

FINES - FEES - CHARGES

The board believes students should respect school district property and assist in its preservation for future use by others. Students may be assessed fines, charges, or fees for the materials needed in a course, for overdue school materials, for participating in activities, or for misuse of school property.

The principal will inform the board of the dollar amount to be charged to students or others for fines, charges, or fees annually. Parents of students meeting specific financial eligibility standards will be eligible for a waiver of student fees or a reduction of student fees based upon the request of the parent. It is the responsibility of the superintendent, in conjunction with the principal, to develop administrative regulations regarding this policy.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 256.7(20); 279.8; 280.10, .11; 282.6; 285.1; 301.1 (2005).  
281 I.A.C. 18.  
1994 Op. Att'y Gen. 23.  
1990 Op. Att'y Gen. 79.  
1982 Op. Att'y Gen. 227.  
1980 Op. Att'y Gen. 532.

Cross Reference: 501.16 Homeless Children & Youth  
502 Student Rights and Responsibilities  
503 Student Discipline

Approved October 2005

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STANDARD FEE WAIVER APPLICATION

Date \_\_\_\_\_ School year \_\_\_\_\_

All information provided in connection with this application will be kept confidential.

Name of student: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade in school \_\_\_\_\_

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Name of student: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade in school \_\_\_\_\_

Attendance Center/School: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of parent, guardian:  
or legal or actual custodian \_\_\_\_\_

Please check type of waiver desired:

Full waiver \_\_\_\_\_ Partial waiver \_\_\_\_\_ Temporary waiver \_\_\_\_\_

Please check if the student or the student's family meets the financial eligibility criteria or is involved in one of the following programs:

Full waiver

- \_\_\_\_\_ Free meals offered under the Children Nutrition Program
- \_\_\_\_\_ The Family Investment Program (FIP)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Transportation assistance under open enrollment
- \_\_\_\_\_ Foster care

Partial waiver

\_\_\_\_\_ 30% Reduced priced meals offered under the Children Nutrition Program

Temporary waiver

If none of the above apply, but you wish to apply for a temporary waiver of school fees because of serious financial problems, please state the reason for the request:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of parent, guardian:  
or legal or actual custodian \_\_\_\_\_

## STUDENT FEE WAIVER AND REDUCTION PROCEDURES

The board recognizes that while certain fees charged students are appropriate and authorized, certain students and their families are not financially able to pay the fees. The school district will grant either full waivers, partial waivers or temporary waivers depending upon the circumstances and the student or student's parents' ability to meet the financial criteria.

- A. Waivers -
  - 1. Full Waivers - a student will be granted a full waiver of fees charged by the school district if the student or student's parents meet the financial eligibility criteria for free meals under the Child Nutrition program, Family Investment Program, or transportation assistance under open enrollment. Students in foster care are also eligible for full waivers.
  - 2. Partial Waivers - a student will be granted a partial waiver of fees charged by the school district if the student or the student's parents meet the financial eligibility criteria for reduced price meals offered under the Child Nutrition program. The reduction percentage will be 30 percent.
  - 3. Temporary Waivers - a student may be eligible for a temporary waiver of fees charged by the district in the event the student's parents are facing financial difficulty. Temporary waivers may be applied for at any time throughout the school year and will not extend beyond the end of the school year.
- B. Application - Parents or students eligible for a fee waiver will make an application on the form provided by the school district. Applications may be made at any time but must be renewed annually.
- C. Confidentiality - The school district will treat the application and application process as any other student record and student confidentiality and access provisions will be followed.
- D. Appeals - Denials of a waiver may be appealed to the superintendent of schools.
- E. Fines or charges assessed for damage or loss to school property are not fees and will not be waived.
- F. Notice - the school district will annually notify parents and students of the waiver. The following information will be included in registration materials.

Students whose families meet the income guidelines for free and reduced price lunch, the Family Investment Program (FIP), or transportation assistance under open enrollment, or who are in foster care are eligible to have their student fees waived or partially waived. Students whose families are experiencing a temporary financial difficulty may be eligible for a temporary waiver of student fees. Parents or students who believe they may qualify for temporary financial hardship should contact the principal for a waiver form. This waiver does not carry over from year to year and must be completed annually.

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## GOOD CONDUCT RULE

Participation in school activities is a privilege. School activities provide the benefits of promoting additional interests and abilities in the students during their school years and for their lifetimes.

