

## ROLE OF AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR EMPLOYEES

This series of the board policy manual is devoted to the board's goals and objectives for employees in the performance of their jobs. Employees provide a variety of important services for the children of the school district community. They may be teaching or assisting in the classroom, working in the office, maintaining the facilities, driving or repairing the school buses, or cooking lunches. Each employee plays a vital role in providing an equal opportunity for a quality education for students commensurate with the students' individual needs. While the teachers have the most direct impact on the formal instruction of students, all employees have an impact on the school environment by their dedication to their work and their actions. As role models for the students, employees shall promote a cooperative, enthusiastic, and supportive learning environment for the students.

In striving to achieve a quality education program, the board's goal is to obtain and retain qualified and effective employees. The board shall have complete discretion to determine the number, the qualifications, and the duties of the positions and the school district's standards of acceptable performance. It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to make recommendations to the board in these areas prior to board action. The board recognizes its duty to bargain collectively with duly certified collective bargaining units.

Board policies in this series relating to general employees shall apply to employees regardless of their position as a licensed employee, support employee, substitute or administrator. Board policies relating to licensed employees shall apply to positions that require a teaching license or administrator's certificate or other professional license, certificate or endorsement, unless administrative positions are specifically excluded from the policy. Support employees' policies included in this series shall apply to positions that do not fall within the definition of licensed employee.

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## EMPLOYEE ORIENTATION

Employees must know their role and duties. New employees may be required to participate in an orientation program for new employees. The employee's immediate supervisor should provide the new employee with a review of the employee's responsibilities and duties. Payroll procedures and employee benefit programs and accompanying forms will be explained to the employee by the superintendent. Regular employees ineligible for the school district's group health plan will be given information regarding where they can obtain health care or health care insurance.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 20; 279.8 (2005).  
191 I.A.C. 74.

Cross Reference: 404 Employee Conduct and Appearance  
406 Licensed Employee Compensation and Benefits  
412 Support Employee Compensation and Benefits

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## EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The New Hampton Community School District will provide equal opportunity to employees and applicants for employment in accordance with applicable equal employment opportunity and affirmative action laws, directives and regulations of federal, state and local governing bodies. Opportunity to all employees and applicants for employment includes hiring, placement, promotion, transfer or demotion, recruitment, advertising or solicitation for employment, treatment during employment, rates of pay or other forms of compensation, and layoff or termination. The school district will take affirmative action in major job categories where women, men, minorities and persons with disabilities are underrepresented. Employees will support and comply with the district's established equal employment opportunity and affirmative action policies. Employees will be given notice of this policy annually.

The board will appoint an affirmative action coordinator. The affirmative action coordinator will have the responsibility for drafting the affirmative action plan. The affirmative action plan will be reviewed by the board at least every two years.

Individuals who file an application with the school district will be given consideration for employment if they meet or exceed the qualifications set by the board, administration, and Iowa Department of Education for the position for which they apply. In employing individuals, the board will consider the qualifications, credentials, and records of the applicants without regard to race, color, creed, sex, national origin, religion, age or disability. In keeping with the law, the board will consider the veteran status of applicants.

Prior to a final offer of employment for any position the school district will perform criminal, child abuse and sexual abuse background checks. The district may determine on a case-by-case basis that, based on the duties, some positions within the district will require more thorough background checks. Based upon the results of the background checks, the school district will determine whether an offer will be extended. If the candidate is a teacher who has received an initial license from the BOEE since October 2000, then the requirement for a background check is waived.

Advertisements and notices for vacancies within the district will contain the following statement: "The New Hampton Community School District is an EEO/AA employer." The statement will also appear on application forms.

Inquiries by employees or applicants for employment regarding compliance with equal employment opportunity and affirmative action laws and policies, including but not limited to complaints of discrimination, will be directed to the Affirmative Action Coordinator by writing to the Affirmative Action Coordinator, New Hampton Community School District, 710 West Main, New Hampton, Iowa 50659-1004; or by telephoning (641) 394-2134.

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Inquiries by employees or applicants for employment regarding compliance with equal employment opportunity and affirmative action laws and policies, including but not limited to complaints of discrimination, may also be directed in writing to the Director of the Region VII office of Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, 310 W. Wisconsin Ave., Ste. 800, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53203-2292, (414) 291-1111 or the Iowa Civil Rights Commission, 211 E. Maple, Des Moines, Iowa, 50309, (515) 281-4121. This inquiry or complaint to the federal office may be done instead of, or in addition to, an inquiry or complaint at the local level.

Further information and copies of the procedures for filing a complaint are available in the school district's central administrative office and the administrative office in each attendance center.

Legal Reference: 29 U.S.C. §§ 621-634 (1994).  
42 U.S.C. §§ 2000e *et seq.* (1994).  
42 U.S.C. §§ 12101 *et seq.* (1994).  
Iowa Code §§ 19B; 20; 35C; 73; 216; 279.8; 692.2; 692.2A; 692.2C(5); 235A.15; 235A.6e(9) (2005).  
281 I.A.C. 12.4; 95.  
28 I.A.C. 14.1; 2000.

Cross Reference: 102 Equal Educational Opportunity  
403.5 Harassment  
405.2 Licensed Employee Qualifications, Recruitment, Selection  
411.2 Support Employee Qualifications, Recruitment, Selection

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## EMPLOYEE CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Employees' use of their position with the school district for financial gain shall be considered a conflict of interest with their position as employees and may subject employees to disciplinary action.

Employees have access to information and a captive audience that could award the employee personal or financial gain. No employee may solicit other employees or students for personal or financial gain to the employee without the approval of the superintendent. If the approval of the superintendent is given, the employee must conduct the solicitations within the conditions set by the superintendent. Further, the superintendent may, upon five days notice, require the employee to cease such solicitations as a condition of continued employment.

Employees shall not act as an agent or dealer for the sale of textbooks or other school supplies. Employees shall not participate for personal financial remuneration in outside activities wherein their position on the staff is used to sell goods or services to students or to parents. Employees shall not engage in outside work or activities where the source of information concerning the customer, client or employer originates from information obtained because of the employee's position in the school district.

It shall also be a conflict of interest for an employee to engage in any outside employment or activity which is in conflict with the employee's official duties and responsibilities. In determining whether outside employment or activity of an employee creates a conflict of interest, situations in which an unacceptable conflict of interest shall be deemed to exist shall include, but not be limited to, any of the following:

- (1) The outside employment or activity involves the use of the school district's time, facilities, equipment and supplies or the use of the school district's badge, uniform, business card or other evidences of office to give the employee or the employee's immediate family an advantage or pecuniary benefit that is not available to other similarly situated members or classes of members of the general public. For purposes of this section, a person is not "similarly situated" merely by being related to an employee who is employed by the school district.
- (2) The outside employment or activity involves the receipt of, promise of, or acceptance of more or other consideration by the employee or a member of the employee's immediate family from anyone other than the school district for the performance of any act that the employee would be required or expected to perform as part of the employee's regular duties or during the hours during which the employee performs service or work for the school district.
- (3) The outside employment or activity is subject to the official control, inspection, review, audit or enforcement authority of the employee during the performance of the employee's duties.

If the outside employment or activity is employment or activity in (1) or (2) above, the employee must cease the employment of or activity. If the activity or employment falls under (3), then the employee must:

## EMPLOYEE CONFLICT OF INTEREST

- Cease the outside employment or activity; or
- Publicly disclose the existence of the conflict and refrain from taking any official action or performing any official duty that would detrimentally affect or create a benefit for the outside employment or activity. Official action or official duty includes, but is not limited to, participating in any vote, taking affirmative action to influence any vote, or providing any other official service or thing that is not available generally to members of the public in order to further the interests of the outside employment or activity.

