

Syracuse-Dunbar-Avoca Student Parent Handbook 2024-2025



The Mission of SDA Schools

**Cultivating a positive culture where every individual can
maximize their potential.
We are the Rocket Family.**

www.sdarockets.org

High School: 402-269-2381

Middle School: 402-269-2388

Elementary School: 402-269-2382

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Foreword

Section 1 Intent of Handbook

This handbook is intended to be used by students, parents, and staff as a guide to the rules, regulations, and general information about Syracuse-Dunbar-Avoca Public Schools. Each student is responsible for becoming familiar with the handbook and knowing the information contained in it. Parents are encouraged to use this handbook as a resource and to assist their child in following the rules contained in this handbook.

Although the information found in this handbook is detailed and specific on many topics, the handbook is not intended to be all encompassing so as to cover every situation and circumstance that may arise during any school day, or school year. This handbook does not create a “contract.” The administration reserves the right to make decisions and make rule revisions at any time to implement the educational program and to assure the well-being of all students and the educational program. The administration will be responsible for interpreting the rules contained in the handbook. Should a situation or circumstance arise that is not specifically covered in this handbook, the administration will make a decision based upon all applicable school district policies, and state and federal statutes and regulations.

The Policies of the Board of Education may cover areas not addressed in this Handbook. Every parent or guardian and student should familiarize themselves with Board Policies online at: <https://www.sdarockets.org/>

Section 2 School Calendar

2024 – 2025 SDA School Calendar

(Approved: 02 / 19 / 2024 r1.0)

<p>AUGUST '24</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>Th</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>12 Teachers Only (SIP/Work) 13 Teachers Only (SIP/Work) 14 Teachers Only (SIP/Work) 15 First Day of School</p>	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	<p>SEPTEMBER '24</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>Th</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>2 No School 18 Elementary 12:45 Dismissal MS and HS 1:00 Dismissal 25 Elementary 12:00 Dismissal MS and HS 12:15 Dismissal 25 Parent Teacher Conferences 27 No School</p>	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30												
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180 student days are built into the calendar. We will only use 177. Days in excess of 177 will be removed from the end of the calendar.

Start of Term / Students Return	Early Student Dismissal	School Times: Elementary School 8:20 - 3:15 Middle School and High School 8:20 - 3:28	
Teachers Only	Parent/Teacher Conferences		
No School			

Article 1 – Mission and Goals

Section 1 Mutual Respect

The Syracuse-Dunbar-Avoca Public Schools expects every staff member and student to be treated with respect and dignity. A show of disrespect toward a staff member or insubordination on the part of students will not be tolerated.

Section 2 Complaint Procedures

The proper procedure for a parent or student to make complaints or raise concerns is to begin with the school employee who is most immediately or directly involved in the matter, as illustrated in the complaint procedure set forth below. There are other procedures identified in the Handbook to address specific complaints or concerns, such as discrimination or harassment, bullying, disciplinary actions. Those procedures should be used where applicable.

- Complaint procedure
 - Step 1. Schedule a conference with the staff person most immediately or directly involved in the matter.
 - Step 2. Address the concern with the Principal if the matter is not resolved at Step 1.
 - Step 3. Address the concern with the Superintendent if the matter is not resolved at Step 2.
 - Step 4. Address the concern to the Board of Education if the matter is not resolved at Step 3.
- Conditions Applicable to All Levels of Complaint Procedure

All information to be considered at each step should be placed in writing in order to be most effective. Action or decisions will be expedited as quickly as possible, typically within ten (10) calendar days, depending on the nature of the complaint and the need for prompt resolution.

Article 2 – School Day

Section 1 Daily Schedules

High School Bell Schedules

REGULAR		HOMEROOM	
Warning	8:15	Warning	8:15
Period 1	8:20- 9:07	Period 1	8:20-9:02
Period 2	9:10- 9:57	Period 2	9:05-9:47
Period 3	10:00-10:47	Homeroom	9:50-10:19
Period 4	10:50-11:37	Period 3	10:22-11:04
Period 5A	Lunch 11:37-12:04	Period 4	11:07-11:49
	Class 12:07-12:58	Period 5A	Lunch 11:49-12:16
Period 5B	Class 11:40-12:31		Class 12:19-1:10
	Lunch 12:34-12:58	Period 5B	Class 11:52-12:40
Period 6	1:01-1:48		Lunch 12:43-1:10
Period 7	1:51-2:38	Period 6	1:13-1:55
Period 8	2:41-3:28	Period 7	1:58-2:43
		Period 8	2:46-3:28

PEP RALLY SCHEDULE

Warning	8:15
Periods 1-5	Normal
Period 6	1:01-1:42
Period 7	1:45-2:26
Period 8	2:29-3:10
Pep Rally	3:15

2-HOUR LATE START

Warning	10:15
Period 1	10:20-10:55
Period 2	10:58-11:54
Period 5A	Normal
Period 3	1:01-1:28
Period 4	1:31-1:58
Period 6	2:01-2:28
Period 7	2:31-2:58
Period 8	3:01-3:28

12:30 DISMISSAL (8 PERIODS)

Warning	8:15
Period 1	8:20-8:48
Period 2	8:51-9:19
Period 3	9:22-9:50
Period 4	9:53-10:22
Period 5	10:25-10:54
Period 6	10:57-11:26
Period 7	11:29-11:58
Period 8	12:01-12:30

Dismiss @12:30 * Students riding the bus are to wait in the lunchroom until buses arrive at 1pm.

Middle School Bell Schedules:**REGULAR (4-6)**

Warning	8:15
Homeroom	8:20
Grade 5 Lunch	11:00-11:31
Grade 4 Lunch	11:11-11:42
Grade 5 Lunch	11:17-11:47
Dismissal	3:25

REGULAR (7-8, T-F)

Warning	8:15
Period 1	8:30-9:14
Period 2	9:17-10:01
Period 3	10:04-10:49
Period 4	10:52-11:37
Period 5	11:37-12:04 (study hall)
Period 5	12:04-12:31 (lunch)
Period 5	12:31-12:58 (study hall)
Period 6	1:01-1:48
Period 7	1:51-2:38
Period 8	2:41-3:28

HOMEROOM (7-8, MONDAY)

Warning	8:15
Period 1	8:40-9:25
Period 2	9:28-10:13
Period 3	10:16-11:01
Period 4	11:04-11:49
Period 5	11:49-12:16 (study hall)
Period 5	12:16-12:43 (lunch)
Period 5	12:43-1:10 (study hall)
Period 6	1:13-1:55
Period 7	1:58-2:43
Period 8	2:46-3:28

Homeroom classes will be held on Tuesday if school is not in session on Monday. Other bell schedules may be utilized for late starts, early dismissals and pep rallies.

Elementary School Hours:

Grades K-3	8:20 A.M. – 3:15 P.M.
A.M. Pre-K	8:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.
P.M. Pre-K	12:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.

Breakfast Served: PreK-3 7:45 A.M. – 8:10 A.M.

Lunch Served:

Pre-K	11:10 A.M. – 11:55 A.M.
Kindergarten	10:50 A.M. – 11:15 A.M.
Grade 1	11:20 A.M. – 11:45 A.M.
Grade 2	11:50 A.M. – 12:15 P.M.
Grade 3	12:20 P.M. – 12:45 P.M.

Section 2 Severe Weather and School Cancellations

The Superintendent may close public schools in case of severe weather or an emergency. The school will notify parents and guardians, as well as the local media, when the schools will be closed.

Parental Decisions. Parents may decide to keep their children at home during inclement weather because of personal circumstances. Students absent because of severe weather when school is in session will generally be considered an excused absence.

Pickup During Inclement Weather. Parents should not come to school during severe weather, such as during a tornado warning since students will be moved into safe areas of the building and will not ordinarily be released during inclement weather or dangerous circumstances.

Section 3 Closed Campus

Syracuse-Dunbar-Avooca Public Schools has a closed campus for all students. Students wishing to leave the building during the day, for any reason, must receive prior permission from the office. Students who leave the building without checking out will be considered truant.

Section 4 Supervision Responsibility Before/After School

Arrival at School/Dismissal From School

Students are expected to arrive at school no more than 15 to 20 minutes prior to the first class or school program in which they are participating. Prior to that time, the school is not responsible for supervision of the students. Students will ordinarily be admitted to the school building 15 minutes prior to the first class. Students will not be permitted to enter earlier unless the Principal determines it to be necessary due to inclement weather or other factors. Students are to enter through their assigned entrance and proceed to designated areas.

Students will be dismissed at the end of the last period of the school day unless there are other circumstances (early dismissal, detention etc.). Upon dismissal, students must leave the school grounds and proceed home or to a previously designated location unless participating in a school-sponsored activity. The school is not responsible for supervision of students once the students are to have left school grounds.

Certain days on the calendar are “shortened days,” meaning that the school day starts or ends other than on the normal schedule. Parents are strongly encouraged to be aware of those days, so their children are not left in an unsupervised situation or without a means to get home upon dismissal.

Signing a Child In and Out of School

Parents or guardians are required to check in with the office if they are entering after their child’s first class or leaving prior to their child’s final class. The parent or guardian must report to the main office for this purpose. Parents may not go directly to the classrooms. The schools will only release children to adults designated by the parent or an emergency contact.

Article 3 – Use of Building and Grounds

Section 1 Visitors

Parents and other interested individuals are welcome to visit school. In order to keep the school building safe and secure and classroom interruptions to a minimum, students will not be allowed to bring guests to school. It is desirable that any individual parent-teacher conference be held before or after school in order that the normal instructional activities not be disrupted.

Section 2 Smoke-Free Environment

All of our school buildings and grounds are smoke and tobacco-free. No smoking or tobacco is allowed on school grounds or at any school activity.

Section 3 Care of School Property

1. Students are responsible for the proper care of all books, equipment, supplies, and furniture supplied by the school.
2. Students who damage property, break windows, or cause other harm to school property or equipment will be required to pay the cost to repair or replace the item.

School-issued items that are stolen or damaged from unlocked lockers are the responsibility of the student to whom they were issued.

Section 4 Lockers

Each student may check out or be assigned a locker. Students must use their own lockers and are not to share lockers with other students, except as assigned by school officials. Students are also

responsible for the cleanliness inside their locker and the door of their locker. Students may be assessed a fine for damage to lockers.

Students may not display images, information or messages that may cause a substantial disruption to the operations of the school. If a staff member sees or learns of an image or message that may cause a disruption, the staff member may ask the student to remove the image or message from the locker. If the student refuses, then the administration will meet with the student and parents to discuss the situation. The principal shall have the final say on whether a student needs to remove the image or message from the locker.

Section 5 Searches of Lockers and Other Types of Searches

Student lockers, desks, computers, and other such property are owned by the school. The school exercises exclusive control over school property. Students should not expect privacy regarding usage of or items placed in or on school property, including student vehicles parked on school property, because school property is subject to search at any time by school officials. Periodic, random searches of lockers, desks, computers, and other such property may be conducted at the discretion of the administration.

The following rules apply to searches of students and of a student's personal property and to the seizure of items in a student's possession or control:

1. School officials may conduct a search if there is a reasonable basis to believe that the search will uncover evidence of a crime or a school rule violation. The search is to be conducted in a reasonable manner under the circumstances.
2. Random searches of student lockers, desks, and other similar school property provided for use by students may be conducted at the discretion of the administration.
3. Drug or alcohol tests may be conducted on students based on reasonable suspicion.
4. Drug or alcohol tests may be conducted on a random basis for students participating in extracurricular activities.
5. Searches of the District's computer system may be conducted at the discretion of the administration at any time.

Section 6 Video Surveillance

The Board of Education has authorized the use of video cameras on School District property to ensure the health, welfare and safety of all staff, students, and visitors to District property, and to safeguard District facilities and equipment. Video cameras may be used in locations as deemed appropriate by the administration. As a result, notice is hereby given that video surveillance may occur on District property. In the event a video surveillance recording captures a student or other building user violating school policies or rules or local, state, or federal laws, the video surveillance recording may be used in appropriate disciplinary proceedings against the student or other building user and may also be provided to law enforcement agencies.