Students who participate in extracurricular activities serve as ambassadors of the school district throughout the calendar year, whether away from school or at school. Students who wish to have the privilege of participating in extracurricular activities must conduct themselves in accordance with board policy and must refrain from activities which are illegal, immoral or unhealthy.

Students who fail to abide by this policy and the administrative regulations supporting it may be subject to disciplinary measures. The principal shall keep records of violations of the good conduct rule.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to develop rules and regulations for school activities. Students wanting to participate in school activities must meet the requirements set out by the school district for participation in the activity.

Legal Reference: Bunger v. Iowa High School Athletic Assn., 197 N.W.2d 555 (Iowa 1972).  
In re Jason Clark, 1 D.P.I. App. Dec. 167 (1978).  
Iowa Code §§ 280.13, .13A (2005).  
281 I.A.C. 12.3(6); 36.15(1).

Cross Reference: 502 Student Rights and Responsibilities  
503 Student Discipline  
504 Student Activities

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## CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

Corporal punishment is defined as the intentional physical punishment of a student and is prohibited. It includes the use of unreasonable or unnecessary physical force or physical contact made with the intent to harm or cause pain. No employee is prohibited from:

- Using reasonable and necessary force, not designed or intended to cause pain, in order to accomplish any of the following:
  - To quell a disturbance or prevent an act that threatens physical harm to any person.
  - To obtain possession of a weapon or other dangerous object within a pupil's control.
  - For the purposes of self-defense or defense of others as provided for in Iowa Code section 704.3.
  - For the protection of property as provided for in Iowa Code section 704.4 or 704.5.
  - To remove a disruptive pupil from class or any area of school premises or from school-sponsored activities off school premises.
  - To protect a student from the self-infliction of harm.
  - To protect the safety of others.
  
- Using incidental, minor, or reasonable physical contact to maintain order and control.

Reasonable physical force should be commensurate with the circumstances of the situation. The following factors should be considered in using reasonable physical force for the reasons stated in this policy:

1. The size and physical, mental, and psychological condition of the student;
2. The nature of the student's behavior or misconduct provoking the use of physical force;
3. The instrumentality used in applying the physical force;
4. The extent and nature of resulting injury to the student, if any;
5. The motivation of the school employee using physical force.

Upon request, the student's parents shall be given an explanation of the reasons for physical force.

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

Legal Reference: Ingraham v. Wright, 430 U.S. 651 (1977).  
Goss v. Lopez, 419 U.S. 565 (1975).  
Tinkham v. Kole, 252 Iowa 1303, 110 N.W.2d 258 (1961).  
Lai v. Erickson, PTPC Admin. Doc. 83-12 (1983).  
Iowa Code §§ 279.8; 280.21 (2005).  
281 I.A.C. 12.3(6); 103.  
1980 Op. Att'y Gen. 275.

Cross Reference: 402.3 Abuse of Students by School District Employees  
502 Student Rights and Responsibilities  
503 Student Discipline

## STUDENT GOVERNMENT

The student council provides for student activities, serves as a training experience for student leaders, promotes the common good, gives students a share in the management of the school, develops high ideals of personal conduct, acts as a clearinghouse for student activities, seeks to interest students in school district affairs and helps solve problems that may arise. Members of the council are student representatives who have direct access to the administration.

The principal, in conjunction with the students and licensed employees, shall set forth the guidelines for the student government's elections, operations, and other elements of the government.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code § 279.8 (2005).

Cross Reference: 502 Student Rights and Responsibilities  
504 Student Activities

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## STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Secondary school student-initiated, noncurriculum-related groups and student curriculum-related groups, upon receiving permission from the principal, may use school facilities for group meetings during non-instructional time.

Non-instructional time shall mean any time before the first period of the day and after the last period of the day in which any student attends class. Meetings shall not interfere with the orderly conduct of the education program or other school district operations. It shall be within the discretion of the principal to determine whether the meetings will interfere with the orderly conduct of the education program or other school district operations. Activities relating to and part of the education program shall have priority over the activities of another organization.