It shall be the responsibility of each employee to be aware of and take the necessary action to eliminate a potential conflict of interest should it arise.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 20.7; 68B; 279.8; 301.28 (2005).

Cross Reference: 203 Board of Directors' Conflict of Interest  
402.4 Gifts to Employees  
402.7 Employee Outside Employment  
402.9 Solicitations from Outside

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NEPOTISM

More than one family member may be an employee of the school district. It shall be within the discretion of the superintendent to allow one family member employed by the school district to supervise another family member employed by the school district subject to the approval of the board.

The employment of more than one individual in a family shall be on the basis of their qualifications, credentials and records.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 20; 71; 277.27; 279.8 (2005).

Cross Reference: 405.2 Licensed Employee Qualifications, Recruitment Selection  
411.2 Support Employee Qualifications, Recruitment Selection

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## EMPLOYEE COMPLAINTS

Complaints of employees against fellow employees should be discussed directly between employees. If necessary, complaints shall be brought directly to the immediate supervisor, principal or superintendent and shall be made in a constructive and professional manner. Complaints shall never be made in the presence of other employees, students or outside persons.

A formal grievance procedure is contained in the master contract between the employee's licensed bargaining unit and the board. This policy shall not apply to a complaint that has been or could be filed at the employee's discretion under that formal grievance procedure.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 20.7, .9; 279.8 (2005).

Cross Reference: 217.2 Board of Directors and Employees  
309 Communication Channels

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## EMPLOYEE RECORDS

The school district shall maintain personnel records on employees. The records are important for the daily administration of the educational program, for implementing board policy, for budget and financial planning, and for meeting state and federal requirements.

The records shall include, but not be limited to, records necessary for the daily administration of the school district, salary records, evaluations, application for employment, references, and other items needed to carry out board policy. Employee personnel files are school district records and are considered confidential records and therefore are not generally open to public inspection or accessibility. Only in certain limited instances, when the employee has given a signed consent, will employee personnel records be accessible to individuals other than the employee or authorized school officials.

Employees may have access to their personnel files, with the exception of letters of reference, and copy items from their personnel files at a time mutually agreed upon between the superintendent and the employee. The school district may charge a reasonable fee for each copy. However, employees will not be allowed access to the employment references written on behalf of the employee. Board members will generally only have access to an employee's file when it is necessary because of an employee related matter before the board.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to keep employees' personnel files current. The board secretary shall be the custodian of employee records.

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

Legal Reference: Iowa Code chs. 20; 21; 22; 91B (2005).  
Clymer v. City of Cedar Rapids, No. 209/97-1705 (Iowa 1999).  
Des Moines Independent Community School District v. Des Moines Register and Tribune Company, 487 N.W. 2d 666 (Iowa 1992).  
City of Dubuque v. Telegraph Herald, Inc., 297 N.W. 2d 523 (Iowa 1980).

Cross Reference: 402.1 Release of Credit Information  
 403 Employees' Health and Well-Being  
 708 Care, Maintenance and Disposal of School District Records

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## EMPLOYEE RECORDS REGULATION

Employee Personnel Records Content

1. Employee personnel records may contain the following information:
  - Personal information including, but not limited to, name, address, telephone number, emergency numbers, birth date and spouse.
  - Individual employment contract.
  - Evaluations.
  - Application, resume and references.
  - Salary information.
  - Copy of the employee's license or certificate, if needed for the position.
  - Educational transcripts.
  - Assignment.
  - Records of disciplinary matters.
  
2. Employee health and medical records shall be kept in a file separate from the employee's personnel records. Health and medical records may contain, but are not limited to:
  - Medical professional signed physical form.
  - Sick or long-term disability leave days.
  - Worker's compensation claims.
  - Reasonable accommodation made by the school district to accommodate the employee's disability.
  - Employee's medical history.
  - Employee emergency names and numbers.
  - Family and medical leave request forms.

Applicant File Records Content

3. Records on applicants for positions with the school district shall be maintained in the central administration office. The records shall include, but not be limited to:
  - Application for employment.
  - Resume.
  - References.
  - Evidence of appropriate license or certificate, if necessary for the position for which the individual applied.
  - Affirmative action form, if submitted.

Record Access

Only authorized school officials shall have access to an employee's records without the written consent of the employee. Authorized school officials may include, but not be limited to, the superintendent, building principal, or board secretary. In the case of a medical emergency, the school nurse or other first aid or safety personnel may have access to the employee's health or medical file without the consent of the employee. Board members will generally only have access to an employee's personnel file without the consent of the employee when necessary for the conducting of board business.

Confidential records include, but are not necessarily limited to, birth dates, addresses, gender, employment applications, performance evaluations and individual test scores.

Employee Record Retention

All employee records, except payroll and salary records, shall be maintained for a minimum of seven years after termination of employment with the district. Applicant records shall be maintained for minimum of seven years after the position was filled. Payroll and salary records shall be maintained for a minimum of three years after payment

EMPLOYEE RELATIONS TO THE ADMINISTRATION AND TO THE BOARD

Employees are encouraged to attend school board meetings. Upon request by the board or administration, employees shall be available to provide information and assist in providing recommendations to the board. Employees shall keep the board informed, through the administration, about educational trends and issues. It shall be the responsibility of the employees to keep the administration informed about the day-to-day occurrences in their work areas.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to develop avenues for communication between the board and employees. These avenues of communication will not be construed as denying the right of any employee to appeal an action or decision of the superintendent to the board.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 20; 279.8 (2005).

Cross Reference: 217.2 Board of Directors and Employees  
401.5 Employee Complaints  
401.8 Employee Involvement in Decision Making

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## EMPLOYEE INVOLVEMENT IN DECISION MAKING

Input from employees regarding students, the education program or other school district operations will be considered by the administration and the board. Employees may be requested to make a presentation to the board. The administration, in its discretion, may consult with employees about proposed changes in the education program and operations of the school district.

Employees having suggestions for changes or improvements in administrative procedure or policy should take such suggestions directly to the principal or superintendent. The principal or superintendent will discuss the suggestion with the teacher. After a final decision is made on any policy or procedure, teachers will be expected to accept and support the decision in their subsequent actions, discussions and relations.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code § 279.8 (2005).

Cross Reference: 302.2 Administration and Employees  
401.7 Employee Relations to the Administration and to the Board

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## USE OF SCHOOL DISTRICT FACILITIES & EQUIPMENT BY EMPLOYEES

The primary purpose of the school district facilities and equipment is to deliver a quality education program. Resources for school district equipment are limited; therefore each user must operate the equipment with the utmost care. Employees may use school district equipment for any school purpose or activity held during the school day or for a school-sponsored event.

Employees may use the school district facilities for nonschool-sponsored events, when it does not interfere with the delivery of the education program, with the permission of the principal. An employee's request will not supersede a prior request. The employee will be responsible for ensuring the building and equipment are in the condition they were found. For non-educational business, the employee will be responsible to meet the requirements set out by the principal when the request is granted.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 256.12; 279.8; 297.9 (2005).

Cross Reference: 401.10 Use of School District Materials for Internal Communications  
905.3 Use of School District Facilities & Equipment

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USE OF SCHOOL DISTRICT MATERIALS FOR INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS

School district materials are purchased and used for the delivery of the education program. Employees may use school district materials and equipment for internal communication among themselves when the communication is directly related to the education program.

When the communication will involve unusual expense or use of materials, the employee must first have permission of the principal.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code § 279.8 (2005).

