

# **ARLINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT/GUARDIAN**

## **HANDBOOK**

**2025-2026**

*“The mission of Arlington Public Schools is to empower all students to develop skills for life-long learning and responsible decision making in order to contribute to a global society.”*



# 2025-2026 PARENT-STUDENT HANDBOOK GRADES 7-12

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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 Arlington 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. 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.*

### Section 2 MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Name	Contact Information
Chase Kratochvil, President	Chase.kratochvil@apseagles.org
Cassie Flesner, Vice President	Cassie.flesner@apseagles.org
Shanon Willmott	Shanon.willmott@apseagles.org
Brian Laaker	Brian.laaker@apseagles.org
Jason Arp	Jason.arp@apseagles.org
Steve Slykhuis	Steve.slykhuis@apseagles.org

### Section 3 ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Name	Position
Dr. Dawn Lewis	Superintendent
Aaron Pfingsten	Secondary Principal
James Shada	Assistant Principal/Activities Director
Jacqueline Morgan	Elementary Principal
Sarah Sharp	SPED Director
Tashia Wolf	Curriculum Director

**Section 4        TEACHERS AND COUNSELORS STAFF**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Department</b>
Kali Agler	Agriculture
Erin Schaapveld	Art
Jacob Haight	Business/Computer
Shawna Koger	Business/Computers
Scott Parson	Computers/Multimedia
Doug Hart	Family and Consumer Science
Chris Flesner	Industrial Technology
Allison Mastny	Instrumental Music
Gavin Larson	JAG
Cailyn Ross	Language Arts
Megan Porras	Language Arts
Troy Schlueter	Language Arts
Kortney Daws	Language Arts
Janelle Lorsch	Library/Media Specialist
Michaela Curran	Mathematics
Shawna Tierney	Mathematics
Blaine Hilgenkamp	Mathematics
Dawn Klein	Mathematics/HAL
Luke Hoelsing	Physical Education
Jake Polk	Physical Education
Holly Toft	School Counselor
Lindsey Schlosser	Science
Nichole Kern	Science
Cassandra Rolland	Science
Helen Regier	Social Studies
Jeff Hallstrom	Social Studies
Kyle Buckingham	Social Studies
Anna Combs	Spanish
Ben Dobson	Special Education
Connor Eurek	Special Education

Sara Detjens	Special Education
Kaisha Hilgenkamp	Speech Pathologist
Dan Larson	Technology Coordinator
Barina Buresh-Crosland	Vocal Music
Gabrielle Morin	Vocal Music

**Section 5      SUPPORT STAFF**

Name	Position
Sara O'Connell	Administrative Assistant
Shelly Miller	Administrative Assistant
Lawrence Reed	Maintenance Director
Claudia Escamilla Najera	Custodian
Amada Najera Jurado	Custodian
Randy Meier	Custodian
Silvia Arias	Custodian
Ana Axulen Natareno	Custodian
Zoila Alvarado Mejia	Custodian
Jennifer Marrero	Food Service Manager
Adrienne Larsen	Food Service
(new)	Food Service
Karen Toebben	Food Service
Lorena Adams	Food Service
(new)	Food Service
Mary Hunter	Food Service
Shirley Holck	Nurse
(new)	Paraprofessional
April Lucas	Paraprofessional
Braden Rump	Paraprofessional
Jennifer Arp	Business Manager

2025-2026

## Arlington Public Schools

## CALENDAR

[www.aps.eagles.org](http://www.aps.eagles.org)

Phone: 402-478-4173

July '25						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		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		

August '25						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					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						

September '25						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	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				

October '25						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			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	

November '25						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						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						

December '25						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	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			

First Day
Early Dismiss
No Students-Staff Only
No School

Aug 06	New Teacher Orientation
Aug 7-11	Inservice Days for Teachers
Aug 12	Students Begin; 1:30 Dismissal
Total Days	17 Staff, 14 Student

Sept 1	Labor Day-No School
Sept 22	No School, Teacher Inservice
Total Days	21 Staff, 20 Student

Oct 22-23	Parent Teacher Conferences
Oct 23	No School, Teacher Inservice
Oct 24	No School Fall Break (comp)
Total Days	23 Staff, 21 Student

Nov 26-28	No School, Thanksgiving Break
Total Days	17 Staff, 17 Student

Dec 1	No School, Teacher Inservice
Dec 18-19	Finals Schedule, 1:30 Dismissal
Dec 22-31	No School, Holiday Break
Total Days	15 Staff, 14 Student
End of S1	93 Staff, 86 Student

Jan 1-2	No School, Holiday Break
Jan 05	No School, Teacher Inservice
Jan 6	Students Return
Jan 19	No School MLKJ Day, Teacher Inservice
Total Days	20 Staff, 18 Student

Feb 11-12	Parent Teacher Conferences
Feb 12	No School, Teacher Inservice
Feb 13	No School
Total Days	19 Staff, 18 Student

March 5-6	No School, Spring Break
Total Days	20 Staff, 20 Student

April 3-6	No School, Easter Break
Total Days	20 Staff, 20 Student

May 07	Arlo Track Invite HS, 1:30 Dismissal
May 08	No School for students, Arlo JH Track Invite
May 17	Graduation
May 18-19*	Finals Schedule; 1:30 Dismissal
May 20(22)	Teacher Inservice
Total Days	14 Staff, 12 Student
End of S2	93 Staff, 88 Student

\*ALL FRIDAYS WILL BE REGULAR 8:05 START\*

January '26						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				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

February '26						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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

March '26						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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				

April '26						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				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	

May '26						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					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						

June '26						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	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				

\*Last Student Day subject to snow days, first possible will be May 19, Last possible will be May 21



# **Article 1 – Philosophy, Goals, Objectives**

## **Section 1 MISSION STATEMENT**

**The mission of Arlington Public Schools is to empower all students to develop skills for life-long learning and responsible decision making in order to contribute to a global society.**

## **Section 2 BELIEF STATEMENT AND GOALS**

**We believe that:**

1. Education is a responsibility shared among students, parents, educators, and the community.
2. Respect for self and other individuals, groups, and cultures is essential.
3. Critical thinking is an essential life skill.
4. Students are stakeholders in their own learning.
5. All learners are unique; therefore, we will provide diverse instructional strategies and multiple opportunities to learn.

The central purpose of the Arlington Public Schools is to develop students who can demonstrate the knowledge, skills and competencies necessary to become productive and contributing members of our democratic society.

Although all children will not learn all things equally well, we recognize that all children should have an equal opportunity in the pursuit of educational qualifications for the world ahead. Recognizing the uniqueness of each student, the Arlington Public Schools will attempt to balance the curriculum to provide for the varied interests and talents of all students. The school accepts the premise that the center of the school curriculum is the child and that the instructional program should be designed to fit each and every child's unique needs.

The education of children is a comprehensive program that must be undertaken in cooperation with other services and institutions within society and the local community. The Arlington Public Schools will seek to establish and maintain strong ties with parents, patrons, the business community and other community institutions.

The following opportunity and means shall be provided whereby this philosophy may be realized.

- (a) Each student may search for the truth, find the truth, and incorporate this truth into his or her values, ambitions, and aspirations.
- (b) Each student may develop an attitude of personal worth and self-esteem and by so doing, may experience degrees of success and achievement within the bounds of his or her individual abilities and limitations.
- (c) Each student may learn to identify and cope with current trends in society.
- (d) Each student may experience an intellectual, a technical and a social environment that enhances the possibilities for group interaction conducive to peaceful coexistence in the school, community, state, nation, and the world.
- (e) Each teacher may use his or her individual capabilities in establishing constructive attitudes toward students, administrative heads, and the community.
- (f) Each teacher may use the resources necessary for attaining the highest measure of success in his or her particular field.
- (g) The administration may promote and preserve the establishment of every possibility for better education.
- (h) The administration may serve as a channel of communication between the teachers and the school and the community.
- (i) The community may be given an integral part in the implementation and accomplishment of the objectives of the school.

The community may demonstrate this responsibility to the school by expressing to the administration its beliefs and desires concerning the educational programs and practices of the school. It shall be the responsibility of the administrative staff periodically to prepare formal statements defining and implementing the basic purposes of the

schools as stated above. These statements shall be the basis for determining the content of the curriculum, the methods of instruction, and the means for evaluating the effectiveness of both.

#### **KEY VALUES OF ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

1. Our schools belong to our community and exist to provide service to our community.
2. Our central mission is to provide quality academic education for our students.
3. Our chief asset is our people.

#### **Section 3 MUTUAL RESPECT**

Arlington 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 the student will not be tolerated.

#### **Section 4 MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION**

Arlington Public Schools incorporates multicultural education in all curriculum areas at all grades. Multicultural education includes, but is not limited to, studies relative to the culture, history, and contributions of African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, Asian Americans and European Americans with special emphasis on human relations and sensitivity toward all races.

#### **Section 5 COMPLAINT PROCEDURES**

The proper procedures for a parent or student to make complaints or raise concerns about school staff or the school programs or activities are set forth below. Other procedures exist to address discrimination or harassment, the bullying of students, and to challenge disciplinary actions, and such other procedures should be used to address those types of concerns.

1. Complaint procedure:
  - Step 1. Have a scheduled conference with the staff person and the **student involved** in the complaint.
  - Step 2. Appeal to the Principal if the matter is not resolved at Step 1.
  - Step 3. Appeal to the Superintendent if the matter is still unresolved at Step 2.
  - Step 4. Appeal to the Board of Education if the matter is still unresolved at Step 3. Written appeal should be made within five (5) days of the Superintendent's decision.
2. Conditions Applicable to All Levels of Complaint Procedure:

All information to be considered at each appeal step should be placed in writing in order to be most effective. Appeal decisions shall be expedited as quickly as possible. A decision at any level should be rendered within ten (10) calendar days, unless a legal hearing is requested or required.

## Article 2 – School Day

### Section 1 DAILY SCHEDULE

#### GENERAL SCHOOL INFORMATION

##### SCHOOL DAY:

Arlington High School is on a nine-period day. Students are not to be in the building before 7:30 a.m. unless they have a before school class or activity. Prior arrangement should be made if there is a need to be in the building before this time. Students are to leave the building at the close of the school day unless they are under direct supervision of staff. Those students involved in extracurricular activities are to report directly to the sponsor of the activity at the close of the school day. The tardy bell for first period will ring at 8:05.

### Schedules

#### HS/MS Bell Schedule

Normal Schedule	
1	8:05-8:52
2	8:55-9:42
3	9:45-10:32
4	10:35-11:22
5/TA	11:25-11:40
6/Lunch	11:40-1:00
7	1:03-1:50
8	1:53-2:40
9	2:43-3:30

HS Lunch	11:40 – 12:10	MS 6th Per	11:43 -- 12:30
HS 6th Per	12:13 -- 1:00	MS Lunch	12:30 – 1:00

#### FINAL TESTING SCHEDULE SEMESTER ONE

#### FINAL TESTING SCHEDULE SEMESTER TWO

*(BOTH SEMESTER TESTING DAYS ARE 1:30P.M. DISMISSALS)*

##### ***Day one***

Period 1	8:05-9:15
Period 2	9:18-10:28
Advisor Break	10:31-11:01
Period 3	11:04-12:14
Period 4	12:17-1:30

##### ***Day two***

Period 6	8:05-9:15
Period 7	9:18-10:28
Advisor Break	10:31-11:01
Period 8	11:04-12:14
Period 9	12:17-1:30

##### ***Day one***

Period 1	8:05-9:15
Period 2	9:18-10:28
Advisor Break	10:31-11:01
Period 3	11:04-12:14
Period 4	12:17-1:30

##### ***Day two***

Period 6	8:05-9:15
Period 7	9:18-10:28
Advisor Break	10:31-11:01
Period 8	11:04-12:14
Period 9	12:17-1:30

## Section 2            **SEVERE WEATHER AND SCHOOL CANCELLATIONS**

### **SCHOOL CLOSING INFORMATION**

The Superintendent of schools is authorized by the Board of Education to close public schools in case of severe weather. Representatives of the Superintendent's staff will notify local news media when inclement weather warrants such action. The information is broadcast regularly by radio on KFAB and KHUB. Parents will also receive a phone message from Eagle Alert indicating a late start or school closing.

Decision to Close Schools. A decision to close school is made when forecasts by the weather service and civil defense officials indicate that it would be unwise for students to go to school. An early decision is not always possible because of uncertain weather conditions. School officials will make periodic assessments of conditions during the night and will decide early in the morning (by 6 a.m. if possible). In any case, **an announcement will be made to the news media when schools will be closed.** In some instances, schools will be open, but certain services may be cancelled (bus transportation, kindergarten, student activities). Announcements about other Nebraska school closings are included in Lincoln radio and television broadcasts. Students and parents will want to pay special attention to which public school district is being closed.

After School Starts. Every attempt will be made to avoid closing school once classes are in session. In some instances, closing school during the day is inevitable if children are to safely return home before the brunt of a major storm hits. In these cases, as much advance notice as possible will be given to parents. If school is closed during the day, the notice will be broadcast by the media and **parents should have a plan to accommodate these circumstances.**

Parental Decisions. **Parents may decide to keep their children at home in inclement weather because of personal circumstances.** Students absent because of severe weather when school is in session will be marked absent. The absence will be treated like any other absence for legitimate causes provided parents properly notify the school of their decision. Parents may pick up their children in inclement weather at any time during the school day. Students will not normally be dismissed from school during severe weather on the basis of a telephone request.

What Not To Do. Parents should not attempt to come to school during a tornado warning. **School officials are not permitted to release students from the school building during a tornado warning.** Tornado safety procedures are practiced regularly by students and staff members. Also, parents are urged not to call radio and television stations and school buildings during severe weather. Every effort will be made to provide accurate and timely information through the media.

Emergency Conditions. Arlington Public Schools has a signal which, when activated, includes the necessity to either evacuate the building or to move to safer areas of the building. All regular drills are held as required by law through the school year. There are plans for Emergency Exit system, Tornado Warning System, and Critical Incident Response.

### **SEVERE WEATHER**

Arlington Public Schools follows Standard Response Protocol. Staff and students are trained and practice these protocols during the school year.

## Section 3            **PLANNERS**

### **STUDENT PLANNERS**

All students will be given (free of charge) a student planner that contains the most referenced items of the Arlington Junior/Senior High Student/Guardian Handbook. This planner will also be the means by which students will be given passes. Students are not to tear pages out of the planner nor are they to remove the cover. If a student loses or defaces their planner there will be a \$5.00 charge to purchase a replacement planner.

### **PASS PRIVILEGES**

Students must possess an appropriate planner to obtain a pass. Students are limited to **three passes** a day. They need to organize and plan appropriately.

## **Section 4            CLOSED CAMPUS**

### **CLOSED CAMPUS POLICY**

Providing a safe and orderly campus environment is important. Therefore, **all students are required to stay on campus upon arrival**. Students must check out through office if it is necessary to leave campus for doctor or dental appointments or for reasons of illness. Also, we will not accept deliveries from food delivery services (ie: Door Dash) for student lunches.

## **Section 5            SCHOOL GUIDELINES**

### **STUDENT VEHICLES AND PARKING LOT**

All vehicles driven to school should be parked in designated student areas. Student parking is designated as the lot south of the high school building and across by the football field. Cars which are inappropriately parked are subject to warnings, fines, and loss of privileges. All state and local traffic regulations should be observed on school property. Careless or reckless driving will be reported to the County Sheriff and can result in fines and/or court action as well as suspension from school. Parking guidelines apply to all school events including: after school practices, meetings, contests, etc.

**Students should not loiter in the parking lot.** The school parking lots and grounds are to be used only when school and/or school activities/events are taking place. Students are to observe all posted signs and should understand that failure to observe these signs could result in tickets and/or fines.

### **FOOD AND DRINK**

Drinks and snacks will not be allowed in classrooms, computer labs etc..., with exception to water. Food and liquids will however be allowed in the hallways. If food and drink become a problem at any point during the school year they may be banned from lockers as well.

### **STUDY HALL GUIDELINES**

The purpose of study halls is to provide time for students to complete their assigned class work. Students must bring enough material to work on for the entire period. Students may not talk without permission. Sleeping is not allowed. Students must have a pre-signed pass to go to another classroom to work. Students in study hall who are on the ineligible list will be restricted from going to the library unless they have a pre-signed pass from a teacher. Study hall supervisors will not write passes for students on the ineligible list under any circumstances except to see the school nurse (they must go through the office first). Personal electronic devices including cell phones may not be used in study hall.

### **KICKSTART GUIDELINES**

Arlington is committed to providing time in a student's schedule to work on KickStart class work. KickStart guidelines minimally include: students must bring their KickStart materials to work on for the entire period, students may not go to another classroom to work, students may not talk without permission, students are not allowed to sleep, teachers will not write passes for students on the ineligible list under any circumstances except to see the school nurse (they must go through the office first). Personal electronic devices including cell phones may not be used in KickStart.

### **FIRE DRILLS**

Fire drills will be conducted regularly. An electric horn indicates a fire drill. Upon hearing the fire drill signal, move quietly and quickly out of the building by the fire exit route posted near the door of your room. After the "all clear" is given, students may re-enter the building and proceed directly to their classrooms.

## Article 3 - Use of Building, Grounds and Equipment

### Section 1 ENTERING AND LEAVING THE BUILDING

Beginning of School: Students should not be on school grounds prior to 7:30 a.m. unless they are in an activity and are sponsored by a staff member. Students are to stay in the hall and are not to go to any other part of the building without permission.

During the School Day: Students are to remain on campus unless excused in accordance with school policies. Upon return to school during the day students are to sign in at the high school office.

End of School: Our regular school day ends at 3:30 p.m. Make-up work, special help, assignment after school, club meetings, and other school activities begin at 3:35 p.m. It is important that students who are involved in any of these activities report to the designated area on time. All other students must clear the building as soon as possible.

### Section 2 IDENTIFICATION BADGES

All visitors must report to the office upon entering the building. Visitors and all staff members will be required to wear ID badges while on school premises. Visitor badges are to be returned to the office at the completion of your visit. Parents are welcome at all times. Please sign in/out at the office upon entering/exiting the school. Visitations during the first week of school and the last week of school will require extraordinary reasons or permission from administrators. Visitors will not be allowed to go to lunch with or go to classes with an Arlington student.

### Section 3 SMOKE-FREE ENVIRONMENT

Arlington Public Schools declares all of our school's buildings and game facilities to be smoke-free. We would appreciate your help in meeting the goal of a smoke-free, tobacco-free, and vape free environment for our children. When you attend school events, including athletic events, please remember that our facilities are smoke-free, tobacco-free, and vape free and abide by our District's policy.

### Section 4 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 disfigure property, break windows or do other damage to school property or equipment will be required to pay for the damage done or replace the item.

Fines are determined on books according to the following criteria:

Lost/Ruined Book:	Replacement cost
Missing one or both covers:	Same as lost book
Loose Cover:	TBD – based on expense to repair
Missing Page:	50 cents per page (up to replacement cost)
Torn Page:	20 cents per page (up to replacement cost)
Marks that cannot be erased:	20 cents per mark (up to replacement cost)

**School-issued items that are stolen or damaged from unlocked lockers are the responsibility of the student to whom they were issued.** Students must pay all fines before they can receive school publications and final grades.

### Section 5 LOCKERS

Each student will 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. We recommend that the locker be kept locked with the combination lock provided and that your combination remain confidential. There is no way to assure no one but you get into your locker if you give others your combination. An unlocked locker or one that has lost its confidentiality is not secure and items may be stolen with no recourse available. Students are expected to keep all books, etc., in their assigned locker. 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 are not allowed to attach items to the exterior of the lockers without prior permission from a teacher or administrator.

## **Section 6 SEARCHES OF LOCKERS AND OTHER TYPES OF SEARCHES**

Student lockers, desks, computer equipment, 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 shall 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 must be conducted in a reasonable manner under the circumstances.
2. Illegal items or other items reasonably determined to be a threat to the safety of others or a threat to educational purposes may be taken and kept by school officials. Any firearm or other weapon shall be confiscated and delivered to law enforcement officials as soon as possible.
3. Items which have been or are reasonably expected to be used to disrupt or interfere with the educational process (that is, "nuisance items") may be removed from student possession.

## **Section 7 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 Superintendent.

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 8 USE OF TELEPHONE**

Use of the office phone will only be allowed in an emergency or when a student is ill. There is a courtesy phone available for student use. The courtesy phone is NOT to be used during class time. **Use of the phone is not an excuse to be tardy to class.**

## **Section 9 BICYCLES**

Bicycles must be parked in the racks provided at the elementary building. All bicycles should be equipped with locks. The school is not responsible for damage or theft of parts while bicycles are on school property.

## **Section 10 STUDENT VALUABLES**

Arlington Public Schools is **NOT** responsible for the personal property of students. Students are cautioned not to bring large amounts of money or items of value to school. If it is necessary to bring valuable items or more money than is needed to pay for lunch, leave the money or valuables with a staff member in the school office for temporary and safe-keeping. Even then, the school is not in a position to guarantee that the student's property will not be subject to loss, theft, or damage.

## **Section 11        LOST AND FOUND**

Students who find lost articles are asked to take them to the office, where the articles can be claimed by the owner. If articles are lost at school, report that loss to office personnel. Lost and found items will be disposed of periodically if they go unclaimed.

## **Section 12        ACCIDENTS**

Every accident in the school building, on the school grounds, at practice sessions, or at any athletic event sponsored by the school must be reported immediately to administration. The individual staff member involved should complete an accident report immediately.

## **Section 13        LABORATORY SAFETY GLASSES**

As required by law, approved safety glasses will be required of every student and teacher while participating in or observing vocational, technical, industrial technology, science, and art classes. All visitors to these areas must check out a pair of safety glasses when entering any of these areas.

## **Section 14        INSURANCE**

Under Nebraska law the District may not use school funds to provide general student accident or athletic insurance. The District requires that all student participants in athletic programs have injury and accident insurance and encourages all students who are in classes with risk of personal injury or accident to have insurance coverage. The district does not make recommendations, nor handle the premiums or claims for any insurance company, agent or carrier. Information about student insurance providers will be available in the school office or on school bulletin boards.

## **Section 15        BULLETINS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Posters to be used in the halls or materials for distribution will need to be approved by the Principal's office. Posters are not to be attached to any painted wall surfaces without approval from the administration. Place posters on marble, glass, metal, brick and wood. **The person or organization responsible for distributing the posters is responsible to see that all posters are removed within 48 hours after the event.**

Daily Announcements will be available each morning.

## **Section 16        COPYRIGHT AND FAIR USE POLICY**

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.

The "fair use" doctrine allows limited reproduction of copyrighted works for educational and research purposes. The relevant portion of the copyright statute provides that the "fair use" of a copyrighted work, including reproduction "for purposes such as criticism, news reporting, teaching (including multiple copies for classroom use), scholarship, or research" is not an infringement of copyright. The law lists the following factors as the ones to be evaluated in determining whether a particular use of a copyrighted work is a permitted "fair use," rather than an infringement of the copyright:

- the purpose and character of the use, including whether such use is of a commercial nature or is for nonprofit educational purposes;
- the nature of the copyrighted work;
- the amount and substantiality of the portion used in relation to the copyrighted work as a whole, and
- the effect of the use upon the potential market for or value of the copyrighted work.

Although all of these factors will be considered, the last factor is the most important in determining whether a particular use is "fair." Students should seek assistance from a faculty member if there are any questions regarding what may be copied.



## **Section 17 MEDIA CENTER**

The High School Media Center is open from 7:45 A.M. to 3:50 P.M. on student days and by arrangement. The Media Center is a place for quiet study, reading, and research. Books are checked out for 21 days, magazines and reference materials are checked out for 1 day. Fines for overdue materials will be assessed at the rate of 5¢ per day with a maximum of \$2.00 per item. Students may negotiate overdue fines with the Library Media Specialist. Lost books or magazines will be assessed at the replacement cost of the material and are non-negotiable. Students must have passes to enter or leave the media center. General regulations are available upon request.

## **Section 18 TECHNOLOGY/COMPUTER USAGE**

School computers are to be used for school purposes only. Any student accessing the network must have the proper paperwork (Acceptable Use Policy) on file with the district. This policy provides more specific details governing acceptable use. The use of the internet and/or email is also reserved for school purposes. Students may not bring any computer applications, including games, to school for any reason. District workstations may not be altered without direct teacher permission. Any vandalism (renaming, trashing, or moving files, illegal copying, etc.), intentional copyright violations or attempted access to unauthorized data will result in disciplinary action, which may include restitution. Students are directed to limit printing to only information that is directly tied to school purposes. Multiple copies of material should be done at provided copy machines at student expense. Students will be charged for printed material (\$.10/page) that does not meet these specifications.

