

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

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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STUDENT HONORS AND AWARDS

The school district shall provide a program that establishes honors and awards including, but not limited to, academic letters, scholarships and good citizenship awards for students to assist students in setting goals. Students shall be made aware of honors and awards and the action necessary on the part of the student to achieve them. Students who have not attended an accredited public or private school for their entire high school education, will not be eligible for honors and awards.

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

Legal Reference: Iowa Code § 279.8 (2005).

Cross Reference: 504 Student Activities
505 Student Scholastic Achievement

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TESTING PROGRAM

A comprehensive testing program is established and maintained to evaluate the education program of the school district and to assist in providing guidance or counseling services to students and their families.

No student is required, as part of any applicable program, to submit to a survey, analysis or evaluation that reveals information concerning:

- political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parent;
- mental or psychological problems of the student or the student's family;
- sex behavior or attitudes;
- illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating or demeaning behavior;
- critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships;
- legally recognized, privileged and analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians and ministers;
- religious practices, affiliations or beliefs of the student or student's parent; or
- income,(other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program).

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

It is the responsibility of the board to review and approve the evaluation and testing program.

Legal Reference: No Child Left Behind, Title II, Sec. 1061, P.L. 107-110 (2002).
Goals 2000: Educate America Act, Pub. L. No. 103-227, 108 Stat. 125 (1994).
20 U.S.C. § 1232h (1994).
Iowa Code §§ 280.3; 256B; 282.1, .3, .6 (2005).
281 I.A.C. 12.5(13), .5(21).

Cross Reference: 505 Student Scholastic Achievement
506 Student Records
607.2 Student Health Services

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GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Students must successfully complete the courses required by the board and Iowa Department of Education in order to graduate.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to ensure that students complete grades one through twelve and that high school students complete 44 credits prior to graduation. The following credits will be required:

Language Arts	<u>6</u> credits
Science	<u>5</u> credits
Mathematics	<u>4</u> credits
Social Studies	<u>5</u> credits
Physical Education	<u>1</u> semester
Electives	<u>23</u> credits

For all students who will graduate in the year 2009-2010 and thereafter, the following high school graduation requirements shall apply:

Language Arts	<u>8</u> credits
Science	<u>6</u> credits
Mathematics	<u>6</u> credits
Social Studies	<u>6</u> credits
Physical Education	<u>2</u> credits
Electives	<u>20</u> credits

The required courses of study will be reviewed by the board annually.

Graduation requirements for special education students will be in accordance with the prescribed course of study as described in their Individualized Education Program (IEP).

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 256.11, .11A; 279.8; 280.3, .14 (2005).
281 I.A.C. 12.2; .3(7); .5; 41.12(6)(e); 67 (8).

Cross Reference: 505 Student Scholastic Achievement
603.3 Special Education

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EARLY GRADUATION

Generally, students will be required to complete the necessary course work and graduate from high school at the end of grade twelve. Students may graduate prior to this time if they meet the minimum graduation requirements stated in board policy.

A student who graduates early will no longer be considered a student and will become an alumnus of the school district. However, the student who graduates early may participate in commencement exercises.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 279.8; 280.3, .14 (2005).
281 I.A.C. 12.2; .3(7); .5.

Cross Reference: 505 Student Scholastic Achievement

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COMMENCEMENT

Students who have met the requirements for graduation will be allowed to participate in the commencement proceedings provided they abide by the proceedings organized by the school district. It shall be the responsibility of the principal to solicit input from each graduating class regarding the proceedings for their commencement.

Failure of a student to participate in commencement will not be a reason for withholding the student's final progress report or diploma certifying the student's completion of high school.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 279.8; 280.3, .14 (2005).
281 I.A.C. 12.2; .3(7); .5.

Cross Reference: 505 Student Scholastic Achievement

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PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

At the district level, it is the policy of New Hampton School District that parents of all participating children have the opportunity to be involved in the joint development of the district plan and in the district's review process for the purpose of school improvement. The district provides coordination, technical assistance and other necessary support in the planning an implementation of parent involvement activities. The district encourages parent involvement and supports partnership between home/school/community by providing understandable information about standards and assessments; providing training and materials for parents to help their children and to involve other parents; educating school personnel about involving parents and the value of parent contributions; and developing meaningful roles for community organizations and businesses to work with parents and schools.

It is the policy of New Hampton School District that:

1. This jointly developed, written policy is distributed to parents of participating Title I children at the annual meeting each spring.
2. Two meeting are held each fall and spring for all parents of participating children. Additional parent meetings with flexible meeting times shall be held throughout the year as determined by parent interest and suggestions. Notice of the parent meeting will be made through notes sent home in the school newsletter.
3. Parents are given assistance in understanding the requirements of Title I law, National Education Goals, content standards, performance standards, and assessments as part of the meetings and at Parent-Teacher conferences.
4. Parents receive an explanation of the school's performance profile, expected proficiency levels for students and their student's assessment results at Parent Teacher Conferences (twice a year), the Annual Progress Report and individual conferences.
5. Parents are informed of the reasons for their children's participation, the curriculum, and the instructional objectives and methods of the program through individual conferences.
6. Parents receive timely responses to all parent recommendations. As much as is feasible, sent to parents in the language used in the home. Full opportunities are provided for all parents to participate in Title I activities through verbal and written communications from the teachers to the home.
7. A jointly developed school/parent compact outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students share the responsibility for improved student achievement and the means by which the school and parents continue to build and develop partnerships to help children achieve the local high standards. This compact is developed, reviewed and distributed as part of the annual parent meetings.
8. The Title I program provides opportunities for parents in promoting the education of their children at home and school. Parents are given help monitoring their student's progress through individual contacts, parent-teacher meetings, progress reports each quarter, and the annual Title I parent meeting.

The principal is responsible for notifying parents of this policy annually or within a reasonable time after it has been amended during the school year.

Legal References: No Child Left Behind, Title I, Sec. 1118, P.L. 107-110.

Cross References: 904.1 Community Resource Persons and Volunteers

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