Cross Reference: 401.9 Use of School District Facilities & Equipment by Employees

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TRANSPORTING OF STUDENTS BY EMPLOYEES

Generally, transportation of students shall be in a motor vehicle owned by the school district and driven by an employee. In some cases, it may be more economical or efficient for the school district to allow an employee of the school district to transport the students in the employee's motor vehicle.

Employees who transport students for school purposes must have the permission of the superintendent.

This policy statement applies to transportation of students for school purposes in addition to the regular bus route transporting students to and from their designated attendance center.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code chs. 285; 321 (2005).

Cross Reference: 401.12 Employee Travel Compensation  
711 Transportation  
905.1 Transporting Students in Private Vehicles

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## EMPLOYEE TRAVEL COMPENSATION

Employees traveling on behalf of the school district and performing approved school district business will be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses. Actual and necessary travel expenses shall include, but not be limited to, transportation and/or mileage costs, lodging expenses, meal expenses and registration costs.

### Travel Outside the School District

Travel outside of the school district must be pre-approved. Pre-approval shall include an evaluation of the necessity of the travel, the reason for the travel and an estimate of the cost of the travel to qualify as approved school district business.

Travel outside the school district by employees, other than the superintendent, shall be approved by the superintendent.

Reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses will be allowed for travel outside the school district if the employee received pre-approval for the travel. Prior to reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses, the employee must provide the school district with a detailed receipt, indicating the date, purpose and nature of the expense for each claim item. In exceptional circumstances, the superintendent may allow a claim without proper receipt. Written documentation explaining the exceptional circumstances shall be maintained as part of the school district's record of the claim.

Failure to have a detailed receipt shall make the expense a personal expense. Personal expenses, including mileage, in excess of that required for the trip shall be reimbursed by the employee to the school district no later than 10 working days following the date of the expense.

Reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses for travel outside the school district will be limited to the pre-approved expenses. Pre-approved expenses for registration shall be limited to the actual cost of the registration.

Pre-approved expenses for transportation within three-hundred miles of the school district administrative office shall be by automobile. If a school district vehicle is not available, the employee will be reimbursed at the maximum rate allowed by the state of Iowa. Pre-approved expenses for transportation outside of three-hundred miles of the school district administrative office may be by public carrier. Reimbursement for air travel shall be at the tourist class fares. Should an employee choose to travel by automobile, reimbursement shall be limited to the public carrier amount. Pre-approved expenses for transportation in a rental car is limited to the cost of a Class "C" rental car at a medium priced agency unless the number of people traveling on behalf of the school district warrants a larger vehicle.

Pre-approved expense for lodging within the state is required. Pre-approved expense for lodging outside the state is required. Lodging may be pre-approved for a larger amount if special circumstances require the employee to stay at a particular hotel. Pre-approved expenses for meals within the state are limited to \$ 4.00 for breakfast, \$6.00 for lunch and \$ 10.00 for dinner. Pre-approved expenses for meals outside the state are limited to \$ 5.00 for breakfast, \$ 8.00 for lunch and \$ 12.00 for dinner. Meals may be pre-approved for a larger amount by the board.

## EMPLOYEE TRAVEL COMPENSATION

Travel Within the School District

Employees required to travel in their personal vehicle between school district buildings to carry out the duties of their position may be reimbursed at the maximum rate allowed by the state of Iowa. It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to approve travel within the school district by employees. It shall be the responsibility of the board to review the travel within the school district by the superintendent through the board's audit and approval process.

Employees who are allowed an in-school district travel allowance shall have the amount of the allowance actually received during each calendar year included on the employee's W-2 form as taxable income according to the Internal Revenue Code.

The superintendent shall be responsible for developing administrative regulations regarding actual and necessary expenses, in-school district travel allowances and assignment of school district vehicles. The administrative regulations shall include the appropriate forms to be filed for reimbursement to the employee from the school district and the procedures for obtaining approval for travel outside of and within the school district.

Legal Reference: Iowa Constitution, Art. III, § 31.  
Iowa Code §§ 70A.9-.11 (2005).  
1980 Op. Att'y Gen. 512.

Cross Reference: 219.3 Board of Directors' Member Compensation and Expenses  
401.11 Transporting of Students by Employees  
401.16 Credit Cards  
905.1 Transporting Students in Private Vehicles

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EMPLOYEE ACTIVITY PASSES

Employee passes to school-sponsored activities may be made available to all employees as approved by the board. It shall be the responsibility of the employee to obtain the school activity pass.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code § 279.8 (2005).

Cross Reference: 219.5 Activity Passes for Board Members

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RECOGNITION FOR SERVICE OF EMPLOYEES

The board recognizes and appreciates the service of its employees. Employees who retire or resign may be honored by the board, administration and staff in an appropriate manner.

If the form of honor thought appropriate by the administration and employees involves unusual expense to the school district, the superintendent shall seek prior approval from the board.

Legal Reference: Iowa Const. Art. III, § 31.  
Iowa Code § 279.8 (2005).  
1980 Op. Att'y Gen. 102.

Cross Reference: 407 Licensed Employee Termination of Employment  
413 Support Employee Termination of Employment

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EMPLOYEE POLITICAL ACTIVITY

Employees shall not engage in political activity upon property under the jurisdiction of the board. Activities including, but not limited to, posting of political circulars or petitions, the distribution of political circulars or petitions, the collection of or solicitation for campaign funds, solicitation for campaign workers, and the use of students for writing or addressing political materials, or the distribution of such materials to or by students are specifically prohibited.

Violation of this policy may be grounds for disciplinary action.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 55; 279.8 (2005).

Cross Reference: 402.9 Solicitations from Outside  
409.5 Licensed Employee Political Leave  
414.5 Support Employee Political Leave

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## CREDIT CARDS

Employees may use school district credit cards only for fuel for school district transportation vehicles used for transporting students to and from school and for school-sponsored events. Employees and officers using a school district credit card must submit a detailed receipt in addition to a credit card receipt indicating the date, purpose and nature of the expense for each claim item. Failure to provide a proper receipt shall make the employee responsible for expenses incurred. Those expenses shall be reimbursed to the school district no later than ten working days following use of the school district's credit card. In exceptional circumstances, the superintendent or board may allow a claim without proper receipt. Written documentation explaining the exceptional circumstances shall be maintained as part of the school district's record of the claim.

The school district maintains a school district credit card for actual and necessary expenses incurred by employees and officers in the performance of their duties. The superintendent maintains a school district credit card for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of the superintendent's duties. The transportation director maintains a school district credit card for fueling school district transportation vehicles in accordance with board policy.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to determine whether the school district credit card use is for appropriate school business. It shall be the responsibility of the board to determine through the audit and approval process of the board whether the school district credit card use by the superintendent and the board is for appropriate school business.

The superintendent shall be responsible for developing administrative regulations regarding actual and necessary expenses and use of a school district credit card. The administrative regulations shall include the appropriate forms to be filed for obtaining a credit card.

Legal Reference: Iowa Constitution, Art. III, § 31.  
Iowa Code §§ 279.8, .29, .30 (2005).  
281 I.A.C. 12.3(1).

Cross Reference: 219.3 Board of Directors' Member Compensation and Expenses  
401.12 Employee Travel Compensation

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## STAFF TECHNOLOGY USE

Computers are a powerful and valuable education and research tool and, as such, are an important part of the instructional program. In addition, the school district depends upon computers as an integral part of administering and managing the schools' resources, including the compilation of data and recordkeeping for personnel, students, finances, supplies and materials. This policy outlines the board's expectations in regard to these different aspects of the school district's computer resources. Employees must conduct themselves in a manner that does not disrupt from or disrupt the educational process and failure to do so will result in discipline, up to and including, discharge.

