduct and the investigation, to the extent consistent with the conduct of an appropriate investigation and the District's obligations under the Whistleblower's Act, the Freedom of Information Act, and F.S. Chapter 119. However, absolute confidentiality for reporting witnesses and investigation results cannot be guaranteed.

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

Non-Retaliation

Those who, in good faith, report suspected fraud or fraudulent activity will not be subject to any retaliation as a result of bringing the suspected misconduct to the attention of the District. Employees, former employees, applicants for employment, or independent contractors will be subject to the protection of the District's Whistleblower's policy and administrative procedure. (Policy 1211, Policy 3211, and Policy 4211)

Additionally, employees who knowingly make a false report of suspected fraud or fraudulent activity shall be subject to disciplinary action pursuant to the District's Whistleblower's policy and administrative procedure. (Policy 1211,, Policy 3211,,and Policy 4211,)



Book	Policy Manual
Section	Vol 26, Jan and Feb 2026 Revisions
Title	ADVERTISING AND COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES
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Legal	F.S. 847.012 F.S. 1013.10
Adopted	June 5, 2025

9700.01 - **ADVERTISING AND COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES**

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for the appropriate and inappropriate use of advertising or promoting of commercial products or services to students and parents in the schools.

"Advertising" comes in many different categories and forums and is defined as an oral, written or graphic statement made by the producer, manufacturer, or seller of products, equipment, or services which calls for the public's attention to arouse a desire to buy, use or patronize the product, equipment, or services. This includes the visible promotion of product logos for other than identification purposes. Brand names, trademarks, logos or tags for product or service identification purposes are not considered advertising.

The School Board may permit advertising in ~~School~~ District facilities or on ~~School~~ District property in the following categories or forums in accordance with the guidelines set forth herein:

A. Product Sales:

1. product sales benefiting a district, school or student activity (e.g., the sale of beverages or food within schools);
2. exclusive agreements between the District and businesses that provide the businesses with the exclusive right to sell or promote their products or services in the schools (e.g. pouring rights contracts with soda companies);
3. ~~fund-raising~~ fundraising activities (e.g., short-term sales of gift wrap, cookies, candy, etc.) to benefit a specific student population, club or activity where the school receives a share of the profits.

B. Direct Advertising/Appropriation of Space:

1. signage and billboards in schools and school facilities;
2. corporate logos or brand names on school equipment (e.g., marquees, message boards or score boards);
3. ads, corporate logos, or brand names on book covers, student assignment books, or posters;
4. ads in school publications (newspapers and yearbooks and event programs);
5. media-based electronic advertising (e.g., Channel One or Internet or web-based sponsorship);
6. free samples (e.g., of food or personal hygiene products).

Approval

It is further the policy of the Board that its name, students, staff members, and District facilities shall not be used for any commercial advertising or otherwise promoting the interests of any commercial, nonprofit or other non-school agency or organization, public or private, without the approval of:

A. The principal or site administrator for advertising at the school site or facility.

B. The Superintendent for advertising at the District level.

Accounting

Advertising revenues must be properly reported and accounted for.

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Book	Policy Manual
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9700 - **RELATIONS WITH SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS**

Any request from civic institutions, charitable organizations, or special interest groups which involve such activities as patriotic functions, contests, exhibits, sales of products to and by students, sending promotional materials home with students, graduation prizes, ~~fund-raising~~ fundraising, and free teaching materials must be carefully reviewed to ensure that such activities promote student interests.

It is the policy of the School Board that students, staff members, and District facilities not be used for promoting the interests of any nonschool agency or organization, public or private, without the approval of the Board or its designee; and any such approval, granted for whatever cause or group, shall not be construed as an endorsement of said cause or group by this Board.

Pursuant to State law, a person or group may not accept a donation of public funds from the District, or any person acting on behalf of the District, for a political advertisement or electioneering communication concerning an issue, referendum, or amendment, including any State question, that is subject to a vote of the electors.

A. Political Interests

All materials or activities proposed by outside political sources for student or staff use or participation shall be reviewed by the principal on the basis of their educational contribution to part or all of the school program, benefit to students, and no such approval shall have the primary purpose of advancing the special interest of the proposing group.

The Board shall not permit the use of any type of educational material, program, or equipment in its curricular, co-curricular, or extra-curricular activities or at any time during the school day if such materials, programs, or equipment contain partisan political or commercial messages. Instructional staff may, however, utilize political materials or those provided by special interest groups in adopted courses of study with the approval of the principal.

School facilities or equipment may not be used as a means of producing or disseminating to the community any materials that advertises or promotes a political party, a political cause or the candidacy of an individual for public office. Students and employees of the Board shall not be used to distribute campaign literature within the schools or on school grounds.

Outside speakers representing commercial organizations will be welcome only when the commercial aspect is limited to naming the organization represented and the subject matter advances the educational aims of the District.