Section 7 Recording of Others

To ensure the privacy and confidentiality of student information, no person is authorized to record or transmit any sound or image of any person (including themselves) without the prior

consent or authorization of either (1) the person or persons being recorded or whose image or sound is being transmitted, (2) by authorized staff for purposes of child welfare (for example, to record images of injuries to students caused or believed to be caused by another person), or (3) the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee. This prohibition applies to all persons, including students, parents, and community members, regardless of the content or context of the image or sound; however, this provision shall not apply to District-sponsored athletic or activity events where the focus of the recording or transmission is on the student performances or activity. Nothing in this provision shall prohibit the recording of an Individualized Education Program meeting if the recording is necessary to ensure that the parent understands the IEP or the IEP process or to implement other parental rights guaranteed by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Section 8 Use of Cell Phones/Device Use (including wearable devices)

Students at the elementary and middle school are not allowed to use cell phones/devices during the school day. Upon arriving at school cell phones/devices should be turned off and stored in the student's book bag. If a cell phone/device is found outside of the student's book bag during the school day or designated times, the cell phone/device will be confiscated and taken to the office.

High school students will check their cell phones and wearable technology in a designated location upon entering the classroom. They are allowed to use their cell phones/devices during passing periods and lunch. Refusing to place a cell phone in the designated location will result in the principal or his designee confiscating it.

Consequences are as follows: First offense – cell phone/device will be confiscated and returned to the student at the end of the school day (parents notified). Second and subsequent offenses – the cell phone/device will be confiscated and a parent will be asked to pick the item up from school. The use of cell phones/devices that violate school rules may result in more significant consequences including expulsion.

Section 9 Student Valuables

Students, not the school, are responsible for their personal property. Students are cautioned not to bring large amounts of money or items of value to school. The school does not guarantee or represent that the student's property will not be subject to loss, theft, or damage.

Section 10 Bulletins and Announcements

Bulletin boards and display cases are available for school-related and approved materials to be posted and displayed. Posters to be used in the halls or materials for distribution need to be approved by the Principal's office. The person or organization responsible for distributing the posters is responsible for seeing that all posters are removed within 48 hours after the event or when directed by the Principal.

Section 11 Copyright

It is the school's policy to follow the federal copyright law. Students are reminded that, when using school equipment and when completing course work, they also must follow the federal copyright laws. The federal copyright law governs the reproduction of works of authorship. Copyrighted works are protected regardless of the medium in which they are created or reproduced; thus, copyright extends to digital works and works transformed into a digital format.

Copyrighted works are not limited to those that bear a copyright notice.

Section 12 Behavioral Points of Contact

The District maintains a registry of local mental health and counseling resources, including those resource services that can be accessed by families and individuals outside of school. To gain more information about these resources, parents and/or students should contact their building principal.

Article 4 – Attendance

Section 1 Attendance

Regular and punctual student attendance is required. The administration is responsible for developing further attendance rules and regulations and staff are responsible for assisting in the enforcement of the rules and regulations. Students and parents are responsible for developing behaviors which will result in regular and punctual student attendance.

When a student is absent from school, the parents or guardians of that student should call or email the school (High School 402-269-2381 shsoffice@sdarockets.org, Middle School 402-269-2388 smsoffice@sdarockets.org, Elementary School 402-269-2382 sesoffice@sdarockets.org) by 9:00 a.m. on the day of absence. The main office will take calls beginning at 7:00 a.m. daily, voicemail is available. Parents/guardians of students who are absent will be called if the office is not notified. If parental/guardian contact is not achieved by 9:00 a.m. the student will be recorded as truant for the remainder of the day or until the office is notified. In addition, parents/guardians are asked to provide written documentation should their child miss school for a medical or dental appointment. Parents or guardians who are unable to call must send a written explanation for the absence indicating date, reason for absence, and parent signature. If no note or call has been received at the time the student returns to school, the absence will be unexcused.

Section 2 Attendance and Absences

Excused and Unexcused Absences. An absence from school will be reported as: (a) an excused absence or (b) an unexcused absence.

1. Excused Absences. Absences should be cleared through the Principal's office in advance, whenever possible. An absence or tardy, even with parental approval, may not be considered excused by the school. All absences, except for illness and/or death in the family, require advance approval. An absence for any of the following reasons will be typically excused, provided the required procedures have been followed:
 - a. Attendance at a funeral for a member of the immediate family (parents, siblings, and grandparents).
 - b. Illness which causes a student to be absent from school.
 - c. Doctor or dental appointment which requires student to be absent from school.
 - a. Upon receipt of medical documentation of an appointment, Power

School will be changed from absent to medical.

- d. Court appearances that are required by a court order.
- e. School sponsored activities which require students to be absent from school.
- f. Other absences which have received prior approval from the Principal.

The Principal has the discretion to deny approval for a student's absence, depending on circumstances, such as the student's absence record, the student's academic status, the tests or other projects which may be missed, and other relevant reasons. Additionally, students are expected to complete work for a school sponsored absence prior to the absence.

2. Unexcused Absences. An absence which is not excused is unexcused. If a student's absence is unexcused the student may receive zeros for any class work missed during the absence and may be required to make up work and the time missed.

Attendance Monitoring

Student attendance will be monitored through the following procedures:

1. In grades 7-12, each teacher will record attendance of all students each class period. In grades PreK-6, attendance will be taken in the morning and again in the afternoon.
2. After five (5) days of absence from any class in a semester, the principal or their designee will send written notice to the student's parents noting:
 - a. the number of absences the student has incurred.
 - b. the school attendance requirements and procedures as stated in the Student Parent Handbook.
3. After ten (10) days of absence from any class in a semester, a conference will be requested between the student and the principal if it appears to be an attendance problem and the principal or their designee will send written notice to the student's parents noting:
 - a. the number of absences the student has incurred.
 - b. the school attendance requirements and procedures as stated in the Student Parent Handbook.
4. After fifteen (15) days of absence from any class in a semester, written notice will be sent and a conference may be requested between the principal, the parent and the student noting:
 - a. the number of absences the student has incurred.
 - b. the school attendance requirements and procedures as stated in the Student Parent Handbook.
 - c. A 9-12 student may lose credit for every class in which they exceed ten absences.

A student who has exceeded the maximum absences during the semester and has waived his/her right to appeal or lost the appeal will receive no credit for the assigned class for the semester. Lack of cooperation and/or participation in the class thereafter will result in disciplinary action. Such action may include parent conference, suspension, and expulsion. The Nebraska State Department of Education requires all public and nonpublic schools to submit Excessive

Absenteeism information on a monthly basis. This data is, in turn, reported to the Truancy Task Force for study and evaluation. This is a report of all absences with the exception of school activities. This has become a part of Nebraska School Law through the revision of PL 79-527. Additionally, this law requires that all students accumulating more than 20 total absences (10 per semester) be referred to the Otoe County Attorney for nonattendance.

Suspension from school will not count towards the total of 10 absences.

It is the responsibility of the student and parent/guardian to provide documentation of extenuating circumstances that resulted in the student's absence from school. Fundamental to the effectiveness of this policy is cooperation between the school, parent, and student. It is our intent to stress the importance of regular school attendance which enhances the likelihood of success and serves as a permanent record of the student's maturity in meeting expectations.

High School Attendance Process Procedure

In the high school, any student who reaches 10 period absences, for any reason, within a semester, may lose credit for that class unless the absences are caused by what the staff and administration consider extenuating circumstances. Extenuating circumstances would generally be limited to hospital confinement or medical reasons confirmed by a doctor. All absences from class will count toward the maximum except for those which the school assumes sponsorship.

At the time the Attendance Committee (principal, counselor, and teacher(s)) render their decision, the appeal process to that decision shall be explained.

1. In the event that the student and/or his parents are dissatisfied with the decision of the Attendance Committee an appeal may be made to the Superintendent of Schools. The superintendent must receive the request for hearing within five (5) days following the decision of the Attendance Committee. The hearing shall be conducted within five (5) days after receipt of the request. The student may be allowed counsel if he or she desires, and the student should be given the opportunity to call witnesses. The Superintendent will make a decision on the case and inform the student of the decision. A statement of findings of facts from the hearing shall be compiled and the student and parents provided a copy within two days.

2. If the student and his/her parents are not satisfied with the findings of the hearing, a second hearing may be requested before the Board of Education. The Board of Education must receive in writing a request for such a second hearing within five (5) days. Following receipt of such a request, the hearing shall be held within five (5) days and the student and parent or guardian shall be given prompt notice of the time and place of such hearing.

- a. The student will be provided with an opportunity to testify, question, and present other evidence on his or her behalf at the hearing. Counsel may be present.
- b. Proceedings of the hearing, including the decision, will be put in writing, and a copy of these proceedings will be mailed to the student and his/her parents within two (2) days.

Tardy to School. Students will be considered tardy to school if they are not seated in their assigned class or ready and attentive in their assigned area when the bell for their first-class rings.

Tardy to Class. Students have a sufficient time period between classes to make it to their next assigned class on time. Students will be considered tardy to class if they are not in their assigned classroom when the tardy bell rings unless they have a pass from a staff member. Specific tardy guidelines once students are in the classroom doorway are at the classroom teacher's discretion. The first ten minutes of each class period will be the time counted as tardy. Any student who is not in class by the end of the 10-minute tardy period will be counted absent and this absence will count against the ten allowable absences. High School students who have accumulated five tardies will lose their cell phone privileges and check their cell phone into the office every morning for five days. Students will lose their phone privileges for five days for tardies that accumulate if they reach 10, 15, 20, or 25 tardies. Students reaching 30 tardies in one semester will be suspended out of school, and a parent conference will be held with the principal. Each academic semester will start a new tardy reporting period.

Leaving School or Class. Students who leave school for any reason during the school day must check out of the office before leaving. Students leaving school must be cleared in advance by the student's parent or legal guardian. Upon returning to school that same day, students must check in at the office.

Students who leave school without permission and without signing out in the proper manner, or who leave their assigned classroom without teacher permission, may be considered truant.

Section 3 Make-up Work

Written make-up work may be assigned for each day missed regardless of the type of absence. If make-up work is not completed, students will receive no credit for the work required. The time each student is allowed for make-up work will be determined by the teacher. The student has the responsibility to contact teachers, initially, regarding make-up assignments.

Section 4 Attendance is Required to Participate in Activities

Students must be in attendance at the beginning of 6th period on the day of any scheduled school activity in order to participate in the activity. A "school activity" includes athletic contests, practices, and dances. Failure to attend may result in a student being withheld from participation in the activity. The Principal retains the right to grant participation should exceptional circumstances prevail.

Section 4 Truancy

A student who engages in unexcused absences may be considered truant under state law. Truancy is a violation of school rules. The consequence of trancies may include disciplinary action up to expulsion and referral to the county attorney for compulsory attendance violations.

Reporting and Responding to Truant Behavior. Any administrator, teacher, or member of the board of education who knows of any failure on the part of any child aged six (6) to eighteen (18) to attend school regularly without lawful reason, shall within three (3) days report such violation to the Superintendent or designee. The Superintendent or designee shall immediately cause an investigation into any such report to be made. The Superintendent or designee shall also investigate any case when, based on the Superintendent's personal knowledge or based on a

report or complaint from any resident of the district, the Superintendent or designee believes that any child is unlawfully absent from school. The school shall render all services in its power to compel such child to attend some public, private, denominational, or parochial school, which the person having control of the child shall designate, in an attempt to remediate the child's truant behavior.

Excessive Absenteeism. Students who accumulate five (5) unexcused absences in a quarter shall be deemed to have "excessive absences." Such absences shall be determined on a per day basis for elementary students and on a per class basis for secondary students. When a student has excessive absences, the following procedures shall be implemented:

1. One or more meetings shall be held between a school attendance officer, school social worker, or other person designated by the school administration and the parent/guardian and the student to report and attempt to solve the truancy problem. If the parent/guardian refuses to participate in such meeting, the principal shall place in the student's attendance records documentation of such refusal.
2. Educational counseling to determine whether curriculum changes, including but not limited to, enrolling the child in an alternative education program that meets the specific educational and behavioral needs of the child.
3. Educational evaluation, which may include a psychological evaluation, to assist in determining the specific condition, if any, contributing to the truancy problem, supplemented by specific efforts by the school to help remedy any condition diagnosed.
4. Investigation of the truancy problem by the school social worker, or if such school does not have a school social worker, another person designated by the administration to identify conditions which may be contributing to the truancy problem. If services for the child and his or her family are determined to be needed, the person performing the investigation shall meet with the parent/guardian and the child to discuss any referral to appropriate community agencies for economic services, family or individual counseling, or other services required to remedy the conditions that are contributing to the truancy problem.