### General Provisions

The superintendent is responsible for designating a Technology Coordinator who will oversee the use of school district computer resources. The *Technology Coordinator* will prepare in-service programs for the training and development of school district staff in computer skills, appropriate use of computers and for the incorporation of computer use in subject areas.

The superintendent, working with appropriate staff, shall establish regulations governing the use and security of the school district's computer resources. The school district will make every reasonable effort to maintain the security of the system. All users of the school district's computer resources, including students, staff and volunteers, shall comply with this policy and regulation, as well as others impacting the use of school equipment and facilities. Failure to comply may result in disciplinary action, up to and including discharge, as well as suspension and/or revocation of computer access privileges.

Usage of the school district's computer resources is a privilege, not a right, and that use entails responsibility. All information on the school district's computer system is considered a public record. Whether there is an exception to keep some narrow, specific *content* within the information confidential is determined on a case by case basis. Therefore, users of the school district's computer network must not expect, nor does the school district guarantee, privacy for e-mail or use of the school district's computer network including web sites visited. The school district reserves the right to access and view any material stored on school district equipment or any material used in conjunction with the school district's computer network.

The superintendent, working with the appropriate staff, shall establish procedures governing management of computer records in order to exercise appropriate control over computer records, including financial, personnel and student information. The procedures will address:

- passwords,
- system administration,
- separation of duties,
- remote access,
- data back-up (including archiving of e-mail),
- record retention, and
- disaster recovery plans.

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## STAFF TECHNOLOGY USE

### Social Networking or Other External Web Sites

For purposes of this policy any web site, other than the school district web site or school-school district sanctioned web sites, are considered external web sites. Employees shall not post confidential or proprietary information, including photographic images, about the school district, its employees, students, agents or others on any external web site without consent of the superintendent. The employee shall adhere to all applicable privacy and confidentiality policies adopted by the school district when on external web sites. Employees shall not use the school district logos, images, iconography, etc. on external web sites. Employees shall not use school district time or property on external sites that are not in direct-relation to the employee's job. Employees, students and volunteers need to realize that the Internet is not a closed system and anything posted on an external site may be viewed by others, all over the world. Employees, students and volunteers who don't want school administrators to know their personal information, should refrain from exposing it on the Internet. *[Employees should not connect with students via external web sites without consent of the superintendent.]* Employees, who would like to start a social media site for school district sanctioned activities, should contact the superintendent.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent to develop administrative regulations implementing this policy.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code § 279.8 (2011).  
281 I.A.C. 13.35, .26

Cross Reference: 104 Anti-Bullying/Harassment  
306 Administrator Code of Ethics  
401.11 Employee Orientation  
407 Licensed Employee Termination of Employment  
413 Classified Employee Termination of Employment  
605 Instructional Materials

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## STAFF TECHNOLOGY USE REGULATION

### General

The following rules and regulations govern the use of the school district's computer network system, employee access to the Internet, and management of computerized records:

- Employees will be issued a school district e-mail account. Passwords must be changed annually.
- Each individual in whose name an access account is issued is responsible at all times for its proper use.
- Employees are expected to review their e-mail regularly throughout the day, and shall reply promptly to inquiries with information that the employee can reasonably be expected to provide.
- Communications with parents and/or students must be made on a school district computer, unless in the case of an emergency, and should be saved and the school district will archive the e-mail records according to procedures developed by the Technology Coordinator
- Employees may access the Internet for education-related and/or work-related activities.
- Employees shall refrain from using technology resources for personal use, including access to social networking sites.
- Use of the school district technology and school e-mail address is a public record. Employees cannot have an expectation of privacy in the use of the school district's computers.
- Use of computer resources in ways that violate the acceptable use and conduct regulation, outlined below, will be subject to discipline, up to and including discharge.
- Use of the school district's computer network is a privilege, not a right. Inappropriate use may result in the suspension or revocation of that privilege.
- Off-site access to the school district computer network will be determined by the superintendent in conjunction with the technology department.
- All network users are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. This includes being polite and using only appropriate language. Abusive language, vulgarities and swear words are all inappropriate.
- Network users identifying a security problem on the school district's network must notify appropriate staff. Any network user identified as a security risk or having a history of violations of school district computer use guidelines may be denied access to the school district's network.

### Prohibited Activity and Uses

The following is a list of prohibited activity for all employees concerning use of the school district's computer network. Any violation of these prohibitions may result in discipline, up to and including discharge, or other appropriate penalty, including suspension or revocation of a user's access to the network.

- Using the network for commercial activity, including advertising, or personal gain, excluding school sanctioned events.
- Infringing on any copyrights or other intellectual property rights, including copying, installing, receiving, transmitting or making available any copyrighted media on the school district computer network. *See Policy 605.4 Technology and Instructional Materials* for more information.
- Using the network to receive, transmit or make available to others obscene, offensive, or sexually explicit material

## STAFF TECHNOLOGY USE REGULATION

- Using the network to receive, transmit or make available to others messages that are racist, sexist, and abusive or harassing to others.
- Use of another's account or password.
- Attempting to read, delete, copy or modify the electronic mail (e-mail) of other system users.
- Forging or attempting to forge e-mail messages.
- Engaging in vandalism. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy school district equipment or materials, data of another user of the school district's network or of any of the entities or other networks that are connected to the Internet. This includes, but is not limited to, creating and/or placing a computer virus on the network.
- Using the network to send anonymous messages or files.
- Revealing the personal address, telephone number or other personal information of oneself or another person.
- *[Using the network for sending and/or receiving personal messages.]*
- Intentionally disrupting network traffic or crashing the network and connected systems.
- Installing personal software or using personal media on the school district's computers and/or network without the permission of the Technology Coordinator
- Using the network in a fashion inconsistent with directions from teachers and other staff and generally accepted network etiquette.

### Other Technology Issues

Employees with personal cell phones should not be using the phones for school district business with the knowledge and approval from the superintendent. Employees should contact students and their parents through the school district technology unless in the case of an emergency or with prior consent of the principal. Employees should not release their cell phone number, personal e-mail address, etc. to students or their parents. Employees, who are coaches or sponsors of activities, may create a text list of students and parents in order to communicate more effectively as long as the texts go to all students and the principal is included in the text address list.

Approved August 2011

Reviewed July 2011

Revised \_\_\_\_\_

## EMPLOYEE USE OF CELL PHONES

The use of cell phones and other communication devices may be appropriate to provide for the effective and efficient operation of the School district and to help ensure safety and security of people and property while on School district property or engaged in school-sponsored activities.

The Board authorizes the purchase and employee use of cell phones as deemed appropriate by the superintendent. School district-owned cell phones shall be used for authorized school district business purposes, consistent with the school district's mission and goals. Personal use of cell phones is prohibited except in emergency situations. Any expenses incurred for such personal use shall be reimbursed to the school district.

Use of cell phones in violation of board policies, administrative regulations, and/or state/federal laws will result in discipline, up to and including dismissal, and referral to law enforcement officials, as appropriate.

The superintendent is directed to develop administrative regulations for the implementation of this policy, including a uniform and controlled system for identifying employee cell phone needs, monitoring use and reimbursement. Provisions may also be included for staff use of privately owned cell phone for authorized school district business.

Employees may possess and use cell phones during the school day as outlined in this policy. Employees should not use cell phones for personal business while on-duty, including staff development times, parent-teacher conferences, etc., except in the case of an emergency or during prep time or break/lunch times. Employees, except for bus drivers, see below, are prohibited from using cell phones while driving except in the case of an emergency.