## **Section 19 INTERNET SAFETY POLICY**

It is the policy of Arlington Public Schools to comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA). With respect to the District's computer network, the District shall: (a) prevent user access to, or transmission of, inappropriate material via Internet, electronic mail, or other forms of direct electronic communications; (b) provide for the safety and security of minors when using electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications; (c) prevent unauthorized access, including so-called "hacking," and other unlawful activities online; (d) prevent unauthorized online disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal identification information of minors; (e) obtain verifiable parental consent before allowing third parties to collect personal information online from students; and (f) implement measures designed to restrict minors' access to materials (visual or non-visual) that are harmful to minors.

1. Definitions. Key terms are as defined in CIPA. "Inappropriate material" for purposes of this policy includes material that is obscene, child pornography, or harmful to minors. The term "harmful to minors" means any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that: (1) taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion; (2) depicts, describes, or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals; and (3) taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors.
2. Access to Inappropriate Material. To the extent practical, technology protection measures (or "Internet filters") shall be used to block or filter Internet, or other forms of electronic communications, access to inappropriate information. Specifically, as required by the CIPA, blocking shall be applied to visual depictions of material deemed obscene or child pornography, or to any material deemed harmful to minors. Subject to staff supervision, technology protection measures may be disabled or, in the case of minors, minimized only for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.
3. Inappropriate Network Usage. To the extent practical, steps shall be taken to promote the safety and security of users of the District's online computer network when using electronic mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, and other forms of direct electronic communications. Specifically, as required by CIPA, prevention of inappropriate network usage includes: (a) unauthorized access, including so-called 'hacking,' and other unlawful activities; and (b) unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors.

4. Supervision and Monitoring. It shall be the responsibility of all members of the District staff to supervise and monitor usage of the online computer network and access to the Internet in accordance with this policy and CIPA. Procedures for the disabling or otherwise modifying any technology protection measures shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent and the Superintendent's designees.
5. Social Networking. Students shall be educated about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with others on social networking websites and in chat rooms, and cyberbullying awareness and response. The plan shall be for all students to be provided education on these subjects. The Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee shall be responsible for identifying educational materials, lessons, and/or programs suitable for the age and maturity level of the students and for ensuring the delivery of such materials, lessons, and/or programs to students.
6. Parental Consent. The District shall obtain verifiable parental consent prior to students providing or otherwise disclosing personal information online.
7. Adoption. This Internet Safety Policy was adopted by the Board at a public meeting, following normal public notice.
8. The District shall comply with the Nebraska Student Online Personal Protection Act and will endeavor to take all reasonable and necessary steps to protect the online privacy of all students.

## **Section 20      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 or (2) the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee. This prohibition applies to all persons, including staff, students 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 21      COMPUTER ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY**

This computer acceptable use policy is supplemental to the District's Internet Safety Policy.

1. Technology Subject to this Policy. This Computer Acceptable Use Policy applies to all technology resources of the District or made available by the District. Technology resources include, without limitation, computers and related technology equipment, all forms of e-mail and electronic communications, and the internet.
2. Access and User Agreements. Use of the District technology resources is a privilege and not a right. The Superintendent or designee shall develop appropriate user agreements and shall require that employees, students (and their parents or guardians), and others to sign such user agreements as a condition of access to the technology resources, as the Superintendent determines appropriate. Parents and guardians of students in programs operated by the District shall inform the Superintendent or designee in writing if they do not want their child to have access.

The Superintendent and designees are authorized and directed to establish and implement such other regulations, forms, procedures, guidelines, and standards to implement this Policy.

The technology resources are not a public forum. The District reserves the right to restrict any communications and to remove communications that have been posted.

3. Acceptable Uses. The technology resources are to be used for the limited purpose of advancing the District's mission. The technology resources are to be used, in general, for educational purposes,

meaning activities that are integral, immediate, and proximate to the education of students as defined in the E-rate program regulations.

4. Unacceptable Uses.

The following is a non-exhaustive list of unacceptable uses of technology resources:

- a. **Personal Gain:** Technology resources shall not be used, and no person shall authorize its use, for personal financial gain other than in accordance with prescribed constitutional, statutory, and regulatory procedures, other than compensation provided by law.
- b. **Personal Matters:** Technology resources shall not be used, and no person shall authorize its use, for personal matters unless the User has entered into a lease agreement or other similar agreement with the School District that makes such use permissible under law.

Occasional use that the Superintendent or designee determines to ultimately facilitate the mission of the District is not prohibited by this provision. Examples of occasional use that may be determined to ultimately facilitate the mission of the District: sending an e-mail to a minor child or spouse; sending an e-mail related to a community group in which an employee is a member where the membership in the community group facilitates the District's mission.

This occasional use exception does not permit use by employees contrary to the expectations of their position. For example, employees may not play games or surf the net for purposes not directly related to their job during duty time; nor may students do so during instructional time.

The occasional use exception also does not permit use of the technology resources for private business, such as searching for or ordering items on the internet for non-school use; or sending an e-mail related to one's own private consulting business.

- c. **Campaigning:** Technology resources shall not be used, and no person shall authorize its use, for the purpose of campaigning for or against the nomination or election of a candidate or the qualification, passage, or defeat of a ballot question.
- d. **Technology-Related Limitations:** Technology resources shall not be used in any manner which impairs its effective operations or the rights of other technology users. Without limitation:
  - 1. Users shall not use another person's name, log-on, password, or files for any reason, or allow another to use their password (except for authorized staff members).
  - 2. Users shall not erase, remake, or make unusable another person's computer, information, files, programs or disks.
  - 3. Users shall not access resources not specifically granted to the user or engage in electronic trespassing.
  - 4. Users shall not engage in "hacking" to gain unauthorized access to the operating system software or unauthorized access to the system of other users.
  - 5. Users shall not copy, change, or transfer any software without permission from the network administrators.
  - 6. Users shall not write, produce, generate, copy, propagate, or attempt to introduce any computer code designed to self-replicate, damage, or otherwise hinder the performance of any computer's memory, file system, or software. Such software is often called a bug, virus, worm, Trojan horse, or similar name.
  - 7. Users shall not engage in any form of vandalism of the technology resources.
  - 8. Users shall follow the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. The Superintendent or designees may further define such rules.

- e. **Other Policies and Laws:** Technology resources shall not be used for any purpose contrary to any District policy, any school rules to which a student user is subject, or any applicable law. Without limitation, this means that technology resources may not be used:
  - 1. to access any material contrary to the Internet Safety Policy; or to create or generate any such material.
  - 2. to engage in unlawful harassment or discrimination, such as sending e-mails that contain sexual jokes or images.
  - 3. to engage in violations of employee ethical standards and employee standards of performance, such as sending e-mails that are threatening or offensive or which contain abusive language; use of end messages on e-mails that may imply that the District is supportive of a particular religion or religious belief system, a political candidate or issue, or a controversial issue; or sending e-mails that divulge protected confidential student information to unauthorized persons.
  - 4. to engage in or promote violations of student conduct rules.
  - 5. to engage in illegal activity, such as gambling.
  - 6. in a manner contrary to copyright laws.
  - 7. in a manner contrary to software licenses.
- 5. **Disclaimer.** The technology resources are supplied on an “as is, as available” basis. The District does not imply or expressly warrant that any information accessed will be valuable or fit for a particular purpose or that the system will operate error free. The District is not responsible for the integrity of information accessed, or software downloaded from the Internet.
- 6. **Filter.** A technology protection measure is in place that blocks and/or filters access to prevent access to Internet sites that are not in accordance with policies and regulations. In addition to blocks and/or filters, the District may also use other technology protection measures or procedures as deemed appropriate.

Notwithstanding technology protection measures, some inappropriate material may be accessible by the Internet, including material that is illegal, defamatory, inaccurate, or potentially offensive to some people. Users accept the risk of access to such material and responsibility for promptly exiting any such material.

The technology protection measure that blocks and/or filters Internet access may be disabled only by an authorized staff member for bona fide research or educational purposes: (a) who has successfully completed District training on proper disabling circumstances and procedures, (b) with permission of the immediate supervisor of the staff member requesting said disabling, or (c) with the permission of the Superintendent. An authorized staff member may override the technology protection measure that blocks and/or filters Internet access for a minor to access a site for bona fide research or other lawful purposes provided the minor is monitored directly by an authorized staff member.

- 7. **Monitoring.** Use of the technology resources, including but not limited to internet sites visited and e-mail transmitted or received, is subject to monitoring by the administration and network administrators at any time to maintain the system and insure that users are using the system responsibly, without notice to the users. Users have no privacy rights or expectations of privacy with regard to use of the District’s computers or Internet system. All technology equipment shall be used under the supervision of the Superintendent and the Superintendent’s designees.
- 8. **Sanctions.** Violation of the policies and procedures concerning the use of the District technology resources may result in suspension or cancellation of the privilege to use the technology resources and disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion of students and termination of employees. Use that is unethical may be reported to the Commissioner of Education. Use that is unlawful may

be reported to the law enforcement authorities. Users shall be responsible for damages caused and injuries sustained by improper or non-permitted use.

Legal Reference: Children's Internet Protection Act, 47 USC § 254  
Children's Online Privacy Protection Act, 15 U.S.C. § 6501  
FCC Order adopted August 10, 2011  
47 USC § 254(h)(1)(b); 47 CFR 54.500(b) and 68 FR 36932 (2003) (E-rate restrictions)  
Neb. Rev. Stat. § 49-14,101.01 (Political Accountability and Disclosure Act) LB 512  
(2017).

## Article 4 – Attendance

### Section 1 ATTENDANCE POLICY

Regular and punctual student attendance is required. The Board's policies require such attendance, the administration is responsible for developing further attendance rules and regulations, and students and parents are responsible for developing behaviors which will result in regular and punctual student attendance. There is more on this in Article 2 of this publication.

### ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES

School is a full-time job; therefore, students are expected to be in attendance for all classes throughout the school year. Students who are absent from school lose out on valuable explanations of material, interaction with their teachers and peers, and often perform at a level below their potential. The achievement of an outstanding attendance record should be a goal of every student.

Cooperation between the school officials and parents is critical in insuring that students are in school. The parents must determine the validity of their child's absences from school and take the responsibility to notify the school when he or she is not in attendance. The school will document and inform parents in situations where absences are becoming detrimental to student achievement. State law requires that students not miss more than 20 days each year (10 days per semester is a guide), which we strictly follow.

### REPORTING OF ABSENCES

The school keeps period attendance. Arrival at school between 8:05am and 8:20 am shall be considered a tardy. Arrivals after 8:20 will count as an absence. An absence for any portion of a period may count as a full period absence. To constitute an excused absence a parent/guardian should call the office at 478-4171 before 9:00 a.m. on the day of the absence. Students are still limited to ten days per semester regardless if they are excused or not. Individual students that exceed 10 absences per semester will be placed in the ACRP program and reported to the Washington County Attorney for excessive absenteeism. **Additionally, students with exceed 10 absences in a semester may be required to appear before an attendance review board in order to retain credit or determine additional educational opportunities.** Guardians are expected to call each day that the student is absent from school unless other arrangements have been made with the secretary. Failure to follow these guidelines could result in the student being considered unexcused/truant.

**All absences except those incurred for school-sponsored activities shall count towards the ten-day limit per semester.** It is the responsibility of the guardian and /or student to keep track of their total absences and to know whether or not they are in danger of losing credit. The school will attempt to provide assistance by sending absentee notices to guardians at certain intervals during the year.

### LOSS OF CREDIT

A student who **exceeds** ten absences and/or two unexcused absences from any class in a semester will be placed in the attendance credit recovery program to make up time lost. Students who do not complete their assigned ACRP time **will be required to go before the attendance review board and may lose credit for individual courses.** During the appeal students must address **all** absences. At the conclusion of the hearing process, the attendance committee will evaluate the situation. The student and parent, or legal guardian must be in attendance at the attendance hearing. In the event of an appeal, a physician's statement will be required to determine the validity of absences due to illness. Special circumstances are usually thought of as unplanned circumstances such as family disruption/death, etc.

### LATE ARRIVALS/EARLY DISMISSALS

Any time a student arrives late to school or leaves prior to regular dismissal time, he/she must report to the office to sign in/out and ensure that his/her guardian has contacted the office.

### SCHOOL SPONSORED ABSENCES

Students who are going to miss class for school-sponsored field trips or activities (band, vocal, and athletics) must contact instructors prior to the activity and follow their directives.

## **Section 2 ATTENDANCE CREDIT RECOVERY PROGRAM**

The purpose of ACRP program is to avoid the loss of credit due to excessive attendance issues. Any student with more than 10 absences will be placed in ACRP. Absences will include but not be limited to excused and unexcused. Activity or school related absences will not be included when determining ACRP. Failure to complete ACRP can lead to a loss of credit.

GRIP and ACRP will run together on Monday-Thursday from 3:30 – 4:15 pm. Designated GRIP and ACRP time will take precedence over extra—curricular events. If a student is assigned to GRIP or ACRP, they will be eligible to attend extra—curricular activities following their assigned time.

### **DISCIPLINARY ABSENCE**

To receive credit for work missed due to a disciplinary suspension, the student is responsible for requesting assignments for make-up work and completing the make-up work on his/her own initiative, and on his or her own time either before or after school, by the due date. The teacher based on the content being studied and the length of student absence will determine the date when make-up work is due.

## **Section 3 ATTENDANCE AND ABSENCES**

### **Attendance Policy and Excessive Absenteeism**

Regular and punctual student attendance is required. The administration is responsible for developing further attendance rules and regulations, and all staff are expected to implement this policy and administrative rules and regulations to encourage regular and punctual student attendance. The principals and teachers are required to maintain an accurate record of student attendance.

### **A. Attendance and Absences.**

1. Circumstances of Absences – Definitions. The circumstances for all absences from school will be identified as School Excused or Not School Excused. Absences should be cleared through the Principal's office in advance whenever possible. All absences, except for illness and/or death in the family, require advance approval.
  - a. School Excused. Any of the following circumstances that lead to an absence will be identified as a *School Excused* absence, provided the required attendance procedures have been followed:
    - (1) Impossible or impracticable barriers outside the control of the parent or child prevent a student from attending school. The parent must provide the school with documentation to demonstrate the absence was beyond the control of the parent or child. This could include, but is not limited to documented illness (including physical or mental illness), court, death of a family member, or suspension.
    - (2) Other absences as determined by the principal or the principal's designee.
  - b. Not School Excused. Absences that are not school excused may result in a report to the county attorney and may be classified as follows:
    - (1) Parent acknowledged absences are those in which the parent communicated with the school in the prescribed manner that the child is absent and is the parent's responsibility for the extent of the school day. This includes, but is not limited to, illness, vacations, and medical appointments.
    - (2) Other absences are those in which the parent has not communicated a reason for the student's absence.
2. Absence Procedure. In its Student Information System, the District may identify many different codes that provide greater definition to the circumstances of a child's absence, but all of the codes

need to be identified to parents and students as fitting into one of the above defined absence circumstances.

Two school days will be allowed to make up work for each day missed, with a maximum of 10 days allowed to make up work.

3. Mandatory Ages of Attendance. A child is of mandatory age if the child will reach age 6 prior to January 1 of the then-current school year and has not reached 18 years of age.

Exceptions for Younger Students. Attendance is not mandatory for a child who has reached 6 years of age prior to January 1 of the then-current school year, but will not reach age 7 prior to January 1 of such school year, if the child's parent or guardian has signed and filed with the school district in which the child resides an affidavit stating either: (1) that the child is participating in an education program that the parent or guardian believes will prepare the child to enter grade one for the following school year; or (2) that the parent or guardian intends for the child to participate in a school which has elected or will elect pursuant to law not to meet accreditation or approval requirements and the parent or guardian intends to provide the Commissioner of Education with a statement pursuant to section 79-1601(3) on or before the child's seventh birthday.

Exceptions for Older Students. Attendance is also not mandatory for a child who: (1) has obtained a high school diploma by meeting statutory graduation requirements; (2) has completed the program of instruction offered by a school which elects pursuant to law not to meet accreditation or approval requirements; or (3) has reached the age of 16 years and has been withdrawn from school in the manner prescribed by law.

Early Withdrawal for Students Enrolled in Accredited or Approved Schools. A person who has legal or actual charge or control of a child who is at least 16 but less than 18 years of age may withdraw such child from school before graduation and be exempt from the mandatory attendance requirements if an exit interview is conducted and a withdrawal form is signed.

Exit Interview. The process is initiated by a person who has legal or actual charge or control of the child submitting a withdrawal form. The form is to be as prescribed by the Commissioner of Education. Upon submission of the form, the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee shall set a time and place for an exit interview if the child is enrolled in Arlington Public Schools or resides in the Arlington Public School District and is enrolled in a private, denominational, or parochial school.

The exit interview shall be personally attended by:

- The child, unless the withdrawal is being requested due to an illness of the child making attendance at the exit interview impossible or impracticable;
- the person who has legal or actual charge or control of the child who requested the exit interview;
- the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee;
- the child's principal or the principal's designee if the child at the time of the exit interview is enrolled in a school operated by the school district; and
- any other person requested by any of the required parties who agrees to attend the exit interview and is available at the time designated for the exit interview which may include, for example, other school personnel or the child's principal if the child is enrolled in a private school.

At the exit interview, the person making the written request must present evidence that (a) the person has legal or actual charge or control of the child and (b) the child would be withdrawing due to either:

- financial hardships requiring the child to be employed to support the child's family or one or more dependents of the child, or



- an illness of the child making attendance impossible or impracticable.

The Superintendent or Superintendent's designee shall identify all known alternative educational opportunities, including vocational courses of study, that are available to the child in the school district and how withdrawing from school is likely to reduce potential future earnings for the child and increase the likelihood of the child being unemployed in the future. Any other relevant information may be presented and discussed by any of the parties in attendance.

At the conclusion of the exit interview, the person making the written request may sign a withdrawal form provided by the school district agreeing to the withdrawal of the child OR may rescind the written request for the withdrawal.

Withdrawal Form. Any withdrawal form signed by the person making the written request shall be valid only if:

- the child also signs the form, unless the withdrawal is being requested due to an illness of the child making attendance at the exit interview impossible or impracticable, and
- the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee signs the form acknowledging that the interview was held, the required information was provided and discussed at the interview, and, in the opinion of the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee, the person making the written request does in fact have legal or actual charge or control of the child and the child is experiencing either (i) financial hardship, or (ii) an illness making attendance impossible or impracticable.

Early Withdrawal for Students Enrolled in an Exempt School (Home Schools). A person who has legal or actual charge or control of a child who is at least 16 but less than 18 years of age may withdraw such child from school before graduation and be exempt from the mandatory attendance requirements if such child has been enrolled in a school that elects not to meet the accreditation or approval requirements by filing with the State Department of Education a signed notarized release on a form prescribed by the Commissioner of Education.

4. Reporting and Responding to Excessive Absenteeism. Any administrator, teacher, or member of the board of education who knows of any failure on the part of any child of mandatory school attendance age to attend school regularly without lawful reason, shall within three days report such violation to the superintendent or such person(s) who the superintendent designates to be the attendance officer (hereafter, "attendance officer"). The attendance officer shall immediately cause an investigation into any such report to be made. The attendance officer shall also investigate any case when of his or her personal knowledge, or by report or complaint from any resident of the district, the attendance officer believes there is a violation of the compulsory attendance laws. 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 address the problem of excessive absenteeism. Such services shall include, as appropriate, the services listed below under "Excessive Absenteeism" and "Reporting Excessive Absenteeism."
5. 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:
  - a. Verbal or written communication by school officials with the person or persons who have legal or actual charge or control of any child; and
  - b. One or more meetings between the school (a school attendance officer, a school administrator or his or her designee, and/or a social worker), the child's parent or guardian, and the child, when appropriate, to address the barriers to attendance. The result of the meeting or meetings shall be to develop a collaborative plan to reduce barriers identified to improve regular attendance. The plan shall consider, but not be limited to:

- (i) Illness related to physical or behavioral health of the child.
- (ii) Educational counseling;
- (iii) Educational evaluation;
- (iv) Referral to community agencies for economic services;
- (v) Family or individual counseling; and
- (vi) Assisting the family in working with other community services.

If the parent/guardian refuses to participate in such meeting, the principal shall place documentation of such refusal in the child's attendance records.

6. Reporting Excessive Absenteeism to the County Attorney.

The school may report to the county attorney of the county in which the person resides when the school has documented the efforts to address excessive absences, the collaborative plan to reduce barriers identified to improve regular attendance has not been successful, and the student has accumulated more than ten (10) absences per semester. The school shall notify the child's family in writing prior to referring the child to the county attorney. Illness that makes attendance impossible or impracticable shall not be the basis for referral to the county attorney. A report to the county attorney may also be made when a student otherwise accrues excessive absences as herein defined.

#### **Section 4 TARDINESS**

Tardy to School: Students will be considered tardy to school if they are not in their assigned class or ready and attentive in their assigned area when the bell for their first class rings. Students are considered tardy if they arrive after 8:05 a.m. and prior to 8:20 a.m. **Arriving after 8:20 a.m. will result in an absence rather than a tardy.**

Tardy to Class: Students will be considered tardy to class if they are not in their classroom when the tardy bell rings, unless they have a pass from the teacher who detained them. Students have a sufficient time period between all class changes to make it to their next assigned class on time.

#### **TARDY POLICY**

Students tardy to any class three times or more during the semester will be subject to the following consequences:

\*The individual classroom teacher will handle tardies one and two as per their guidelines.

\*For every subsequent tardy the student will be given an office referral. The following action will be taken in the office:

1st office referral ..... 1 Detention

2nd and subsequent office referrals ..... Action deemed necessary by the administration, which could include, but is not limited to: detentions, after school sessions, suspensions, reassignment, escorted to class, and/or being dropped from the class with a failing mark.

#### **Section 5 LEAVING SCHOOL**

Students who must leave school for any reason during the school day must check out and sign out at the office before leaving. Students leaving school must be cleared in advance by a note or phone call from the student's parent or legal guardian. Upon returning to school that same day, students are expected to sign in at the office. A sheet will be available in the office for this purpose. Students who leave without permission and without signing out in the proper manner will be considered truant.

#### **Section 6 ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE IN ACTIVITIES**

*Students must attend school for a normal school day prior to participating in an activity.* This includes sports contests, dances, or any other co-curricular activities. Failure to attend on that day will result in a student being withheld from participation in the activity. A student must also be in attendance the three (3) periods prior to any practice in order to participate in the practice. The principal or activities director retains the right to grant participation should exceptional circumstances prevail.

#### **Section 7 MAKE-UP WORK**

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 will be determined

by mutual agreement between the student and teacher. The student has the responsibility to contact teachers, initially, regarding make-up assignments. Assignment sheets will be sent only for extended absences such as hospitalization or other prolonged illnesses. No assignment sheets will be sent out until after at least three (3) days of absence. If the parents or students have concerns prior to the three (3) days, they are encouraged to contact the teacher. Refer to Section 3 “Attendance and Absences” for more detail.

## Article 5 - Scholastic Achievement and Student Recognition

### Section 1 GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

A graduate must earn a minimum of **260** credit hours in order to be eligible to graduate from Arlington High School. The following courses must be successfully completed.

#### Language Arts – 45 credit hours

English 9	10
English 10	10
English 11	10
Beginning Speech	5
English 12	10

#### Social Studies – 35 credit hours

World Geography	10
World History	10
American History-20 <sup>th</sup> Century	10
American Government	5

#### Mathematics – 30 credit hours

Algebra I*	10
Geometry	10
Math Elective	10

\* Students who passed Algebra I as an 8<sup>th</sup> grader will meet the 30 credit hour requirement with additional math electives.

#### Science – 30 credit hours

Physical Science	10
Biology	10
Science Elective	10

#### Practical Arts – 20 credit hours

Information Technology I	5
Information Technology II	5
Personal Finance/Economics	5
Remaining credits can be obtained from Business, and/or Consumer/Family Science, and/or Industrial Education, and/or additional computer classes.	5

#### Physical Education – 20 credit hours

Physical Education I/Health	10
P.E. Electives	10

#### Fine Arts – 10 credit hours

\*These credits can be earned in the areas of Instrumental (10), Vocal Music (10), Art (10) or a combination of Art (5) and Music (5)

#### Electives – 70 credit hours

Additional academic and vocational courses must be taken to complete the required number of credit hours for graduation.

**All seniors must complete all course work required for graduation prior to the commencement ceremonies in the spring in order to participate in those ceremonies. The counseling staff will communicate with parents on a regular basis regarding their son or daughter's progress toward completing requirements for graduation.**

Exceptions to the above requirements may be made for students with disabilities upon the approval of the high school principal and the superintendent. Each student must be scheduled into a minimum of seven courses each semester. Graduation requirements and class schedules for any student who transfers into Arlington High School during his/her high school years shall be determined by the superintendent, high school principal, and counselor. Graduation requirements of the school of origin as well as the requirements of Arlington High School shall be taken in to consideration. No outside agency shall have the authority to grant credits applicable to graduation requirements for Arlington High School unless approved by the administration.