Reporting Habitual Truancy. Students who accumulate twenty (20) unexcused absences or the hourly equivalent per year shall be deemed to be habitually truant. If the student continues to be or becomes habitually truant, the principal shall serve a written notice to the person violating the Nebraska truancy laws (i.e., the person who has legal or active charge or control of the student) warning him or her to comply with the provisions of that law. If within one (1) week after the time the notice is given such person is still violating the school attendance laws or policies, the Principal shall file a report with the county attorney of the county in which such person resides.

Article 5 – Scholastic Achievement

Section 1 Grading System

High school students will receive letter grades on report cards and transcripts. The following scale will be used to assign letter grades and a grade point average from a percent:

A	93-100
B	85-92
C	78-84
D	70-77
F	0-69

At the Middle School, grades are an evaluation of what a student has learned and shall be a symbolic representation of achievement. They become part of a permanent record that lasts a lifetime. Middle School records are important to institutions of higher learning, employers, and the various military services. The school only keeps the records, the student makes them. Use of grades for disciplinary purposes is prohibited by board policy. Written or oral evaluation is a continuing process in each class. Teachers determine grades by consideration of daily class work and recitations, attendance, individual projects, homework and related activities, as well as performance on various types of tests. Grades will be sent to parents at the end of each quarter. Students and parents should feel free to discuss the grading system used by each teacher.

Generally the grades can be interpreted to represent the following:

Grades 7-8	Grades 4-6
A = 93 - 100% Excellent	A = 90 – 100%
B = 85 - 92 Good	B = 80 – 89
C = 78 - 84 Average	C = 70 - 79
D = 70 - 77 Below Average	D = 60 - 69
F = Below 70 Failing	F = Below 60

I = Incomplete --Work can be made up for credit within two weeks

Grades issued for progress in classes other than regular will not be used in the determination of scholarly achievement. Students’ academic progress is also maintained on the Power School system.

At the Elementary School, learning is a continuous process that children are just beginning in the elementary grades. Throughout their school years, the basic skills will be taught and reinforced many times. Our goal in the elementary grades is to give students a strong foundation in education and a positive attitude toward learning and school.

The K-3 elementary report card is a record of student progress. Evaluation will consist of a developmental assessment of how your child is progressing in their grade level. Teachers will provide documentation showing the progress of the student. Teachers determine student grades by consideration of daily class work, mastery, fluency, participation, individual and group projects, homework, mastery of standards, and multiple assessment tools. Report cards will be distributed to parents at the end of each quarter. Students’ academic progress is also maintained on the Power School system.

Section 2 High School Yearly Course Requirements

High school students in all grade levels are required to register in the following courses during the respective grade level:

9th Grade	Math; English, Physical Education; Physical Science; Electives
10th Grade	Math; English; Biology; World Cultures; Electives
11th Grade	Math; English; Science; American History; Electives
12th Grade	English; American Government; Electives

Within the 4 year time frame, students will also need to complete speech and business course requirements. All students are required to successfully complete 85 or 80 (depending on graduation year) elective credits.

Section 3 Graduation Requirements

To participate in commencement exercises or receive a Syracuse-Dunbar-Avoca Public Schools' diploma, a student must fully complete all requirements for graduation prior to the official commencement exercises, and complete other administrative requirements or conditions.

To be eligible for graduation from Syracuse-Dunbar-Avoca High School, a student must have earned a minimum of 250 semester hours credit in grades 9 through 12 inclusive. A minimum of 40 earned semester hours credits must be earned during the school year in which the student intends to graduate. Credit hours will be computed in accordance with the Nebraska Department of Education.

Satisfactory completion of the following courses must be presented in the candidate's record:

English	40 semester hours
Social Sciences	30 semester hours
Science	30 semester hours
Math	30 semester hours
P.E. and Health	20 semester hours
Programming I	5 credit hours
Information Technology	5 credit hours
Speech	5 credit hours
Personal Finance	5 credit hours

Exceptions to these requirements may be made by the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, who will support the recommendation with justifiable reasons. A complete record of the recommendation and of the action taken upon it by the Board shall be included in the minutes. The candidates for graduation shall be presented to the Board of Education for approval.

A student who has not met the requirements for graduation but who has attended school regularly may, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, be granted a Certificate of Attendance. Students receiving a Certificate of Attendance shall not be eligible to participate in graduation exercises.

Section 4 Early Graduation

Upon completion of the required number of hours and required courses for graduation, students may be allowed to complete school early when the following additional conditions are completed:

1. Notice of intent to graduate in three years or seven semesters must be submitted to the high school principal prior to the end of September of the school year in which graduation is to occur.
2. After meeting with the parents and student, the principal will make a recommendation to the superintendent and board of education.
3. Students graduating at the conclusion of either six or seven semesters may not be allowed to participate in any school activities such as athletics, Junior-Senior Prom, etc. upon their terminating school.
4. Students graduating at the end of six semesters will not be allowed to order graduation announcements or cap and gown. They will be recognized at the graduation ceremony as early graduates, provided they pass all exams and requirements. They will also be required to attend all classes up to the final scheduled day for the class they would normally have graduated with. That is, they will not be released from classes when the seniors are released.

Section 5 Promotion and Retention

Students will be placed at the grade level and in the courses best suited to them academically, socially, and emotionally as determined by the school's professional staff. Students will typically progress annually from grade to grade. A student may be retained at a grade level or be required to repeat a course or program when such is determined in the judgment of the professional staff to be appropriate for the educational interests of the student and the educational program.

Section 6 Schedule Changes

Students needing schedule changes should notify the Principal or designee. Schedule changes must be initiated by the teachers involved, the Principal or counselor, and the student's parent or guardian. Final approval of all schedule changes will be made by the Principal or designee.

Section 7 Interim Reports

Various supplemental reports may be made available to parents throughout the school year concerning student's performance. These reports may describe student work of an exceptional nature or work which needs improving. These reports will be sent as the teacher determines appropriate.

Section 8 Report Cards

Report cards are issued at the end of each quarter.

For secondary students, letter grades are used to designate a student's progress. A grade of "F" (failing) carries no credit. A grade of "I" (incomplete) received at the end of a grading period must be made up within two (2) weeks or missing assignments will receive grades of "0" and

those grades will be averaged into the final grade. No incompletes will be given at the end of the fourth quarter, as all coursework must be completed by the end of the fourth quarter. All grades are subject to adjustment by the Principal for academic reasons.

Section 9 Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-teacher conferences will be held once a semester. There will also be an open house night. Refer to the school calendar for the schedule. Conferences with teachers, at any other time, are possible by making arrangements with the teachers.

Section 10 Honor Roll (Grades 7-12)

The purpose of the honor roll is to recognize those students who demonstrate academic excellence. Soon after the completion of each quarter, Syracuse-Dunbar-Avoca Schools will publish three lists of honor students: (1) High Honors, (2) Honors, and (3) Honorable Mention. Students may qualify for Honorable Mention by having no grade below B; for Honors they must have at least two grades of A and no grade lower than a B; and for High Honors all grades must be an A. The honor lists are printed to recognize publicly those students who have achieved academic excellence. High school class rank is determined each semester by the total accumulated grade point average of regular classes.

Section 11 Academic Status Report (Grades 7-12)

Grades 7-8: An Academic Status Report will be printed at the conclusion of every week. This report will be a listing of all students currently failing one or more classes. This report will be the guide to determine activity participation for the upcoming week and pass privileges. If a student is failing two or more classes at the conclusion of the week, he/she will not be allowed to participate in/nor attend school activities the following week (Sunday through Saturday.) Students attending an activity while on the ineligibility list will be ineligible for an additional week. Students on the ineligibility list will also not be allowed to leave school early with a team. If a student comes off the Academic Status report during the week, they then become eligible at that time. Additionally, if a student is failing two or more classes, they will not be given pass privileges unless the pass is signed by the teacher of a class he/she is failing.

Grades 9-12: An Academic Status Report will be recorded at the conclusion of each school week. This report will be a listing of all students currently failing one or more classes. This report will be the guide to determine activity participation for the upcoming week and pass privileges. If a student is failing two or more classes at the conclusion of the week, he/she will not be allowed to participate or attend school activities the following week (Sunday through Saturday). A student may become immediately eligible if they are passing ALL of their classes. Confirmation that the Student is passing must come from the principal or his/her designee. Students attending an activity while on the ineligibility list will be ineligible for an additional week. Once students are off the ineligibility list, their privileges will be reinstated the following week. Students on the ineligibility list will not be allowed to leave school early with a team. Additionally, if a student is failing two or more classes, they will not be given pass privileges unless the pass is signed by the teacher of a class he/she is failing.

Section 12 Missing Assignments/Late Work (Grades 4-12)

High School: It is the responsibility of all students to turn in their assignments in a timely manner. On any day of the week teachers may also require students to come to school early or stay after school to complete missing work. Teachers will notify parents/guardians by phone or email of failing grades. Acceptance of late work is at the discretion of each individual teacher and will be covered in their syllabi. After school tutoring is available to all students on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school from 3:30-4:15 p.m. in the library. In addition, students may be assigned by any classroom teacher to after school tutoring for failing to complete classroom work.

High School After School Tuesday/Thursday Process:

- Teachers will notify the office by 12:00pm of the students afterschool placement.
- The office will email the parents, teachers and the student of the afterschool placement.
- If the student does not show the office will call the parents and notify them of the no show. Failure to attend after school will result in the student receiving a zero on the assignment.

Middle School Late Work Policy: Our late work policy provides an opportunity for students who are failing to complete their work and get additional help from school staff. The process for late work is explained below:

1. Teacher fills out a late work triplicate slip and the student attaches the white slip to their planner.
2. Teacher keeps the pink slip and turns in the yellow slip to the office.
3. Student turns in late work to the teacher by 8:15 a.m. of the next school day. Teacher turns in pink slip to office marked done.
4. If the student does not complete or turn in the work by 8:15 a.m. of the next school day to the teacher, the teacher notifies the office of lunch and/or after school study session.
5. The office or teacher notifies parents of lunch and/or after school study session. The student will be assigned an after school study session with a staff member until 3:45. The student continues study sessions until work is completed and turned into the teacher.
6. The 7th-8th grade teachers may take a 10% deduction of the assigned late work.
7. Teacher marks graded late assignment in PowerSchool.

Section 13 National Honor Society

The National Honor Society chapter of Syracuse-Dunbar-Avoca Public Schools is a duly chartered and affiliated chapter of this prestigious national organization.

Admission to the National Honor Society

Membership is open to those students who meet the required standards in four (4) areas of evaluation: scholarship, leadership, service, and character. Standards for selection are established by the national office of NHS and have been revised to meet our local chapter needs. Students are selected to be members by a five (5) member Faculty Council, appointed by the principal,

which bestows this honor upon qualified students on behalf of the faculty of our school each semester.

Students in the 10th, 11th, or 12th grades are eligible for membership. For the scholarship criterion, a student must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.2 or better on a 4.0 scale. Those students who meet this criterion are invited to complete a Student Activity Information Form that provides the Faculty Council with information regarding the candidate's leadership and service. A history of leadership experience and participation in school or community service is required.

To evaluate a candidate's character, the faculty council uses two (2) forms of input: first, school disciplinary records are reviewed; second, members of the faculty are solicited for input regarding their professional reflections on a candidate's service activities, character, and leadership. These forms and the Student Activity Information Forms are carefully reviewed by the Faculty Council to determine membership. A majority vote of the council is necessary for selection. Candidates are notified regarding selection or non-selection according to a predetermined schedule.

Following notification, a formal induction ceremony is held at the school to recognize all the newly selected members. Once inducted, new members are required to maintain the same level of performance in all four (4) criteria (or better) that led to their selection. This obligation includes regular attendance at chapter meetings when and as scheduled and participation in the chapter service projects(s).