School district-provided cell phones devices are not to be loaned to others.

School bus drivers are prohibited from using any communication device while operating the bus except in the case of an emergency, or to call for assistance, after the vehicle has been stopped.

Approved August 2011

Reviewed July 2011

Revised \_\_\_\_\_

EMPLOYEE USE OF CELL PHONES

Employees violating the policy will be subject to discipline, up to and including, discharge. It is the responsibility of the superintendent to develop administrative regulations regarding this policy.

Legal References: Internal Revenue Comment Notice, 2009-46, [http://www.irs.gov/irb/2009-23\\_IRB/ar07.html](http://www.irs.gov/irb/2009-23_IRB/ar07.html)  
Iowa Code § 279.8, 321.276 (2009)

Cross References: 406 Licensed Employee Compensation and Benefits  
412 Classified Employee Compensation and Benefits  
707.5 Internal Controls

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Revised \_\_\_\_\_

## EMPLOYEE USE OF CELL PHONES ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION

Cell phone Usage

1. Cell phones shall be used in a manner that does not disrupt instruction and should not be used during school-sponsored programs, meetings, in-services, or other events where there exists a reasonable expectation of quiet attentiveness unless there is a reason of personal health or safety involved.
2. Cell phones should not be used to transmit confidential information either verbally or written.
3. Employees are prohibited from using a cell phone while driving a school vehicle, unless in the case of an emergency or unless the vehicle has come to a complete stop.
4. Cell phones are provided specifically to carry out official school district business when other means of communications are not readily available. These devices may not be used for routine personal communications except in emergencies.
5. Personal use of school district-provided cell phones is limited to making or receiving calls for family emergency purposes, including contacting a family member or child care provider to advise that the employee is going to be late arriving home or picking up children for a reason directly related to his/her official school district duties, i.e., a meeting which runs later than expected or a last minute schedule change. Whenever possible, such calls should be made or received on school district or other public telephones.
6. Employees issued a cell phone are responsible for its safekeeping at all times. Defective, lost or stolen cell phones are to be reported immediately to the superintendent who will in turn notify the service provider. Reckless or irresponsible use of school district equipment, resulting in loss or damage may result in the employee having to reimburse the school district for any associated costs of replacement or repair.
7. Cell phones and any other school district issued communication equipment issued for employees are to be returned to the board secretary at the conclusion of the school year, activity or as otherwise specified or immediately upon request.

**Cell Phone Authorization** - School district-provided cell phones may be purchased and authorized for staff use in accordance with the following guidelines:

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Revised \_\_\_\_\_

## EMPLOYEE USE OF CELL PHONES ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION

Cell phones may be assigned or made available on a temporary basis, by the superintendent, when it is determined:

1. The assignment of a cell phone device to the employee is a prudent use of school district resources;
2. The employee's job responsibilities requires the ability to communicate frequently and access to a school district or public telephone is not readily available.
3. The employee's job involves situations where immediate communication is necessary to ensure the safety of individuals and security of school district property.

Cell Phone Business Procedures

School district employees may be reimbursed for use of privately owned cell phones to conduct school district business in accordance with board policy and this regulation, with prior approval of the superintendent.

1. Requests for reimbursement for authorized use of employee owned cell phones are to be submitted on school district provided forms accompanied by a copy of the billing statement with the school district business related calls highlighted. A notation for each highlighted entry, indicating the nature of the call is required. The employee's immediate supervisor must sign-off on the billing statement verifying the calls were school district business related. School district reimbursement for authorized use of employee owned cell phones will be made in conformance with school district payment procedures. Requests for reimbursement, including the highlighted billing statement must be submitted within thirty (30) days of the end of the time period for which reimbursement is requested. Requests submitted after the reimbursement deadline has passed will be denied.
2. On a monthly basis all personal calls on a district-provided cell phone are to be highlighted on the billing statement by the user. A notation for each highlighted entry indicating the nature of the call is required. The cost of all personal calls made/received by a employee are to be totaled and a check written for the amount to the school district. Requests for reimbursement, including the highlighted billing statement must be submitted within thirty (30) days of the end of the time period for which reimbursement is requested. Requests submitted after the reimbursement deadline has passed will be denied.

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Revised

Code No. 402.1

RELEASE OF CREDIT INFORMATION

The following information will be released to an entity with whom an employee has applied for credit or has obtained credit: title of position, income, and number of years employed. This information will be released without prior written notice to the employee. Confidential information about the employee will be released to an inquiring creditor with a written authorization from the employee.

It shall be the responsibility of the board secretary or superintendent to respond to inquiries from creditors.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 22.7; 279.8 (2005).

Cross Reference: 401.6 Employee Records

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Revised \_\_\_\_\_

## CHILD ABUSE REPORTING

In compliance with state law and to provide protection to victims of child abuse, the board believes incidents of alleged child abuse should be reported to the proper authorities. Employees are encouraged, and licensed employees are required as mandatory reporters, to report alleged incidents of child abuse they become aware of within the scope of their professional duties. The definition of child abuse is in the accompanying regulation.

When a mandatory reporter suspects a student is the victim of child abuse, the mandatory reporter shall orally or in writing notify the Iowa Department of Human Services. If the mandatory reporter believes the child is in immediate danger, the local law enforcement agency shall also be notified. Within forty-eight hours of the oral report, the mandatory reporter shall file a written report with the Iowa Department of Human Services.

Within six months of their initial employment, mandatory reporters shall take a two-hour training course involving the identification and reporting of child abuse, or submit evidence they've taken the course within the previous five years. The course shall be re-taken at least every five years.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 232.67-.77; 232A; 235A; 280.17 (2005).  
441 I.A.C. 9.2; 155; 175.  
1982 Op. Att'y Gen. 390, 417.  
1980 Op. Att'y Gen. 275.

Cross Reference: 402.3 Abuse of Students by School District Employees  
502.11 Interviews of Students by Outside Agencies  
507 Student Health and Well-Being

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Reviewed August 2010

Revised \_\_\_\_\_

## CHILD ABUSE REPORTING REGULATION

Iowa law requires licensed employees to report to the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) instances of suspected child abuse which they become aware of within the scope of their professional duties.

The law further specifies that a licensed employee who knowingly or willfully fails to report a suspected case of child abuse is guilty of a simple misdemeanor and that the licensed employee may be subject to civil liability for damages caused by the failure to report.

Employees participating in good faith in the making of a report or in a judicial proceeding that may result from the report, are immune from liability.

### Child Abuse Defined

"Child abuse" is defined as:

- Any nonaccidental physical injury, or injury which is at variance with the history given of it, suffered by a child as the result of the acts or omissions of a person responsible for the care of the child.
- The commission of a sexual offense with or to a child . . . as a result of the acts or omissions of the person responsible for the child. . . . Sexual offense includes sexual abuse, incest, and sexual exploitation of a minor.
- The failure on the part of a person responsible for the care of a child to provide for the adequate food, shelter, clothing or other care necessary for the child's welfare when financially able to do so, or when offered financial or other reasonable means to do so. A parent or guardian legitimately practicing religious beliefs who does not provide specified medical treatment for a child for that reason alone shall not be considered abusing the child.
- The acts or omissions of a person responsible for the care of a child which allow, permit or encourage the child to engage in acts prohibited pursuant to *Iowa Code*, section 725.1 which deals with prostitution.
- Any mental injury to a child's intellectual or psychological capacities evidenced by an observable and substantial impairment in the child's ability to function within the child's normal range of performance and behavior as the result of the acts or omissions of a person responsible for the care of the child, if the impairment is diagnosed by a licensed physician or qualified mental health professional.
- An illegal drug is present in a child's body as a direct and foreseeable consequence of the acts of omissions of the person responsible for the care of the child.
- The person responsible for the care of a child has, in the presence of the child, as defined in section 232.2, subsection 6, paragraph "p", manufactured a dangerous substance, as defined in section 232, subsection 6, paragraph "p", or in the presence of the child possesses a product containing ephedrine, its salts, optical isomers, salts of optical isomers, pseudo ephedrine or its salts, with the intent to use the product as a precursor or an intermediary to a dangerous substance.
- The commission of bestiality in the presence of a minor under section 717C.1 by a person who resides in a home with a child, as a result of the acts of omissions of a person responsible for the care of the child.