Curriculum-Related Organizations

It shall also be the responsibility of the principal to determine whether a student group is curriculum-related. One or more of the following questions will be answered affirmatively if the group is curriculum-related:

- Is the subject matter of the group actually taught in a regularly offered course?
- Will the subject matter of the group soon be taught in a regularly offered course?
- Does the subject matter of the group concern the body of courses as a whole?
- Is participation in the group required for a particular course?
- Does participation in the group result in academic credit?

Secondary school curriculum-related student organizations may use the school district facilities for meetings and other purposes before and after the instructional school day. Employees shall be assigned to monitor approved meetings and may interact with curriculum-related organizations.

Noncurriculum-Related Organizations

Student-initiated, noncurriculum-related organizations shall be provided access to meeting space and school district facilities.

Only students may attend and participate in meetings of noncurriculum-related groups. Such attendance shall be strictly voluntary and student-initiated. As a means of determining whether a student's attendance is voluntary, the principal may require parental consent for the student to attend the meetings.

Employees will be assigned to monitor approved meetings. Employees shall not participate in the meeting or assist in planning, criticizing, or encouraging attendance. Only students may be involved in and attend the noncurriculum group's meetings.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent, in conjunction with the principal, to develop administrative regulations regarding this policy.

Legal Reference: Westside Community Board of Education v Mergens, 496 U.S. 226 (1990).  
Bender v. Williamsport Area Community School District, 741 F.2d 538 (3d Cir. 1984), *vacated and remanded on other grounds*, 475 U.S. 534 (1986).  
 20 U.S.C. §§ 4071-4074 (1994).  
 Iowa Code §§ 287.1-.3; 297.9 (2005).

Cross Reference: 502 Student Rights and Responsibilities  
 504 Student Activities

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## STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Students may produce official school publications as part of the curriculum under the supervision of a faculty advisor and the principal. Official school publications include material produced in the journalism, newspaper, yearbook, or writing classes and distributed to the student body either free or for a fee.

Any expression made by students, including student expression in official school publications, is not an expression of official school policy. The school district, the board, and the employees or officials are not liable in any civil or criminal action for any student expression made or published by students unless the employees or officials have interfered with or altered the content of the student speech or expression. The liability, if any, is only to the extent of the interference or alteration of the speech or expression.

Official school publications are free from prior restraint by employees or officials except as provided by law. A faculty advisor shall supervise student writers to maintain professional standards of English and journalism and to comply with the law including, but not limited to, the restrictions against unlawful speech. The production of official school publications shall be guided by the law and by the ethical standards adopted by professional associations or societies of journalism.

Persons, other than students, who believe they have been aggrieved by student expression in a student-produced official school publication shall follow the grievance procedure outlined in board policy 214.1. Students who believe their freedom of expression in a student-produced official school publication has been restricted shall follow the grievance procedure outlined in board policy 502.6.

The superintendent shall be responsible for developing a student publications code. This code shall include, but not be limited to, reasonable rules including time, place, and manner of restrictions. The superintendent shall also be responsible for distributing this policy and the student publications code to the students and their parents.

Legal Reference:     Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier, 484 U.S. 260 (1988).  
                          Bystrom v. Fridley High School, 822 F.2d 747 (8th Cir. 1987).  
                          Iowa Code § 280.22 (2005).

Cross Reference:     309     Communication Channels  
                          502     Student Rights and Responsibilities  
                          504     Student Activities



## STUDENT PUBLICATIONS CODE

## A. Official school publications defined.

An "official school publication" is material produced by students in the journalism, newspaper, yearbook, or writing classes and distributed to students either free or for a fee.

## B. Expression in an official school publication.

1. No student shall express, publish or distribute in an official school publication material which is:
  - a. obscene;
  - b. libelous;
  - c. slanderous; or
  - d. encourages students to:
    - 1) commit unlawful acts;
    - 2) violate school rules;
    - 3) cause the material and substantial disruption of the orderly and efficient operation of the school or school activity;
    - 4) disrupt or interfere with the education program;
    - 5) interrupt the maintenance of a disciplined atmosphere; or
    - 6) infringe on the rights of others.
2. The official school publication shall be produced under the supervision of a faculty advisor.

## C. Responsibilities of students.

1. Students writing or editing official school publications shall assign and edit the news, editorial and feature contents of the official school publications subject to the limitations of the student publications code and the law.
2. Students shall strive to achieve professional standards of accuracy, fairness, objectivity and thoroughness in each and every aspect of official school publications.
3. Students shall strive to achieve professional standards of grammar, usage, punctuation and spelling for clarity and accuracy of official school publications.