Removal from National Honor Society

A student may be removed from the NHS by action of the Principal upon a determination by the Principal that the student:

1. Prior Conduct. Engaged in conduct prior to induction which was not known at the time of induction and which, if known, would have caused denial of induction;
2. Post-Induction Conduct. Engaged in conduct after induction which is grounds for a student to be long-term suspended or expelled from school under the student code of conduct; which is grounds for suspension or removal from any extracurricular activity of the school, or which would cause denial of induction if such conduct had taken place prior to the time of induction.

The student may appeal the Principal's decision to the Superintendent by giving written notice of appeal to the Superintendent within ten (10) calendar days of receipt of the Principal's removal decision. The appeal procedures shall be established at the discretion of the Superintendent to allow a fair opportunity for the student's views and information to be considered. The decision of the Superintendent on the appeal shall be final.

Section 14 Senior Release

Senior students who are able to arrange schedules so they are enrolled in a minimum of five full-time classes at the beginning or the end of the school day may be released to work if the additional following conditions are met:

- (1) They must be in their seventh semester of attendance and in good academic standing.
- (2) They meet with the high school principal and/or counselor.
- (3) They provide written permission from a parent or guardian.
- (4) Arrangements for work release must be made before the add/drop deadline (First 5 days of the semester).
- (5) Students understand that work release is a privilege that may be removed if students fail to meet any academic requirements on their course schedule.

Article 6 - Support Services

Section 1 Special Education Services

What Does Special Education Mean?

Special education means specially designed instruction and related services adapted as appropriate to the needs of an eligible student with a disability. Special education is provided at no cost to the parent to meet the unique needs of a child with a disability.

Students Who May Benefit

A student verified as having autism, behavior disorders, deaf-blindness, developmental delay, hearing impairments, mental handicaps, multiple disabilities, orthopedic impairments, other health impairments, specific learning disabilities, speech-language impairments, traumatic brain injury or visual impairments, who because of these impairments need special education and related services.

How are Students With Disabilities Identified?

Referrals are made by staff or parents to a Student Assistance Team. If the Student Assistance Team or comparable problem-solving team feels that all viable alternatives have been explored, a referral for multidisciplinary evaluation is completed. An evaluation is conducted to assist in the determination of whether a student has a disability and the nature and extent of the special education and related services the student needs. The evaluation is conducted only with written consent of a parent or guardian. A multidisciplinary evaluation team (MDT) will then meet to determine whether the student is eligible for special education.

Independent Evaluation

If a parent disagrees with an evaluation completed by the school district, the parent has a right to request an independent educational evaluation at public expense. Parents should direct inquiries to school officials to determine if the school district will arrange for further evaluation at the school's expense. If school district officials feel the original evaluation was appropriate and the parents disagree, a due process hearing may be initiated. If it is determined that the original evaluation was appropriate, parents still have the right to an independent educational evaluation at their own expense.

Reevaluation

Students identified for special education will be reevaluated at least every three (3) years by the student's IEP team. The IEP team will review existing evaluation data on the student and will identify what additional data, if any, is needed. The school district will obtain parental consent prior to conducting any reevaluation of a student with a disability.

Individual Education Program (IEP)

Upon a student being verified as having a disability, a conference will be held with parents. At the conference, an Individualized Education Program (IEP) will be developed specifying programs and services which will be provided by the schools. Parent consent will be obtained prior to a student being placed for the first time in a program providing special education and related services or early intervention services to infants and toddlers. Once in place, the IEP is reviewed on an annual basis, or more frequently as needed. Parents will be given a copy of the IEP.

Special Education Placement

The student's placement in a special education program is dependent on the student's educational needs as outlined in the Individual Education Program (IEP). To the maximum extent appropriate, students with disabilities are educated with students who are not disabled. Special classes, separate schooling, or other removal of children with disabilities from the regular educational environment will occur only when the nature or severity of the disability is such that education in regular classes with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily. Determination of a student's educational placement will be made by the IEP team.

Written notice shall be given to parents at a reasonable time before the school district: 1. Proposes to initiate or change the identification, evaluation, verification or educational placement of a child or the provision of a free appropriate public education; or 2. Refuses to initiate or change the identification, evaluation, or educational placement of the child or the provision of a free appropriate public education to the child.

More Information

Anyone interested in obtaining a copy of the District's special education policy, the Parental Rights in Special Education brochure, or a copy of the Nebraska Department of Education Rule 51 (special education regulations and complaint procedures) or Rule 55 (special education appeal procedures) may contact the Superintendent or obtain information on the school website. A notice of parental rights, Rules 51 and 55 and more information about special education are also available at the Nebraska Department of Education's website.

Section 2 Students with Disabilities: Section 504

Accommodations and related services are made available to students with disabilities under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Under Section 504, parents have the following rights:

1. Have your child take part in, and receive benefits from, public education programs without discrimination because of your child's disability.
2. Have the school district advise you of your rights under federal law.
3. Receive notice with respect to identification, evaluation, or placement of your child.
4. Have your child receive a free appropriate public education. This includes the right to be educated with non-disabled students to the maximum extent appropriate. It also includes the right to have the school district make reasonable accommodations to allow your child an equal opportunity to participate in school

- and school-related activities.
5. Have your child receive services and be educated in facilities which are comparable to those provided to students without disabilities.
 6. Have your child receive an individualized evaluation and receive special education and related services if your child is found eligible under Section 504.
 7. Have evaluation, eligibility, educational and placement decisions made based on a variety of information sources and by persons who know your child and who are knowledgeable about the evaluation data and placement options.
 8. Have transportation provided to and from an alternative placement setting at no greater cost to you than would be incurred if your child were placed in a program operated by the school district.
 9. Have your child be given an equal opportunity to participate in nonacademic and extracurricular activities offered by the school district.
 10. Examine all relevant records relating to decisions regarding your child's identification, evaluation, and placement. Obtain copies of educational records at a reasonable cost on the same terms as records are provided to students without a disability unless the fee would effectively deny you access to the records.
 11. Receive a response from the school district to reasonable requests for explanations and interpretations of your child's records.
 12. Request amendment of your child's educational records if there is reasonable cause to believe that they are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the privacy rights of your child. If the school district refuses this request, it shall notify you within a reasonable time, and advise you of the right to a hearing.
 13. File a local grievance in accordance with school policy.
 14. Request an impartial hearing related to decisions regarding your child's identification, eligibility, and educational program or placement with opportunity for participation by the person's parents or guardian and representation by counsel, and a review procedure. This is provided in the local grievance procedure.

Section 3 Health Services

Student Illnesses

School personnel will notify parents when a student needs to be sent home from school due to illness. Conditions requiring a student be sent home may include: Temperature greater than 100°F., vomiting, diarrhea, unexplained rashes, live head lice, or on determination by school personnel that the child's condition prevents meaningful participation in the educational program, presents a health risk to the child or others, or that medical consultation is warranted unless the condition resolves. They should be fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication before returning to school. Students should also be vomit free for 24 hours before returning to school.

Guidelines for Head Lice

The following guidelines are in place to better control a nuisance condition, reduce absenteeism due to head lice, and involve parents as partners with the school in control efforts:

1. Children will be sent home from school for live head lice. In the event a child has two (2) cases of live lice in a semester, the child will be sent home until free of both live lice and nits (eggs).
2. Health office staff will provide written treatment information and instructions, including how to check and identify head lice.
3. A child who is sent home from school for head lice should miss no more than two (2) school days.
4. A child who has been sent from school due to head lice must come to the health office for inspection before returning to class.
5. A child who returns to class with nits (eggs) will be checked again in 7-10 days.
6. Families are encouraged to report head lice to the school health office.
7. Classroom-wide or school-wide head checks will be conducted as needed in order to control the condition at school.

Guidelines for Administering Medication

Whenever possible, students should be provided medications outside of school hours. In the event it is necessary that a student take or have medication at school, the parents/guardians must provide a signed written consent for the student to be given medication at school. A consent form is available at the school office. If a student has asthma or diabetes and is capable of self-managing his or her health condition, the student may coordinate with the school office to develop a self-management plan.

Medications must be provided to the school by the parent/guardian in the pharmacy-labeled or manufacturer-labeled bottle. Repackaged medications will not be accepted. Medications may require a physician's authorization to be given at school or, for asthma and anaphylaxis, a health care professional who prescribed the medication for treatment of the student's condition.

School Health Screening

Children in Pre-Kindergarten through seventh grade, as well as children previously identified are screened for vision, hearing, dental defects, height, and weight. The screening program also incorporates blood pressure at the sixth grade. Students with identified health concerns may also be screened. Parents who do not wish their child to participate in the school screening program must communicate in writing to the school health office at the start of the school year.

Physical and Visual Examination

Evidence of a physical examination and a visual evaluation is required within six (6) months prior to entrance into kindergarten and, in the case of transfer from out of state, to any other grade. A physical examination is also required prior to entrance into the seventh grade. The physical examination is to be completed by a physician, a physician's assistant, or an advanced practice registered nurse; the visual evaluation is to be completed by any of the forgoing or an optometrist. A parent or guardian who objects to the physical examination and/or visual evaluation may submit a written statement of refusal for his or her child. Waiver forms are available in the school health office. Additional physical examination requirements exist for students participating in athletic participation.

Immunizations

Students must show proof of immunization. A student who does not comply with the immunization requirements will not be permitted to continue in school. Students with medical conditions or sincerely held religious beliefs which do not allow immunizations must complete an affidavit.

Unimmunized students may nonetheless be excluded from school in the event of a disease outbreak.

Birth Certificate Requirements

State law requires that a certified copy of a student's birth certificate be provided within 30 days of enrollment of a student in school for the first time.

If a birth certificate is unavailable, other reliable proof of a student's identity may be used. These documents could include naturalization or immigration documents showing date of birth or official hospital birth records, a passport, or a translation of a birth certificate from another country. The documents must be accompanied by an affidavit explaining the inability to produce a copy of the birth certificate.

Section 4 Transportation Services

Transportation to and from school is provided to students in accordance with law and Board policy. Students may also be provided transportation on field trips and when participating in school activities. Students are expected to follow the following rules while riding school buses:

Behavior on School Buses

1. General Conduct Rules Apply: While riding a school bus, a student must follow the same student conduct rules which apply when the student is on school property or attending school activities, functions, or events. There are also special conduct rules for riding school buses. These rules also apply to riding other school vehicles.
2. Special Conduct Rules for Riding School Buses.
 - A. Rules for Getting On and Off the Bus
 1. Be on time to be picked up. As a general rule, get to your bus stop five (5) minutes before your scheduled pick-up time. If you miss the bus, immediately return to your home, and tell your parents so they can take you to school.
 2. While waiting for the bus, stay at least five (5) feet away from the street, road, or highway. Wait until the bus comes to a complete stop before approaching the bus.
 3. You may exit the bus only at your approved destination (your school or your approved bus stop). Exit the bus as directed by the driver. Do not run.
 4. If you must cross the street after exiting the bus, always cross in front of the bus where the driver can see you. Wait for the driver to signal to you before crossing the street.

B. Rules on the Bus

1. Be respectful of the bus driver. Immediately follow all directions of the driver and any paraeducator or adult on the bus.
 2. Sit in your seat facing forward. Use seat belts in vehicles in which they are available.
 3. Talk quietly and use appropriate language.
 4. Keep all parts of your body inside the bus.
 5. Keep your arms, legs, and belongings to yourself.
 6. No fighting, harassment, bullying, intimidation, or horseplay.
 7. Do not throw any object.
 8. No eating, drinking, use of tobacco, alcohol, drugs, or flammables.
 9. Do not bring any weapon (real or imitation) or dangerous objects on the school bus.
 10. Do not damage the school bus.
3. Getting the Driver's Assistance: If you need assistance from the driver, wait until the bus is at a full stop. If you are close enough, tell the driver what you need. If you are too far away for the driver to hear you, ask a student in front of you to get the driver's attention. If necessary, walk up to the driver, while the bus is at a full stop. If you need immediate assistance in an emergency, take all action needed to safely get the help of the driver.
4. Consequences for Rule Violations: Consequences for school bus misconduct may include restriction or suspension of bus privileges and other disciplinary measures, up to and including expulsion from school.

Article 7 – Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco

Section 1 Drug-Free Schools

The District is a safe and drug-free school zone. Any use, possession, distribution, manufacture, sale, consumption, or ingestion of illicit drugs or tobacco products on school grounds, at a school activity, or in a school vehicle is strictly prohibited.