Teachers in public schools are not "persons responsible for the care of the child" under this definition.

## CHILD ABUSE REPORTING REGULATION

### Reporting Procedures

Licensed employees, including teachers and school nurses, are required to report, orally within twenty-four hours to the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) when the employee reasonably believes a child has suffered from abuse within the scope of employment. Within forty-eight hours of an oral report, a written report must be filed with DHS.

Each report should contain as much of the following information as can be obtained within the time limit. However, the law specifies a report will be considered valid even if it does not contain all of the following information:

- name, age, and home address of the child;
- name and home address of the parents, guardians or other persons believed to be responsible for the care of the child;
- the child's present whereabouts if not the same as the parent's or other person's home address;
- description of injuries, including evidence of previous injuries;
- name, age, and condition of other children in the same home;
- any other information considered helpful; and,
- name and address of the person making the report.

Board policy states it is not the responsibility of employees to prove that a child has been abused or neglected. Employees should not take it upon themselves to investigate the case or contact the family of the child. DHS is responsible for investigating the incident of alleged abuse.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 232.67-.77; 232A; 235A; 280.17 (2005).  
441 I.A.C. 9.2; 155; 175.  
1982 Op. Att'y Gen. 390, 417.  
1980 Op. Att'y Gen. 275.

Cross Reference: 402.3 Abuse of Students by School District Employees  
502.11 Interviews of Students by Outside Agencies  
507 Student Health and Well-Being

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Revised \_\_\_\_\_

## ABUSE OF STUDENTS BY SCHOOL DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

Physical or sexual abuse of students, including inappropriate and intentional sexual behavior, by employees will not be tolerated. The definition of employees for the purpose of this policy includes not only those who work for pay but also those who are volunteers of the school district under the direction and control of the school district. Employees found in violation of this policy will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including discharge.

The school district will respond promptly to allegations of abuse of students by school district employees by investigating or arranging for the investigation of an allegation. The processing of a complaint or allegation will be handled confidentially to the maximum extent possible. Employees are required to assist in the investigation when requested to provide information and to maintain the confidentiality of the reporting and investigation process.

The school district has appointed a Level I investigator and alternate Level I investigator. The school district has also arranged for a trained, experienced professional to serve as the Level II investigator. The Level I investigator and alternate will be provided training in the conducting of an investigation at the expense of the school district. The names of the investigators shall be listed in the student handbook, published annually in the local newspaper and posted in all school facilities.

The superintendent is responsible for drafting administrative regulations to implement this policy.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 232.67, .70, .73, .75; 235A; 272A; 280.17; 709; 728.12(1) (2005).  
281 I.A.C. 12.3(6), 102; 103.  
441 I.A.C. 155; 175.  
1980 Op. Att'y Gen. 275.

Cross Reference: 402.2 Child Abuse Reporting  
403.6 Harassment  
503.5 Corporal Punishment

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Revised \_\_\_\_\_

ABUSE OF STUDENTS BY SCHOOL DISTRICT EMPLOYEES  
Complaint of Injury to or Abuse of a Student by a School District Employee

Please complete the following as fully as possible. If you need assistance, contact the Level I investigator in your school.

Student's name and address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Student's telephone no.: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's school: \_\_\_\_\_

Employee's and place of employment accused of abusing student:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Allegation is of \_\_\_\_\_ physical abuse \_\_\_\_\_ sexual abuse\*

Please describe what happened. Include the date, time and where the incident took place, if known. If physical abuse is alleged, also state the nature of the student's injury:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Were there any witnesses to the incident or are there students or persons who may have information about this incident? \_\_\_\_\_yes \_\_\_\_\_no

If yes, please list by name, if known, or classification (for example "third grade class," "fourth period geometry class"):

\_\_\_\_\_

\*Parents of children who are in pre-kindergarten through sixth grade and whose children are the alleged victims of or witnesses to sexual abuse have the right to see and hear any interviews of their children in this investigation. Please indicate "yes" if the parent/guardian wishes to exercise this right:

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

ABUSE OF STUDENTS BY SCHOOL DISTRICT EMPLOYEES  
Complaint of Injury to or Abuse of a Student by a School District Employee

Has any professional person examined or treated the student as a result of the incident?

yes no unknown

If yes, please provide the name and address of the professional(s) and the date(s) of examination or treatment, if known

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Has anyone contacted law enforcement about this incident? yes no

Please provide any additional information you have which would be helpful to the investigator.  
Attach additional pages if needed.

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Your name, address and telephone number:

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Relationship to student: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Complainant Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness Name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness Address

Be advised that you have the right to contact the police or sheriff's office, the county attorney, a private attorney, or the State Board of Educational Examiners (if the accused is a licensed employee) for investigation of this incident. The filing of this report does not deny you that opportunity.

You will receive a copy of this report (if you are the named student's parent or guardian) and a copy of the Investigator's Report within fifteen calendar days of filing this report unless the investigation is turned over to law enforcement.

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Revised \_\_\_\_\_

ABUSE OF STUDENTS BY SCHOOL DISTRICT EMPLOYEES  
Report of Level I Investigation

Student's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's age: \_\_\_\_\_ Student's grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's address: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's school: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of accused school employee: \_\_\_\_\_ Building: \_\_\_\_\_

Name and address of person filing report:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name and address of student's parent or guardian, if different from person filing report: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date report of abuse was filed: \_\_\_\_\_

Allegation is of \_\_\_\_\_ physical abuse \_\_\_\_\_ sexual abuse\*

Describe the nature, extent and cause of the student's injury, if any and if known: (Attach additional pages if needed).

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Describe your investigation: Attach additional pages if needed. (Please do not use student witnesses' full names.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\*Were parent(s) or guardian(s) advised of their right to see and hear any interview of their pre-kindergarten through sixth grade children who are alleged victims of or a witness in a sexual abuse investigation?

\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No Was the right exercised? \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

ABUSE OF STUDENTS BY SCHOOL DISTRICT EMPLOYEES  
LEVEL I INVESTIGATOR'S REPORT FORM

Were audiotapes made of any interviews? \_\_\_\_\_yes \_\_\_\_\_no

Were videotapes made of any interviews? \_\_\_\_\_yes \_\_\_\_\_no

Was any action taken to protect the student during or as a result of the investigation? \_\_\_\_\_yes \_\_\_\_\_no

If yes, describe:

\_\_\_\_\_student excused from school

\_\_\_\_\_school employee placed on leave

\_\_\_\_\_student assigned to different class

\_\_\_\_\_other (please specify)

Level I investigator's conclusions:

\_\_\_\_\_ **The complaint is being dismissed for lack of jurisdiction.**

\_\_\_\_\_ Physical abuse was alleged, but no allegation of injury was made.

\_\_\_\_\_ Physical abuse was alleged, but no evidence of physical injury exists and the nature of the alleged incident makes it unlikely an injury, as defined in the rules, occurred.