## Section 2 GRADING SYSTEM

Grade Scales. Teachers are to use only the grading scales set forth below. Any deviation from the approved grade scales must be approved by the building principal.

**STUDENT EVALUATION SCALE:** The grade scales to be used for reporting student progress in Arlington High School are as follows:

All classes except the \*Identified Classes will use a seven (7) point grading scale. The \*Identified Classes will use a ten (10) point scale. Notice that the pluses will receive higher mark points. The **only** difference between normal classes and \*Identified Classes is the seven (7) point and ten (10) point scale.

Normal Classes	*Identified Classes	Mark Points	
100-98	100-97	4.00	A+
97-95	96-93	4.00	A
94-93	92-90	3.67	A-
92-90	89- 87	3.33	B+
89-87	86-83	3.00	B
86-85	82-80	2.67	B-
84-82	79-77	2.33	C+
81-79	76-73	2.00	C
78-77	72-70	1.67	C-
76-74	69-67	1.33	D+
73-72	66-63	1.00	D
71-70	62-60	0.67	D-
69 Below	59 below	.00	F

The \*identified classes include: MATHEMATICS: Honors Geometry, Honors Algebra II, Algebra III, Calculus, Pre-Calculus LANGUAGE ARTS: College English I, College English II, Honors English BUSINESS: Macroeconomics, Information Technology III, Business Law, Wealth Building/ Personal Finance SOCIAL SCIENCE: Honors US History, SCIENCE: Chemistry, Physics, Physiology and Anatomy, Biology II, Chemistry II. FOREIGN LANGUAGE: Spanish III and Spanish IV (Students taking college level courses that exceed our offerings may be granted status as 'identified' and/or receive A+ status when an A is awarded with administrative approval.)

The preceding grade scales are expected to be used according to the following guidelines:

1. "Failing," "unsatisfactory" or equivalent terms indicate that student performance does not meet the minimum requirements established for the course. A final mark of "failing" or "unsatisfactory" in a credit-bearing course means that credit hours will not be granted.
2. Grades and credit are assigned on a **mid-semester** (9 weeks) or semester basis (18 weeks). Reports are sent to parents at the close of each nine weeks during the school year; the reporting periods are referred

to as *1st mid-semester*, first semester, *2nd mid-semester*, and second semester. The grade reports are produced from information supplied by teachers and distributed to students at school or are mailed to parents.

3. All mid-quarter grades are calculated on a cumulative basis *per semester*; i.e., the grade given at any point and time represents an evaluation of work done during that *semester*, and the grade given at the close of the semester represents an evaluation of all the work done during the entire eighteen weeks.

### **Section 3 CUMULATIVE GPA**

The cumulative grade point average is used in determining class rank and honor roll and is extremely important to students when they become seniors and begin making applications for jobs and higher education. The method for determining this is as follows.

The total number of credits attempted divided by the total number of mark points gives their grade point average. As they proceed through their career this accumulates at the end of each semester. Only semester grades are recorded in the students' records and only semester grades count toward his/her graduation and cumulative grade point average. Grade point average is used to determine salutatorian and valedictorian positions. This is done at the mid-semester point of the second semester and is calculated out to thousandths.

### **Section 4 ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY**

All students at Arlington Junior-Senior High must maintain passing grades to be eligible to participate in co-curricular activities. This is determined on a weekly basis. A student's eligibility will be determined by their cumulative progress at the given time in the semester. Dances are considered co-curricular.

Students placed in the GRIP or ACRP programs will not be eligible for extracurricular events until the completion of their required homework, or time.

Students (grades 9-12) are subject to eligibility rules established by the NSAA: "to be eligible a student shall have earned 20 semester hours of school work for the immediate preceding semester." In addition, all students at Arlington Junior-Senior High must maintain passing grades to be eligible to participate in co-curricular activities. This is reported on a weekly basis. Following are the academic eligibility guidelines:

1. A student who is reported failing one class will have a one-week probationary period to revise the course grade to a passing mark. If after the one-week probationary period the student is still failing the class, he/she will be ruled ineligible for participation in all extracurricular activities. The suspension period will be until the first Tuesday it is determined the student is receiving a passing grade in all classes.
2. A student who is reported failing two or more classes will be immediately ruled academically ineligible for participation in all co-curricular activities. The eligibility period will be until the first Tuesday it is determined the student is receiving a passing grade in all classes.
3. Teachers who submit names to the ineligibility list will be responsible for initially contacting parents about the student's status.

Parents and staff should work together to develop a plan for student improvement.

\*Note: A student ruled academically ineligible will be allowed to practice during the suspension period. Ineligible students will not be excused from classes to attend an activity held during the school day.

### **Section 5 PROGRESS REPORTS**

Report cards are issued every nine weeks. These always reflect the students' cumulative grade at that time. Progress reports are made available for each student at approximately the first quarter and third quarter through each year.

### **Section 6 PROMOTION, RETENTION**

The professional staff at Arlington Public Schools will place students at the grade level and in the courses best suited to them academically, socially and emotionally.

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 7            SCHEDULE CHANGES**

Students needing schedule changes should notify the principal. Schedule changes must be initiated by the teachers involved, the principal or guidance counselor, and students' parents. Final approval of all schedule changes will be made by the principal only.

## **Section 8            INTERIM REPORTS**

Various supplemental reports may be sent 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.

Included in the academic improvement report will be a request from the teacher for parents to contact the teacher by phone to discuss the student's academic progress. Teachers will arrange with the parents for days when the student can meet with the teacher outside the regular class period until the student returns to satisfactory academic standing.

## **Section 9            REPORT CARDS**

Report cards are issued at the end of each quarter, or nine-week sessions. Letter grades are used to designate a student's progress. Incomplete grades shall be designated by an "INC". Students have two weeks after the end of the quarter to make up incomplete work. Failure to do so will cause the grade to change to a "NC" (No Credit). No incomplete grades will be given at the end of the fourth quarter, as all course work must be completed by the end of the fourth quarter.

## **Section 10          PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES**

Parent-teacher conferences will be held during each semester. Refer to the school calendar for the schedule. Conferences with teachers, at any other time, are possible by calling the school office and making arrangements with one or more teachers as needed.

## **Section 11          STUDENT RECOGNITION**

### **Part 1**

### **HONOR ROLL**

Those students who have achieved a grade average of 3.75 or above achieve Honor Roll with Distinction. Honor Roll is composed of those students who have achieved a grade average of 3.5 or above. Those students who have achieved a grade average of 3.0 or above receive Honorable Mention. (Students may not have any grade lower than a "C" to be considered for any honor roll distinction.)

The purpose of the honor roll is to recognize those students who demonstrate academic excellence. Honor rolls will be determined for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th quarters. Students will be recognized accordingly:

- i)        Students who earn a GPA of 3.75, or above will be recognized as students with DISTINCTION.
- ii)       Students who earn a GPA of at least 3.5 will be classified as students with HONOR.
- iii)      All class grades are figured the same for honor roll status.
- iv)      Honor roll lists are published in the Enterprise each quarter.

### **Part 2**

### **ACADEMIC RECOGNITION**

The students will be given an academic award by the principal's office for achieving three, five, and seven semesters on the Honor Roll and/or the Honor Roll with Distinction. These awards will be given at Honors Night. Those middle school students that are on the Honor Roll or Honor Roll with Distinction for both mid semesters and first semester will receive recognition during the Middle School Awards Ceremony.

### **Part 3**

### **PERFECT ATTENDANCE**

Those students that are absent four or less periods over the course of the school year will be awarded 'Perfect Attendance.' These students are recognized at the Middle School Awards Ceremony or Honors Night.

**Section 12        NEBRASKA STATE ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS**

All students' grades 7-8 will be required to take the Nebraska State Assessment tests, NSCAS. Required tests currently include math, reading, and science.

Incoming ninth grade students who fail to meet the required state proficiency levels on any Nebraska state assessment may be remediated in the individual courses they are not proficient in. Remediation may include remedial courses in either summer skills or during the regular semester. Middle school students may be remediated during their scheduled learning lab. Please note; the additional course could possibly cause conflict in scheduling electives or study halls.

All juniors will be required to take the ACT test. The ACT test will be administered in the second semester and students will take all of the state required portions of the test. Currently, the required sections include English, Reading, Math, Science, and Writing.



## **Article 6 - Support Services**

### **Section 1 SPECIAL EDUCATION IDENTIFICATION AND PLACEMENT PROCEDURES**

#### What Does Special Education Mean?

Special education means educational experiences, curriculum and services, including transportation, through the use of staff, facilities, equipment and classrooms which have been adapted to provide special instruction for students with disabilities. In addition, special education provides the support services necessary for evaluation, placement and instruction for students with disabilities. These services are free to parents, unless they elect to place their child in a program other than one approved by the school district.

#### How are Students with Disabilities Identified?

The first step is for parents to provide written permission to have their child evaluated. The request for permission will include a description of the action to be taken and a description of each evaluation procedure. Written statements showing the results of the evaluation and the reasons for placement in a special education program must be kept on file. Within 30 days after a student has been verified as having a disability, a conference will be held with parents. Advance notice will be given. At the conference, an Individual Education Program (IEP) will be developed.

#### Students Who May Benefit

A student verified as having autism, behavior disorder, hearing impairment, mental handicap, orthopedic impairment, other health impairment, specific learning disability, speech language impairment, traumatic brain injury, or visual handicap may be placed in regular education with support services or may benefit from a special education classroom or service.

#### 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 public 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 years by the IEP team. The IEP team will review existing evaluation data on the student and will identify what additional data, if any, are needed. The school district shall obtain parental consent prior to conducting any reevaluation of a student with a disability.

#### Individual Education Program (IEP)

Each student with a disability must have a written IEP prepared by the staff in cooperation with parents specifying programs and services which will be provided by the schools. If necessary, the district will arrange for interpreters or other assistants to help parents in preparing and understanding the IEP. Once in place, the program is reviewed on a regular basis with the parent.

An IEP is developed in a conference setting. Parents will be notified of the persons who will be in attendance. The IEP conference shall include at least the following:

1. A representative of the school district;
2. An individual who can interpret the instructional implications of evaluation results;
3. One or both parents;
4. The child (when appropriate);
5. At least one regular education teacher if the child is, or may be participating in the regular education environment;
6. At least one special education teacher;
7. A representative of the nonpublic school if the child is attending a nonpublic school;
8. A representative of a service agency if the child is receiving services from an approved service agency; and
9. Other individuals, at the discretion of the parent or school district.

It is permissible for parents to bring other persons to the IEP meeting, but it is a good idea to inform the school before the scheduled meeting. The school district will provide parents with 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). The school district must assure that students with disabilities are educated with students who do not have disabilities, to the maximum extent possible. Students are entitled to have supplementary aids and services to help them in a regular educational setting. Students with disabilities may be placed in special classes, separate schools or other situations outside the regular educational environment when the nature of the child's needs require specialized educational techniques which are not available in current settings. Determination of a student's educational placement will be made by a team of persons who knows the student and who understands the tests and procedures that assess the student's learning abilities. Team members know the available programs and services which might help the student. Parents are asked for written consent to determine whether or not they approve the educational placement recommended for their child. If the parent does not speak English or is hearing impaired, an interpreter may be requested. Written notice shall be given to parents 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.

#### Alternative Programs

Parents have a right to know about available private and public programs, other than those offered by the schools. The school district staff will provide information about those programs on request. If parents place the student in one of those programs, however, the school district is not required to pay for the student's education.

#### Transportation of Students Receiving Special Education

The district special education staff will make arrangements for transportation for eligible students to the extent such is required by the student's IEP. Students assigned to special education programs requiring attendance at schools outside their regular attendance area will be transported. Special conditions may warrant that special education students receive transportation to their assigned schools. If parents are dissatisfied with a transportation decision, they may contact the Superintendent for a review.

#### Access to Student Records

Parents have the right to inspect and review any education records relating to their child which are collected, maintained or used by the school district in providing educational services.

#### Nonpublic School Students

Students in state-approved nonpublic schools may participate in special education programs in the same manner as public school students.

#### Parental Review of Programs

Parents who want to review their child's placement for any reason should request an IEP team meeting. If parents are not satisfied with the results of the conference, they may appeal to the Nebraska Department of Education for a formal hearing to be conducted by a state hearing officer. Parents dissatisfied by the findings and decisions made in a state level hearing have the right to bring civil action.

#### Plans and Budget

With the exception of personally identifiable student records, district special education plans and budgets are available for public inspection.

This is a summary of the Arlington Public Schools district plan for special education students. Anyone interested in obtaining a copy of the complete district policy or a copy of the Nebraska Department of Education Rule 51 (complaint procedures) or Rule 55 (appeal procedures) may contact the Superintendent at the Arlington Public Schools District Offices.

## **Section 2            GUIDANCE SERVICES**

The Arlington Public Schools employs guidance counselor(s) for the purpose of implementing and facilitating a comprehensive guidance program as directed by the state of Nebraska which includes; assisting with the district's testing program, scheduling, and vocational exploration. The guidance program also allows for students to discuss problems as well as resolve conflicts. If you wish to see a counselor, stop by a counselor's office and make arrangements for an appointment.

## **Section 3            HEALTH SERVICES**

### Student Illnesses

School health personnel will notify parents when a student needs to be sent home from school due to illness. Conditions requiring a student be sent home include: Temperature greater than 100°F., vomiting, diarrhea, unexplained rashes, live head lice, or on determination by the school nurse 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. Please include emergency daytime phone numbers on your child's enrollment card so that you can be reached if your child becomes ill or injured while at school. Please also inform your school health office staff of health related information you feel is important for your student's success in the classroom and/or safety at school.

### Guidelines for Administering Medication

Whenever possible your child should be provided medications by you outside of school hours. In the event it is necessary that the child take or have medication available at school, the parents/guardians must provide a signed written consent for the child to be given medication at school. A consent form is available at the school health office.

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. All medications also require a physician's authorization to be given at school. The school nurse may limit medications to those set forth in the Physician's Desk Reference (PDR). Please limit the amount of medication provided to the school to a two-week supply.

### School Health Screening

Children in Preschool and Kindergarten through fourth grade, as well as children in seventh and tenth grade are screened for vision, hearing, dental defects, height and weight. Students entering the Student Assistance Process at any grade level, and those about whom health concerns are identified to the school nurse may also be screened. Parents are notified of any health concerns as they are identified. Parents who do not wish their child to participate in the school screening program must communicate this in writing to the school health office where their child attends at the start of the school year. Because Nebraska statutes require school-age screening, parents who remove their child from the screening program must submit findings from an alternate medical provider to the school by December 1.

### Physical Examination

Evidence of a physical examination by a qualified physician is required within six months prior to the entrance of the child into any Early Childhood Special Education classes, kindergarten and the seventh grade, or in the case of transfer from out of state to any other grade. A parent or guardian who objects may submit a written statement of refusal for his or her child. The statement will be kept in the student's file. Waiver forms are available in the school health office.

## Immunizations

### **Summary of the School Immunization Rules and Regulations For 2025-2026 School Year**

<b>Student Age Group</b>	<b>Required Vaccines</b>
Ages 2 through 5 years enrolled in a school based program not licensed as a child care provider	4 doses of DTaP, DTP, or DT vaccine 3 doses of Polio vaccine 3 doses of Hib vaccine or 1 dose of Hib given at or after 15 months of age 3 doses of pediatric Hepatitis B vaccine 1 dose of MMR or MMRV given on or after 12 months of age 1 dose of varicella (chickenpox) or MMRV given on or after 12 months of age. Written documentation (including year) of varicella disease from parent, guardian, or health care provider will be accepted. 4 doses of pneumococcal or 1 dose of pneumococcal given on or after 15 months of age
Students entering school (Kindergarten or 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade depending on the school district's entering grade)	3 doses of DTaP, DTP, DT, or Td vaccine, one given on or after the 4 <sup>th</sup> birthday 3 doses of Polio vaccine 3 doses of pediatric Hepatitis B vaccine or 2 doses of adolescent vaccine if student is 11-15 years of age 2 doses of MMR or MMRV vaccine, given on or after 12 months of age and separated by at least one month 2 doses of varicella (chickenpox) or MMRV given on or after 12 months of age. Written documentation (including year) of varicella disease from parent, guardian, or health care provider will be accepted. If the child has had varicella disease, they do not need any varicella shots.
Students entering 7 <sup>th</sup> grade	Must be current with the above vaccinations AND receive 1 dose of Tdap (contain Pertussis booster)
Students transferring from outside the state at any grade	Must be immunized appropriately according to the grade entered.

Source: Nebraska Immunization Program, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. For additional information, call 402-471-6423.

The School Rules & Regulations are available on the internet: <http://www.hhs.state.ne.us/reg/t173.htm> (Title 173: Control of Communicable Diseases - Chapter 3; revised and implemented 2011)

**Updated 1/25/2017**

Students must show proof of immunization upon enrollment in Arlington Public Schools. Any 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 may complete a waiver statement which is available in school health offices.

Students with a signed waiver statement may 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 used when enrolling a new student in school. If your child is registering with Arlington Public Schools for the first time, you may obtain this document from the

Bureau of Vital Statistics in the state in which your child was born. Assistance in obtaining birth certificates may be obtained from Health Records Management, P.O. Box 95065, Lincoln, NE 68509-5065. There is a fee per certificate.

Please note: The document parents receive from the hospital looks like a birth certificate, but it is not a certified copy. A certified copy has the raised seal of the state of Nebraska on it and is signed by the director of vital statistics.

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.

#### 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 the child has TWO cases of live lice in a semester, he or she 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 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. Individual buildings will perform classroom-wide or school-wide head checks as needed in order to control the condition at school.

\*Nit removal will be emphasized for effective management of the condition. For more information, call the nurse.

#### Physical Restrictions

Any restrictions on a student's participation because of illness or injury in physical education or other classes which requires physical activity should be communicated to the instructor, preferably in writing. If a student is unable to participate in an activity class, he or she will be restricted from active participation in athletic, dance squad or cheerleader practices. Coaches will be informed by the classroom teacher of any temporary restriction on activity.

#### Abortion Notification Law

In 1991, the Nebraska Legislature passed a bill that may impact you if you are under the age of 18. If you get pregnant, you will not be able to get an abortion without having your parents notified. In the event that you do not wish to have your parents notified, you may appear before a judge and explain why you do not feel your parents should be notified.

#### Guidelines for Pregnant and Parenting Students

Arlington Public Schools recognizes that pregnant and parenting students have the right and responsibility to attend school. This attendance right and responsibility applies to students regardless of their marital or parental status. Further, the district will educate pregnant and parenting students and will provide reasonable accommodations to support and encourage all pregnant and parenting students to obtain their high school diploma. No student will be excluded from, denied the benefit of, or discriminated against under any educational program or activity because of pregnancy or parenting responsibilities.

#### Attendance and Leave of Absences

Pregnant and parenting students will be permitted to attend to their own health care, their child's medical care, or other pregnancy- or parenting- related appointments with the benefit of having any such absences or tardiness excused. A student will be permitted to take a leave of absence for pregnancy, childbirth, and any other pre- and post-natal related medical needs, along with recovery therefrom for the duration that is deemed medically necessary by the student's licensed health care provider. At the conclusion of the leave of absence, a student will be immediately enrolled in the district at the same grade and status as when the leave began. Pregnant and parenting students shall be allowed to participate in all activities including extracurricular activities throughout

the student's pregnancy and thereafter unless the district deems such participation poses a substantial risk of injury to the student or to others. A pregnant and parenting student may be asked to obtain certification from the student's licensed healthcare provider regarding the student's safe participation in an extracurricular activity when such certification is required of students for other conditions which require the attention of a licensed healthcare provider.

Any absences accumulated due to pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions, or care for an ill child, should not count towards any district policies in effect under compulsory attendance requirements. Pregnant and parenting students with excused absences or tardiness shall be treated like all other students with excused absences or tardiness for any other medical reasons.

Pregnant and parenting students will be provided with assignments, classwork and any additional support needed to ensure that the student can keep up with class requirements when absent for pregnancy or parenting-related absences.

#### Alternative Means to Complete Course Work

The district will provide at least one alternate method, in addition to traditional classroom instruction, to keep pregnant and parenting students in school. Such accommodation(s) may include accessing coursework on-line, home-based independent study, or at-home tutoring. Alternative methods of instruction or other alternative program for pregnant and parenting students are voluntary for the student who may elect whether to engage in an alternative method of instruction or the traditional methods of instruction available to their peers. Pregnant and parenting students shall be allowed to attend their regular classrooms and complete regular coursework.

#### Lactation

The district will provide reasonable time and space to accommodate lactating students to express breast milk or breastfeed during the school day. Such accommodations will be in a location, other than a bathroom or closet, that is private, clean, has an electrical outlet, a chair and is reasonably accessible. Students shall also be provided a food safe refrigerator to store breast milk safely.

#### Child Care

If in-school child care is not provided, a list of qualified licensed child care providers will be provided upon request to pregnant or parenting students. Such list will be updated annually and include providers that participate in the quality rating and improvement system and meet all of the quality rating criteria for at least a step three rating pursuant to the Step Up to Quality Child Care Act. Nothing in this policy is intended to prohibit or limit any referral for a student or a student's child to an early head start program or any other available community resources.

#### Privacy and Confidentiality

Pregnant and parenting students have the right to have their health and personal information kept confidential in accordance with law. School staff will make every effort to keep personal information and health records confidential and in compliance with Nebraska and federal law.

Information about students' pregnancies and related conditions will not appear in their cumulative records and will not be used when they are being considered for educational or job opportunities, awards or scholarships.

#### Other Accommodations

Pregnant and parenting students may request additional reasonable accommodations to ensure continued participation and enrollment in school. Accommodation requests will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Such accommodations may include but are not limited to: additional frequency allowed for bathroom breaks, additional time allowed in between class periods, a larger desk or additional work space, and adjustments to requirements for physical education as needed. Students seeking additional reasonable accommodation should make such requests to the building principal.

#### Bullying and Harassment

Pregnant and parenting students have the same rights as other students to be free from discrimination, bullying, and harassment. Such school policies are incorporated herein and apply to all students.

#### **Section 4 ADVISOR/ADVISEE PROGRAMS**

Students in seventh through twelfth grades will participate in an advisor/advisee program. Each student will be assigned to a faculty member to be part of a group made up of 7-8 graders and 9-12 graders. The activities of the advisory group may include but not be limited to the following:

1. Orientation to school procedures and organization of academic materials, class preparation and time.
2. Advocacy for the student with other staff members and students.
3. A means of representation on student council and internal communication system.
4. Delivery of designated curriculum.
5. Implementation of the student academic monitoring program.

#### **Section 5 PARENT WEB ACCESS**

Authorized parent(s) and/or guardian(s) have access to various items of their child's school records via the web. Some of the available items are: Attendance records, Discipline/Behavior records, Assignments, Report Card Grades, Student Class Schedule, Student Progress and Transcripts. Each school within a district will have the ability to determine what is displayed for their school, both modules and fields. Only modules available for that school will display.

Users will create a user name and password then they complete enrollment paperwork. A single username may have access to multiple children or a single child. There may be multiple users with access to the same child.

To log in to PowerSchool as an authorized user or to apply for authorization, follow the steps below:

1. Open your browser.
2. At the address line, type [www.apseagles.org](http://www.apseagles.org)
3. Go to the Parents & Students tab.
4. Click on PowerSchool login

For users that already have a User ID and Password setup with the district, follow the steps below:

1. Enter your **Username**
2. Enter your **Password**.
3. Click **Sign In**.

If you **do not** have a Username and Password, contact the building secretary to get one setup.

#### **Section 6 ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC RESOURCES**

##### **Grade Recovery Intervention Program (GRIP)**

The purpose of the GRIP program is to provide extended learning time for students who are failing or near failing. Therefore, when a student has a D or an F, they may be placed in the GRIP program to assist in finishing any incomplete work. The GRIP program is designed to provide an additional learning environment outside of the normal academic day, with the availability of an individual instructor. Students will be placed in GRIP only when it is seen as helping them academically. Students will not be placed in the GRIP program as a punitive action. Once students have completed the required schoolwork, they will be excused from GRIP.

Individual students that remain on the ineligible list and are failing **two or more** classes may be placed in the Lunch GRIP program. Students that continue to struggle academically may also be placed in after hours for additional assistance.