Section 2 Education and Prevention

The District promotes comprehensive, age appropriate, developmentally based drug and alcohol education and prevention programs. The curriculum includes the teaching of both proper and incorrect use of drugs and alcohol for all students in all grades.

Drug and Alcohol Education and Prevention Program of the District Pursuant to the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Laws and Regulations. All students will be provided with an age appropriate, developmentally based drug and alcohol education and prevention program. The program educates on the adverse effects of the use of illicit drugs and alcohol, with the primary objective being the prevention of illicit drug and alcohol use by students.

Drug and Alcohol Counseling, Rehabilitation and Re-entry Programs. Information concerning available drug and alcohol counseling, rehabilitation, and re-entry programs is available to all of the students upon request of the Counselor.

Safe and Drug-Free Schools—Parental Notice. Pursuant to the provisions of federal law, if, upon receipt of information regarding the content of safe and drug free school programs and activities other than classroom instruction, a parent objects to the participation of their child in such programs and activities, then the parent may notify the District of such objection in writing. Upon receipt of such notice, the student will be withdrawn from the program or activity to which parental objection has been made.

Section 3 Standards of Student Conduct Pertaining to Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco

The District prohibits the possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs (including electronic nicotine delivery systems) and alcohol on school premises, in school vehicles, or as a part of any of the school's activities on or off school premises. The conduct prohibited includes, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Possession, use, distribution or being under the influence of any controlled substance, including but not limited to marijuana, any narcotic drug, any hallucinogen, any stimulant, or any depressant.
2. Possession of any prescription drug in an unlawful fashion.
3. Possession, use, distribution or being under the influence of alcohol.
4. Possession, use, distribution, or being under the influence of any abusable glue or aerosol paint or any other chemical substance for inhalation, including but not limited to lighter fluid, whiteout, and reproduction fluid, when such activity constitutes a substantial interference with school purposes.
5. Possession, use, or distribution of any look-alike drug or look-alike controlled substance when such activity constitutes a substantial interference with school purposes.
6. Possession, use or distribution of any tobacco product.

Disciplinary Sanctions

Violation of any of the above prohibited conduct will result in student discipline, up to and including expulsion and referral to appropriate authorities for criminal prosecution. In particular, students should be aware that:

1. Violation of these standards may result in suspension or expulsion.
2. Prohibited substances will be confiscated and unlawful substances may be turned over to law enforcement authorities.
3. The student may be referred for counseling or treatment.
4. Parents or legal guardians will be notified.
5. Law enforcement may be notified.
6. If it appears there is imminent danger to the student, other students, school personnel, or students involved, emergency medical services will be contacted.

Article 8 – Student Conduct Rules

Section 1 Purpose of Student Conduct Rules

These student conduct rules are established to maintain a school atmosphere which is conducive to learning, to aid student development, to further school purposes, and to prevent interference with the educational process. Violations of these student conduct rules will result in disciplinary action.

Section 2 Forms of School Discipline

Students who violate the student conduct rules may be subject to the following forms of discipline:

1. Short-Term Suspension: Students may be excluded by the Principal or the Principal's designee from school or any school function for a period of up to five (5) school days (short-term suspension) on the following grounds:
 - a. Conduct that constitutes grounds for expulsion, whether the conduct occurs on or off school grounds; or
 - b. Other violations of rules and standards of behavior adopted by the Board of Education or the administrative or teaching staff of the school, which occur on or off school grounds, if such conduct interferes with school purposes or there is a nexus between such conduct and school.

The following process will apply to short-term suspensions:

- a. The Principal or the Principal's designee will make a reasonable investigation of the facts and circumstances. A short-term suspension will be made upon a determination that the suspension is necessary to help any student, to further school purposes, or to prevent an interference with school purposes.
- b. Prior to commencement of the short-term suspension, the student will be given oral or written notice of the charges against the student. The student will be advised of what the student is accused of having done, an explanation of the evidence the authorities have, and be afforded an opportunity to explain the student's version of the facts.
- c. Within 24 hours or such additional time as is reasonably necessary, but not more than 48 hours, following the suspension, the Principal or administrator will send a written statement to the student and the student's parent or guardian describing the student's conduct, misconduct, or violation of the rule or standard and the reasons for the action taken.
- d. An opportunity will be given to the student, and the student's parent or guardian, to have a conference with the Principal or administrator ordering the short-term suspension before or at the time the student returns to school. The Principal or administrator shall determine who in addition to the parent or guardian is to attend the conference. The Principal shall document their attempt to make a reasonable effort to hold a conference with the parent or guardian.
- e. A student on a short-term suspension shall not be permitted to be on school grounds without the express permission of the Principal.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, no pre-kindergarten through second grade student may be short-term suspended from school, unless the student brings a deadly weapon on school grounds, in a school vehicle, or to a school activity. Instead, the

Principal or Principal's designee may implement alternative disciplinary measures on a case-by-case basis if a pre-kindergarten through second grade student engages in misconduct that would otherwise result in a short-term suspension. If a pre-kindergarten through second grade student brings a deadly weapon on school grounds, in a school vehicle, or to a school activity, then the student may be suspended or expelled in accordance with these disciplinary procedures.

2. Long-Term Suspension: A long-term suspension means an exclusion from school and any school functions for a period of more than five (5) school days but less than twenty (20) school days. A student who is on a long-term suspension shall not be permitted to be on school grounds without the express permission of the Principal. Pursuant to the Nebraska Student Discipline Act, a notice will be given to the student and the parents/guardian when the Principal recommends a long-term suspension. The notice will include a description of the procedures for long-term suspension; the procedures will be those set forth in the Student Discipline Act.
3. Expulsion:
 - a. Meaning of Expulsion. Expulsion means exclusion from attendance in all schools, grounds and activities of or within the system for a period not to exceed the remainder of the semester in which it took effect unless the misconduct occurred (a) within ten (10) school days prior to the end of the first semester, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect through the second semester, or (b) within ten (10) school days prior to the end of the second semester, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect for summer school and the first semester of the following school year, or (c) unless the expulsion is for conduct specified in these rules or in law as permitting or requiring a longer removal, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect for the period specified therein. Such action may be modified or terminated by the school district at any time during the expulsion period. A student who has been expelled shall not be permitted to be on school grounds without the express permission of the Principal. A notice will be given to the student and the parents/guardian when the Principal recommends an expulsion. The notice will include a description of the procedures for expulsion; the procedures will be those set forth in the Student Discipline Act.
 - b. Suspension Pending Hearing. When a notice of intent to discipline a student by long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment is filed with the superintendent, the student may be suspended by the principal until the date the long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment takes effect if the principal determines that the student must be suspended immediately to prevent or substantially reduce the risk of (a) interference with an educational function or school purpose or (b) a personal injury to the student himself or herself, other students, school employees, or school volunteers. If the student is suspended pending the outcome of the hearing, the student may complete classwork and homework, including, but not limited to, examinations, missed during the period of suspension. During this period,

the student will not be required to attend the alternative programs for expelled students in order to complete classwork or homework.

- c. Summer Review. Any expulsion that will remain in effect during the first semester of the following school year will be automatically scheduled for review before the beginning of the school year in accordance with law.
 - d. Alternative Education. Students who are expelled may be offered an alternative education program that will enable the student to continue academic work for credit toward graduation. A student will not be required to attend the alternative education program to complete classwork and homework. In the event an alternative education program is not provided, a conference will be held with the parent, student, the Principal, or another school representative assigned by the Principal, and a representative of a community organization that assists young people or that is involved with juvenile justice to develop a plan for the student in accordance with law.
 - e. Suspension of Enforcement of an Expulsion. Enforcement of an expulsion action may be suspended (i.e., “stayed”) if the Superintendent approves the suspension of an expulsion. As a condition of such suspended action, the student and parents will be required to sign a discipline agreement.
 - f. Returning from Expulsion. At the conclusion of an expulsion, the District will reinstate the student and accept nonduplicative, grade-appropriate credits earned by the student during the term of expulsion from any Nebraska accredited institution or institution accredited by one (1) of the six (6) regional accrediting bodies in the United States.
4. Emergency Exclusion: A student may be excluded from school in the following circumstances:
- a. If the student has a dangerous communicable disease transmissible through normal school contacts and poses an imminent threat to the health or safety of the school community; or
 - b. If the student’s conduct presents a clear threat to the physical safety of himself, herself, or others, or is so extremely disruptive as to make temporary removal necessary to preserve the rights of other students to pursue an education.

Any emergency exclusion shall be based upon a clear factual situation warranting it and shall last no longer than is necessary to avoid the dangers described above.

If the emergency exclusion will be for five (5) school days or less, the procedures for a short-term suspension shall be followed. If the Superintendent or designee determines that an emergency exclusion shall extend beyond five days, a hearing may, upon a parent or guardian’s request, be held and a final determination made within ten (10) school days after the initial date of exclusion. Such appeal procedures shall substantially comply with the procedures set forth in this Handbook for a long-term suspension or expulsion and be modified by the Board of Education only to the extent necessary to accomplish the hearing and determination within this shorter time period.

5. Other Forms of Student Discipline: Administrative and teaching personnel may also take actions regarding student behavior, other than removal of students from school, which are reasonably necessary to aid the student, further school purposes, or prevent interference with the educational process. Such actions may include, but are not limited to, counseling of students, parent conferences, rearrangement of schedules, requirements that a student remain in school after regular hours to do additional work, restriction of extracurricular activity, or requirements that a student receive counseling, psychological evaluation, or psychiatric evaluation upon the written consent of a parent or guardian to such counseling or evaluation. The actions may also include in-school suspensions. When in-school suspensions, after-school assignments, or other disciplinary measures are assigned, the student is responsible for complying with such disciplinary measures. A failure to serve such assigned discipline as directed will serve as grounds for further discipline, up to expulsion from school.
6. Student Conduct Expectations. Students are not to engage in conduct which causes, or which creates a reasonable likelihood that it will cause, a substantial disruption in or material interference with any school function, activity or purpose or interfere with the health, safety, well-being or rights of other students, staff, or visitors.
7. Grounds for Short-Term Suspension, Long-Term Suspension, Expulsion or Mandatory Reassignment. The following conduct has been determined by the Board of Education to have the potential to seriously affect the health, safety or welfare of students, staff, and other persons or to interfere with the educational process otherwise seriously. Such conduct constitutes grounds for long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment, and any other lesser forms of discipline. The conduct is subject to the consequence of long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment where it occurs on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by the school and being used for a school purpose or in a vehicle being driven for a school purpose by a school employee or an employee's designee, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event.
 - a. Willfully disobeying any reasonable written or oral request of a school staff member, or the voicing of disrespect to those in authority.
 - b. Use of violence, force, coercion, threat, intimidation, harassment, or similar conduct in a manner that constitutes a substantial interference with school purposes or making any communication that a reasonable recipient would interpret as a serious expression of an intent to harm or cause injury to another.
 - c. Willfully causing or attempting to cause substantial damage to property, stealing or attempting to steal property of substantial value, repeated damage or theft involving property, or setting or attempting to set a fire of any magnitude.
 - d. Causing or attempting to cause personal injury to any person, including any school employee, school volunteer, or student. Personal injury caused by

accident, self-defense, or other action undertaken on the reasonable belief that it was necessary to protect some other person shall not constitute a violation of this subdivision.