B. Patriotic Organizations

A "patriotic organization" is a youth membership organization serving young people under the age of twenty-one (21) that has an educational purpose and promotes patriotism and civic involvement. The organizations which are defined under federal law are Big Brothers-Big Sisters of America, Boy Scouts of America, Boys & Girls Clubs of America, Civil Air Patrol, Future Farmers of America, Girl Scouts of the United States of America, Little League Baseball, Inc., Marine Corps League, and Naval Sea Cadet Corps.

The District may, but is not required to, permit the following:

1. Allow a representative of a patriotic organization the opportunity, during school hours and instructional time, to speak with and distribute informational materials in a classroom setting to students to encourage participation in the patriotic organization and its activities and inform students of how the patriotic organization may further the student's education interests and civic involvement to better their school, community and themselves; and/or
2. Provide opportunities for a patriotic organization to have displays at schools within the District to provide opportunities for student recruitment. Such displays may include informational flyers and the use of other existing communication channels.

If the District authorizes a representative of a patriotic organization to speak with and distribute informational materials to student and provide displays, the District must (a) provide a specific date and time for the organization to speak to students at schools within the District after the organization has provided reasonable notice of its intent to speak to students and provide display, and (b) must notify parents or guardians of each patriotic organization's expected presentation and the option to withhold consent for their child participating in such participation.

The District may not discriminate against a patriotic organization in the use of any school building or property for the activities described above if the activities occur outside of the school day. See also Policy 2260 - *Nondiscrimination and Access to Equal Educational Opportunity* and Policy 7510 - *Use of District Facilities*.

If the District allows a patriotic organization to speak with and distribute informational materials to students or use school buildings or property pursuant to this policy, it is not required to provide equal access to an organization that is not designated as a patriotic organization.

C. Contests/Exhibits

The Board recognizes that contests, exhibits, and the like may benefit individual students or the District as a whole, but participation in such special activities may not:

1. have the primary effect of advancing a special product, group, or company;
2. make unreasonable demands upon the time and energies of staff or students or upon the resources of the District;
3. involve any direct cost to the District;
4. interrupt the regular school program unless the student body as a whole derives benefit from such activities;
5. cause the participants to leave the School District, unless:
 - a. the Board's Policy 2340 - *Field and Other District School-Sponsored Trips* - has been complied with in all aspects;
 - b. the Board has granted special permission;
 - c. the parents of a minor student have granted their permission.

D. Distribution/Posting of Literature

No outside organization or staff member or student representing an outside organization may distribute or post literature on that organization's behalf on District property either during or after school hours without the permission and prior review of the principal.

E. Solicitation of Funds

Any outside organization or staff member representing an outside organization desiring to solicit funds on school property must receive permission to do so from the Superintendent.

Permission to solicit funds will be granted only to those organizations, individuals, or staff members who meet the permission criteria established in the District's administrative procedures. Solicitation must take place at such times and places and in such a manner as specified in the administrative procedures. In accordance with Board Policy 5830, no District student may participate in the solicitation without the Superintendent's approval.

1. The Board disclaims all responsibility for the protection for, or accounting of, such funds.
2. Solicited funds are not to be deposited in any regular or special accounts of the District.

3. A copy of this policy as well as the relevant administrative procedures shall be given to any individual granted permission to solicit funds on District property.
4. This policy does not apply to the raising of funds for District-sponsored or school-sponsored activities.
5. Use of the name, logo, mascot, any other name or slogan, or any assets of the District, including, but not limited to facilities, technology, or communication networks is prohibited without the specific permission of the Superintendent.

-Crowdfunding activities aimed at raising funds for a specific classroom or school activity, including extra-curricular activity, or to obtain supplemental resources (e.g., supplies or equipment) that are not required to provide a free appropriate public education to any students in the classroom may be permitted, but only with the specific approval of the Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent of Finance.

All crowdfunding activities are subject to policy 6605.

F. Prizes/Scholarships

The Board is appreciative of the generosity of organizations which offer scholarships or prizes to deserving students in this District. But, in accepting the offer of such scholarships or prizes, the Board directs that these procedures be observed:

1. No information either academic or personal shall be released from the student's record for the purpose of selecting a scholarship or prize winner without the permission of the student who is eighteen (18), or the parents of a student who is younger in accordance with the Board's policy on student records.
2. The type of scholarship or prize, the criteria for selection of the winner, and any restrictions upon it shall be approved by the principal.
3. The principal, together with a committee of staff members designated by the principal, may be involved in the selection of the recipient and, if agreeable to the sponsoring organization, the selection shall be left entirely to the principal and staff committee.

G. Surveys and Questionnaires

Neither District-related nor nondistrict-related organizations shall be allowed to administer a survey or questionnaire to students or staff unless the instrument and the proposed plan is submitted, in advance, to the Superintendent. If approved, a copy of the results and the proposed manner of their communication are to be provided to him/her for review and approval before they are released.

Students shall not be required to complete surveys to provide marketing information to vendors, or distribute to vendors any personal information of students, including but not limited to names, addresses, and telephone numbers, except as may be required by law. In addition, the District shall not enter into any contract for products or services, including electronic media services, where personal information will be collected from students by the providers of the services.