##### **The Attendance Credit Recovery Program (ACRP)**

The purpose of ACRP program is to avoid the loss of credit due to excessive attendance issues. Any student with more than 10 absences will be placed in ACRP. Activity or school related absences will not be included when determining ACRP. Failure to complete ACRP can lead to a loss of credit.

GRIP and ACRP will run together on Monday – Thursday from 3:30 – 4:15 pm. Designated GRIP and ACRP time will take precedence over extra-curricular events. GRIP time may also be provided over the lunch period. If a student is assigned to GRIP or ACRP, they will be excused to attend extra – curricular activities at the completion of their assigned time.

Skipping assigned GRIP or ACRP time will result in escalating consequences beginning with after school detention. Also, students who skip GRIP cannot be exempt from taking final exams at the end of the semester.

#### **EAGLE SUCCESS PROGRAM**

Middle School students are required to complete all homework. Students and parents should make certain that homework is completed at home. When students are unable to complete homework at home, they will be provided time to complete their homework at school by using the Eagle Success Program.

Teachers will refer students to a Lunch ESP. When students are assigned lunch ESP, the student will report directly to the lunch ESP room and will begin work immediately. Students will be provided a lunch. Homework will be completed during lunch. If a student does not complete the homework during lunch for two consecutive days, the student may be given an after-school ESP to complete the homework. The student will stay until the homework is completed or until the supervisor sends them home.



## **Article 7 – Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco**

### **Section 1 DRUG-FREE SCHOOLS**

The District implements regulations and practices which will ensure compliance with the Federal Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act and all regulations and rules promulgated pursuant thereto. The District's safe and drug-free schools program is established in accordance with principles of effectiveness as required by law to respond to such harmful effects.

#### **Education and Prevention:**

This District promotes comprehensive, age appropriate, developmentally based drug and alcohol education and prevention programs, which will include in the curriculum the teaching of both proper and incorrect use of drugs and alcohol for all students in all grades of this School District. Further, this District will have proper in-service orientation and training for all employed staff.

#### Drug and Alcohol Use and Prevention.

By this handbook, each student of the District is hereby provided a copy of the standards of conduct for student behavior in the District which prohibit the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol on school premises or as a part of any of the school's activities.

#### 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 are provided age appropriate, developmentally based drug and alcohol education and prevention program for all students of the schools. It shall be the policy of the District to require instruction at such grade level concerning the adverse effects resulting from the use of illicit drugs and alcohol. Such instruction shall be designed by affected classroom teachers or as otherwise directed by the Board to be appropriate to the age of the student exposed to such instruction. One of the primary objectives shall be the prevention of illicit drug and alcohol use by students. It shall further be the policy of the District to encourage the use of outside resource personnel such as law enforcement officers, medical personnel, and experts on the subject of drug and alcohol abuse, so that its economic, social, educational, and physiological consequences may be made known to the students of the District.

It shall further be the policy of the District, through the instruction earlier herein referred to, as well as by information and consistent enforcement of the Board's policy pertaining to student conduct as it relates to the use of illicit drugs and the unlawful possession and use of alcohol, that drug and alcohol abuse is wrong and is harmful both to the student and the District, and its educational programs.

#### Drug and Alcohol Counseling, Rehabilitation and Re-entry Programs.

All students shall be provided information concerning available drug and alcohol counseling, rehabilitation, and re-entry programs within sixty miles of the administrative offices of the District or, where no such services are found, within the State of Nebraska. Information concerning such resources shall be presented to all of the students of the District upon request by the Guidance Counselor.

In the event of disciplinary proceedings against any student for any District policy pertaining to the prohibition against the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol, appropriate school personnel shall confer with any such student and his or her parents or guardian concerning available drug and alcohol counseling, rehabilitation, and re-entry programs that appropriate school personnel shall consider to be of benefit to any such student and his or her parent or parents or guardian.

#### Standards of Student Conduct Pertaining to the Unlawful Possession, Use, or Distribution of Illicit Drugs or Alcohol on School Premises or as a Part of Any of the School's Activities.

(In addition to standards of student conduct elsewhere adopted by board policy or administrative regulation to absolutely prohibit the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs or alcohol on school premises or as a part of any of the school's activities.) This shall include such unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by any student of the District during regular school hours or after school hours at school sponsored activities on school premises, at school sponsored activities off school premises.

Conduct prohibited at places and activities as herein above described shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Possession of any controlled substance, possession of which is prohibited by law.
2. Possession of any prescription drug in an unlawful fashion.
3. Possession of alcohol on school premises or as a part of any of the school's activities.
4. Use of any illicit drug.
5. Distribution of any illicit drug.
6. Use of any drug in an unlawful fashion.
7. Distribution of any drug or controlled substance when such distribution is unlawful.
8. The possession, use, or distribution of alcohol.

It shall further be the policy of the district that violation of any of the above prohibited acts will result in disciplinary sanction being taken within the bounds of applicable law, up to and including short term suspension, long term suspension, expulsion, and referral to appropriate authorities for criminal prosecution.

**Drugs and Alcohol Prohibited - Standards of Conduct for Students and Employed Staff:**

The manufacture, possession, selling, dispensing, use or being under the influence of alcohol or any alcoholic beverage or alcoholic liquor on school grounds, or during an educational function, or event off school grounds, or off school grounds if there is a substantial interference with school purposes, is prohibited.

The possession, selling, dispensing, use or being under the influence of any controlled substance or drug, including but not limited to marijuana, any narcotic drug, any hallucinogen, any stimulant, or any depressant on school grounds, or during the educational function or event off school grounds, or off school grounds if there is a substantial interference with school purposes, is prohibited.

The possession, selling, dispensing, use 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 on school grounds or during and educational function, or event off school grounds, is prohibited.

The possession, selling, dispensing or use of any look-alike drug or look-alike controlled substance when such activity constitutes a substantial interference with school purposes on school grounds or during an educational function, or event off school grounds, is prohibited.

Any prescription or non-prescription drug, medicine, vitamin or other chemical may not be taken unless authorized as stated in the next section on AUTHORIZED USE.

**Authorized Use:**

Any student whose parent or guardian requests that he or she be given any prescription or non-prescription medicine, drug, or vitamin shall provide signed permission by parent or physician.

**Disciplinary Sanctions:**

1. Violation of this policy may result in suspension or expulsion. Prohibited substances will be confiscated and could be turned over to law enforcement authorities. The student may be referred for counseling or treatment. Parents or legal guardian will be notified.
2. If the student is observed to be violating this policy, the student will be escorted to the Principal/Superintendent's office immediately, or if not feasible, the Principal/ Superintendent will be notified. The student's parents or legal guardian will be requested to pick up the student. If it appears there is imminent danger to other students, school personnel, or students involved, the Principal/Superintendent, or such other personnel as authorized by the Principal/Superintendent, may have the student removed by authorized medical or law enforcement personnel.
3. Parents and students shall be given a copy of the standards of conduct and disciplinary sanctions required and shall be notified that compliance with the standards of conduct is mandatory.

**Intervention:**

The Arlington Public School District does not have the authority or responsibility to make medical or health determinations regarding chemical dependency. However, when observed behavior indicates that a problem exists which may affect the student's ability to learn or function in the educational climate or activity, the school then has the right and responsibility to refer the student for a formal chemical dependency diagnosis based on behavior observed by school staff. The school will issue a statement to all students and employed staff that the use of illicit drugs and the unlawful possession and use of alcohol is wrong and harmful. The school shall make available to students and employed staff information about any drug and alcohol counseling, and rehabilitation and re-entry programs, which are available to students.

**Administration:**

The administration is authorized to adopt such administrative rules, regulations or practices necessary to properly implement this policy. Such regulations, rules or practices may vary the procedures set forth herein to the extent necessary to fit the circumstances of an individual situation. Such rules, regulations and practices may include administrative forms, such as checklists to be used by staff to record observed behavior and to determine the proper plan of action.

**Safe and Drug-Free Schools-- Parental Notice**

NOTICE TO PARENTS: 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, the parent may notify the School District of such objection in writing. Upon the receipt of such notice the student will be withdrawn from the program or activity to which parental objection has been made.

## Article 8 - Student Rights, Conduct, Rules and Regulations

### Section 1 STUDENT CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE POLICIES

The common goal of students, parents, faculty and administration of Arlington Public Schools is to maintain a school atmosphere which is conducive to learning. In order to achieve this, Arlington Public Schools will continue to review and distribute a set of reasonable and fair rules and policies. VIOLATIONS OF THE ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOL'S RULES AND POLICIES WILL RESULT IN DISCIPLINARY ACTION.

#### Part 1 - Forms of School Discipline

##### SANCTIONS

The principal or their designees are delegated full authority and are authorized to take all action appropriate or necessary to implement student disciplinary sanctions in the Arlington Public Schools. Actions taken include, but are not limited to, the following:

A. **OFFICE DETENTIONS:** Detentions must be served on the day that they are given or they may begin on the following day if transportation needs to be arranged (this includes the bus students.) Detentions are not scheduled around student work schedules. Students are to report to the designated detention room by the 3:35 bell and leave the building upon dismissal. Students who have not reported by the bell will not be admitted and treated as if they skipped their detention. **Detentions run from 3:30 - 4:15. Students must bring something to study or to read.** No talking, eating, or sleeping is allowed in detention. Students may not get up out of their seats unless granted permission by the supervisor. Failure to follow these guidelines will result in removal and further disciplinary action. Skipping a detention will result in double detentions to begin the day following the skipped detention (not given the one-day leeway in this instance.) Failure to serve this time will result in further disciplinary intervention, up to suspension from school.

B. **IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION:** Students so placed are in affect being given another opportunity to succeed in school. They will work on regular school assignments in a designated area from 8:05 a.m. until 4:15 p.m.

C. **AFTER HOURS SESSION:** After Hours Sessions are slots of time outside of the school day (evenings and/or Saturday mornings) assigned to students. The typical After Hour Session will last three hours or more. This is an alternative to in-school suspension and short-term out-of-school suspension. In these sessions students may be required to complete an instructional segment. When this is completed they may work on activities related to academic classes. If all schoolwork is completed students will be allowed to read "appropriate" books (DEAR books). Magazines will not be allowed unless they are being used to support research for academic projects. Students must come prepared with enough work to fill the assigned time. All of the rules of in-school suspension apply. Students who fail to report on the assigned date and at the assigned time will receive two days out of school suspension.

D. **ACTIVITY SUSPENSION:** A student may be denied participation in or attendance at school sponsored activities for a period of time.

E. **LOSS OF PRIVILEGES:** A student may be denied access to a privilege previously granted them such as computer usage, parking lot usage, pass privileges, lunch room privileges, and others.

F. **SHORT-TERM SUSPENSION** - A suspension for any portion of a school day up to and not exceeding FIVE consecutive school days. Students will have the opportunity to complete work missed while suspended.

G. **LONG-TERM SUSPENSION** - A suspension that exceeds five school days but less than twenty school days.

H. **EXCLUSION** - any student may be excluded from school under the following circumstances: if the student has a dangerous communicable disease transmittable through normal school contacts and poses an eminent threat to the health and safety of the school community; 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.

I. **EXPULSION** - A denial from attendance in all schools for an indefinite period of time. An expulsion also may include a denial of admission to or entry upon real and personal property that is owned, leased, rented, or controlled by the school district.

J. **MANDATORY REASSIGNMENT** - The involuntary transfer of a student to another school in connection with any disciplinary action.

#### Part 2 - Authority of School Personnel

##### Authorized Actions by Administrators and Teachers.

Administrative and teaching personnel may take actions regarding student behavior, other than those specifically provided in the Student Discipline Act, which are reasonably necessary to aid the student, further school purposes, or prevent interference with the educational process. Such actions may include, *but need not be 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. [Ref. § 79-258]

### **Part 3 - Attendance as Related to Discipline**

#### **Compliance with Other State and Federal Laws.**

If a student is suspended, expelled, or excluded from school or from any educational function pursuant to the Student Discipline Act, such absence from school shall not be deemed a violation on the part of any person under any compulsory school attendance statutes. Any suspension or expulsion under the act shall comply with the requirements of the Special Education Act and the requirements of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. 1401 et seq. [Ref. § 79-259]

#### **1. Emergency Exclusion.**

**A. Grounds.** Any student may be excluded from school in the following circumstances:

**1. Disease.** 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. [Ref. § 79-264(1)(a).

**2. Conduct.** 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. [Ref. § 79-264(1)(b).

#### **B. Duration and Procedures.**

**1. Generally.** 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 immediately above. [Ref. § 79-264(2)]

**2. Exclusion for Five Days or Less.** The same procedures for short-term suspension also apply to emergency exclusion if such exclusion is for five days or less. [Ref. § 79-264(1) & (3)]

**3. Exclusion Over Five Days.** If the superintendent or his/her designee determines that the exclusion will extend beyond five days, the following procedural provisions must be used: [Ref. § 79-264(3)]

**a. Hearing/Final Determination.** The school board must adopt a procedure for a hearing to be held and a final determination made within ten (10) school days after the initial date of exclusion. [Ref. § 79-264(3)]

##### **b. Procedural Compliance.**

The procedure adopted by the school board must substantially comply with the disciplinary actions which require due process [*i.e., long-term suspension, expulsion and reassignment*] and such provisions shall be modified only to the extent necessary to accomplish the hearing and determination within this shorter time period. [Ref. § 79-264(3)]

#### **2. 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 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 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.
- e. A student who on a short-term suspension shall not be permitted to be on school grounds without the express permission of the Principal.

### **3. Long-Term Suspension:**

A long-term suspension means an exclusion from school and any school functions for a period of more than five school days but less than twenty school days. A student who on a long-term suspension 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 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.

### **4. 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 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 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. Suspensions 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 no hearing is requested or, if a hearing is requested, the date the hearing examiner makes the report of his or her findings and a recommendation of the action to be taken to the superintendent, 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.

**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. Alternative Education- Students who are expelled may be provided an alternative education program that will enable the student to continue academic work for credit toward graduation. In the event an alternative education program is not provided, a conference will be held with the parent, student, the principal or another student representative assigned by the principal, and a representative of the community organization that assists young people or that is involved with juvenile justice to develop a plan for the student in accordance with the law.

**d. Alternative Education.** Students who are expelled may be provided an alternative education program that will enable the student to continue academic work for credit toward graduation. 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”) for a period of not more than one full semester in addition to the balance of the semester in which the expulsion takes effect. As a condition of such suspended action, the student and parents will be required to sign a discipline agreement.

**f. Students Subject to Juvenile or Court Probation.** Prior to the readmission to school of any student who is less than nineteen years of age and who is subject to the supervision of a juvenile probation officer or an adult probation officer pursuant to the order of the District Court, County Court, or Juvenile Court, who chooses to meet conditions of probation by attending school, and who has previously been expelled from school, the Principal or the Principal’s designee shall meet with the student’s probation officer and assist in developing conditions of probation that will provide specific guidelines for behavior and consequences for misbehavior at school (including conduct on school grounds and conduct during an educational function or event off school grounds) as well as educational objectives that must be achieved. If the guidelines, consequences, and objectives provided by the Principal or the Principal’s designee are agreed to by the probation officer and the student, and the court permits the student to return to school under the agreed to conditions, the student may be permitted to return to school. The student may with proper consent, upon such return, be evaluated by the school for possible disabilities and may be referred for evaluation for possible placement in a special education program. The student may be expelled or otherwise disciplined for subsequent conduct as provided in Board policy and state statute.

#### **1. 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 be 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.

B. 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.

C. 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 otherwise seriously interfere with the educational process. 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.

1. Willfully disobeying any reasonable written or oral request of a school staff member, or the voicing of disrespect to those in authority.
2. 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 reasonable recipient would interpret as a serious expression of an intent to harm or cause injury to another.
3. 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.

4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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), alternative nicotine products, tobacco product lookalikes 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.
8. Public indecency or sexual conduct.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. A repeated violation of any rules established by the school district or school officials if such violations constitute a substantial interference with school purposes.
13. Truancy or failure to attend assigned classes or assigned activities; or tardiness to school, assigned classes or assigned activities.
14. 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, gender, disability, national origin, or religion.
15. 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.
16. Willfully violating the behavioral expectations for riding school buses or vehicles.
17. 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 knowing and intentional possession, use, or transmission of a dangerous weapon other than a firearm.

18. Knowingly and intentionally possessing, using, or transmitting 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. This conduct shall result in an expulsion for one calendar year. "Firearm" means a firearm as defined in 18 U.S.C. 921, as that statute existed on January 1, 1995. That statute includes the following statement: "The term 'firearm' means (a) any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; (b) the frame or receiver of any such weapon; (c) any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or (d) any destructive device." The Superintendent may modify the one-year expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis, provided that such modification is in writing. Bringing a firearm or other dangerous weapon to school for any reason is discouraged; however, a student will not be subject to disciplinary action if the item is brought or possessed under the following conditions: (a). Prior written permission to bring the firearm or other dangerous weapon to school is obtained from the student's teacher, building administrator and parent. (b). The purpose of having the firearm or other dangerous weapon in school is for a legitimate educational function. (c). A plan for its transportation into and from the school, its storage while in the school building and how it will be displayed must be developed with the prior written approval by the teacher and building administrator. Such plan shall require that such item will be in the possession of an adult staff member at all times except for such limited time as is necessary to fulfill the educational function. (d). The firearm or other dangerous weapon shall be in an inoperable condition while it is on school grounds

Bringing a firearm or other dangerous weapon to school for any reason is discouraged; however, a student will not be subject to disciplinary action if the item is brought or possessed under the following conditions:

a. Prior written permission to bring the firearm or other dangerous weapon to school is obtained from the student's teacher, building administrator and parent.

b. The purpose of having the firearm or other dangerous weapon in school is for a legitimate educational function.

c. A plan for its transportation into and from the school, its storage while in the school building and how it will be displayed must be developed with the prior written approval by the teacher and building administrator. Such plan shall require that such item will be in the possession of an adult staff member at all times except for such limited time as is necessary to fulfill the educational function.

d. The firearm or other dangerous weapon shall be in an inoperable condition while it is on school grounds.

#### D. Additional Student Conduct Expectations and Grounds for Discipline.

The following additional student conduct expectations are established. Failure to comply with such rules is grounds for disciplinary action. When such conduct occurs on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose or in a vehicle being driven for a school purpose by a school employee or by his or her designee, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event, the conduct is grounds for long-term suspension, expulsion or mandatory reassignment.

## Section 2      **GENERAL STANDARDS FOR BEHAVIOR**

### **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. Following is a list of examples of attire that will not be considered appropriate, such list is not exclusive and other forms of attire deemed inappropriate by the administration may be deemed inappropriate for the school setting:

a. Clothing that shows an inappropriate amount of bare skin or underwear (midriffs, spaghetti straps, sagging pants, etc.) or clothing that is too tight, revealing or baggy, or tops and bottoms that do not overlap or any material that is sheer or lightweight enough to be seen through, or otherwise of an appropriate size and fit so

as to be revealing or drag on the ground.

- b. Shorts, skirts, or skorts that do not reach mid-thigh or longer.
- c. Clothing or jewelry that advertises or promotes beer, alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs.
- d. Clothing or jewelry that could be used as a weapon (chains, spiked apparel) or that would encourage “horse-play” or that would damage property (e.g., cleats).
- e. Head wear including hats, caps, bandannas, and scarves.
- f. Clothing or jewelry which exhibits nudity, makes sexual references, contains inappropriate double meanings, or carries lewd, indecent, or vulgar meanings, messages, or images.
- g. Clothing and accessories must not promote racial, violent, or socially offensive images, symbols, or language
- h. Clothing or jewelry that is gang related.
- i. Students must wear shoes.
- j. Visible body piercing, body art, or body alterations that are disruptive to the learning environment, or pose a safety issue.

Consideration will be made for students who wear special clothing as required by tribal or religious beliefs, disability, or to convey a particularized message protected by law. 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, and may also review such additional posting of prohibited items or grooming which may be available in the principal’s office.

Coaches, sponsors or teachers may have additional requirements for students who are in special lab classes, students who are participants in performing groups or students who are representing the school as part of an extracurricular activity program.

On the first offense of the dress code the student will be asked to change the offensive clothing or turn it inside out. If this is not possible, they will be asked to call home for new clothing. 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 will result in more stringent 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 stringent discipline, up to expulsion.

## **Harassment and Bullying Policy:**

It is the policy of Arlington Public Schools that bullying type behavior is not to be permitted. **Bullying** will be defined as the intentional harmful behavior initiated by one or more students and directed toward another student. Bullying exists when a student with more social and/or physical power deliberately dominates and harasses another who has less power. Bullying is unjustified and typically repeated. Bullying can take the form of physical, verbal, emotional, sexual, or racial.

**Cyberbullying** is a form of indirect or social bullying that uses technological communications to humiliate, harass, embarrass, tease, intimidate, threaten, or slander one or more students. Cyber bullies use social media, instant messages, text messages, e-mail, chat rooms, cell phones, and personal websites or blogs. Cyber bullying is the act of being cruel to others by sending or posting harmful material or compromising photographs online or through a cell phone.

These guidelines are established to respond specifically to bullying behavior. Students and parents are advised that other response measures are also in place and set forth in Article 10 of this handbook for behavior which is discriminatory or harassing on unlawful grounds (e.g., sexual harassment, harassment of students with disabilities, race harassment, etc.).

- (i) Step One: The first time school personnel become aware of a possible harassment or bullying situation, the accused student will be informed that such a complaint has been filed. At that time a warning will be given regarding this kind of behavior. The consequences for this kind of behavior in the future will be clearly outlined for the student.

If, in the school's opinion, the first occurrence of harassment behavior is severe, the school may move immediately to any of the four steps in the harassment policy. In other words, the policy may or may not be used sequentially. Moreover, at any stage the student may be disciplined under the student code by actions which may include expulsion, in the event the conduct is also a violation of other provisions of the student code.

- (ii) Step Two: The second time school personnel become aware of a harassment incident, the student's parents will be notified. A conference will be requested at that time. If it is determined that the student has harassed another student, consequences will be assigned. A student may stay on the second step as long as school authorities feel the consequences are effectively correcting the harassment behaviors. If it is determined that there is no basis for the harassment accusation, no consequences will be assigned. If the school determines that a student is intentionally making a false accusation against another student, an appropriate response will be made.
- (iii) Step Three: If the school authorities determine that the student continues to harass another student or the student fails to agree to not harass in the future, the school may assign the student to the Harassment Program level set forth below which the school authorities determine to be appropriate.
- (iv) Step Four: If a student fails to respond positively to the corrective measures of the Harassment Program, the student will be suspended from school for a minimum of five school days, up to expulsion. School authorities will determine the action necessary to insure a safe learning environment for all students.

#### Harassment and Bullying Program--Levels:

Purpose: All students have the right to attend Arlington Public Schools free from verbal and physical harassment and bullying. The purpose of the Harassment and Bullying Program is to protect students and staff from those who fail or refuse to comply with school guidelines regarding the treatment of others.

All forms of bullying will be treated in a way to protect the victim and to provide a safe and secure environment in which to learn. The bullying program has been created to separate bullies from victims. Although the bullying program is set up with this purpose, bullying situations are all unique so variances of this program will match the specific needs of the individual situation.

Level I: The guidelines for a Level I placement are listed below.

- a. The length of the assignment will be for a minimum of two weeks.
- b. The student will arrive at school no sooner than 8:10 a.m. and will immediately report to the office.
- c. The student will eat on campus at an assigned table.
- d. The student will report to an assigned room at the end of the day, and will remain until 3:45 p.m. or until the scheduled departure of the bus if the student rides the bus. This will allow all other students to leave the school grounds in safety.

Level II: The guidelines for this level are listed below.

- a. The length of the assignment will be for a minimum of two weeks.
- b. The student will arrive at school no sooner than 8:10 a.m. and will immediately report to the office.
- c. The student will eat on campus at an assigned table.
- d. The student will report to an assigned room at the end of the day, and will remain until 3:45 p.m. or until the scheduled departure of the bus if the student rides the bus.
- e. The student will remain in class at the end of each period. The student will be under direct teacher supervision during passing time. The teacher will dismiss the student at the end of the passing period. The student will then have three minutes to get to his/her next class.

Level III: This is a long term assignment. The guidelines are listed below.

- a. All items listed in Level II will be used, except the length of the assignment will be no less than six weeks, and may remain in effect until the end of the school year and continue into the next, if determined to be appropriate.
- b. The length of the assignment will be no less than six weeks, and may remain in effect until the end of the school year.

### **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. As a minimal standard, students will face the following consequences for IPDA (elevated consequences for indecent IPDA):

**1st Offense:** Student will be addressed and directed to cease

**2nd Offense:** Student will be addressed, directed to cease, parents will be notified, and detentions or further action may be taken.

**3rd Offense:** Student will be considered to be insubordinate for failure to follow administrative directive. Actions may include detentions and/or suspensions.

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.