- e. Threatening or intimidating any student for the purpose of or with the intent of obtaining money or anything of value from such student or making a threat which causes or may be expected to cause a disruption to school operations.
- f. Knowingly possessing, handling, or transmitting any object or material that is ordinarily or generally considered a weapon or that has the appearance of a weapon or bringing or possessing any explosive device, including fireworks.
- g. Engaging in selling, using, possessing, or dispensing of alcohol, tobacco, narcotics, drugs, controlled substance, or an inhalant; being under the influence of any of the above; possession of drug paraphernalia, or the selling, using, possessing, or dispensing of an imitation controlled substance as defined in section 28-401 of the Nebraska statutes, or material represented to be alcohol, narcotics, drugs, a controlled substance or inhalant. Tobacco means any tobacco product (including but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, and chewing tobacco), vapor products (such as e-cigarettes), electronic nicotine delivery systems, alternative nicotine products, tobacco product look-alikes, and products intended to replicate tobacco products either by appearance or effect. Use of a controlled substance in the manner prescribed for the student by the student's physician is not a violation. The term "under the influence" has a less strict meaning than it does under criminal law; for school purposes, the term means any level of impairment and includes even the odor of alcohol or illegal substances on the breath or person of a student; also, it includes being impaired by reason of the abuse of any material used as a stimulant.
- h. Public indecency or sexual conduct.
- i. Engaging in bullying, which includes any ongoing pattern of physical, verbal, or electronic abuse on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose by a school employee or a school employee's designee, or at school-sponsored activities or school-sponsored athletic events.
- j. Sexually assaulting or attempting to sexually assault any person. This conduct may result in an expulsion regardless of the time or location of the offense if a complaint alleging such conduct is filed in a court of competent jurisdiction.
- k. Engaging in any activity forbidden by law which constitutes a danger to other students or interferes with school purposes. This conduct may result in an expulsion regardless of the time or location of the offense if the conduct creates or had the potential to create a substantial interference with school purposes, such as the use of the telephone or internet off-school grounds to threaten.
- l. A repeated violation of any rules established by the school district or school officials if such violations constitute a substantial interference with school purposes.
- m. Truancy or failure to attend assigned classes or assigned activities; or tardiness to school, assigned classes or assigned activities.

- n. The use of language, written or oral, or conduct, including gestures, which is profane or abusive to students or staff members. Profane or abusive language or conduct includes, but is not limited to, that which is commonly understood and intended to be derogatory toward a group or individual based upon race (including skin color, hair texture and protective hairstyles), gender, disability, national origin, or religion.
- o. Dressing or grooming in a manner which is dangerous to the student's health and safety or a danger to the health and safety of others or repeated violations of the student dress and grooming standards; dressing, grooming, or engaging in speech that is lewd or indecent, vulgar or plainly offensive; dressing, grooming, or engaging in speech that school officials reasonably conclude will materially and substantially disrupt the work and discipline of the school; dressing, grooming, or engaging in speech that a reasonable observer would interpret as advocating illegal drug use.
- p. Willfully violating behavioral expectations for riding school buses or vehicles.

In addition to the foregoing, a student who engages in the following conduct shall be expelled for the remainder of the school year in which it took effect if the misconduct occurs during the first semester, and if the expulsion for such conduct takes place during the second semester, the expulsion shall remain in effect for the first semester of the following school year, with the condition that such action may be modified or terminated by the school district during the expulsion period on such terms as the administration may establish:

- a. The knowing and intentional use of force in causing or attempting to cause personal injury to a school employee, school volunteer, or student, except if caused by accident, self-defense, or on the reasonable belief that the force used was necessary to protect some other person and the extent of force used was reasonably believed to be necessary, or
- b. The known and intentional possession, use, or transmission of a dangerous weapon other than a firearm. The term “dangerous weapon” includes any personal safety or security device (such as tasers, mace, and pepper spray). If a student desires to carry or possess a personal safety or security device, the student must obtain prior approval from the building principal before bringing such device to school grounds. If a student obtains prior approval from the building principal, the student must store the device during the school day in the student’s locker, in the main office or in another secure location designated by the building principal. A student shall not carry a personal safety or security device during the school day.

Further, a student will be expelled for one (1) calendar year if the student knowingly and intentionally possesses, uses, or transmits a firearm on school grounds, in a school-owned or utilized vehicle, or during an educational function or event off school grounds, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event. The term “firearm” means a firearm as defined in 18 U.S.C. 921, as that statute existed on January 1, 1995. The only exception to this rule is if the student

obtains prior written permission to bring the firearm on school grounds by the Superintendent for a school-related purpose.

8. Additional Student Conduct Expectations and Grounds for Discipline. The following additional student conduct expectations are established. Failure to comply with such rules may be grounds for disciplinary action, up to and including an expulsion.
- a. Student Appearance: Students are expected to dress in a way that is appropriate for the school setting. Students should not dress in a manner that is dangerous to the health and safety of anyone or interferes with the learning environment or teaching process in our school. The following is a non-exhaustive list of examples of attire that are not appropriate at school:
- i. Clothing or jewelry that advertises or promotes beer, alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs.
 - ii. Clothing or jewelry that could be used as a weapon (chains, spiked apparel) or that would encourage “horseplay” or that would damage property (e.g. cleats).
 - iii. Headwear including hats, caps, and bandannas.
 - iv. Clothing or jewelry which exhibits nudity, makes sexual references, or carries lewd, indecent, or vulgar double meaning.
 - v. Clothing or jewelry that is gang related.
 - vi. Any other clothing that the administration deems inappropriate for the school setting.

The final decision regarding attire and grooming will be made by the Principal or Superintendent. In the event a student is uncertain as to whether a particular item or method of grooming is consistent with the school’s guidelines, the student should contact the Principal for approval.

On a first offense of the dress code, the student may call home for proper apparel. If clothes cannot be brought to school, the student will be assigned to in-school suspension for the remainder of the day. Students will not be allowed to leave campus to change clothes. Continual violations of the dress code may result in more serious disciplinary actions, up to expulsion. Further, in the event the dress code violation is determined to also violate other student conduct rules (e.g., public indecency, insubordination, expression of profanity, and the like), a first offense of the dress code may result in more serious discipline, up to expulsion.

- b. Academic Integrity.
- i. Policy Statement: Students are expected to abide by the standards of academic integrity established by their teachers and school administration. Standards of academic integrity are established for students to learn as much as possible from instruction, for students to be given grades which accurately reflect the student’s level of learning and progress, to provide a level playing field for all students, and to develop appropriate values.

Cheating and plagiarism violate the standards of academic integrity. Sanctions will be imposed against students who engage in such conduct.

ii. **Definitions:** The following definitions provide a guide to the standards of academic integrity:

(1) “**Cheating**” means intentionally misrepresenting the source, nature, or other conditions of academic work so as to accrue undeserved credit, or to cooperate with someone else in such misrepresentation. Such misrepresentations may, but need not necessarily, involve the work of others. Cheating includes, but is not limited to:

(a) **Tests** (includes tests, quizzes and other examinations or academic performances):

(i) **Advance Information:** Obtaining, reviewing, or sharing copies of tests or information about a test before these are distributed for student use by the instructor. For example, a student engages in cheating if, after having taken a test, the student informs other students in a later section of the questions that appear on the test.

(ii) **Use of Unauthorized Materials:** Using notes, textbooks, pre-programmed formula in calculators, or other unauthorized material, devices or information while taking a test except as expressly permitted. For example, except for “open book” tests, a student engages in cheating if the student looks at personal notes or the textbook during the test.

(iii) **Use of Other Student Answers:** Copying or looking at another student’s answers or work, or sharing answers or work with another student, when taking a test, except as expressly permitted. For example, a student engages in cheating if the student looks at another student’s paper during a test. A student also engages in cheating if the student tells another student answers during a test or while exiting the testing room, or knowingly allows another student to look at the student’s answers on the test paper.

(iv) **Use of Other Student to Take Test:** Having another person take one's place for a test, or taking a test for another student, without the specific knowledge and permission of the instructor.

(v) **Misrepresenting Need to Delay Test.** Presenting false or incomplete information in order to postpone or avoid the taking of a test. For example, a student engages in cheating if the student misses class on the day of a test, claiming to be sick, when the student’s real reason for missing class was because the student was not prepared for the test.

(b) **Papers** (includes papers, essays, lab projects, and other similar academic work):

- (i) Use of Another’s Paper: Copying another student’s paper, using a paper from an essay writing service, or allowing another student to copy a paper, without the specific knowledge and permission of the instructor.
 - (ii) Re-use of One’s Own Papers: Using a substantial portion of a piece of work previously submitted for another course or program to meet the requirements of the present course or program without notifying the instructor to whom the work is presented.
 - (iii) Assistance from Others: Having another person assist with the paper to such an extent that the work does not truly reflect the student’s work. For example, a student engages in cheating if the student has a draft essay reviewed by the student’s parent or sibling, and the essay is substantially re-written by the student’s parent or sibling. Assistance from home is encouraged, but the work must remain the student’s.
 - (iv) Failure to Contribute to Group Projects: Accepting credit for a group project in which the student failed to contribute a fair share of the work.
 - (v) Misrepresenting Need to Delay Paper: Presenting false or incomplete information in order to postpone or avoid turning in a paper when due. For example, a student engages in cheating if the student misses class on the day a paper is due, claiming to be sick, when the student’s real reason for missing class was because the student had not finished the paper.
- (c) Alteration of Assigned Grades: Any unauthorized alteration of assigned grades by a student in the teacher’s grade book or the school records is a serious form of cheating.
- (2) “Plagiarism” means to take and present as one’s own a material portion of the ideas or words of another or to present as one’s own an idea or work derived from an existing source without full and proper credit to the source of the ideas, words, or works. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to:
- (a) Failure to Credit Sources: Copying work (words, sentences, and paragraphs or illustrations or models) directly from the work of another without proper credit. Academic work frequently involves the use of outside sources. To avoid plagiarism, the student must either place the work in quotations or give a citation to the outside source.
 - (b) Falsely Presenting Work as One’s Own: Presenting work prepared by another in final or draft form as one’s own without citing the source, such as the use of purchased research papers or use of another student’s paper.
- (3) “Contributing” to academic integrity violations means to participate in or assist another in cheating or plagiarism. It includes but is not limited

to allowing another student to look at your test answers, to copy your papers or lab projects, and to fail to report a known act of cheating or plagiarism to the instructor or administration.

- c. Sanctions: The following sanctions will occur when a student engages in cheating, plagiarism, or contributing to an academic integrity offense:
- (i) Academic Sanction. The instructor will refuse to accept the student's work in which the academic integrity offense took place, assign a grade of "F" or zero for the work, and may require the student to complete a test or project in place of the work within such time and under such conditions as the instructor may determine appropriate. In the event the student completes the replacement test or project at a level meeting minimum performance standard, the instructor may assign a grade which the instructor determines to be appropriate for the work.
 - (ii) Report to Parents and Administration. The instructor will notify the Principal of the offense and the instructor or Principal will notify the student's parents or guardian.
 - (iii) Student Discipline Sanctions. Academic integrity offenses are a violation of school rules. The Principal may recommend sanctions in addition to those assigned by the instructor, up to and including suspension or expulsion. Such additional sanctions will be given strong consideration where a student has engaged in serious or repeated academic integrity offense or other rule violations, and where the academic sanction is otherwise not a sufficient remedy, such as for offenses involving altering assigned grades or contributing to academic integrity violations.

9. Inappropriate Public Displays of Affection (IPDA): Students are not to engage in inappropriate public displays of affection on school property or at school activities. Such conduct includes kissing, touching, fondling or other displays of affection that would be reasonably considered to be embarrassing or a distraction to others. Students will face the following consequences for IPDA:
- a. 1st Offense: Student will be directed to stop.
 - b. 2nd Offense: Student will be directed to stop, and parents will be notified.
 - c. 3rd Offense: Student will be suspended from school for a minimum of one (1) day, and parents and student will need to meet with the administration to address the ongoing conduct.

If this type of behavior continues, or if the IPDA is lewd or constitutes sexual conduct, the student could face long-term suspension or expulsion.

10. Law Violations

Any act of a student which is a basis for expulsion and which the Principal or designee knows or suspects is a violation of the Nebraska Criminal Code will be reported to law enforcement as soon as possible.

11. Anti-Bullying:

One of the missions of the District is to provide safe and secure environments for

all students and staff. Students who are the victim of bullying or harassment or who observe such occurrences are to promptly report the problem to their teacher or to the Principal so the problem can be addressed. Students who make reports of bullying activity will not be retaliated against for making the report. The school's anti-bullying is available for review on the District's website.