\_\_\_\_\_ Sexual abuse was alleged, but the alleged actions of the school employee, even if true, would not meet the definition of sexual abuse in the rules.

\_\_\_\_\_ Alleged victim was not a student at the time of the incident.

\_\_\_\_\_ Alleged school employee is not currently employed by this school district.

\_\_\_\_\_ Alleged incident did not occur on school grounds, on school time, at a school-sponsored activity, nor in a school-related context.

\_\_\_\_\_ **The complaint has been investigated and concluded at Level I as unfounded.**

\_\_\_\_\_ Complaint was withdrawn.

\_\_\_\_\_ Insufficient evidence exists that an incident of abuse, as defined in the rules, took place.

ABUSE OF STUDENTS BY SCHOOL DISTRICT EMPLOYEES  
LEVEL I INVESTIGATOR'S REPORT FORM

\_\_\_ **The complaint has been investigated at Level I and is founded.**

\_\_\_ The investigation is founded at Level I and is being turned over to Level II for further investigation.

\_\_\_ Investigation of the complaint was deferred at Level I and referred to law enforcement at this time.

\_\_\_ The investigation is concluded at Level I because the accused school employee has admitted the violation, has resigned, or has agreed to relinquish any teaching license held.

Current status of investigation:

\_\_\_ Closed. No further investigation is warranted.

\_\_\_ Closed and referred to school officials for further investigation as a personnel matter.

\_\_\_ Deferred to law enforcement officials.

\_\_\_ Turned over to Level II investigator.

Other comments: \_\_\_\_\_

I have given a copy of the report of abuse and of this investigative report to the employee named in the report, the employee's supervisor, and the student's parent or guardian and informed the person filing the report of the options of contacting law enforcement, private counsel, or the State Board of Educational Examiners, if the accused school employee holds an Iowa teacher's certificate or license.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of investigator (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Investigator's place of employment

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of investigator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Approved September 2010

Reviewed August 2010

Revised \_\_\_\_\_

## ABUSE OF STUDENTS BY SCHOOL DISTRICT EMPLOYEES REGULATION

An individual who has knowledge an employee has physically or sexually abused a student may immediately report it to the school nurse – alternate superintendent who is the school district's Level I investigator. "Employee" means one who works for pay or as a volunteer under the direction and control of the school district. The report shall be written, signed and witnessed by a person of majority age. The witness may be the Level I investigator. The reporter is the individual filing the report. The report shall contain the following:

- The full name, address, and telephone number of the person filing.
- The full name, age, address, and telephone number, and attendance center of the student.
- The name and place of employment of the employee who allegedly committed the abuse.
- A concise statement of the facts surrounding the incident, including date, time, and place of occurrence, if known.
- A list of possible witnesses by name, if known.
- Names and locations of persons who examined, counseled or treated the student for the alleged abuse, including the dates on which those services were provided, if known.

Upon request, the Level I investigator may assist the reporter in completing the report. An incomplete report shall not be rejected unless the missing information would render the investigation futile or impossible. An employee receiving a report of alleged abuse of a student by an employee shall pass the report to the investigator and shall keep the report confidential to the maximum extent possible. In performing the investigation, the investigator shall have access to the educational records of the alleged student victim as well as access to the student for interviewing purposes.

In order for the school district to have jurisdiction over the acts and to constitute a violation of the law, acts of the employee must be alleged to have occurred on school grounds, on school time, at a school-sponsored activity, or in a school-related context. However, the student need not be a student in the school district. The student can be from another school district. To be investigable, the written report must include basic information showing that the victim of the alleged abuse is or was a student at the time of the incident, that the alleged act of the employee resulted in injury or otherwise meets the definition of abuse in these rules, and that the person responsible for the act is currently an employee. If the report is not investigable due to lack of jurisdiction, the investigator shall dismiss the complaint and inform the reporter of other options available. Other options available to the reporter include contacting law enforcement authorities, private counsel, or the Board of Educational Examiners in the case of a licensed employee.

If the Level I investigator believes the student is in imminent danger if continued contact is permitted between the employee and the student, the Level I investigator may:

- temporarily remove the student from contact with the employee;
- temporarily remove the employee from service; or,
- take other appropriate action to ensure the student's safety.

The Level I investigator shall have access to the educational records of the student and access to the student for purposes of interviewing the student about the report.

### Physical Abuse Allegations

When physical abuse is reported, the Level I investigator shall make copies of the report and give a copy to the person filing the report, the students' parents and the immediate supervisor of the employee named in the report. The employee named in the report shall not receive a copy of the report until the employee is initially interviewed.

## ABUSE OF STUDENTS BY SCHOOL DISTRICT EMPLOYEES REGULATION

The Level I investigator shall use discretion in handling the information received regarding an investigation of abuse by an employee, and those persons involved in the investigation shall not discuss information regarding the complaint outside the investigation. The entire investigative procedure will be thoroughly explained, including the confidential nature of the proceedings, to the student and other persons involved in the investigation.

Within five days of receipt of an investigable report, the Level I investigator shall complete an informal investigation. The informal investigation shall consist of interviews with the student, the employee and others who may have knowledge of the alleged incident. If the Level I investigator determines that the allegations in the report are founded and that immediate and professional investigation is necessary, the Level I investigator may defer further investigation and contact appropriate law enforcement officials, the student's parents and the person filing the report. Within fifteen days of receipt of the report, the Level I investigator shall complete a written investigative report, unless the investigation was temporarily deferred.

The written investigative report shall include:

1. The name, age, address and attendance center of the student named in the report.
2. The name and address of the student's parent or guardian and the name and address of the person filing the report, if different from the student's parent or guardian.
3. The name and work address of the employee named in the report as allegedly responsible for the abuse of the student.
4. An identification of the nature, extent and cause, if known, of any injuries or abuse to the student named in the report.
5. A general review of the investigation.
6. Any actions taken for the protection and safety of the student.
7. A statement that, in the investigator's opinion, the allegations in the report are either:
  - Unfounded. (*It is not likely that an incident, as defined in these rules, took place*), or
  - Founded. (*It is likely that an incident took place.*)
8. The disposition or current status of the investigation.
9. A listing of the options available to the parents or guardian of the student to pursue the allegations. These options include, but are not limited to:
  - Contacting law enforcement officials.
  - Contacting private counsel for the purpose of filing a civil suit or complaint.
  - Filing a complaint with the Board of Educational Examiners if the employee is a licensed employee.

The investigator shall retain the original and provide a copy of the written investigative report to the school employee named in the report, the employee's supervisor and the student's parent or guardian. The person filing the report, if not the student's parent or guardian, shall be notified only that the Level I investigation has been concluded and of the disposition or anticipated disposition of the case.

It is the responsibility of the Level I investigator to determine whether it is more likely than not that an incident of abuse as defined in the rules took place between the student and employee. The Level I investigator does not make the determination of whether the use of physical contact was appropriate or whether any of the exceptions apply. That is the responsibility of the Level II investigator. Upon completion of the report, if the Level I investigator determines the allegations of physical abuse are founded and serious, the Level I investigator shall notify law enforcement authorities. If the allegations are founded but the physical abuse is not of a serious nature, the Level I investigator shall refer the case on to police chief/sheriff, the Level II investigator.