### **Electronic devices:**

In order to maintain a secure and orderly learning environment, and to promote respect and courtesy regarding the use of electronic devices, the District hereby establishes the following rules and regulations governing student use of electronic devices, and procedures to address student misuse of electronic devices. Although Arlington Public Schools encourages the use of individual student devices, it is important that while at school regardless of the device, students are expected to adhere to school policy regarding the use of technology. Additionally, Arlington Public School is not responsible for lost or stolen devices.

Beginning with the 2025-26 school year and in accordance with District Policy No. 6113, cell phones and other electronic devices are required to be out of sight and not in use from the tardy bell in the morning until the dismissal bell in the afternoon; typically 8:05-3:30. Students will be allowed to use cell phones and other electronic devices during their assigned lunch period only. Students may use cell phones and other electronic devices on school sidewalks and in the common areas of the school before and after school so long as they do not create a distraction or a disruption and comply with all other policies and handbook provisions.

Parents who need to communicate with their child(ren) during the school day must call the school at 402-478-4171 and we will either get a message to your child(ren) or we will retrieve them from class to talk with you. If a student needs to make a call, the student must come to the office and request permission to make the call. Such calls should only be made in emergency situations in a designated area with permission granted by office personnel.

If a student is using a smartwatch or any other device that works like a cell phone or has the capability to connect with a cell phone to use as a communication tool, the same expectations and consequences apply. Smart watches and other devices that work like a cell phone or have the capability to connect to cell phones need to be “off” or on “silent” and should not be connected to any cell phone during the school day.

#### **a. Definitions.**

- (1) “Electronic devices” include, but are not limited to, cell phones, Mp3 players, iPods, personal digital assistants (PDAs), compact disc players, portable game consoles, cameras, digital scanners, laptop computers, smart watches, and other electronic or battery powered instruments which transmit voice, text, or data from one person to another.
- (2) “Sexting” means generating, sending or receiving, encouraging others to send or receive, or showing others, through an electronic device, a text message, photograph, video or other medium that:

- (i) Displays sexual content, including erotic nudity, any display of genitalia, unclothed female breasts, or unclothed buttocks, or any sexually explicit conduct as defined at Neb. Rev. Stat. § 28-1463.02; or
- (ii) Sexually exploits a person, whether or not such person has given consent to creation or distribution of the message, photograph or video by permitting, allowing, encouraging, disseminating, distributing, or forcing such student or other person to engage in sexually explicit, obscene or pornographic photography, films, or depictions; or,
- (iii) Displays a sexually explicit message for sexual gratification, flirtation or provocation, or to request or arrange a sexual encounter.

b. Possession and Use of Electronic Devices.

- (1) Students are permitted to possess and use electronic devices before school hours, at lunch time, and after school hours, provided that the student not commit any abusive use of the device (see paragraph (d)(1)). Administrators have the discretion to prohibit student possession or use of electronic devices on school grounds during these times in the event the administration determines such further restrictions are appropriate; an announcement will be given in the event of such a change in permitted use.
- (2) Electronic devices may be used during class time when specifically approved by the teacher or a school administrator in conjunction with appropriate and authorized class or school activities or events (i.e., student use of a camera during a photography class; student use of a laptop computer for a class presentation).
- (3) Students may use electronic devices during class time when authorized pursuant to an Individual Education Plan (IEP), a Section 504 Accommodation Plan, or a Health Care Plan, or pursuant to a plan developed with the student's parent when the student has a compelling need to have the device (e.g., a student whose parent is in the hospital could be allowed limited use of the cell phone for family contacts, so the family can give the student updates on the parent's condition).

c. Violations

- (1) Prohibited Use of Electronic Devices: Students shall not use electronic devices for: (a) activities which disrupt the educational environment; (b) illegal activities in violation of state or federal laws or regulations; (c) unethical activities, such as cheating on assignments or tests; (d) immoral or pornographic activities; (e) activities in violation of Board or school policies and procedures relating to student conduct and harassment; (f) recording or live streaming others (photographs, videotaping, sound recording, etc.) without direct administrative approval and consent of the person(s) being recorded or live streamed, other than recording or live streaming persons participating in school activities that are open to the public; (g) "sexting;" or (h) activities which invade the privacy of others. Such student misuses will be dealt with as serious school violations, and immediate and appropriate disciplinary action will be imposed, including, but not limited to, suspension and expulsion from school.
- (2) Disposition of Confiscated Electronic Devices: Electronic devices possessed or used in violation of this policy may be confiscated by school personnel and returned to the student or parent/guardian at an appropriate time. If an electronic device is confiscated, the electronic device shall be taken to the school's main office to be identified, placed in a secure area, and returned to the student and/or the student's parent/guardian in a consistent and orderly way.
  - (i) **First Violation:** Depending upon the nature of the violation and the imposition of other appropriate disciplinary action, consequences **at a minimum** may include a relinquishment of the electronic device to the school administration and a conference between the student and school principal or assistant principal. The electronic device shall remain in the possession of the school administration until such time as the student personally comes to the school's main office and retrieves the electronic device no sooner than the end of the school day the device was confiscated.

(ii) **Second Violation:** Depending upon the nature of the violation and the imposition of other appropriate disciplinary action, consequences **at a minimum** may include a relinquishment of the electronic device to the school administration and a conference between the student, his/her parent/guardian, and the school principal or assistant principal. The electronic device shall remain in the possession of the school administration until such time as the student's parent/guardian personally comes to the school's main office and retrieves the electronic device no sooner than the end of the school day the device was confiscated.

(iii) **Third Violation:** Depending upon the nature of the violation and the imposition of other appropriate disciplinary action, consequences **at a minimum** may include a relinquishment of the electronic device to the school administration and a conference between the student, his/her parent/guardian, and the school principal or assistant principal. The electronic device shall remain in the possession of the school administration until such time as the student's parent/guardian personally comes to the school's main office and retrieves the electronic device no sooner than the end of the school day the device was confiscated. The student will be required to check in the device to the main office each school day by 8:05 for the remainder of the semester. The student may collect the device at the end of the school day after 3:30 for the remainder of the semester.

(iv) **Continued Violations:** Depending upon the nature of the violation and the imposition of other appropriate disciplinary action, consequences will be issued as deemed appropriate by school administration in accordance with the student handbook and district policy.

(3) Penalties for Prohibited Use of Electronic Devices: Students who send or encourage another to send a "sexting" message shall be subject to disciplinary action. Students who receive a "sexting" message are to report the matter to a school administrator and then follow the protocol outlined by administration or law enforcement agency. Students shall not participate in sexting or have any "sexting" message on their electronic devices regardless of when the message was received while on school grounds or at a school activity. Students who violate the prohibitions of this policy shall be subject to the imposition of appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion.

(4) Reporting to Law Enforcement: Violations of this policy regarding the prohibited use of electronic devices that may constitute a violation of federal or state laws and regulations, including, but not limited to, the Nebraska Child Protection Act or the Nebraska Child Pornography Prevention Act shall be reported to appropriate legal authorities and law enforcement.

d. Responsibility for Electronic Devices.

Students or their parents/guardians are expected to claim a confiscated electronic device within ten (10) days of the date it was relinquished. The school shall not be responsible, financially or otherwise, for any unclaimed electronic devices. By bringing such devices to school, students and parents authorize the school to dispose of unclaimed devices at the end of each semester. The District is not responsible for the security and safekeeping of students' electronic devices and is not financially responsible for any damage, destruction, or loss of electronic devices.

## **Dating Violence:**

Arlington Public Schools strives to provide safe and emotionally secure environments for all students and staff. Positive behaviors are encouraged in the educational program and are required of all students and staff. Dating violence will not be tolerated.

For purposes of this policy "dating violence" means a pattern of behaviour where one person uses threats of or actually uses, physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse to control his or her dating partner. "Dating partner" means any person, regardless of gender, involved in an intimate relationship with another person primarily characterized by the expectation of affectionate involvement whether casual, serious or long term.

Incidents of dating violence involving students at school will be addressed as the administration determines appropriate, within the scope and subject to the limits of the District's authority.

## **Academic Integrity:**

a. **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 in order 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.

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

(2) **"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):

(1) **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.

(2) **Use of Unauthorized Materials:** Using notes, textbooks, pre-programmed formulae 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.

(3) **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.

(4) **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.

(5) **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):

(1) **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. Use of artificial intelligence to write papers or portions of papers is prohibited and considered cheating as well. A specific example of this would be the use of ChatGPT or similar service to write a paper.

(2) **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.

(3) **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 rewritten by the student's parent or sibling. Assistance from home is encouraged, but the work must remain the student's.

(4) **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.

(5) **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 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, use of artificial intelligence to write your paper, 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:

**(1) 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 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 standards, the instructor will assign a grade which the instructor determines to be appropriate for the work.

**(2) Report to Parents and Administration.** The instructor will notify the Principal of the offense and the instructor will notify the student's parents or guardian.

**(3) 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 or removal from class with loss of credit and/or a failing grade. 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.

### **Forgery:**

The forging of parent/guardian or another student's signature on any letter to the school or on any school document will result in disciplinary action.

### **Computers:**

Student direct or indirect use of district computers, which results in offensive, personal or commercial messages or damage to, misuse of, or interference with computer programs or computer stored information belonging to the district or to other students, may result in loss of computer privileges and/or disciplinary action.

### **Assault and Fighting:**

A student shall not intentionally cause or attempt to cause physical injury or intentionally behave in such a way as could reasonably cause physical injury to any person. Any student involved in fighting or promoting fighting shall be subject to disciplinary action. Assault or fighting will be defined as a verbal or physical



altercation causing a disruption to the educational process. Fighting may constitute a crime and legal authorities may be notified. Students will be suspended for fighting and may be expelled for assault (except that the principal may waive the suspension if the principal at his/her discretion determines that a student was acting solely in self-defense).

### **Trespassing:**

Students are not to enter or remain on any school district property without proper authorization. Violators will be subject to disciplinary action, suspension, and/or expulsion and possible ticketing from law enforcement. Students on school property while on suspension and/or expulsion are subject to additional disciplinary action and arrest for criminal trespass.

### **Tobacco:**

Possession or use of tobacco, tobacco products, electronic smoking devices with nicotine oil, or look-alike tobacco products, in any form (including smokeless tobacco products) by students is prohibited on school property or premises or at any school activities. (for more details, see article 7)

1<sup>st</sup> offense- minimum 2 day out of school suspension

2<sup>nd</sup> offense and additional offenses-minimum 3 day out of school suspension up to and including expulsion

### **Alcohol/Drugs:**

Possession, use, or distribution of alcohol, drugs, look-alike drugs, look-alike alcoholic beverages, behavior-affecting substances, and/or drug paraphernalia

1<sup>st</sup> offense-minimum 5-10 day out of school suspension up to and including expulsion

2<sup>nd</sup> offense and additional offenses-minimum 10 day out of school suspension up to and including expulsion

Type of drug, intention to distribute, and other factors will determine severity of disciplinary action. **ANY DRUG OFFENSE COULD RESULT IN EXPULSION.** (for more details, see Article 7)

### **Theft:**

The school does not take responsibility for stolen or lost items. Do not bring valuables to school. Theft of school property or another individual's property may result in disciplinary action, including suspension.

### **Bus/Van Transportation:**

Riding school transportation, including bus, van, or automobile will be considered an extension of the school day; therefore, all rules governing student conduct will apply to students riding school transportation. The driver is a school official and has the authority to control students. Students are expected to be respectful of the rules that are established by the drivers and to be courteous and cooperative passengers. Violation of transportation rules result in loss of the riding privileges and/or school consequences. Absolutely no eating or drinking on the bus unless previously approved by the driver. Repeated violation of school bus/van rules will lead to loss of bus privileges.

The following are rules for conduct regarding transportation services:

#### **STUDENT CONDUCT RULES ON SCHOOL BUS:**

Students are expected to discipline themselves and comply with the instructions of the bus operator. The bus driver will be in full charge of the bus and the passengers. Disturbances that might distract the driver can endanger the safety of the passengers; therefore, misconduct on buses will not be tolerated and can result in loss of riding privileges. Please call the school office with questions or concerns:

Elementary: (402) 478-4121 MS/HS: (402) 478-4171 District: (402) 478-4173

#### **RULES OF CONDUCT**

Riding the bus/van is a privilege not a right. The following are standard district-wide regulations to be enforced on all vehicles.

1. Students should always be at the bus stop at least 5 minutes before the bus is scheduled to be there. Students should remain well back from the roadway (or pick-up point) while awaiting the arrival of the bus and not move to board the bus until it is stopped and the door opens.
2. Students will be picked up or dropped off at designated stops unless prior arrangements have been made

- with parents/guardians.
3. No extra rider without authorization or prior approval.
  4. Student will enter and exit the bus in an orderly fashion and go directly to a seat.
  5. Students should remain seated, not standing or leaning over the seat in front of or behind them.
  6. Students will keep their hands, arms and heads inside of the bus. Bus driver approval is required for operation of windows. In addition, legs and arms should be kept within the seating area – not in the aisle.
  7. Students should assist in keeping the bus clean and sanitary on the inside. Use trash cans in the front and back of the buses for trash.
  8. Bus riders are expected to be courteous and obedient toward the bus driver and other school employees.
  9. Throwing any object while on the vehicle is prohibited.
  10. Smoking and/or the use of any tobacco product and possession of alcoholic beverages or drugs in a student transportation vehicle is prohibited at all times.
  11. Students must be respectful of bus property and the property of other passengers.
  12. Hitting, shoving, fighting, etc. are prohibited.
  13. Students should not eat or drink on the bus/van. Individual drivers may waive this regulation for particular situations.
  14. Students should adhere to the seating chart given by the driver.

### **Substitute Teacher:**

Substitute teachers are to be treated as guests in the school. In order for class to move on as close to normal as possible, students are expected to be on their best behavior. The regular classroom teacher and/or administrators may **double** consequences when negative behavior occurs with a substitute teacher.

### **Locker Room:**

Students may not enter locker rooms unless he/she has PE that period. If a student needs to get into the locker room, a staff member must escort him/her. Students are not to be in the locker room before or after school without supervision. Students are responsible for their own possessions. All items are to be locked in the lockers. Periodically, locker rooms will be cleared out and material left out on the floor will be discarded.

### **Specific Rule Items:**

The following conduct may result in disciplinary action which, in the repeated violations, may result in discipline up to expulsion:

1. Students are not given locker passes, restroom passes or telephone passes to leave a classroom or study hall unless special circumstances arise.
2. Students in the hallway during class time must have a pass with them.
3. Gum, candy, etc... are allowed in the school building and classrooms by teacher and/or administrative approval only. The pop machine is closed until after school and pop is to be consumed outside.
4. Students are expected to bring all books and necessary materials to class. This includes study halls.
5. Assignments for all classes are due as assigned by the teacher.
6. Students are not to operate the mini-blinds or the windows.
7. Classes are ended by the teacher. Students are not to begin to pack up or leave the class until the dismissal bell has rung or the teacher has dismissed the class.
8. Students are to be in their seats and ready for class on the tardy bell.
9. Special classes such as Industrial Technology, Art, P.E., and computers courses will have other safety or clean-up rules that will be explained to you by that teacher which must be followed.
10. Students are not to bring “nuisance items” to school. A nuisance item is something that is not required for educational purposes and which would cause a distraction to the student or others.
11. Students are to stand back from the entry steps and doors in the mornings before school and at noon before the bell so that others may pass in and out of the entry doors.
12. Snow handling is prohibited.

## **Section 3      REPORTING STUDENT LAW VIOLATIONS**

### Law Violations

1. Cases of law violations or suspected law violations by students will be reported to the police and to the student's parents or guardian as soon as possible.
2. When a principal or other school official releases a minor student to a peace officer (e.g., police officer, sheriff, and all other persons with similar authority to make arrests) for the purpose of removing the minor from the school premises, the principal or other school official shall take immediate steps to notify the parent, guardian, or responsible relative of the minor regarding the release of the minor to the officer and regarding the place to which the minor is reportedly being taken, except when a minor has been taken into custody as a victim of suspected child abuse, in which case the principal or other school official shall provide the peace officer with the address and telephone number of the minor's parents or guardian.
3. In an effort to demonstrate that student behavior is always subject to possible legal sanctions regardless of where the behavior occurs it is the District's policy to notify the proper legal authorities when a student engages in any of the following behaviors on school grounds or at a school sponsored event:
  - (a) Knowingly possessing illegal drugs or alcohol.
  - (b) Aggravated or felonious assault.
  - (c) Vandalism resulting in significant property damage.
  - (d) Theft of school or personal property of a significant nature.
  - (e) Automobile accident.
  - (f) Any other behavior which significantly threatens the health or safety of students or other persons, and such other offenses which are required to be reported by law.When appropriate, it shall be the responsibility of the referring administrator to contact the student's parent of the fact that the referral to legal authorities has been or will be made.

#### **Section 4        DUE PROCESS PROCEDURES**

Procedures for Long-Term Suspension, Expulsion or Mandatory Reassignment: The following procedures shall be followed with regard to any long-term suspension, expulsion or mandatory reassignment.

1. The Principal shall prepare a written summary of the alleged violation and the evidence supporting the alleged violation with the Superintendent or his or her designee.
2. 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, and a notice of intent to discipline the student by long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment is filed with the Superintendent or his or her designee, the student may be suspended by the Principal until the date the long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment takes effect if no hearing is requested or, if a hearing is requested, the date the hearing examiner makes the report of his or her findings and a recommendation of the action to be taken to the Superintendent.
3. The Principal or his or her designee shall serve by registered or certified mail or by personal service the student and the student's parents or guardian with a written notice within two school days of the date of the decision to recommend long-term suspension or expulsion. Said notice shall include the following
  - (a) The rule or standard of conduct allegedly violated and the acts of the student alleged to constitute a cause for long-term suspension or expulsion including a summary of the evidence to be presented against the student as submitted by the Principal or assistant Principal.
  - (b) The penalties to which the student may be subjected and the penalty which the Principal, or his or her designee has recommended in the charge.
  - (c) A statement explaining the student's right to a hearing upon request on the specified charges.
  - (d) A description of the hearing procedures provided by these policies along with procedures for appealing any decision rendered at the hearing.

- (e) A statement that the administrative representative, legal counsel for school, the student, the student's parents, or the student's representative or guardian shall have the right to examine the student's academic and disciplinary records and any affidavits to be used at the hearing concerning the alleged misconduct, and the right to know the identity of the witnesses to appear at the hearing and the substance of their testimony.
  - (f) A form or a request for hearing to be signed by such parties and delivered to the Principal or his or her designee in person or by registered or certified mail.
- 4. Nothing in this policy shall preclude the student, student's parents, guardian or representative from discussing and settling the matter with appropriate school personnel prior to the hearing stage.
- 5. In the event that the Principal has not received a request for hearing within five school days following receipt of the written notice, the punishment recommended in the charge by the Principal, or his or her designee shall automatically go into effect.
- 6. If a hearing is requested more than five school days following the actual receipt of the written notice, but not more than thirty calendar days after actual receipt, the student shall be entitled to a hearing but the punishment imposed may continue in effect pending final determination.
- 7. If a request for hearing is not received within thirty calendar days following the mailing or delivery of the written notice, the student shall not be entitled to a hearing.
- 8. In the event that a hearing is required to be provided, the Superintendent shall appoint a hearing officer.

#### Hearing Procedure:

- 1. Hearing Officer. The hearing officer shall be any person designated by the Superintendent. The hearing officer shall be an individual who has had no involvement in the charge, will not be a witness at the hearing and who has not brought the charges against the student. It shall be the duty of the hearing officer to remain impartial throughout all deliberations. The hearing officer shall be available prior to any hearing held pursuant to this policy to answer any questions the administrative representative, the student, the student's parents, or guardian, may have regarding the nature and conduct of the hearing.
- 2. Administrative Representative. The Principal may appoint an administrative representative to present the facts and evidence. Such administrative representative may be an attorney or may be represented by an attorney, but any such attorney shall not advise the hearing officer or parties who may review the proceedings as their counsel.
- 3. Notice of Hearing. If a hearing is requested within five school days of receipt of the notice, the hearing officer shall, within two school days after being appointed, give written notice to the administrative representative, and the student, the student's parents or guardian of the time and place for the hearing. The hearing shall be scheduled within a period of five school days after it is requested. No hearing shall be held upon less than two school days' actual notice to the administrative representative, and the student, the student's parents, or guardian, except with the consent of all of the parties.
- 4. Continuance. Upon written request of the student or the student's parents or guardian, the hearing officer shall have the discretionary authority to continue from time to time the hearing. In addition, the hearing officer may continue the hearing upon any good cause.
- 5. Access to Records. The administrative representative, the student, the student's parent or guardian and the legal counsel of the student shall have the right to examine the records and affidavits and the statements of any witnesses in the possession of the Arlington Public Schools Board of Education at any reasonable time prior to the hearing.
- 6. Hearing Procedure. The hearing shall be attended by the hearing officer, the student, the student's parents, or guardian, the student's representative if any, and the administrative representative. Witnesses shall be present only when they are giving information at the hearing or with the consent of both parties. The student may be excluded at the discretion of the hearing officer at times when

the student's psychological evaluation or emotional problems are being discussed. The student or the student's parents or guardian or both may be represented by legal counsel. The hearing examiner may exclude anyone from the hearing when his/her actions substantially disrupt an orderly hearing. The formal rules of evidence shall not apply at the hearing. The administrative representative shall present to the hearing officer statements, in affidavit form, of any person having information about the student's conduct and the student's records, but not unless such statements and records have been made available to the student, the student's parents, guardian or representative prior to the hearing. The information contained in such records shall be explained and interpreted prior to or at the hearing to the student, parents or guardian, or representative at their request, by appropriate school personnel. The student, the student's parents, guardian, or representative, the administrative representative or the hearing officer may ask witnesses to testify at the hearing. Such testimony shall be under oath and the hearing officer shall be authorized to administer the oath. The student, parent, guardian, or representative, administrative representative, or the hearing officer shall have the right to question any witness giving information at the hearing, the student may testify in his/her own defense in which case he/she shall be subject to cross-examination nor will any conclusion be drawn therefrom. Any person giving evidence by written statement or in person at a hearing shall be given the same immunity from liability as a person testifying in a court case. A single hearing may be conducted for more than one student if in the discretion of the hearing examiner a single hearing is not likely to result in confusion or prejudice to the interest of any of the students involved. If during the conduct of such a hearing, the hearing examiner concludes that any of such student's interests will be substantially prejudiced by a group hearing, or that confusion is resulting, the hearing examiner may order a separate hearing for each or any of said students.

7. Availability of Witnesses. The hearing officer will have the authority to subpoena any witnesses to the hearing and shall make reasonable efforts to assist in obtaining the attendance of any witnesses requested by the student, student's parents or guardian or their legal representative.
8. Record. The proceedings of the hearing shall be recorded at the expense of the school district.
9. Findings. Within a reasonable time after the conclusion of the hearing, the hearing officer shall prepare and submit to the Superintendent of schools his/her written findings and recommendation as to disposition. This report shall explain, in terms of the needs of both the student and the school board, the reasons for the particular action recommended. Such recommendation may range from no action, through the entire field of counseling, to long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment.
10. Review by Superintendent. The Superintendent of schools shall review the findings and recommendations of the hearing officer and in his/her discretion may also review any of the facts and evidence presented at the hearing and based upon such report and the facts shall determine the sanctions to be imposed. However, the Superintendent may not impose a more severe sanction than that imposed by the hearing officer.
11. Notice of Determination. Written notice of the findings and recommendations of the hearing officer and the determination of the Superintendent of schools shall be made by certified registered mail or by personal delivery to the student, the student's parents or guardian. Upon receipt of such written notice by the student and/or parents and guardian, the determination of the Superintendent shall take immediate effect.
12. Appeal to Board. The student, student's parents or guardian may, within seven school days following the receipt of the Superintendent's decision, submit to the Superintendent of schools a written request for a hearing before the Board of Education.
13. Review by Board of Education. Upon receipt of the request for review of the Superintendent's determination, the Board of Education or a committee of not less than three members shall, within ten school days, hold a hearing on the matter. Such hearing shall be made on the record except that the board may admit new or additional evidence to avoid substantial threat of unfairness. Such new

evidence shall be recorded. The Board of Education or committee thereof may withdraw to deliberate privately upon the record and new evidence. Any such deliberation shall be held in the presence only of board members in attendance at the appeal proceeding, but may be held in the presence of legal counsel who has not previously acted as the administrative representative in presenting the school's case before the hearing officer. If any questions arise during such deliberations which require additional evidence, the Board of Education or committee thereof may require the hearing to receive such evidence, subject to the right of all parties to be present. A record of any such new or additional evidence shall be made and shall be considered as a part of the record and based upon the evidence presented at the hearing before the hearing officer, and such new or additional evidence, the Board of Education or the committee shall make a final disposition of the matter. The board may alter the Superintendent's disposition of the case if it finds his/her decision to be too severe, but it may not impose a more severe sanction. A designated method of giving notice by the Board of Education or committee thereof, if required, for any Board review shall be by posting on the schoolhouse door.