12. Network, E-Mail, Internet, and Other Computer Use Rules:

a. General Rules:

- i. The network is provided to staff and students to conduct research and communicate with others. Access to network services is given to staff and students who have agreed to act in a responsible manner. Access for all staff and students is a privilege and not a right.
- ii. Individual users of the district network are responsible for their behavior, actions, problems, and communications involving and over the network. Users will comply with district rules and will honor the agreements they have signed. Beyond clarification of such rules, the district is not responsible for restricting, monitoring, editing, or controlling the information, equipment or communications of individuals utilizing the network or the end product or result of such utilization.
- iii. Network storage areas shall be treated like school lockers for students. Network administrators may review files, information, equipment, messages and communications of staff and students to maintain system integrity and ensure that users are using the network system responsibly. Users should not expect that files or any information stored or otherwise used or retained on the network, district servers, or in computers, will be private. No reasonable expectation of privacy shall exist in relation to network use.
- iv. Users should not expect, and the district does not warrant, any information or products obtained from the network, that files or information stored, obtained, or used on the network will be private, and use of the network waives and relinquishes all such privacy rights, interests or claims to confidentiality the user may have under state or federal law.
- v. The district will not be liable for, and does not warrant in any way, purchases made by any user over the network. Users shall not make purchases of goods and/or services via the district's network.

b. Rules for Acceptable Use of Computers and the Network: The following rules for acceptable use of computers and the network, including Internet, shall apply to all students:

- i. Students shall not erase, remake, or make unusable anyone else's computer, information, files, or programs.
- ii. Students shall not let other people use their name, account, log-on password, or files for any reason (except for authorized staff members).
- iii. Students shall not use or try to discover another user's account or password.

- iv. Students shall not use the computer for unlawful purposes, such as illegal copying or installation of unauthorized software.
- v. Students shall not copy, change, or transfer any software or documentation provided by teachers, or other students without permission from the network administrators.
- vi. Students shall not write, produce, generate, copy, propagate, or attempt to introduce any computer code, software or information designed to self-replicate, damage, or otherwise hinder the performance of the network or any computer's memory, file system, or software.
- vii. Students shall not use the computer to annoy or harass others with language, images, or threats. Users shall not access, accept, create, or send any obscene, vulgar, lewd, tasteless, or objectionable messages, information, language, or images.
- viii. Students shall not damage the network or equipment, damage information belonging to others, misuse network resources, or allow others to misuse network resources.

Article 9 – Student Fees Policy

The District’s general policy is to provide free instruction in school in accordance with the Nebraska Constitution and state and federal law. This generally means that the District’s policy is to provide free instruction for courses which are required by state law or regulation and to provide the staff, facility, equipment, and materials necessary for such instruction, without charge or fee to the students.

Under the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act, the District has set forth in policy its guidelines or policies for specific categories of student fees. This policy is subject to further interpretation or guidance by administrative or Board regulations which may be adopted from time to time. The policy includes specifics of student fees and materials required of students for the current school year. Parents, guardians, and students are encouraged to contact their building administration or their teachers or activity coaches and sponsors for further specifics. The District’s entire Student Fees Policy is available on the District’s website.

**Appendix “1” to the Student Fees Policy of
Syracuse-Dunbar-AvoCa Public Schools
Additional Specification of Required Materials and Fees¹**

Program	General Description of Fee or Material	\$ Amount of Fee (Anticipated or Maximum)² or Specific Material Required
K-3 Elementary Program		

Physical Education classes	Appropriate clothing (non specialized attire)	Tennis shoes and white socks, running shorts, T-shirt
Art classes and special projects or events	Appropriate clothing (non-specialized attire)	Old shirt for painting; other clothing which may get paint on it or otherwise be damaged
Music	Appropriate clothing (non-specialized attire)	None--necessary classroom supplies will be made available by the school
Classroom supplies	General supplies, such as writing instruments (pens, pencils, crayons, markers), notebooks, etc.	None--necessary classroom supplies will be made available by the school. Students will be responsible for the replacement cost of damaged or lost supplies. Students are encouraged but not required to bring items from class supply lists which may be handed out by the office or individual teachers.
Field Trips	Transportation and admission costs of field trips	None—costs of school sponsored, class related field trips will be paid for by the school. Parents may be encouraged but not required to pay for field trip costs of up to \$15.00 per student for each field trip to defray costs. (With administrative approval, the requested donation may be up to \$100.00 for special field trips). Meals on field trips will be at the expense of the student. School lunches will be provided as needed for free reduced lunch eligible students.
Copies	Use of school copiers (except for one copy of the student file, which will be provided without charge)	Ten cents (.10) per page when charges apply.
School Meals		Breakfast-- \$2.15 Lunch--\$3.10 Prices are maximums based on one meal per day, will vary depending on the number of meals or items purchased by the student, and may be adjusted during the year.
4- 12 Secondary Program	General Description of Fee or Material	\$ Amount of Fee (Anticipated or Maximum) or Specific Material Required
Physical Education classes	Appropriate clothing (non specialized attire)	Tennis shoes
Art and shop classes and special projects	Appropriate clothing (non-specialized attire)	Old shirt for painting; other clothing which may get paint on it or otherwise be damaged; protective clothing for shop classes

Music—Optional band courses	Musical instruments	Musical instruments and accessories (reeds, valve oil, etc.) Limited instruments available for use by any student. Damage deposit of \$75.00 for use of school owned instrument.
Classroom Supplies	General supplies, such as writing instruments (pens, pencils, crayons, markers), notebooks, etc.	None--necessary classroom supplies will be made available by the school. Students will be responsible for the replacement cost of damaged or lost supplies. Students are encouraged but not required to bring items from class supply lists which may be handed out by the office or individual teachers.
Copies	Use of school copiers (except for one copy of the student file, which will be provided without charge)	Ten cents (.10) per page when charges apply.
School Meals		Breakfast- \$2.15 Lunch--\$3.35 Prices are maximums based on one meal per day, will vary depending on the number of meals or items purchased by the student, and may be adjusted during the year.
Post-secondary education classes	Tuition and fees for college courses taken for credit.	None--Any postsecondary education costs are to be paid directly by students to the college.
College entrance tests and preparation	Prep programs & tests	Costs of college entrance tests or prep courses, such as ACT preparation tutoring, PSAT test, and ACT test, are optional and to be paid directly to the private companies involved.
Summer school courses	Classes offered during the summer, or at night, if any	Drivers education class: \$275 resident and \$325 for non-resident. Other classes: \$300 per class.
Parking	Use of school parking lot during school day	None. Students will be required to register a license plate number.
Extracurricular and other programs	General Description of Fee or Material	\$ Amount of Fee (Anticipated or Maximum) or Specific Material Required
Athletic Programs		
1. Admission	Spectator fees for admission to events	Varsity & Jr. Varsity Events \$5.00 JVEvents/Reserve Only \$4.00 Jr. High Events \$4.00 Student Passes \$40.00 per person For District and Conference events hosted by the School, cost to be set by NSAA but not to exceed \$20.00 per event.

2. Athletic Physicals	NSAA required athletic physicals	Cost varies; payable directly to student's physician or clinic.
3. Athletic Participation Fee	Fee to participate in athletic programs.	In the event an athletic participation fee is charged, the fee will be \$50 per year maximum.
4. Equipment and attire	Students are responsible for required equipment and attire appropriate to the sport or activity which are not provided by the school, and are responsible for any optional clothing, equipment, or other items associated with the sport or activity.	<p>Required items include athletic undergarments (supporter, bra, socks and undershirts), practice attire, including shorts, shirts, socks and shoes suitable for the activity, and dress attire suitable for team travel. Optional items for which students are responsible include: personal athletic bags, hair ties, sweat bands, non-required gloves, towels, forearm pads and personal medical devices (braces, orthopedic inserts, etc.). Additional required items for particular sports or activities include:</p> <p>Basketball -No additional Cross County - No additional Football - Mouthpiece Golf - Golf bag & clubs Softball - Softball glove Speech/Debate - Dress attire; copies of research Track - No additional Volleyball - Volleyball knee pads Wrestling - Wrestling headgear Cheerleading and Dance Team Squads Shoes, approved uniforms (top & skirt; jacket), poms and other accessories</p>
5. Travel Meals	Meals	Students are responsible for their own meals while traveling. Individual sports or activities may request students to pay up to \$50 per season to be used towards team travel meals.
6. Locker use	Padlock for gym locker	Refundable damage deposit of \$25 per season will be required.
7. Camps and clinics	Registration and other costs of camps or clinics	Students are responsible for the cost of all clinics, camps and conditioning programs. Any personal items purchased at camps or clinics, such as t-shirts, shall be at the student's expense.
8. Athletic Clubs	Letterman's club and other clubs supporting the athletic program	Annual dues not to exceed \$50.00 per club.

9. Marching Band and Musical Groups	Equipment and attire.	Students will be responsible for the same costs as are set out for the athletic program. Students will be responsible for supplying their own musical instruments and accessories and for their own uniforms. Uniforms for the marching band will be supplied by the school; students may be required to pay a refundable band uniform rental fee of up to \$75.00.
Clubs/Organizations		
Future Business Leaders (FBLA)	State & national dues, meals and activities	Annual dues not to exceed \$75.00 per club.
Future Farmers (FFA)	State & national dues, meals and activities	Annual dues not to exceed \$75.00 per club.
SOS or Future Career/Community Leaders (FCCLA)	State & national dues, meals and activities	Annual dues not to exceed \$75.00 per club.
National Honor Society	State & national dues, meals and activities	Annual dues not to exceed \$75.00 per club.
Student Council	State & national dues, meals and activities	Annual dues not to exceed \$75.00 per club.
Social & Recognition Activities		
1. School plays, musicals and social activities	Admission to events	\$10.00 per play or activity
2. School dances	Admission to prom, homecoming, etc.	\$25.00 per event
3. Class dues		Each of the six secondary classes may assess its members an amount not to exceed \$50.00 annually for rental and decoration of dance facilities, punch and snacks at social activities, memorials and recognition plaques, flowers, and cards, and similar class activities. The payment of such an assessment shall be strictly voluntary, but students who do not pay may be denied admission to extracurricular activities supported by the class dues.
4. Senior recognition assessment	Optional graduation activities	Participation in class activities attendant to graduation (such as being part of the composite picture, special yearbook pages, etc.) is not required in order for students to receive their high school diploma. Students who choose to participate will be required to pay the cost of the items involved in the graduation ceremony and attendant class activities. These may include the rental of

		graduation robes, caps, tassels, class flowers, class gift, yearbook picture page, and class composite picture. A single Senior Class Recognition Assessment, not to exceed \$50, will be assessed to those Seniors who elect to participate in such activities.
5. Trips	Transportation, lodging, meals, admission to events, etc.	Students are responsible for costs of school sponsored trips where the trip is an extracurricular activity. The maximum costs of such trips will be \$2,000 per student. If the trip is not school sponsored, the costs of the trip are not subject to this policy and no fee waivers will apply. A trip is not school sponsored if: it is not supervised or administered by the school, attendance on the trip does not count towards graduation credit or grade advancement, and participation on the trip is voluntary for students.

Article 10 – State and Federal Programs

Section 1 Notice of Nondiscrimination

The School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex, disability, race (including skin color, hair texture and protective hairstyles), color, religion, veteran status, national or ethnic origin, age, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, sexual orientation or gender identity, or other protected status in the admission, access to its facilities or programs or activities, treatment, or employment.

Section 2 Designation of Coordinators

Any person having concerns or needing information about the District’s compliance with anti-discrimination laws or policies should contact the District’s designated Coordinator for the applicable anti-discrimination law.

Law, Policy, or Program	Issue or Concern	Coordinator
Title VI	Discrimination or harassment based on race (including skin color, hair texture and protective hairstyles), color, or national origin; harassment	David Kraus, Superintendent
Title IX	Discrimination or harassment based on sex; gender equity	David Kraus, Superintendent
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)	Discrimination, harassment, or reasonable accommodations of persons with disabilities	David Kraus, Superintendent
Homeless student laws	Children who are homeless	David Kraus, Superintendent

Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities	Safe and drug free schools	David Kraus, Superintendent
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The Coordinator may be contacted at: 550 7th St. Syracuse, NE 68446, 402-269-2383

Section 3 Multicultural

The philosophy of the District’s multicultural education program is that students will have improved ability to function as productive members of society when provided with: (a) an understanding of diverse cultures and races, the manner in which the existence of diverse cultures and races have affected the history of our Nation and the world, and of the contributions made by diverse cultures and races (including but not be limited to African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, Asian Americans and European Americans) and (b) with the ability and skills to be sensitive toward and to study, work and live successively with persons of diverse cultures and races. The mission shall also include preparing students to eliminate stereotypes and discrimination, or harassment of others based on ethnicity, religion, gender, socioeconomic status, age, or disability.