## D. Responsibilities of faculty advisors.

Faculty advisors shall supervise student writers to maintain professional standards of English and journalism and to comply with the law including, but not limited to, the restrictions against unlawful speech.

## E. Liability.

Student expression in an official school publication shall not be deemed to be an expression of the school district. The school district, the board, and the employees or officials are not liable in any civil or criminal action for any student expression made or published by students unless the employees or officials have interfered with or altered the content of the student expression. The liability, if any, is only to the extent of interference or alteration of the speech or expression.

STUDENT PUBLICATIONS CODE

F. Appeal procedure.

1. Students who believe they have been unreasonably restricted in their exercise of expression in an official student publication shall seek review of the decision through the student grievance procedure, under board policy 502.6.
2. Persons who believe they have been aggrieved by a student-produced official student publication shall file their complaint through the citizen grievance procedure, under board policy 214.1.

G. Time, place and manner of restrictions on official school publications.

1. Official student publications may be distributed in a reasonable manner on or off school premises.
2. Distribution in a reasonable manner shall not encourage students to:
  - a. commit unlawful acts;
  - b. violate school rules;
  - c. cause the material and substantial disruption of the orderly and efficient operation of the school district or school activity;
  - d. disrupt or interfere with the education program;
  - e. interrupt the maintenance of a disciplined atmosphere; or
  - f. infringe on the rights of others.

## STUDENT SOCIAL EVENTS

School-sponsored social events shall be approved by the principal and placed on the school calendar prior to public announcement. They shall be under the control and supervision of employees. The hours and activities of the event shall be reasonable and in keeping with board policy.

School-sponsored social events are open to the students enrolled in the school district. Others, such as alumni or nonschool students, may attend as the date or escort of students enrolled in the school district or with the permission of the licensed employees supervising the event.

Students' behavior shall be in keeping with the behavior required during regular school hours.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent, in conjunction with the principal, to develop administrative regulations regarding this policy.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 279.8; 282.3 (2005).

Cross Reference: 404 Employee Conduct and Appearance  
502 Student Rights and Responsibilities  
503 Student Discipline

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## STUDENT PERFORMANCES

Students, as part of the education program, may participate in contests or other public and private events approved by the superintendent that will be of benefit to the student and the education program. Performance at such events is a privilege.

Students, who perform at such events, serve as ambassadors of the school district and must conduct themselves in the same manner as required in the regular school day. Students who fail to abide by this policy and the administrative regulations supporting it may be subject to disciplinary measures.

Students will be allowed to perform in these events only with proper permission and supervision and when the events do not disrupt the education program or other school district operations. The events must be approved by the superintendent, unless it involves unusual travel and expense, in which case the board must approve of the performance.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent, in conjunction with the principal, to develop administrative regulations regarding this policy. In developing the administrative regulations, these guidelines should be followed:

- Performances by student groups below the high school level should be allowed on a very limited basis;
- All groups of students should have an opportunity to participate; and,
- Extensive travel by one group of students should be discouraged.

It shall be within the discretion of the superintendent to determine whether the event will benefit the education program and the participating students. Contests or other performances by students unapproved by the superintendent shall be the responsibility of the parent and the student.

Legal Reference: Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier, 484 U.S. 260 (1988).  
Iowa Code §§ 280.13-.14 (2005).  
281 I.A.C. 12.6.

Cross Reference: 502 Student Rights and Responsibilities  
503.4 Good Conduct Rule  
504 Student Activities  
905 Community Activities Involving Students

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## STUDENT FUND RAISING

Students may raise funds for school-sponsored events with the permission of the principal. Fund raising by students for events other than school-sponsored events is not allowed. Collection boxes for school fund raising must have prior approval from the principal before being placed on school property.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent, in conjunction with the principal/activities director, to develop administrative regulations regarding this policy.

Legal Reference: Senior Class of Pekin High School v. Tharp, 154 N.W.2d 874 (Iowa 1967).  
Iowa Code § 279.8 (2005).

Cross Reference: 402.9 Solicitations from Outside  
502 Student Rights and Responsibilities  
503 Student Discipline  
504 Student Activities  
704.5 Student Activities Fund  
905.2 Advertising and Promotion

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## STUDENT ACTIVITY PROGRAM

Participation in school activities is a privilege. School activities provide the benefits of promoting additional interests and ability in the students during their school years and for their lifetime.

