

2023-2024



Student Handbook

Ouachita River School District exists to provide a safe, caring environment where everyone learns and grows in order to be prepared for life.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

The purpose of this handbook is to make the students of the Ouachita River School District (ORSDD) better acquainted with their school, its organization, progress of students, student activities and organizations, and things expected of students. This handbook has been prepared with the hope that it will not only acquaint the student with these many phases of our school life, but also will create within them a desire to work for the ideals of the school.

“I'll study and get ready, and maybe my chance will come.”

...Abe Lincoln

Mascots:

Acorn: Tigers

Oden: Timberwolves

Aims of the School

1. To train students to be able to excel in all academic areas.
2. To aid its students in living healthier, happier lives.
3. To be of service to the students in finding worthy ways in which to use their leisure time.
4. To aid its students in finding their life's work and to prepare them to do their work better.
5. To train students to be good citizens.
6. To aid in developing character and moral values in its students.

Colors:

Acorn: Blue and Gold

Oden: Orange and Black

Phone Numbers:

Superintendent	Jerry Strasner	(479) 394-2348 ext. 203
Assistant Superintendent	William Edwards II	(870) 326-4311
Instructional Facilitator	Kathy Medford	(479) 394-2348 ext. 206
Acorn High School Principal	Dewayne Taylor	(479) 394-5544 ext. 103
Acorn Elementary Principal	Beth Jackson	(479) 394-4833 ext. 302
Acorn High School Counselor	Tammy Young	(479) 394-7339
Acorn Elementary Counselor	Linda Heath	(479) 243-0396
Athletic Director	Dewayne Taylor	(479) 394-5544 ext. 130
Acorn School Nurse	Amanda Bennett	(479) 394-0391
Acorn Gymnasium	Mike Jackson, Chris Ledbetter, Chad Frost, & Keith Willsey	(479) 394-5544
Oden Schools Principal	Elicia Bergum	(870) 326-4311
Oden Counselor	Apryl Philpot	(870) 326-4410
Oden School Nurse		(870) 326-4311
Oden Gymnasium	Colby Kennedy	(870) 326-4311
Acorn Pre-School	Mary Wilson	(479)-394-4833 ext. 416
Oden Pre-School	Kim Gray	(870)-326-5513

Fax Numbers:

Administration Office	(479)-394-6687
Acorn Elementary School	(479)-394-5213
Acorn High School	(479)-394-1041
Acorn High School Counselor	(479)-394-7339
Ode Maddox Elementary	(870)-326-4281
Oden High School	(870)-326-5552

Advisors

Your teachers are your advisors. If you are confronted with a problem, or would like assistance in determining what type work you would like to do and what courses you need to take in school, contact the counselor, or talk to the principal or superintendent. Your other teachers will be happy to assist you if you would like to talk to them.

AE Program Evaluation (5.26.1)

The ALE program shall be evaluated at least annually to determine its overall effectiveness at providing a non-punitive environment that is conducive to learning, that eliminates traditional barriers to learning, and at compliance with the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Rules Governing Student Special Needs Funding. The evaluation shall specifically address how the use of ALE funds is in alignment with the district's school district support plan in addressing identified achievement gaps and student performance deficiencies.

Alternative Environments (5.26)

The District shall provide an eligible alternative learning environment (ALE) for each eligible ALE student enrolled in a District school. The ALE shall be part of an intervention program designed to provide guidance, counseling, and academic support to students who are experiencing emotional, social, or academic problems. Placement of a student in an ALE shall not be punitive in nature.

The superintendent or designee shall appoint an Alternative Education Placement Team which shall have the responsibility of determining student placement in the ALE. A student may be enrolled in an ALE only on the referral of the Alternative Education Placement Team. The team's placement decision is final and may not be appealed.¹

The team is to be comprised of the following:

- a school counselor from the referring school;
- the ALE administrator and/or ALE teacher;
- the building principal or assistant principal from the referring school;
- a parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis (if they choose to participate);
 - The District shall document its efforts to contact the student's parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis to schedule a meeting or a phone call for a placement meeting at the convenience of the parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis, and maintain

such documentation in the student's Student Action Plan (SAP).