Section 4 Notice to Parents of Rights Afforded by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

The following is a description of the rights granted to qualifying students with disabilities under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. The intent of the law is to keep you fully informed concerning the decisions about your child and to inform you of your rights if you disagree with any of these decisions. You have the right to:

1. Have your child take part in, and receive benefits from, public education programs without discrimination because of his/her disability.
2. Have the school district advise you of your rights under federal law.
3. Receive notice with respect to identification, evaluation, or placement of your child.
4. Have your child receive a free appropriate public education.
5. Have your child receive services and be educated in facilities which are comparable to those provided to every student.
6. Have evaluation, educational and placement decisions made based on a variety of information sources and by persons who know the student and who are knowledgeable about the evaluation data and placement options.
7. Have transportation provided to and from an alternative placement setting (if the setting is a program not operated by the district) at no greater cost to you than would be incurred if the student were placed in a program operated by the district.
8. Have your child be given an equal opportunity to participate in nonacademic and extracurricular activities offered by the district.
9. Examine all relevant records relating to decisions regarding your child’s identification, evaluation, and placement.
10. Request mediation or an impartial due process hearing related to decisions or actions regarding your child’s identification, evaluation, educational program, or placement. (You and your child may take part in the hearing. Hearing requests are to be made to the Superintendent.)

11. File a local grievance.

Section 5 Notification of Rights Under FERPA

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age (“eligible students”) certain rights with respect to the student’s education records. They are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student’s education records within 45 days of the day the District receives a request for access.

Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal (or appropriate school official) a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The principal will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

2. The right to request the amendment of the student’s education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading.

Parents or eligible students may ask the School District to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write to the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the District decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the District will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student’s education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

One exception which permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the District as an administrator, supervisor, instructor or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the District has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.

A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

Upon request, the District discloses education records without consent to officials of another School District in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.

4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the District to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA is:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20202-4605

Notice Concerning Directory Information

The District may disclose directory information. The types of personally identifiable information that the District has designated as directory information are as follows:

1. Student's Name, address, telephone listing, and the name, address, telephone listings (if not unlisted), e-mail address and work or other contact information of the student's parent/guardian or other adult acting in loco parentis or with authority to act as parent or guardian in educational matters for the student;
2. School and dates of attendance;
3. Student's current grade;
4. Student's enrollment status (e.g. full-time or part-time);
5. Student's date of birth and place of birth;
6. Student's extra-curricular participation;
7. Student's achievement awards or honors;
8. Student's weight and height if a member of an athletic team;
9. Student's photograph; and
10. School or school district the student attended before he or she enrolled in Syracuse-Dunbar-Avoca Public Schools.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the District does not designate as directory information personally identifiable information from students' education records where the District determines that the disclosure to the potential recipient poses a risk to student safety or well-being, including but not limited to circumstances where the potential recipient is a registered sex offender and the personally identifiable information would permit the potential recipient to communicate with or otherwise contact the student.

A parent or eligible student has the right to refuse to let the District designate information about the student as directory information. The period of time within which a parent or eligible student has to notify the District in writing that he or she does not want information about the student designated as directory information is as follows: two (2) weeks from the time this information is first received. Please contact the Superintendent's office to indicate your refusal to have your child's information designated as directory information.

The District may disclose information about former students without meeting the conditions in this section.

The District's policy is for education records to be kept confidential except as permitted by the FERPA law, and the District does not approve any practice which involves an unauthorized

disclosure of education records. In some courses student work may be displayed or made available to others. Also, some teachers may have persons other than the teacher or school staff, such as volunteers or fellow students, assist with the task of grading student work and returning graded work to students. The District does not either approve or disapprove such teaching practices and designates such student work as directory information and/or as non-education records. Each parent and eligible student shall be presumed to have accepted this designation in the absence of the parent or eligible student giving notification to the District in writing in the manner set forth above pertaining to the designation of directory information. Consent will be presumed to have been given in the absence of such a notification from the parent or eligible student.

Section 6 Military Recruiters

The District will provide military recruiters with access to routine directory information of each high school student unless the student's parent or guardian requests in writing that their student's information not be shared with a military recruiter. Parents and guardians who do not want their student's information to be shared with a military recruiter must notify the high school principal in writing. If a parent or guardian does not notify the high school principal in writing, the District will provide a military recruiter with the student's routine directory information.

Section 7 Combined District and School Title I Parent and Family Involvement

The written District parent and family engagement policy has been developed jointly with, updated periodically, and distributed to parents and family members of participating children and the local community in an understandable and uniform format. This policy agreed on by such parents is available for review on the District's website.

Section 8 Student Privacy Protection Policy

Right of Parents to Inspect Surveys Funded or Administered by the United States Department of Education or Third Parties: Parents shall have the right to inspect, upon the parent's request, a survey created by and administered by either the United States Department of Education or a third party (a group or person other than the District) before the survey is administered or distributed by the school to the parent's child.

Protection of Student Privacy in Regard to Surveys of Matters Deemed to be Sensitive: The District will require, for any survey of students which contain one or more matters deemed to be sensitive (see section headed "Definition of Surveys of Matters Deemed to be Sensitive"), that suitable arrangements be made to protect student privacy (that is, the name or other identifying information about a particular student). For such surveys, the District will also follow the procedures set forth in the section entitled: "Notification of and Right to Opt-Out of Specific Events."

Right of Parents to Inspect Instructional Materials: Parents have the right to inspect, upon reasonable request, any instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum for their child. Reasonable requests for inspection of instructional materials shall be granted within a reasonable period of time after the request is received. Parents shall not have the right to access academic tests or academic assessments, as such are not within the meaning of the term "instructional materials" for purposes of this policy. The procedures for making and granting a

request to inspect instructional materials are as follows: the parent shall make the request, with reasonable specificity, directly to the building principal. The building principal, within five (5) school days, shall consult with the teacher or other educator responsible for the curriculum materials. In the event the request can be accommodated, the building principal shall make the materials available for inspection or review by the parent, at such reasonable time and place as will not interfere with the educator's intended use of the materials. In the event there is a question as to the nature of the curriculum materials requested or as to whether the materials are required to be provided, the building principal shall notify the parent of such concern and assist the parent with forming a request which can reasonably be accommodated. If the parent does not formulate such a request, and continues to desire certain curriculum materials, the parent shall be asked to make their request to the Superintendent.

Rights of Parents to be Notified of and to Opt-Out of Certain Physical Examinations or Screenings. The general policy and practice of the District is to not administer physical examinations or screenings of students which require advance notice or parental opt-out rights under the applicable federal laws, for the reason that the physical examinations or screenings to be conducted by the District will usually fit into one of the following exceptions: (1) hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings; (2) physical examinations or screenings that are permitted or required by an applicable State law; and (3) surveys administered to students in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. For physical examinations or screenings which do not fit into the applicable exceptions, the District will follow the procedures set forth in the section entitled: "Notification of and Right to Opt-Out of Specific Events."

Protection of Student Privacy in Regard to Personal Information Collected from Students: The general policy and practice of the District is to not engage in the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information. The District will make reasonable arrangements to protect student privacy to the extent possible in the event of any such collection, disclosure, or use of personal information. "Personal information" for purposes of this policy means individually identifiable information about a student including: a student or parent's first and last name, home address, telephone number, and social security number. The term "personal information," for purposes of this policy, does not include information collected from students for the exclusive purpose of developing, evaluating, or providing educational products or services for, or to, students or educational institutions. This exception includes the following examples: (i) college or postsecondary education recruitment, or military recruitment; (ii) book clubs, magazines, and programs providing access to low-cost literary products; (iii) curriculum and instructional materials used by elementary schools and secondary schools; (iv) tests and assessments used by elementary schools and secondary schools to provide cognitive, evaluative, diagnostic, clinical, aptitude, or achievement information about student, or to generate other statistically useful data for the purpose of securing such tests and assessments, and the subsequent analysis and public release of the aggregate data from such tests and assessments; (v) the sale by student of products or services to raise funds for school-related or education-related activities; (vi) student recognition programs.

Parental Access to Instruments used in the Collection of Personal Information: While the general practice of the District is to not engage in the collection, disclosure, or use of personal

information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information, parents shall have the right to inspect, upon reasonable request, any instrument which may be administered or distributed to a student for such purposes. Reasonable requests for inspection shall be granted within a reasonable period of time after the request is received. The procedures for making and granting such a request are as follows: the parent shall make the request, with reasonable specificity, directly to the building principal and shall identify the specific act and the school staff member or program responsible for the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information from students for the purpose of marketing that information. The building principal, within five (5) school days, shall consult with the school staff member or person responsible for the program which has been reported by the parent to be responsible for the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information from students. In the event such collection, disclosure, or use of personal information is occurring or there is a plan for such to occur, the building principal shall consult with the Superintendent for determination of whether the action shall be allowed to continue. If not, the instrument for the collection of personal information shall not be given to any students. If it is to be allowed, such instrument shall be provided to the requesting parent as soon as such instrument can be reasonably obtained.

Notification to Parents of Dates of and Right to Opt-Out of Specific Events: The District will directly notify the parents of the affected children, at least annually at the beginning of the school year, of the specific or approximate dates during the school year when any of the following activities are scheduled, or are expected to be scheduled:

The collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information. (Note: the general practice of the District is to not engage in the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information).

Surveys of students involving one or more matters deemed to be sensitive in accordance with the law and this policy; and,

Any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening that is required as a condition of attendance; administered by the school and scheduled by the school in advance; and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of the student or of other students. (Note: the general practice of the District is to not engage in physical examinations or screenings which require advance notice, for the reason that the physical examinations or screenings to be conducted by the District will usually fit into one of the following exceptions to the advance notice requirement and parental opt-out right: (1) hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings; (2) physical examinations or screenings that are permitted or required by an applicable State law, and (3) surveys administered to students in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act).

Parents shall be offered an opportunity in advance to opt their child out of participation in any of the above-listed activities.

In the case of a student of an appropriate age (that is, a student who has reached the age of 18, or a legally emancipated student), the notice and opt-out right shall belong to the student.

Definition of Surveys of Matters Deemed to be Sensitive: Any survey containing one or more of

the following matters shall be deemed to be “sensitive” for purposes of this policy:

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student’s parent;
2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or the student’s parent;
3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating or demeaning behavior;
5. Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom the student has close family relationships;
6. Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers;
7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the students or the student’s parent;
8. Income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program).

Section 11 Homeless Students

The District shall ensure that homeless children and youths shall have equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including public preschool education, as provided to other children and youths. Any person with knowledge of a homeless student in the District should contact the District’s Homeless Coordinator. A copy of the District’s Homeless Policy is available on the District’s website.

AVAILABILITY OF HANDBOOKS

The 2024-2025 Student-Parent Handbook of Syracuse-Dunbar-Avoca Public Schools is available on the internet at sdarockets.org.

Because of the expense of printing the handbooks, we are asking that you consider using the internet to access and review the 2024-2025 Student-Parent Handbook. Using the internet to access the handbook will allow the district to direct printing dollars to instructional needs and eliminate the need for you to search for your handbook when you have questions throughout the year. Thank you for considering this new use of technology to improve school-home communication.

Please return to the Principal's Office by **August 14, 2024**. This will allow us time to get the Handbook to all students and parents before school starts while avoiding the necessity of printing more copies of the Handbooks than necessary.

- Thank you for providing the 2024-2025 Student-Parent Handbook online. I will review it on the internet. My signed receipt below acknowledges receipt of the Handbook in a satisfactory manner via the internet.**

- I prefer a paper copy of the Handbook.**

Name

RECEIPT OF 2024-2025 STUDENT-PARENT HANDBOOK

This signed receipt acknowledges receipt of the 2024-2025 Student-Parent Handbook of Syracuse-Dunbar-Avoca Public Schools. We understand that the handbook contains student conduct and discipline rules and information about Safe and Drug-Free Schools and that we agree to follow such conduct and discipline rules. This receipt also serves to acknowledge that we understand that the District's policies of non-discrimination and equity, and that specific complaint and grievance procedures exist in the handbook which should be used to respond to harassment or discrimination.

Date: _____

Date: _____

Student's Signature

Parent or Legal Guardian's Signature