Students will have an opportunity to participate in a school activity unless the activity is not offered or the student cannot participate for disciplinary reasons. If the activity is an intramural or interscholastic athletic activity, students of the opposite sex will have a comparable opportunity for participation. Comparable opportunity does not guarantee boys and girls will be allowed to play on each other's teams when there are athletic activities available that will allow both boys and girls to reap the benefits of school activities, which are the promotion of additional interests and abilities in the students.

Student activity events must be approved by the superintendent unless they involve unusual travel expense, in which case the board will take action. The events must not disrupt the education program or other school district operations.

A high school student who participates in school sponsored athletics may participate in a non-school sponsored sport during the same season with approval of the athletic director.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to develop administrative regulations for each school activity. These regulations shall include, but not be limited to, when physical examinations will be required, how and when parents will be informed about the risk of the activity, academic requirements, and proof of insurance on the student participating in certain activities. Students wanting to participate in school activities must meet the requirements set out by the school district for participation in the activity.

Legal Reference: 20 U.S.C. §§ 1681-1683; 1685-1686 (1994).  
34 C.F.R. Pt. 106.41 (2002).  
Iowa Code §§ 216.9; 280.13-.14 (2005).  
281 I.A.C. 12.6., 36.15.

Cross Reference: 501 Student Attendance  
502 Student Rights and Responsibilities  
503 Student Discipline  
504 Student Activities  
507 Student Health and Well-Being

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ASSIGNMENT OF COURSES

Students shall take a predetermined number and type of courses to graduate. Where students have a choice in course offerings, the school district will try to allow students to take the course of their choice. Courses with limited space will be allocated to those who first apply for the course or need it for graduation.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to develop the course offerings for each year for the grade levels. The superintendent shall make a recommendation to the board annually as to which courses shall be offered.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 256.11, .11A; 280 (2005).  
281 I.A.C. 12.1; .3(7); .5.

Cross Reference: 505 Student Scholastic Achievement

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## STUDENT PROGRESS REPORTS AND CONFERENCES

Students shall receive a progress report at the end of each nine-week grading period. Students, who are doing poorly, and their parents, shall be notified prior to the end of the semester in order to have an opportunity to improve their grade. The board encourages the notification of students who have made marked improvement prior to the end of the semester.

Parent-teacher conferences will be held two times per year at the elementary and middle school to keep the parents informed. The conferences at the high school are not individually scheduled.

K-3 parents sign a statement acknowledging being informed when they come to conferences. Those unable to attend conferences are mailed the information and the acknowledgement form.

Parents, teachers, or principals may request a conference for students in grades kindergarten through twelve in addition to the scheduled conference time. Parents and students are encouraged to discuss the student's progress or other matters with the student's teacher.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 256.11, .11A; 280 (2005).  
Iowa Code § 256E.1(1)(b)(1) (Supp. 2000).  
281 I.A.C. 12.3(6), .3(7), .5(16).

Cross Reference: 505 Student Scholastic Achievement  
506 Student Records

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STUDENT PROMOTION - RETENTION - ACCELERATION

Students will be promoted to the next grade level at the end of each school year based on the student's achievement, age, maturity, emotional stability, and social adjustment.

The retention of a student will be determined based upon the judgment of the licensed employee and the principal. When it becomes evident a student in grades kindergarten through eight may be retained in a grade level for an additional year, the parents will be informed. It shall be within the sole discretion of the board to retain students in their current grade level.

Students in grades nine through twelve will be informed of the required course work necessary to be promoted each year. When it becomes evident a student in these grades will be unable to meet the minimum credit requirements for the year, the student and parents will be informed. It shall be within the sole discretion of the board to retain students in their current grade level and to deny promotion to a student.

Students in grades kindergarten through twelve with exceptional talents may, with the permission of the principal and parents, take classes beyond their current grade level. Enrichment opportunities outside the school district may be allowed when they do not conflict with the school district's graduation requirements.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 256.11, .11A; 279.8; 280.3 (2005).  
281 I.A.C. 12.3(7); 12.5(16).

Cross Reference: 501 Student Attendance  
505 Student Scholastic Achievement

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