## ABUSE OF STUDENTS BY SCHOOL DISTRICT EMPLOYEES REGULATION

The Level II investigator shall review the Level I investigator's final investigative report and conduct further investigation. The Level II investigative report shall state the conclusion as to the occurrence of the alleged incident, the applicability of exceptions, the reason for the contact or force used, and recommendations regarding the need for further investigation. In determining the applicability of the exceptions or the reasonableness of the contact or force used, the Level II investigator will use the following definitions:

“Physical abuse” is non-accidental physical injury to the student as a result of the action of an employee. Injury occurs when evidence of it is still apparent at least twenty-four hours after its occurrence. The following do not constitute physical abuse, and no employee is prohibited from:

- a. Using reasonable and necessary force, not designed or intended to cause pain:
  - (1) To quell a disturbance or prevent an act that threatens physical harm to any person.
  - (2) To obtain possession of a weapon or other dangerous object within a pupil's control.
  - (3) For the purposes of self-defense or defense of others as provided for in Iowa Code § 704.3.
  - (4) For the protection of property as provided for in Iowa Code §§ 704.4, .5.
  - (5) To remove a disruptive pupil from class, or any area of school premises or from school-sponsored activities off school premises.
  - (6) To prevent a student from the self-infliction of harm.
  - (7) To protect the safety of others.
- b. Using incidental, minor, or reasonable physical contact to maintain order and control.

In determining the reasonableness of the contact or force used, the following factors shall be considered:

- a. The nature of the misconduct of the student, if any, precipitating the physical contact by the school employee.
- b. The size and physical condition of the student.
- c. The instrumentality used in making the physical contact.
- d. The motivation of the school employee in initiating the physical contact.
- e. The extent of injury to the student resulting from the physical contact.

“Reasonable force” is that force and no more which a reasonable person, in like circumstances, would judge to be necessary to prevent an injury or loss and can include deadly force if it is reasonable to believe that such force is necessary to avoid injury or risk to one's life or safety or the life or safety of another, or it is reasonable to believe that such force is necessary to resist a like force or threat.

Upon completion of the Level II investigation, the Level I investigator shall forward copies of the Level II investigative report to the employee, the employee's immediate supervisor and the student's parent. The Level I investigator shall notify the person filing the report of the current status of the case.

If the Level II investigator's report or law enforcement officials conclude abuse occurred, or the employee admits the violation, or the employee has surrendered the employee's certificate or license, the Level I investigator shall file a complaint with the State Board of Educational Examiners. The Level I investigator shall also arrange for counseling services for the student if the student or student's parents request counseling services.

### Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse is defined as including sexual acts involving a student, acts that encourage the student to engage in prostitution, as well as inappropriate, intentional sexual behavior or sexual harassment by the employee toward a student. "Sexual harassment" is defined as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:

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1. Submission to the conduct is made either implicitly or explicitly a term or condition of the student's education or benefits;
2. Submission to or rejection of the conduct is used as the basis for academic decisions affecting that student; or
3. The conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with a student's academic performance by creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive education environment.

When sexual abuse is reported, the Level I investigator shall make copies of the report and give a copy to the person filing the report, the students' parents and the immediate supervisor of the employee named in the report. The employee named in the report shall not receive a copy of the report until the employee is initially interviewed. The designated investigator shall not interview the school employee named in a report of sexual abuse until after a determination is made that jurisdiction exists, the alleged victim has been interviewed and a determination made that the investigation will not be deferred.

The investigator shall notify the parent, guardian or legal custodian of a student in prekindergarten through grade six, of the date and time of the interview and of the right to be present or to see and hear the interview or send a representative in the parent's place. The Level I investigator shall interview the student as soon as possible, but in no case later than five days from the receipt of a report or notice of the allegation of sexual abuse. The Level I investigator may record the interview electronically.

The Level I investigator shall exercise discretion in the investigative process to preserve the privacy interests of the individuals involved. To the maximum extent possible, the investigator shall maintain the confidentiality of the report.

It is the responsibility of the Level I investigator to determine whether it is more likely than not that an incident took place between the employee and the student. If the Level I investigator believes the employee committed a sex act with a student or sexually exploited a student, the Level I investigator shall defer the Level I investigation and immediately notify law enforcement officials, the student's parents and the person filing the report.

If the Level I investigator determines an incident occurred, while not an illegal sex act with a student or sexual exploitation of a student, but where the employee engaged in inappropriate, intentional sexual behavior, further investigation is warranted. If further investigation is warranted, the Level I investigator may proceed to interview the employee and other individuals who may have knowledge of the circumstances contained in the report. Prior to interviewing other individuals who may have knowledge of the circumstance contained in the report, the Level I investigator shall provide notice of the impending interview of student witnesses or the student who is in prekindergarten through grade six, to their parent, guardian, or legal custodian, and may provide notice to the parent or guardian of older students, prior to interviewing those students. The Level I investigator shall, if founded, arrange for the Level II investigator to further investigate the allegations.

Within fifteen days of receipt of the report or notice of alleged sexual abuse, the Level I investigator shall complete a written investigative report unless the investigation was temporarily deferred. The written investigative report shall include:

1. The name, age, address and attendance center of the student named in the report.
2. The name and address of the student's parent or guardian and the name and address of the person filing the report, if different from the student's parent or guardian.
3. The name and work address of the school employee named in the report as allegedly responsible for the abuse of the student.

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4. An identification of the nature, extent and cause, if known, of any injuries or abuse to the student named in the report.
5. A general review of the investigation.
6. Any actions taken for the protection and safety of the student.
7. A statement that, in the investigator's opinion, the allegations in the report are either:
  - Unfounded. (*It is not likely that an incident, as defined in these rules, took place*), or
  - Founded. (*It is likely that an incident took place.*)
8. The disposition or current status of the investigation.
9. A listing of the options available to the parents or guardian of the student to pursue the allegations. These options include, but are not limited to:
  - Contacting law enforcement officials.
  - Contacting private counsel for the purpose of filing a civil suit or complaint.
  - Filing a complaint with the Board of Educational Examiners if the school employee is certificated.

The investigator shall retain the original and provide a copy of the investigative report to the school employee named in the report, the school employee's supervisor and the named student's parent or guardian. The person filing the report, if not the student's parent or guardian, shall be notified only that the Level I investigation has been concluded and of the disposition or anticipated disposition of the case.

If the allegations are founded, the Level I investigation shall refer the case to the Level II investigator. The Level II investigator shall review the Level I investigator's final investigative report and conduct further investigation if necessary. The Level II investigative report shall state conclusively as to the occurrence of the alleged incident, conclusively as to the nature of the sexual abuse and recommendations regarding the need for further investigation. Upon completion of the Level II investigation, the Level I investigator shall forward copies of the Level II investigative report to the employee, the employee's immediate supervisor and the student's parent. The Level I investigator shall notify the person filing the report of the current status of the case.

If the Level II investigator's report or law enforcement officials conclude sexual abuse occurred, or the employee admits the violation, or the employee has surrendered the employee's certificate or license, the Level I investigator shall file a complaint on behalf of the district after obtaining the superintendent's signature with the State Board of Educational Examiners. The Level I investigator shall also arrange for counseling services for the student if the student or student's parents request counseling services.

In cases involving founded physical or sexual abuse by a licensed employee, the board shall notify the Board of Educational Examiners. Information of unfounded abuse at Level I or Level II shall not be kept in the employee's personnel file. If the Level I investigative report is founded but Level II is unfounded, then the Level I report shall be removed from the employee's permanent file. Notes, tapes memorandums and related materials compiled in the investigations must be kept for two years.

It shall be the responsibility of the board to annually identify a Level I and Level II investigator. The board shall also designate annually an alternate Level I investigator, preferably of the opposite sex of the designated Level I investigator, to whom reports may also be made. The names and telephone numbers of the Level I investigator and the alternate Level I investigator shall be included in employee handbooks, student handbooks, annually published in the local newspaper, and prominently displayed in all school buildings.