14. Final Decision of Board of Education. The final decision of board shall be delivered to the student and parents or legal guardian of the student by personally delivering the same or by mailing the same by certified or registered mail.

## **Article 9 - Extra-Curricular Activities - Rights, Conduct, Rules and Regulations**

### **Section 1      EXTRA-CURRICULAR PROGRAMS**

Extra-curricular programs enrich the curriculum of the school by making available a wide variety of activities in which a student can participate. The Arlington Public Schools will adhere to the rules and regulations set forth in Title IX guidelines on sex discrimination as well as other pertinent rules and regulations.

### **Section 2      ACTIVITY PHILOSOPHY**

Activities are considered an integral part of the school's program of education which provides experiences that will help boys and girls physically, mentally and emotionally. The element of competition and winning, though it exists, is controlled to the point it does not determine the nature or success of the program. This is considered to be educationally and psychologically sound because of the training it offers for living in a competitive society. Students are stimulated to want to win and excel, but the principles of good sportsmanship prevail at all times to enhance the educational values of contests. We believe that participation in activities, both as a player and as a student spectator, is an integral part of the students' educational experiences. Such participation is a privilege that carries with it responsibilities to the school, to the team, to the student body, to the community and to the students themselves. In their play and their conduct, students are representing all of these groups. Such experiences contribute to the knowledge, skill and emotional patterns that they possess, thereby making them better people and citizens.

#### Safety

The District's philosophy is also to maintain an activities program which recognizes the importance of the safety of the participants. To ensure safety, participants are required to become fully familiar with the dangers and safety measures established for the activity in which they participate, to adhere to all safety instructions for the activity in which they participate, and to exercise common-sense. In addition, the District requires that activity team members travel to and from out-of-town events as a unit. Any exceptions to this rule must be approved by both the parents and the coach/sponsor and should be done in writing prior to the departure to the event. The note should be given to the Principal. Only those people involved with the activity will be allowed to travel in the school vehicle.

#### Concussions

In compliance with the Nebraska concussion law LB260, athletes presenting signs, or symptoms of a concussion will be (a) be removed from competition, and (b) may not return to participation until evaluated by an appropriate licensed health care professional, and (c) must provide written and signed clearance from both the parents and licensed health care professional in order to return to play. In compliance with the Nebraska concussion law LB782/AM2057, return to learn protocol will be utilized for students who have sustained a concussion and return to school.

#### Warning for Participants and Parents

The purpose of this warning is to bring your attention to the existence of potential dangers associated with athletic injuries. Participation in any intramural or athletic activity may involve injury of some type. The severity of such injury can range from minor cuts, bruises, sprains and muscle strains to more serious injuries to the body's bones, joints, ligaments, tendons, or muscles, to catastrophic injuries to the head, neck and spinal cord. On rare occasions, injuries can be so severe as to result in total disability, paralysis or death. Even with appropriate coaching, appropriate safety instruction, appropriate protective equipment and strict observance of the rules, injuries are still a possibility.

### **Section 3      ACTIVITY CODE OF CONDUCT**

This activity code of conduct is supplemental to the Arlington Public Schools student code of conduct which is in Article 8 of this handbook and any action taken hereunder may be in addition to any action under the student code of conduct said policy.

#### Grounds for Extracurricular Discipline

The grounds for suspension from practices, participation in interscholastic competition, or other participation in extra-curricular activities and competitions are set forth below. In becoming familiar with the conduct rules for

extracurricular activities, participants need to remember that they are not only representing themselves, but also, their school and community in all of their actions. Special conduct rules exist for the reasons that:

Participants in Activities Assume Responsibility for Leadership and are Representatives of Our School: Participants in extra-curricular activities assume a leadership role. The student body, the community and other communities judge our school on the students' conduct and attitudes, and how they contribute to our school spirit and community image. The students' performance and devotion to high ideals make their school and community proud.

Activities are a Privilege: Extra-curricular activities have an important place in the educational program of the Arlington Public Schools. It is a privilege for the students who choose to participate. Students who participate and are accepted into the program are expected to demonstrate cooperation, patience, pride, character, self-respect, self-discipline, teamwork, sportsmanship, and respect for authority. It is the belief that accepting responsibility for one's actions are a part of that philosophy.

The conduct rules apply to conduct of the student, regardless of whether the conduct occurs on and off school grounds. (If the conduct occurs on school grounds, at a school function or event, or in a school vehicle, the student may also be subject to further discipline under the general student code of conduct). The conduct rules apply to conduct which occurs at any time during the school year, and also includes the time frame which begins with the official starting day of the fall sport season established by the NSAA and extends to the last day of the spring sport season established by the NSAA, whether or not the student is a participant in an activity at the time of such conduct.

1. Willfully disobeying any reasonable written or oral request of a school staff member, or the voicing of disrespect to those in authority.
2. Use of violence, force, coercion, threat, intimidation, or similar conduct in a manner that constitutes a substantial interference with school purposes.
3. Sexual assault or attempting to sexually assault any person.
4. Willfully causing or attempting to cause substantial damage to property, stealing or attempting to steal property of substantial value, or repeated damage or theft involving property.
5. Causing or attempting to cause personal injury to a school employee, to a school volunteer, to any student, or to any other person.
6. Threatening or intimidating any student for the purpose of, or with the intent of, obtaining money or anything of value from such student.
7. Knowingly possessing, handling, or transmitting any object or material that is ordinarily or generally considered a weapon.
8. Engaging in the selling, using, possessing or dispensing of alcoholic beverages, tobacco, E-Cigs, narcotics, drugs, controlled substance, inhalant or being under the influence of any of the above; or possession of drug paraphernalia. (Note: The term "under the influence" for school purposes 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 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. In addition, "possession" of alcohol or drugs will be considered to have occurred for purposes of school rules if the student is in such close proximity to alcohol or drug (for example, a student being in a car where alcohol is in the back seat and no adults are present in the car) or to others who are consuming alcohol or drugs (for example, being at a student party at which other students are drinking) that school officials may reasonably determine that the student was in "possession" of the items as well).
9. Engaging in 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 alcoholic beverages, narcotics, drugs, controlled substance or inhalant.
10. Truancy or failure to attend assigned classes or assigned activities.
11. Tardiness to school, assigned classes or assigned activities.
12. 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, gender, national origin, or religion.
13. Public indecency.



14. Repeated violation of any of the rules adopted by the school district or the school.
15. Engaging in any unlawful activity as determined by the United States or the State of Nebraska.
16. Dressing in a manner wherein such dress is dangerous to the student's health and safety or to the health and safety of others or is distractive or indecent to the extent that it interferes with the learning and educational process.
17. Willfully violating the behavioral expectations for those students riding the Arlington Public Schools' buses.
18. The knowing and intentional possession, use, or transmission of a firearm or other dangerous weapon in a place where such items are prohibited.
19. 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.
20. Failure to report for the activity at the beginning of each season; reporting for one activity may count as reporting on time if there is a change in activity within the season approved by the coach or the supervisor.
21. Failure to participate in regularly scheduled classes on the day of an athletic/activity event.
22. Failure to attend all scheduled practices and meetings. If circumstances arise to prevent the participant's attendance, the validity of the reason will be determined by the coach. Every reasonable effort should be made to notify the coach or supervisor prior to all missed practices or meetings.
23. All other reasonable rules or regulations adopted by the coach or supervisor of an extra-curricular activity shall be followed, provided that participants shall be advised by the coach or supervisor of such rules and regulations by written handouts or posting on bulletin boards prior to the violation of the rule or regulation.
24. Failure to comply with any rule established by the Nebraska School Activities Association, including, but not limited to, the rules relating to eligibility.

### **Drug and Alcohol Violations:**

#### **A. GENERAL CONDUCT**

Any conduct harmful to the image of the Arlington Activities Program merits immediate discipline from the coach/sponsor and activities director. Examples of poor conduct include, but are not limited to, skipping practice, poor citizenship, poor sportsmanship, illegal acts, violent behavior and other such conduct. Sanctions for poor conduct will be determined by the coach/sponsor/Activities Director and approved by the building principal. Some conduct may be serious enough to merit suspension, forfeiture of varsity letter and award nomination eligibility as well as dismissal from the team.

#### **B. TOBACCO**

Any student determined to be engaged in the possession or use of tobacco, tobacco products, electronic smoking devices with nicotine oil, or look-alike tobacco products.

First offense: Two-week suspension from participating in all co-curricular activities, events, and/or contests. This can be reduced to a one-week suspension if a tobacco evaluation of the student is completed and verified by school officials at the student's expense. Student would still attend practices and meetings.

Second offense: Five-week suspension from participation in all co-curricular activities, events, and/or contests. This can be reduced to a three-week suspension if a tobacco evaluation of the student is completed and verified by school officials at the student's expense. Student would still attend practices and meetings.

Third offense: Suspension from participating in all co-curricular activities, events, and/or contests for the remainder of the school year.

#### **C. DRUGS AND ALCOHOL**

Any student determined to be engaged in the possession, use, or distribution of alcohol, drugs, look-alike drugs, look-alike alcoholic beverages, behavior-affecting substances and/or drug paraphernalia. (In this instance possession will be more liberally interpreted to include attendance at gatherings in which others are engaged in the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of alcohol, drugs, look-alike drugs, look-alike alcoholic beverages, behavior-affecting

substances and/or drug paraphernalia and/or proximity to others engaged in the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of alcohol, drugs, look-alike drugs, look-alike alcoholic beverages, behavior-affecting substances and/or drug paraphernalia (example being in a vehicle.) A student will be found in violation of this part of the code if reports by legal authorities verify a violation, if a student self-reports a violation, and/or if school district employee witnesses and reports a violation. Parents and participants will sign a release of information from law enforcement and county court prior to being allowed to participate in Arlington Public Schools' co-curricular activities.

**First Offense:**

*Situation 1:* Five-week suspension from participating in all co-curricular activities, events, and/or contests.

*Situation 2:* Three-week suspension from participating in all co-curricular activities, events, and/or contests for a student that can provide proof of non-consumption through valid test(s) administered by a law enforcement official at the scene.

**Self-Report (1<sup>st</sup> Offense Only):** Anyone that self-reports will receive a two-week reduction in their suspension period for being honest and taking responsibility for their actions. The self-report must happen in a timely manner in which the student reports prior to the administration starting their formal investigation.

**Second Offense:**

A second violation of our Activity Code is considered serious and results in a suspension from participating in all co-curricular activities, events, and/or contests **for the remainder of the school year.**

**POLICY ENFORCEMENT**

Consequences and/or sanctions will be administered as soon as the activities director, principal, or other designee has determined that an activity code violation has occurred. If an alleged violation of the activity code of conduct occurs the procedures for handling the situation are the same as those governing a short-term suspension, which can be found in handbook information sent to parents/guardians at the beginning of the year. The student shall have the right to appeal the decision of the Activities Director to the Violations Board. The Violations Board shall consist of the sponsor/head coach, one other head coach/sponsor, and a district administrator or a designee of any one or more. If the student or his/her parents request a hearing before the Violations Board, the hearing will be conducted in an informal conference setting as soon as possible. No further hearing will be provided. After hearing all sides, the violations board will render a final decision within 5 school days.

Should a question arise regarding a rule or regulation of the Nebraska School Activities Association and the need arises for an individual to know the due process procedures of the NSAA, they may be found in the NSAA yearbook which can be obtained from the Superintendent, Junior-Senior High Principal or the Activities Director.

**Procedures for Extracurricular Discipline**

Students may be suspended by the Principal or the Principal's designee from practices or participation in interscholastic competition or participation in extra-curricular activities for violation of rules and standards of behavior adopted by the Arlington Public Schools Board of Education or the administrative staff of the school.

The following procedures will be followed with regard to suspension:

1. The school official(s) considering the suspension will make a reasonable investigation of the facts and circumstances and determine whether the suspension will help the student or other students, further school purposes, or prevent an interference with school purpose.
2. Prior to commencement of the suspension, the student is to 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 school has, and be given the opportunity to explain the student's version of the facts.
3. If the student is not readily available to meet with the school official for this purpose before the suspension is to begin, then the suspension may be imposed at that time so long as the opportunity for the student to hear the charges and evidence and for the student to tell his or her side of the story occurs as soon as reasonably practicable. An effort to schedule a meeting for this purpose should be made by the student and the student's parent or guardian as well. Given the fact that extracurricular

activity suspension actions at times need to be taken outside the regular school day, a telephone conference may be used to give the student the opportunity to provide the student's position.

4. Within two school days or such additional time as is reasonably necessary following the suspension, the Principal or Principal's designee will send a written statement to the student and the student's parents, or guardian describing the student's conduct, misconduct or violation of the rule or standard and the reason for the action taken and the right to a hearing upon request on the specified charges.
5. An opportunity will be afforded the student, parents, or guardian of the student, at their request, to confer on an informal basis with regard with the school official who has imposed the suspension and to give that school official any further information in the student's defense.
6. If the student or student's parents or guardian are not satisfied with the determination of the school official, an informal hearing may be requested before the Superintendent. A form to request such a hearing must be signed by the parent or guardian will either be provided with the initial notice letter or be made available in the Principal's office. This request must be received by the building principal within five days of receiving the initial written notice of suspension.
7. If a hearing is requested, it shall be held within ten calendar days of the request. The Superintendent will notify the participants of the time and place of the hearing within five days of receiving the request. There will be no stay of the penalty imposed pending an appeal.
8. Upon conclusion of the hearing, a written decision will be rendered within five school days. The written decision will be mailed or otherwise delivered to the participant, parents or guardian. A record of the hearing (copies of documents provided at the hearing and a tape recording or other recordation of the hearing itself) shall be kept by the school.
9. Nothing contained in this regulation shall prevent the participant, parents, guardian or representative from discussing and settling the matter with the appropriate school personnel at any stage.

#### **Attendance and Academics:**

Student participants are expected to apply themselves academically by following these expectations:

1. Attend school regularly and show evidence of sincere effort towards scholastic achievement.
2. Be on time for all scheduled practices, contests and departure for contests. In the event a participant is unable to attend a practice or contests he/she should contact the coach or sponsor in advance.
3. Attendance, for the entire day, is required to be eligible for the contest that day. Arrangements in advance for extenuating circumstances, such as doctor/dentist appointments, funerals or other activities, can be made with the building Principal or Activities Director in writing. Every attempt should be made to be in attendance the day of a contest. Sleeping in to rest up for the game will not be considered an extenuating circumstance, nor will going home ill and then returning to play in the contest later that day.
4. Attendance, for the three periods prior to practice time, is required to be eligible to practice that day. Arrangements in advance for extenuating circumstances, such as doctor/dentist appointments, funerals or other activities, can be made with the building Principal or Activities Director in writing. Every attempt should be made to be in attendance. Sleeping in will not be considered an extenuating circumstance, nor will going home ill and then returning for practice that day.
5. Appearance: Participants will dress appropriately for the activity in which they are involved and will at all times maintain a neat, clean and well-groomed appearance.

#### **Equipment:**

Each participant at Arlington Junior/Senior High School is responsible for all equipment issued to him/her. He/she is to make sure all equipment is secured at school or at home. The participant will pay either replacement cost or a cost determined by the coach and/or sponsor and the activities director if he/she should lose or damage school equipment.

#### **Activity Absences:**

Any time a participant will miss part or all of his/her classes due to an "activity absence" they are responsible for meeting

with all of their teachers prior to their departure and making arrangements for assignments to be handed in and material that will be missed.

#### **Scholar Athlete Awards:**

Students who earn a varsity letter in their sport plus achieve Honor Roll (with distinction) or Honor Roll status for a quarter or semester, in which their sport is in season, will be honored as a scholar athlete.

#### **School Dances:**

Our dances are sponsored for the benefit of Arlington students. The dances are for ninth through twelfth graders ONLY unless otherwise stated. Prom is only for juniors and seniors unless they invite a freshman or sophomore as their date. Out-of-school dates MUST be accompanied by an Arlington student and must be at least a ninth grader. All out-of-school dates must be signed up in the office on the last school day before the dance and must be approved by the administration.

**No guests over the age of 20 will be admitted.** Any student leaving the dance for any reason before the dance is over will not be readmitted. No student will be allowed to enter the dance after ½ hour after dance start time without prior approval. Students must be academically eligible to attend school dances.

#### **Prohibited Substances:**

Alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, electronic smoking devices, and tobacco are prohibited. Anyone using these or showing the effects of use will not be allowed admission or, if discovered after admission, be removed from the dance. Their parents will be contacted.

Students and their dates may be required to submit to a breathalyzer prior to gaining entrance. Those who choose not to submit to a breathalyzer will not gain entrance. Law enforcement will be contacted if there is reasonable suspicion that the student or a student's date is under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

### **Section 4 "TEAM SELECTION" AND "PLAYING TIME"**

"Team selection" and "playing time" decisions are the responsibility of the individual coach or sponsor of the activity. Consistent, however, with the purposes of the activities program, the coaches and sponsors shall follow the following established guidelines for team selection and playing time decisions, along with such other guidelines as each individual coach and sponsor may develop which are not inconsistent with these established guidelines:

School Representative. Student participants must demonstrate that they can and will represent themselves and their school in a manner which reflects the development of high ideals and appropriate values, which shall include good citizenship in the school and in the community.

Success. Student participants must demonstrate that they can make the activity program more successful, both from a standpoint of competitive success and success in promoting a positive school spirit. Characteristics for purposes of this criteria include the student's: (1) talent or skill, (2) desire to improve the student's own skills or talents as well as those of others in the activity, and (3) attitude of respect towards teammates, the coach, the school, and the community.

### **Section 5 ACADEMIC GRADE STANDARD FOR ACTIVITIES PARTICIPATION**

Participation in extra-curricular school activities is encouraged and desirable for all students. At the same time, the principal mission and responsibility for each student is to establish a firm academic foundation. A student participating in extra-curricular school activities must therefore:

1. Maintain passing grades in all courses.
2. Ability requirements shall not apply to:
  - (A) Instructional field trips which are a part of the scheduled course learning experience; and,
  - (B) Activities or events which are a part of the student's grade requirements, **unless an alternate assignment that holds the same weight can be assigned.**

## **Section 6            STUDENT FEES POLICY**

The Board of Education of Arlington Public Schools adopts the following student fees policy in accordance with the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act.

The District's general policy is to provide for the free instruction in school in accordance with the Nebraska Constitution. 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.

The District does provide activities, programs, and services to children which extend beyond the minimum level of constitutionally required free instruction. Students and their parents have historically contributed to the District's efforts to provide such activities, programs, and services. Such student and parent contributions have included: students coming to school with the basic clothing and personal supplies to be successful in the classroom (clothing, shoes, pencils, pens, paper, notebooks, calculators, and the like), students bringing their own or paying the reasonable cost of specialized equipment or supplies for the personal preference or personal retained benefit of students (for example, band equipment, locker deposit or rental fees, shop class materials where the student keeps the product, and college tuition or fees for college credit for advanced placement courses or correspondence courses), students providing their own specialized clothing and equipment to be prepared for the extracurricular activities in which they choose to participate (sporting apparel, including shoes, undergarments, and the like), and assisting with special programs, such as field trips, summer school, school dances and plays. The District's general policy is to continue to encourage and to require, to the extent permitted by law, such student and parent contributions to enhance the educational program provided by the District.

Under the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act, the District is required to set forth in a policy its guidelines or policies for specific categories of student fees. The District does so by setting forth the following guidelines and policies. Parents, guardians, and students are encouraged to contact their building administration or their teachers or activity coaches and sponsors for further specifics.

### **(1)    Guidelines for clothing required for specified courses and activities**

Students have the responsibility to furnish and wear non-specialized attire meeting general District grooming and attire guidelines, as well as grooming and attire guidelines established for the building or programs attended by the students or in which the students participate. Students also have the responsibility to furnish and wear non-specialized attire reasonably related to the programs, courses and activities in which the students participate where the required attire in writing by the administrator or teacher responsible for the program, course or activity.

The District will provide or make available to students such safety equipment and attire as may be required by law, specifically including appropriate industrial-quality eye protective devices for courses of instruction in vocational, technical, industrial arts, chemical or chemical-physical classes which involve exposure to hot molten metals or other molten materials, milling, sawing, turning, shaping, cutting, grinding, or stamping of any solid materials, heat treatment, tempering, or kiln firing of any metal or other materials, gas or electric arc welding or other forms of welding processes, repair or servicing of any vehicle, or caustic or explosive materials, or for laboratory classes involving caustic or explosive materials, hot liquids or solids, injurious radiations, or other similar hazards. Building administrators are directed to assure that such equipment is available in the appropriate classes and areas of the school buildings; teachers are directed to instruct students in the usage of such devices and to assure that students use the devices as required, and students have the responsibility to follow such instructions and use the devices as instructed.

### **(2)    Personal or consumable items**

Students have the responsibility to furnish any personal or consumable items for participation in the courses and activities provided by the District. This includes the responsibility to furnish minor personal or consumable items including, but not limited to, pencils, paper, pens, erasers, and notebooks. Equipment or supplies of a specialized nature for certain courses (for example, protractors and math calculators) may be available to students by the District, but students may also be encouraged to purchase their own such equipment or supplies for their own use after school hours or for use during the school day due to the limited number of District items available to the students.

While the District will provide students with the use of facilities, equipment, materials, and supplies, including books, the students are responsible for the careful and appropriate use of such property. Students and their parents or guardian will be held responsible for damages to school property caused or aided by the student and will also be held responsible for the replacement cost of school property which is placed in the care of and lost by the student.

(3) Materials required for course projects

Students have the responsibility to furnish or pay the reasonable cost of any materials required for course projects where, upon completion, the project becomes the property of the student. Such materials are subject to the District's fee waiver policy (Section 6, Number 12).

Students must furnish musical instruments for participation in optional music courses that are not extracurricular activities. Use of a musical instrument without charge is available under the District's fee waiver policy (Section 6, Number 12); however, the District is not required to provide for the use of a particular type of musical instrument for any student.

(4) Extracurricular Activities-Specialized equipment or attire

Extracurricular activities mean student activities or organizations which are supervised or administered by the District, which do not count toward graduation or advancement between grade, and in which participation is not otherwise required by the District.

The District will generally furnish students with specialized equipment and attire for participation in extracurricular activities. The District is not required to provide for the use of any particular type of equipment or attire. Equipment or attire fitted or the student and which the student generally wears exclusively, such as dance squad, cheerleading, and music/dance activity (e.g. choir or show choir) uniforms and outfits, along with T-shirts for teams or band members, will be required to be provided by the participating student. The cost of maintaining any equipment or attire, including uniforms, which the student purchases or uses exclusively, shall be the responsibility of the participating student. Equipment which is ordinarily exclusively used by an individual student participant throughout the year, such as golf clubs, softball gloves, and the like, are required to be provided by the student participant. Items for the personal medical use or enhancement of the student (braces, mouthpieces, and the like) are the responsibility of the student participant.

Students have the responsibility to furnish personal or consumable equipment or attire for participation in extracurricular activities or for paying a reasonable usage cost for such equipment or attire.

For music courses that are extracurricular activities, students may be required to provide specialized equipment, such as musical instruments, or specialized attire, or for paying a reasonable usage cost for such equipment or attire.

(5) Extracurricular Activities-Fees for participation

The District does not generally charge fees for participation in extracurricular activities. Admission fees are charged for extracurricular activities and events.

(6) Post-secondary education costs

Students are responsible for post-secondary education costs. The phrase "post-secondary education costs" means tuition and other fees associated with obtaining credit from a post-secondary educational institution. For a course in which students receive both high school and post-secondary education credit or a course being taken as part of an approved accelerated or differentiated curriculum program, the course shall be offered without charge for tuition, transportation, books, or other fees, except tuition and other fees associated with obtaining credits from a post-secondary educational institution.

(7) Transportation costs

Students are responsible for fees established for transportation services provided by the District as and to the extent permitted by federal and state laws and regulations.

(8) Copies of student files or records

The Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee shall establish a schedule of fees representing a reasonable cost of reproduction for copies of a student's files or records for the parents or guardians of such student. A parent, guardian

or student who request copies of files or records shall be responsible for the cost of copies reproduced in accordance with such fee schedule. The imposition of a fee shall not be used to prevent parents of students from exercising their right to inspect and review the students' files or records and no fee shall be charged to search for or retrieve any student's files or records. The fee schedule shall permit one copy of the requested records be provided for or on behalf of the student without charge and shall allow duplicate copies to be provided without charge to the extent required by federal or state laws or regulations.

(9) Participation in before-and-after-school or pre-kindergarten services

Students are responsible for fees required for participation in before-and-after-school or pre-kindergarten services offered by the District, except to the extent such services are required to be provided without cost.

(10) Participation in summer school or night school

Students are responsible for fees required for participation in summer school or night school. Students are also responsible for correspondence courses.

(11) Breakfast and lunch programs

Students shall be responsible for items which students purchase from the District's breakfast and lunch programs. The cost of items to be sold to students shall be consistent with applicable federal and state laws and regulations.

Students are also responsible for the cost of food, beverages, and personal or consumable items which the students purchase from the District or at school, whether from a "school store," a vending machine, a booster club or parent group sale, a book order club, or the like.

Students may be required to bring money or food for field trip lunches and similar activities.

(12) Waiver Policy

The District's policy is to provide fee waivers in accordance with the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act. Students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunches under United States Department of Agriculture child nutrition programs shall be provided a fee waiver or be provided the necessary materials or equipment without charge for: (1) participation in extracurricular, (2) admission fees and transportation charges for student spectators attending extracurricular activities, (3) materials for course projects, and (4) use of a musical instrument in optional music courses that are not extracurricular activities. Participation in a free-lunch program or reduced-price lunch program is not required to qualify for free or reduced-price lunches for purposes of this section. Materials for course projects to be provided to free or reduced-price lunch eligible students shall be required to be approved by the administration, which shall apply a standard based on providing materials which are equitable to those purchased by comparable students.

While the District will provide students with the use of facilities, equipment, materials and supplies, including books, the students are responsible for the careful and appropriate use of such property. Students and their parents or guardian will be held responsible for damages to school property caused or aided by the student and will also be held responsible for the reasonable replacement cost of school property which is placed in the care of and lost by the student. Where students are provided school property of a significant value which may easily be unintentionally damaged, the instructor should give the parent advance notice of the student being given responsibility for the item and the parent may then direct that the student not be given the item.

(13) Distribution of Policy

The Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee shall publish the District's student fee policy in the Student Handbook or the equivalent (for example, publication may be made in an addendum or a supplement to the student handbook.) The Student Handbook or the equivalent shall be provided to students of the District at no cost.

(14) Student Fee Fund

The School Board hereby establishes a Student Fee Fund. The Student Fee Fund shall be a separate school district fund not funded by tax revenue, into which all money collected from students and subject to the Student Fee Fund, shall be deposited and from which money shall be expended for the purposes for which it was collected from students. Funds subject to the Student Fee Fund consist of money collected from students for: (1) participation in extracurricular activities, (2) postsecondary education costs, and (3) summer school or night school.

### **CERTIFICATION**

The Arlington School Board holds a yearly public hearing of the school board to discuss the proposed student fee policy. Such public hearing followed review of the amount of money collected from students pursuant to, and the use of waivers provided in, the student fee policy for the upcoming school year. The foregoing student fee policy was adopted after such public hearing by a majority vote of the school board at an open public meeting in compliance with the public meetings laws.



**Appendix "1" to 2025-2026 Student Fees Policy of  
Arlington Public Schools**

**Additional Specification of Required Materials and Fees<sup>1</sup>**

<b>Program</b>	<b>General Description of Fee or Material</b>	<b>\$ Amount of Fee (Anticipated or Maximum)<sup>2</sup> or <u>Specific Material Required</u></b>
<b>Elementary Program</b>		
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-Optional band Courses	Musical instruments	Musical instruments and accessories (reeds, valve oil, drum sticks, lyres, flip folders, slide grease, reed guards, cleaning swabs, mouthpiece brushes, pad savers, ligatures, and a "gig bag", etc.) Limited instruments available for use by any student.
Music -Optional Blue Notes Honor Choir	Coordinating group attire	Blue notes shirts and dark pants
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.

<sup>1</sup> This listing is a part of the 2025-2026 Student Fees Policy and is intended to provide supplemental information. For additional specifications, refer to the Policy.

<sup>2</sup> Generally, dollar amounts are stated in terms of "maximums." The actual fee or charge may be less during the 2025-2026 school year.

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 \$5.00 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.
Summer school courses	Classes offered during the summer, or at night, if any	\$25 to \$200 per class.
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.
<b>Secondary Program</b>	<b>General Description of Fee or Material</b>	<b>\$ Amount of Fee (Anticipated or Maximum) or Specific Material Required</b>
Physical Education Classes	Appropriate clothing (non-specialized attire)	Tennis shoes and white socks, running shorts, T-shirt
Art and shop classes and special projects, science classes	Appropriate clothing (non-specialized attire) Goggles-1 pair provided per year. If lost or damaged students are required to purchase a new pair. Art Supplies	Old shirt for painting; other clothing which may get paint on it or otherwise be damaged; protective clothing for shop classes; approved protective goggles for science classes.  \$15.00
Art 7 and Art 8		

Adv. Art Classes	Art Supplies	\$20.00
Basic Tech	Materials for Projects	\$25.00
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Exp. Tech	Materials for Projects	\$25.00
Beg. Metals	Toolbox Kit	\$30.00
Adv. Metals	Metal	Provide metal needed for two (2) instructor approved projects.
Small Engines	Parts (optional)	Parts supplied for personal interest projects.
Woods I	Wood and other materials	Cost based on individual student designed projects (4). Some materials obtained by students; some materials obtained by school with student responsible for cost. Project maximum \$150.00.
Woods II	Wood and other materials	Cost based on individual student designed projects (2). Some materials obtained by students; some materials obtained by school with student responsible for cost. Project maximum \$500.00.
Family & Consumer Science Classes	Food and sewing supplies	Cost based on individual student designed projects. Some materials obtained by students; some materials obtained by school with student responsible for cost. Project maximum \$10.00
7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Sewing supplies	Cost based on individual student designed projects. Some materials obtained by students; some materials obtained by school with student responsible for cost. Project maximum \$12.50.
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Sewing supplies	
Foods I and Foods II	Consumed food supplies	\$20.00
Music-Optional band Courses	Musical instruments	Musical instruments and accessories (reeds, valve oil, etc.) Limited instruments available for use by any student. White tennis shoes, socks, and black shorts. \$120.00 maximum.
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.

Classroom Projects, i.e., Family & Consumer Science, Industrial Technology	Project Cost	Student pays cost that is beyond the standard project provided by the school.
Advanced math or science classes	Specialized calculators	Some calculators will be available at school. If lost or damaged a replacement fee will be assessed at a rate paid by the school. Students are encouraged but not required to purchase such equipment for their personal use.
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.
College Now - Metro	Tuition and fees for college courses taken for credit.	Any postsecondary education costs are to be paid directly by students to the college. Students are responsible for book fees.
Dual Credit-secondary education classes taught by Arlington staff.	Tuition and fees for college courses taken for credit.	Fees vary depending on the course requirements. Payments will be made prior to the start of the course.
End of year lost or damaged books	Damage fee or replacement cost	Fees and fines up to \$5.00 for damaged books. Lost books or ruined books are charged replacement cost.
Yearbooks - Optional	School Book	Yearbooks are published and made available for purchase every year. Cost is generally about \$50-60.
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	\$50 to \$200 per class

Locker usage	Use of school locker	Student will be responsible for replacement or repair cost to damaged locker.	
<b>Extracurricular &amp; Athletic Programs</b>	<b>General Description of Fee or Material</b>	<b>Dollar Amount of Fee (Anticipated or Maximum) or Specific Material Required</b>	
1. Admission	Spectator fees for admission to events	\$7.00 per event maximum. Students may purchase an Activity Ticket.	
2. Athletic Physicals	NSAA required athletic physicals	Cost varies; payable directly to student's physician or clinic.	
3. 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. Uniform items are checked out to students. If lost or damaged, students will be assessed fees in the amount of replacement cost.	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, swim goggles, towels, forearm pads and personal medical devices (braces, orthopedic inserts, etc.). Additional required items for particular sports or activities include:	
		Basketball	No additional
		Football	Mouthpiece
		Golf	Golf bag & clubs
		Speech	Dress attire; copies of research
		Track	No additional
		Volleyball	Volleyball knee pads
		Wrestling	Wrestling headgear
		Baseball	Baseball Hat, Baseball Glove
		Cheerleading and Flag Team Squads	Shoes, approved uniforms (top & skirt; jacket), poms and other accessories up to \$1200.00.

4. Travel meals	Meals	Students are responsible for their own meals while traveling.
5. Locker use	Padlock for locker	\$5.00 fee if damaged or not returned at the end of the year. Student will be responsible for replacement or repair cost to damaged locker.
6. 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.
7. Athletic Clubs	Letterman's club and other clubs supporting the athletic program	Currently no dues required. Annual dues not to exceed \$50.00 per club.
8. 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 \$50.00. For High School Band Students an \$8.00 uniform cleaning fee is requested.
Music Optional Show Choir	Coordinating group attire	Students will pay for outfits selected by the group. Cost will be based on selection at a maximum of \$325.00.
<b>Clubs/Organizations</b>		
All Organizations	State & national dues, meals and activities.	Annual dues not to exceed \$50.00 per club.
Dance Squad	Clothing/Camps	\$750.00-\$1000.00

<b>Social &amp; Recognition Activities</b>  1. School plays, musicals and social activities	Admission to events	\$10.00 per play or activity
2. School dances	Admission to prom, homecoming, etc.	Up to \$50.00 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. Picture Packets	Optional - Pictures are still taken for use in school yearbook.	Students purchase packets as desired and pay directly to photo company.
5. 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, one mother's flower, 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. Expenses for above mentioned items will be paid out of the "Class Activity" account until funds are depleted. After this fund is empty, students will be responsible for all optional graduation activity costs.

6. Trips	Transportation, lodging, meals, admission to events, etc.	<p>For the extracurricular and options trip - 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.</p> <p>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.</p>
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## Article 10 - State and Federal Programs

### Section 1 NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION

Students, parents, employees, volunteers, school patrons, applicants for student admission or employment, sources of referral of applicants for admission and employment, professional organizations holding collective bargaining or professional agreements with the Arlington Public Schools, and all others who interact with Arlington Public Schools are hereby notified that the Arlington Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, marital status, religion, or disability in the admission, access to its facilities or programs, treatment, or employment in its programs or activities.

### Section 2 DESIGNATION OF COORDINATOR(S)

Any person having inquiries concerning this district's compliance with anti-discrimination laws or policies or other programs should contact or notify the following person(s) who are designated as the coordinator for such laws, policies or programs. The contact address for the coordinator is: Arlington Public Schools, 705 N 9th, Arlington, NE 68002, (402) 478-4171.

Law, Policy or Program	Issue or Concern	Coordinator
Title VI	Discrimination or harassment based on race, color, or national origin; harassment	Superintendent or designee
Title IX	Discrimination or harassment based on sex; gender equity	Superintendent or designee
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disability Act (ADA)	Discrimination, harassment or reasonable accommodations of persons with disabilities	Superintendent or designee
Homeless student laws	Children who are homeless	Superintendent or designee
Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities	Safe and drug free schools	Superintendent or designee
Behavioral Health	Behavioral health point of contact	School counselor

### Section 3 ANTI-DISCRIMINATION & HARASSMENT POLICY

#### A. Elimination of Discrimination.

The policy of Arlington Public Schools is to not discriminate on the basis of sex, disability, race, color, religion, veteran status, national or ethnic origin, age, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, or other protected status, in admission or access to, or treatment with regard to employment or with regard to its programs and activities.

Arlington Public Schools and its staff shall comply with all state and federal laws prohibiting discrimination. The Board of Arlington Public Schools intends to take any necessary measures to assure compliance with such laws against any prohibited form of discrimination and directs its staff to take all actions necessary to meet this objective.

The Secondary Principal shall be the Coordinator for anti-discrimination laws (including Title VI, Title IX; the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504)) and complaints or concerns involving discrimination or compliance with those laws should be addressed to said Coordinator.

#### B. Preventing Harassment and Discrimination of Employees and Students.

1. **Purpose:** Arlington Public Schools is committed to offering employment and educational opportunity to its employees and students based on ability and performance in a climate free of discrimination. Accordingly, unlawful discrimination or harassment of any kind by administrators, teachers, co-workers or other persons is prohibited. In addition, Arlington Public Schools will try to protect employees or students from reported

discrimination or harassment by non-employees or others in the work place and educational environment.

Harassment is a form of discrimination and includes verbal, non-verbal, written, graphic, or physical conduct relating to a person's sex, disability, race, color, religion, veteran status, national or ethnic origin, age, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, or other protected status, that is sufficiently serious to deny, interfere with, or limit a person's ability to participate in or benefit from an educational or work program or activity, including, but not limited to:

- a. Conduct that is sufficiently severe or pervasive to create an intimidating, hostile, or abusive educational or work environment, or
- b. Requiring an individual to endure the offensive conduct as a condition of continued employment or educational programs or activities, including the receipt of aids, benefits, and services.

Educational programs and activities include all academic, educational, extracurricular, athletic, and other programs of the school, whether those programs take place in a school's facilities, on a school bus, at a class or training program sponsored by the school at another location, or elsewhere.

Discriminatory harassment because of a person's sex, disability, race, color, religion, veteran status, national or ethnic origin, age, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, or other protected status, may include, but is not limited to:

- a. Name-calling,
- b. Teasing or taunting,
- c. Insults, slurs, or derogatory names or remarks,
- d. Demeaning jokes,
- e. Inappropriate gestures,
- f. Graffiti or inappropriate written or electronic material,
- g. Visual displays, such as cartoons, posters, or electronic images,
- h. Threats or intimidating or hostile conduct,
- i. Physical acts of aggression, assault, or violence, or
- j. Criminal offenses

The following examples are additional or more specific examples of conduct that may constitute sexual harassment:

- a. Unwelcome sexual advances or propositions,
- b. Requests or pressure for sexual favors,
- c. Comments about an individual's body, sexual activity, or sexual attractiveness,
- d. Physical contact or touching of a sexual nature, including touching intimate body parts and inappropriate patting, pinching, rubbing, or brushing against another's body,
- e. Physical sexual acts of aggression, assault, or violence, including criminal offenses (such as rape, sexual assault or battery, and sexually motivated stalking), against a person's will or where a person is incapable of giving consent due to the victim's age, intellectual disability, or use of drugs or alcohol,
- f. Requiring sexual favors or contact in exchange for aids, benefits, or services, such as grades, awards, privileges, promotions, etc., or
- g. Gender-based harassment; acts of verbal, nonverbal, written, graphic, or physical conduct based on sex or sex-stereotyping, but not involving conduct of a sexual nature.

If the District knows or reasonably should know about possible harassment, including violence, the District will conduct a prompt, adequate, reliable, thorough, and impartial investigation to determine whether unlawful harassment occurred (see section entitled "Grievance Procedures," below), and take appropriate interim measures, if necessary. If the District determines that unlawful harassment occurred, the District will take prompt and effective action to eliminate the harassment, prevent its recurrence, and remedy its effects, if appropriate. If harassment or violence that occurs off school property creates a hostile environment at school, the District will follow this policy and grievance procedure, within the scope of its authority.

All District employees are expected to take prompt and appropriate actions to report and prevent discrimination, harassment, and retaliation by others. Employees who witness or become aware of possible discrimination, including harassment and retaliation, must immediately report the conduct to his or her supervisor or the compliance coordinator designated to handle complaints of discrimination (designated compliance coordinator).

**2. Anti-retaliation:**

The District prohibits retaliation, intimidation, threats, coercion, or discrimination against any person for opposing discrimination, including harassment, or for participating in the District's discrimination complaint process or making a complaint, testifying, assisting, or participating in any manner, in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing. Retaliation is a form of discrimination.

The District will take immediate steps to stop retaliation and prevent its recurrence against the alleged victim and any person associated with the alleged victim. These steps will include, but are not limited to, notifying students, employees, and others, that they are protected from retaliation, ensuring that they know how to report future complaints, and initiating follow-up contact with the complainant to determine if any additional acts of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation have occurred. If retaliation occurs, the District will take prompt and strong responsive action, including possible discipline, including expulsion or termination, if applicable.

**3. Grievance (or Complaint) Procedures:**

Employees or students should initially report all instances of discrimination, harassment or retaliation to their immediate supervisor or teacher or to the compliance coordinator designated to handle complaints of discrimination (designated coordinator). If the employee or student is uncomfortable in presenting the problem to the supervisor or teacher, or if the supervisor or teacher is the problem, the employee or student may report the alleged discrimination, harassment or retaliation ("discrimination") to the designated coordinator, or in the case of students, to another staff person (such as a counselor or principal).

Other individuals may report alleged discrimination to the designated coordinator. If the designated coordinator is the person alleged to have committed the discriminatory act, then the complaint should be submitted to the Superintendent for assignment. A discrimination complaint form is attached to this grievance procedure and is available in the office of each District building, on the District's website, and from the designated coordinators.

Under no circumstances will a person filing a complaint or grievance involving discrimination be retaliated against for filing the complaint or grievance.

*i. Level 1 (Investigation and Findings):*

Once the District receives a grievance, complaint or report alleging discrimination, harassment, or retaliation, or becomes aware of possible discriminatory conduct, the District will conduct a prompt, adequate, reliable, thorough, and impartial investigation to determine whether unlawful harassment occurred. If necessary, the District will take immediate, interim action or measures to protect the alleged victim and prevent further potential discrimination, harassment, or retaliation during the pending investigation. The alleged victim will be notified of his or her options to avoid contact with the alleged harasser, such as changing a class or prohibiting the alleged harasser from having any contact with the alleged victim pending the result of the District's investigation. The District will minimize any burden on the alleged victim when taking interim measures to protect the alleged victim.

The District will promptly investigate all complaints of discrimination, even if an outside entity or law enforcement agency is investigating a complaint involving the same facts and allegations. The District will not wait for the conclusion or outcome of a criminal investigation or proceeding to begin an investigation required by this grievance procedure. If the allegation(s) involve possible criminal conduct, the District will notify the complainant of his or her right to file a criminal complaint, and District employees will not dissuade the complainant from filing a criminal complaint either during or after the District's investigation.

The District will aim to complete its investigation within **ten (10) working days** after receiving a complaint or report, unless extenuating circumstances exist. Extenuating circumstances may include the unavailability of witnesses due to illness or incapacitation, or additional time needed because of the complexity of the investigation, the need for outside experts to evaluate the evidence (such as forensic evidence), or multiple complainants or victims. If extenuating circumstances exist, the extended timeframe to complete the investigation will **not exceed ten (10) additional working days without the consent of the complainant, unless the alleged victim agrees to a longer timeline.** Periodic status updates will be given to the parties, when appropriate.

The District's investigation will include, but is not limited to:

- a. Providing the parties with the opportunity to present witnesses and provide evidence.
- b. An evaluation of all relevant information and documentation relating to the alleged discriminatory conduct.
- c. For allegations involving harassment, some of the factors the District will consider include: 1) the nature of the conduct and whether the conduct was unwelcome, 2) the surrounding circumstances, expectations, and relationships, 3) the degree to which the conduct affected one or more students' education, 4) the type, frequency, and duration of the conduct, 5) the identity of and relationship between the alleged harasser and the suspect or suspects of the harassment, 6) the number of individuals involved, 7) the age (and sex, if applicable) of the alleged harasser and the alleged victim(s) of the harassment, 8) the location of the incidents and the context in which they occurred, 9) the totality of the circumstances, and 10) other relevant evidence.
- d. A review of the evidence using a "preponderance of the evidence" standard (based on the evidence, is it more likely than not that discrimination, harassment, or retaliation occurred?)

The designated compliance coordinator (or designated investigator) will complete an investigative report, which will include:

- a. A summary of the facts,
- b. Findings regarding whether discrimination, harassment or other inappropriate conduct occurred, and
- c. If a finding is made that discrimination, harassment or other inappropriate conduct occurred, the recommended remedy or remedies necessary to eliminate discrimination, harassment or other inappropriate conduct.

If someone other than the designated compliance coordinator conducted the investigation, the compliance coordinator will review, approve, and sign the investigative report. The District will ensure that prompt, appropriate, and effective remedies are provided if a finding of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation is made. The District will maintain relevant documentation obtained during the investigation and documentation supportive of the findings and any subsequent determinations, including the investigative report, witness statements, interview summaries, and any transcripts or audio recordings, pertaining to the investigative and appeal proceedings.

The District will send concurrently to the parties written notification of the decision (findings and any remedy) regarding the complaint within **one (1) working day** after the investigation is completed. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 U.S.C. § 11232g; 34 C.F.R. Part 99, permits the District to disclose relevant information to a student who was discriminated against or harassed.

*ii. Level 2 (Appeal to the Superintendent):*

If a party is not satisfied with the findings or remedies (or both) set forth in the decision, he or she may file an appeal in writing with the Superintendent within **five (5) working days** after receiving the decision. The Superintendent will review the appeal and the investigative documentation and decision, conduct additional investigation, if necessary, and issue a written determination about the appeal **within ten (10) working days** after receiving the appeal. The party who filed the appeal will be sent the Superintendent's determination at the time it is issued, and a copy will be sent to the designated compliance coordinator. [If the Superintendent is the subject of the complaint, the party will file the appeal directly with the Board.]

*iii. Level 3 (Appeal to the Board):*

If the party is not satisfied with the Superintendent's determination, he or she may file an appeal in writing with the Board of Education **within five (5) working days** after receiving the Superintendent's determination. The Board of Education will review the appeal, the Superintendent's determination, the investigative documentation and decision, and allow the party to address the Board at a Board meeting to present his or her appeal. The party will be allowed to address the Board at the Board's next regularly scheduled Board meeting (unless the Board receives the appeal within one week of the next regularly scheduled Board meeting) or at a time and date agreed to by the Board, designated compliance officer and the party. The Board will issue a written determination about the appeal **within thirty (30) days** after the party addresses the Board. The party who filed the appeal will be sent the Board's determination at the time it is issued, and a copy will be sent to the designated compliance coordinator. The Board's determination, and any actions taken, will be final on behalf of the District.

**4. Confidentiality:**

The identity of the complainant will be kept confidential to the extent permitted by state and federal law. The District will notify the complainant of the anti-retaliation provisions of applicable laws and that the District will take steps to prevent retaliation and will take prompt and strong responsive actions if retaliation occurs.

If a complainant requests confidentiality or asks that the complaint not be pursued, the District will take all reasonable steps to investigate and respond to the complaint consistent with the request for confidentiality or the request not to pursue an investigation, as long as doing so does not prevent the District from responding effectively to the harassment and preventing harassment of other students. If a complainant insists that his or her name or other identifiable information not be disclosed to the alleged perpetrator, the District will inform the complainant that its ability to respond may be limited. Even if the District cannot take disciplinary action against the alleged harasser, the District will pursue other steps to limit the effects of the alleged harassment and prevent its recurrence, if warranted,

**5. Training:**

The District will ensure that relevant District employees, including but not limited to officials, administrators, teachers, substitute teachers, counselors, nurses and other health personnel, coaches, assistant coaches, paraprofessionals, aides, bus drivers, and school law enforcement officers, are adequately trained so they understand and know how to identify acts of discrimination, harassment, and retaliation, and how to report it to appropriate District officials or employees.

**6. Designated Compliance Coordinators:**

Designated compliance coordinators will be responsible for:

- a. Coordinating efforts to comply with anti-discrimination, anti-harassment, and anti-retaliation laws and regulations.
- b. Coordinating and implementing training for students and employees pertaining to anti-discrimination, anti-harassment and anti-retaliation laws and regulations, including the training areas listed above.
- c. Investigating complaints of discrimination (unless the coordinator designates other trained individuals to investigate).
- d. Monitoring substantiated complaints or reports of discrimination, as needed (and with the assistance of other District employees, if necessary), to ensure discrimination or harassment does not recur, and that retaliation conduct does not occur or recur.
- e. Overseeing discrimination complaints, including identifying and addressing any patterns or systemic problems, and reporting such patterns or systemic problems to the Superintendent and the Board of Education.
- f. Communicating regularly with the District's law enforcement unit investigating cases and providing current information to them pertaining to anti-discrimination, anti-harassment, and anti-retaliation standards and compliance requirements.
- g. Reviewing all evidence in harassment or violence cases brought before the District's disciplinary committee or administrator to determine whether the complainants are entitled to a remedy under anti-discrimination laws and regulations that was not available in the disciplinary process.

- h. Ensuring that investigations address whether other students or employees may have been subjected to discrimination, including harassment and retaliation.
- i. Determining whether District employees with knowledge of allegations of discrimination, including harassment and retaliation, failed to carry out their duties in reporting the allegations to the designated compliance coordinator and responding to the allegations.
- j. Recommending changes to this policy and grievance procedure.
- k. Performing other duties as assigned.

The designated compliance coordinators will not have other job responsibilities that may create a conflict of interest with their coordinator responsibilities.

#### **7. Preventive Measures:**

The District will publish and widely distribute on an ongoing basis a notice of nondiscrimination (notice) in electronic and printed formats, including prominently displaying the notice on the District's website and posting the notice at each building in the District. The District also will designate an employee to coordinate compliance with anti-discrimination laws (see Designated Compliance Coordinator section, above, for further information on compliance coordinator), and widely publish and disseminate this grievance procedure, including prominently posting it on the District's website, at each building in the District, reprinting it in District publications, such as handbooks, and sending it electronically to members of the school community. The District will provide training to employees and students at the beginning of each academic year in the areas (B.6.a-g) identified in the Training section, above.

The District also may distribute specific harassment and violence materials (such as sexual violence), including a summary of the District's anti-discrimination, anti-harassment, and anti-retaliation policy and grievance procedure, and a list of victim resources, during events such as school assemblies and back to school nights, if recent incidents or allegations warrant additional education to the school community.

### **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 by federal law to qualifying students with disabilities. 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. These rights are:

1.        The right to inspect and review the student’s education records within 45 days of the day the School 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 School official 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 is inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student’s privacy rights under FERPA.  
Parents or eligible students who wish to ask the School to amend a record should write the School principal (or appropriate school official), clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it should be changed. If the School decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the School 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 School 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 School 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 and effectively provide the function or service for which they are responsible. Contractors, consultants and volunteers are permitted to have access to education records where they are performing a function or service that would otherwise be done by a school employee. Their access is limited to education records in which they have a legitimate educational interest; which means records needed to effectively provide the function or service for which they are responsible. The District forwards education records (may include academic, health and discipline records) to schools that have requested the records and in which the student seeks or intends to enroll, or where the student has already enrolled so long as the disclosure is for purposes related to the student’s enrollment or transfer.
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. 20202-5920

[NOTE: In addition, a school may want to include its directory information public notice, as required by §99.37 of the regulations, which its annual notification of rights under FERPA.]

### **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: student’s name, address, telephone listing, electronic mail address,

photograph, date of and place of birth, major fields of study, dates of attendance, grade level, enrollment status (e.g., undergraduate or graduate, full-time or part-time), participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, degrees, honors and awards received, and most recent previous educational agency or institution attended. A parent or eligible student has the right to refuse to let the district designate any or all of those types of 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 any or all of those types of information about the student designated as directory information are as follows: two weeks from the time this information is first received. The district may disclose information about former students without meeting the conditions in this section.

#### **ADDITIONAL NOTICE CONCERNING DIRECTORY INFORMATION**

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, assists 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 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.

#### **Notice Concerning Designation of Law Enforcement Unit:**

The district designates the Washington County Sheriff's Department as the District's "law enforcement unit" for purposes of (1) enforcing any and all federal, state, or local law, (2) maintaining the physical security and safety of the schools in the District, and (3) maintaining safe and drug free schools

### **Section 6 NOTICE CONCERNING DISCLOSURE OF STUDENT RECRUITING INFORMATION**

Federal law requires Arlington Public Schools to provide military recruiters and institutions of higher education access to secondary school students' names, addresses, and telephone listings. Parents and secondary students have the right to request that Arlington Public Schools not provide this information (i.e., not provide the student's name, address, and telephone listing) to military recruiters or institutions of higher education, without their prior written parental consent. Arlington Public Schools will comply with any such request.

### **Section 7 NOTICE TO PARENTS OF STUDENTS IN PROGRAMS RECEIVING TITLE I FUNDING**

Staff Qualifications. Parents may request, and the District will provide the parents of students attending any school receiving Title I funds on request (and in a timely manner), information regarding the professional qualifications of the student's classroom teachers, including, at minimum, the following:

1. Whether the student's teacher—
  - a. has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction
  - b. is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived; and
  - c. is teaching in the field of discipline of the certification of the teacher.
2. Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

Testing Opt-Out. Parents may request, and the District will provide the parents of students attending any school receiving Title I funds on request (and in a timely manner), information regarding any State or District policy regarding student participation in any State or District assessments, including the District's policy and procedure on the parental right to opt the child out of such assessment(s). The District shall also make widely available through public means (including by posting in a clear and easily accessible manner on the District's website) information on each State or District assessment, including:

1. the subject matter addressed;
2. the purpose for which the assessment is designed and used;
3. the source of the requirement for the assessment;



4. the amount of time students will spend taking the assessment, and the schedule for the assessment, and;
5. the time and format for disseminating results.

Language Instruction Programs. If the District receives Title I funds, parents of English learners will be informed regarding how the parents can:

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

The District will also inform parents of an English learner identified student of opportunities to participate in various school programs, as set forth in ESSA. Please contact the administrative office to receive the foregoing information. The Superintendent shall take or cause other staff to take such action as required by law for the District to maintain compliance with ESSA and specific ESSA grant programs in which the District participates.

## **Section 8 STUDENT PRIVACY PROTECTION POLICY**

It is the policy of Arlington Public Schools to develop and implement policies which protect the privacy of students in accordance with applicable laws. The District's policies in this regard include the following:

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 shall 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 times 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: (1) a student or parent's first and last name, (2) home address, (3) telephone number, and (4) 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.

Annual Parental Notification of Student Privacy Protection Policy: The District shall provide parents with reasonable notice of the adoption or continued use of this policy and other policies related to student privacy. Such notice shall be given to parents of students enrolled in the District at least annually, at the beginning of the school year, and within a reasonable period of time after any substantive change in such policies.

Notification to Parents of Dates of and Right to Opt-Out of Specific Events: The District shall 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, (3) surveys administered to students in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act)

If the District receives Title I funding, the District shall notify the parents of each student attending any school receiving Title I funds that the parents may request, and the District will provide the parents on request (and in a timely manner), information regarding any State or District policy regarding student participation in any State or District assessments, including the District's policy and procedure on the parental right to opt the child out of such assessment(s), and (5) for mental health assessment the District shall obtain informed consent from the parent of each child who is under 18 years of age to participate in any mental-health assessment or service that is funded under the Every Student Succeeds Act ("ESSA"). Before obtaining the consent, the District shall provide the parent written notice describing in detail such mental health assessment or service, including the purpose for such assessment or service, the provider of such assessment or service, when such assessment or service will begin, and how long such assessment or service may last.

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 9 PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICIES**

### **A. General - Parental/Community Involvement in Schools:**

Arlington Public Schools welcomes parental involvement in the education of their children. We recognize that parental involvement increases student success. It is Arlington Public Schools' policy to foster and facilitate, to the extent appropriate and in their primary language, parental information about, and involvement in, the education of their children. Policies and regulations are established to protect the emotional, physical and social well-being of all students.

1. Parental involvement is a part of the ongoing and timely planning, review and improvement of district and building programs.
2. Parents are encouraged to support the implementation of district policies and regulations.
3. Parents are encouraged to monitor their student's progress by reviewing quarterly report cards and attending parent-teacher conferences.
4. Textbooks, tests and other curriculum materials used in the district are available for review by parents upon request.
5. Parents are provided access to records of students according to law and school policy.
6. Parents are encouraged to attend courses, assemblies, counseling sessions and other instructional activities with prior approval of the proper teacher or counselor and administrator. Parents' continued attendance at such activities will be based on the students' wellbeing.
7. Testing occurs in this school district as determined to be appropriate by district staff to assure proper measurement of educational progress and achievement.
8. Parents submitting written requests to have their student excused from testing, classroom instruction and other school experiences will be granted that request when possible and educationally appropriate. Requests should be submitted to the proper teacher or administrator within a reasonable time prior to the testing, classroom instruction or other school experience and should be

accompanied by a written explanation for the request. A plan for an acceptable alternative shall be approved by the proper teacher and administrator prior to, or as a part of, the granting of any parent request.

9. Participation in surveys of students occurs in this district when determined appropriate by district staff for educational purposes. Parents will be notified prior to the administration of surveys in accordance with district policy. Timely written parental requests to remove students from such surveys will be granted in accordance with district policy and law. In some cases, parental permission must be given before the survey is administered.
10. Parents are invited to express their concerns, share their ideas and advocate for their children's education with board members, administrators and staff.
11. School district staff and parents will participate in an annual evaluation and revision, if needed, of the content and effectiveness of the parental involvement policy.

B. Title I Parental Involvement Policy:

This Title I Parental Involvement Policy is established in compliance with Federal law. Arlington Public Schools has a parental involvement policy applicable to parents of all children. The parental involvement policy applicable to parents of all children is not replaced by this Title I Parental Involvement Policy and shall continue to be applicable to all parents, including parents participating in Title I programs.

It is the policy of Arlington Public Schools to implement programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of parents in Title I programs consistent with the Title I laws. Such programs, activities, and procedures shall be planned and implemented with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.

Expectations for Parental Involvement: It is the expectation of [Insert Name of School] that parents of participating children will have opportunities available for parental involvement in the programs, activities, and procedures of the District's Title I program. The term "parental involvement" means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring— (A) that parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning; (B) that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school; (C) that parents are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child; and (D) the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in this parental involvement policy. The District intends to meet this expectation through the following activities:

1. Involving parents in the joint development of the District's Title I plan and the processes of school review and school improvement.
2. Providing coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance.
3. Building the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement.
4. Coordinating and integrating parental involvement strategies under Title I with parental involvement strategies under other programs.
5. Conducting, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parental involvement policy in improving the academic quality of the schools served under the Title I program, including identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in Title I programs, with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background, and use the findings of such evaluation to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary, the parental involvement policies of the District.
6. Involving parents in the activities of the schools served under Title I.

Policy Involvement: Each school served under the Title I program shall:

1. Convene an annual meeting, at a convenient time, to which all parents of participating children shall be invited and encouraged to attend, to inform parents of their school's participation under the Title I program and to explain the requirements of the Title I program.

2. Offer a flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening. If sufficient funds are provided for this purpose, the District may assist parental involvement in such meetings by offering transportation, child care, or home visits.
3. Involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I programs.
4. Provide parents of participating children: (1) timely information about programs under Title I, (2) a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet; and (3) if requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children, and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible.
5. If the District operates a school wide program under Title I and such plan is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, submit any parental comments on the plan when the school makes the plan available to the District.

**Shared Responsibilities for High Student Academic Achievement:** As a component of the District's parental involvement policy, each school served under the Title I program shall jointly develop with parents for all children served under the Title I program a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the State's high standards. Such compact shall: (1) describe the school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables the children served under Title I to meet the State's student academic achievement standards and the ways in which each parent will be responsible for supporting their children's learning, such as monitoring attendance, homework completion, and television watching; volunteering in their child's classroom; and participating, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children and positive use of extracurricular time; and (2) address the importance of communication between teachers and parents on an ongoing basis through, at a minimum: (i) parent-teacher conferences in elementary schools, at least annually, during which the compact shall be discussed as the compact relates to the individual child's achievement; (ii) frequent reports to parents on their children's progress; and (iii) reasonable access to staff, opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class, and observation of classroom activities.

**Building Capacity for Involvement:** To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the District, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, each school participating in the Title I program and the District: (1) shall provide assistance to participating parents, as appropriate, in understanding such topics as the State's academic content standards and State student academic achievement standards, State and local academic assessments, the requirements of Title I and how to monitor a child's progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children; (2) shall provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement; (3) shall educate teachers, student service personnel, principals, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and the school; (4) shall, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, the Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, the Parents as Teacher Program, and public preschool and other programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children; (5) shall ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents of participating children in a format, and to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand; (6) may involve parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of such training; (7) may provide necessary literacy training from funds received under Title I if the District has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for such training; (8) may pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental involvement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions; (9) may train parents to enhance the involvement of other parents; (10) may arrange school meetings at a variety of times, or conduct in-home conferences between teachers or other educators, who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend such conferences at school, in order to maximize parental involvement and participation; (11) may adopt and implement model approaches to improving parental involvement; (12) may

establish a district-wide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in programs supported under Title I; (13) may develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in parent involvement activities; and (14) shall provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under Title I as parents may request.

**Accessibility:** In carrying out the parental involvement activities for this Title I Parental Involvement policy, the District shall provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under Title I in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language such parents understand.

**Use, Distribution, and Updating of this Policy:** This Title I Parental Involvement Policy shall be incorporated into the District's Title I plan, shall be distributed to parents of participating children, shall be made available to the local community, and shall be updated periodically to meet the changing needs of the parents and the school.

## **Section 10       TRANSPORTATION NOTIFICATION**

Parents or guardians of option students who qualify for free lunches shall be eligible for transportation reimbursement as described in state law 79-611 in situations where the distance from the residence to the schoolhouse exceeds three miles. Please contact the district office for additional information.

## **Section 11       HOMELESS STUDENTS POLICY**

This School District will comply with the federal and state law related to homeless students.

### **A.       General Policy Statement**

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.

### **B.       Definitions**

**"School of Origin"** shall mean the school that a child or youth attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled, including preschool. School of origin shall also include any designated receiving school for the next grade level for all feeder schools when a student completes the final grade level served by the school of origin.

**"Homeless children and youths"** shall mean any individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; and includes:

1. Children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals;
2. Children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
3. Children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
4. Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described in (1-3).

**"Unaccompanied youth"** shall mean a homeless child or youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

### **C.       School Stability**

1. School Selection: Each school shall presume that keeping a homeless child or youth enrolled in the child's or youth's school of origin is in the child's or youth's best interest, except when doing so is contrary to the request of the child's or youth's parent or guardian or, in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the youth.

To overcome the presumption that a child or youth should remain in his/her school of origin, the school shall consider student-centered factors including: the impact of mobility on achievement, education, health, and safety of homeless children and youth, giving priority to the request of the child's or youth's parent or guardian or, in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the youth.

2. Enrollment: Once the school is selected in accordance with the child's or youth's best interest, that child or youth shall be immediately enrolled even if the child or youth is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment including, but not limited to, previous academic records, immunization or other health records, proof of residency or has missed any application or enrollment deadlines during any period of homelessness.
3. Transportation: If the child or youth continues to attend his or her school of origin, transportation shall be provided promptly even if there is a dispute pending regarding which school is in the child's or youth's best interest to attend. Transportation will continue to be provided to and from the school of origin for the remainder of any academic year during which the child or youth becomes permanently housed.

#### D. Records

Any record ordinarily kept by the school, including immunization or medical records, academic records, birth certificates, guardianship records, and evaluations for special services or programs, regarding each homeless child or youth shall be maintained:

1. Such that all records are available, in a timely fashion, when a child or youth enrolls in a new school or school district;
2. Any information about a homeless child's or youth's living situation shall be treated as a confidential student education record, and shall not be deemed to be directory information; and
3. In a manner consistent with the Federal Education Rights and Privacy Act.

#### E. Services

The Local Education Agency Liaison shall identify an appropriate staff person to be the Local Educational Liaison (LEL) for all homeless children and youth attending school in the District. The LEL responsibilities shall include, but are not limited to:

1. Ensure homeless children and youth are identified through outreach and coordination activities including coordination with the Nebraska Department of Education Homeless Education Liaison, community, and school personnel responsible for education and related services to homeless children and youths;
2. Receive appropriate time and training in order to carry out the duties required by law and this policy;
3. Ensure homeless families and homeless children and youths are referred to health care, dental, mental health, substance abuse, housing and any other appropriate services;
4. Ensure that homeless children and youths:
  - a. Are enrolled in school which includes attending classes and participating fully in school activities;

- b. Have a full and equal opportunity to meet the same challenging State academic standards as other children and youths;
  - c. Receive individualized counseling from counselors to prepare and improve their readiness for college, including college selection, application, financial aid, and on-campus supports.
  - d. Unaccompanied youths are informed of their status as independent students under the Higher Education Act of 1965 and may obtain assistance from the LEL to receive verification of such status for purposes of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.
- 5. Ensure that public notice of the educational rights and available transportation services of the homeless children and youths is disseminated in locations frequented by parents or guardians of such youths and unaccompanied homeless youths, including schools, shelters, public libraries, and soup kitchens, in a manner and form that is easily understandable.
  - 6. Ensure the dispute resolution process identified below is carried out in accordance with the law and district policy.

F. Dispute Resolution

- 1. The dispute procedure must be available for disputes over eligibility, as well as school selection or enrollment.
- 2. In the event of a dispute regarding where a child or youth should enroll, the child or youth shall be immediately enrolled in the school in which enrollment is sought pending final resolution of the dispute, including all available appeals. The district shall immediately provide the child's parent or guardian or, in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the youth a written explanation of the decision made regarding the school selection including the right to appeal such decision. Said writing shall be provided in a manner and form understandable to such parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth and also include the LEL contact information. The LEL shall carry out the dispute resolution process within 30 calendar days from the date of said writing pursuant to 92 Nebraska Administrative Code 19-005.02.
- 3. Appeals: Any parent, guardian or other person having legal or actual charge of a homeless child or youth that is dissatisfied with the decision of a school district after the dispute resolution process may file an appeal with the Commissioner within thirty calendar days of receipt of the decision by following the process in 92 Nebraska Administrative Code 19-005.03 and 19-005.03C.

Legal Reference:           Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-215  
                                   Nebraska Department of Education Rule 19  
                                   McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 USC §§11431, et seq.  
                                   Every Student Succeeds Act

**Section 12           MULTICULTURAL POLICY**

Arlington Public Schools incorporates multicultural education in all curriculum areas at all grades. Multicultural education includes, but is not limited to, studies relative to the culture, history, and contributions of African Americans, Asian Americans, Hispanic Americans, European Americans, and Native Americans with special emphasis on human relations and sensitivity toward all races.

The philosophy of the multicultural education program is that students will have improved ability to function as productive members of society when provided with:

- 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;



- the ability and skills to be sensitive toward and to study, work and live successively with persons of diverse cultures and races.

The mission of the multicultural education program is to be implemented as follows:

- Multicultural education shall be included in goals established for educational programs;
- Multicultural education shall be included in the district curriculum guides, frameworks, or standards;
- The process for selecting appropriate instructional materials shall include assuring that the instructional materials at all grade levels include studies relative to the culture, history, and contributions of African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, Asian Americans and European Americans with special emphasis on human relations and sensitivity toward all races;
- Staff development shall be provided on the District's multicultural education policy. The staff development shall include professional development for administrators, teachers, and support staff which is congruent with the District and program goals;
- Periodic assessment of the multicultural education program shall be conducted by the Superintendent. Teachers and other staff upon request shall have the responsibility to provide the administration with reports on: 1) the instructional materials used and programs or methods implemented with their students which are supportive of the multicultural education program philosophy and mission, b) programs or materials to be implemented in the future or which teachers or other staff feel should be implemented to further advance such philosophy and mission, and c) with their professional assessment on the successes of or deficiencies in achieving the multicultural education program philosophy and mission. The Superintendent shall provide an annual status report on the assessment to the Board of Education.

### **Section 13        BREAKFAST AND LUNCH PROGRAMS**

#### **SCHOOL LUNCH**

The Arlington Public Schools has agreed to participate in the National School Lunch Program and accepts responsibility for providing free and reduced price meals to eligible children in the schools under its jurisdiction.

A minimum balance of \$6.00 is recommended. If at the end of the school year a positive balance is in the account, the balance will be held over for the following school year providing there are children enrolled for the upcoming year. Families who have school lunch accounts that are negative will be notified in writing, by telephone or in person in a timely manner.

#### **Meal Charge Policy**

The district's policy on charged meals is:

If a student has no funds available to pay for a meal, the student will be provided and charged for up to five meals. Thereafter, if a student has no funds available to pay for a meal, the student is provided a 'courtesy meal,' such as a plain sandwich and milk at no cost.

Students who qualify for free meals will not be denied a reimbursable meal, even if they have accrued a negative balance from other food purchases. School staff may prohibit any students from charging a la carte or extra items if they do not have cash in hand or their account has a negative balance.

If a student repeatedly lacks funds to purchase a meal, has not brought a meal from home, and is not enrolled in a free meal program, the district will use its resources and contacts to protect the health and safety of the student. Failure or refusal of parents or guardians to provide meals for students may require mandatory reporting to child protection agencies as required by law.

APS agrees in the operation of child nutrition programs, that in accordance with Federal Law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discrimination against its customers, employees and applicants for employment on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an

individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment, or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited basis will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.

### **USDA Nondiscrimination Statement**

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

1. **mail:**  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
2. **fax:**  
(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. **email:**  
[Program.Intake@usda.gov](mailto:Program.Intake@usda.gov)

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Updated February 15, 2023.

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Arlington Jr./Sr. High School. The faculty and staff are excited about the opening of the upcoming school year and the opportunities available to all students.

This handbook is designed to inform you about the academic and activities programs and the student services available at this school. In addition, it outlines the student conduct rules and procedures that are important in maintaining a positive learning climate.

At the bottom of this page, you will find a release form. It is requested that the following form be jointly signed by each Arlington student and parent/guardian and returned to the student's advisor by Friday, August 15, 2025. This will assure the school that all parties have studied and understand the procedures, regulations and policies contained within the student/guardian handbook.

I am looking forward to a productive school year; please don't hesitate to call me at the high school office (478-4171) with any comments or concerns.

Yours in Education,  
Aaron Pfingsten  
Secondary Principal

## HANDBOOK

In accordance with Nebraska State Law, Section 79-4, 176 par. (3) which states in part: "Rules and standards which form the basis for discipline shall be distributed to students and parents at the beginning of each school year or at the time of enrollment..."

I have read a copy of the Arlington High School Student/Guardian Handbook as provided in this handout or via the school website.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Grade

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Grade

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Grade

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Grade

## RECOGNITION OF POTENTIAL AMENDMENTS OR SUPPLEMENTS

In light of the unique challenges and circumstances posed by the outbreak of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) and the recent promulgation of expansive federal regulations, the rules and information provided in this handbook may be supplemented or amended by the School District's administration at any time, consistent with applicable law and board policy. All parents shall be provided notice of any such changes by the district's regular means of contact. By signing below, you agree that you will read any such information and communications, discuss them with your child, and recognize that you must comply with all rules, procedures, and requirements as they apply at that time. You will return any requested acknowledgement, as well.

### ACTIVITY RELEASE AND PICTURE RELEASE

It is requested that the following form be signed by a parent/guardian and returned by the student to their advisor no later than Friday, August 15, 2025. This form provides the following releases:

- 1) The student(s) to attend and be transported to any school sponsored activity and/or event for which they are participating. Examples include field trips, performances, etc. It is understood that the student will be allowed to go and miss regularly scheduled classes as long as they are upholding their obligations.
- 2) The student(s) picture to be used in campus and district publications. This includes such things as sports posters, District Report Card, Web page, etc...
- 3) The student(s) school work. This includes artwork, term papers etc...

I hereby release my son/daughter to attend and be transported to school sponsored activities and/or events.

_____ Parent/Guardian Signature	_____ Date	_____ Student being released	_____ Grade
_____ Student being released	_____ Grade	_____ Student being released	_____ Grade

Arlington Public Schools  
Addition to Student Handbook

ACCEPTABLE USE OF COMPUTERS AND NETWORKS

STUDENT'S AGREEMENT

In order to make sure that all members of Arlington Public School community understand and agree to these rules of conduct, Arlington Public Schools asks that you as a student user sign the following statement:

I have received a copy of, and have read, the Internet Safety and Acceptable Use Policy adopted by the Arlington Public Schools, and I understand and will abide by those district guidelines and conditions for the use of the facilities of Arlington Public Schools and access to the Internet. I further understand that any violation of the district guidelines is unethical and may constitute a criminal offense. Should I commit any violation, my access privileges will be revoked. School disciplinary action and/or appropriate legal action will be taken.

I agree not to hold the Arlington Public Schools, any of its employees, or any institution providing network access to Arlington Public Schools responsible for the performance of the system or the content of any material accessed through it.

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT'S AGREEMENT

In order to make sure that all members of Arlington Public Schools community understand and agree to these rules of conduct, we ask that you as a parent/guardian sign the following statement:

I have received a copy of, and have read, the Internet Safety and Acceptable Use Policy adopted by Arlington Public Schools. As parent or guardian of the student named below, I grant permission for my son or daughter to access networked computer services such as electronic mail (e-mail) and the Internet. I understand that this free access is designed for educational purposes. I also understand that individuals may be held liable for violations of those Terms and Conditions. However, I also recognize that it is impossible to restrict access to all controversial materials and I will not hold Arlington Public Schools responsible for materials acquired or sent via the network.

I agree not to hold the Arlington Public Schools, any of its employees, or any institution providing network access to Arlington Public Schools responsible for the performance of the system or the content of any material accessed through it.

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

This form will be retained on file by authorized  
faculty designee for duration of applicable  
computer/network/Internet use.