- LEA special education/504 representative (if applicable);
- at least one (1) of the student's regular classroom teacher(s); and
- if the District so chooses, the student.

Students who are placed in the ALE shall exhibit at least two (2) of the characteristics from items a through l below:

- a. Disruptive behavior;
- b. Dropping out from school;
- c. Personal or family problems or situations;
- d. Recurring absenteeism;

For the purposes of the ALE, personal or family problems or situations are conditions that negatively affect the student's academic and social progress. These may include, but are not limited to:

- e. Ongoing, persistent lack of attaining proficiency levels in literacy and mathematics
- f. Abuse: physical, mental, or sexual;
- g. Frequent relocation of residency;
- h. Homelessness;
- i. Inadequate emotional support;
- j. Mental/physical health problems;
- k. Pregnancy; or
- l. Single parenting.

No later than five (5) school days after a student begins alternative education interventions, the Alternative Education Placement Team shall develop a signed agreement between the ALE; the parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis (if they choose to participate); and the student, outlining the responsibility of the ALE; parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis; and the student to provide assurance that the plan for each student is successful.

No later than one (1) week after a student begins alternative education interventions, the Alternative Education Placement Team shall assess the student's current functioning abilities and all relevant social, emotional, academic, career, and behavioral information and develop an SAP outlining the intervention services to be provided to the student that is in compliance with the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Rules. The SAP may be revised from time to time by the ALE placement team and a positive behavior or transitional plan shall be developed and added to the SAP prior to a student's return to the regular educational environment.

The district's ALE program shall follow class size, staffing, curriculum, and expenditure requirements identified in the DESE Rules.

Challenge of Instructional/Supplemental Materials (5.6)

Definitions

"Curriculum" means: the sequences of public school student learning expectations, pacing, materials, and resources that are used to teach the Arkansas academic standards and the processes for evaluating mastery of the Arkansas academic standards at particular points in time throughout the kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12) educational program.

"Gender identity" means the same as is used in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition, which defines it as a category of social identity and refers to an individual's identification as male, female, or, occasionally, some category other than male or female.

"Instructional material" means instructional content that is provided to a public school student, regardless of its format, that includes without limitation printed or representational materials, audio-visual materials, and materials in electronic or digital format, such as materials accessible through the internet; however, Instructional material does not include academic tests or academic assessments.

"Sexual orientation" means an individual's actual or perceived orientation as heterosexual, homosexual, or bisexual.

Instructional and supplemental materials, including classroom events or activities associated with classroom instruction, are selected for their compatibility with the District's educational program and their ability to help fulfill the District's educational goals and objectives. Individuals wishing to challenge or express concerns about instructional or supplemental materials, including classroom events or activities associated with classroom instruction, may do so by filling out a *Challenge to Instructional Material* form available in the school's office.

The contesting individual may present a copy of the form to the principal and request a conference be held at a time of mutual convenience. Prior to the conference, the principal shall consult with the teacher regarding the contested material. In the conference, the principal shall explain to the contesting individual the criteria used for the selection of the material and its relevancy to the educational program as well as any other pertinent information in support of the use of the material.

Following the conclusion of the meeting, the principal shall have five (5) working days to submit a summary of the concerns expressed by the individual and the principal's response to those concerns to the Superintendent¹.

If the contesting individual is not satisfied with the principal's response, the individual may, after the five (5) working day period, request a meeting with the Superintendent where the individual shall present the same *Challenge to Instructional Material* form previously presented to the principal. The Superintendent shall explain to the contesting individual the

criteria used for the selection of the material and its relevancy to the educational program as well as any other pertinent information in support of the use of the material.²

Following the conclusion of the meeting, the Superintendent shall have five (5) working days to write a summary of the concerns expressed by the individual and the Superintendent's response to those concerns. The Superintendent shall create a file of his/her response along with a copy of the principal's response and a copy of the contesting individual's *Challenge to Instructional Material* form.

If, after meeting with the Superintendent, the contesting individual is not satisfied with the Superintendent's response regarding the appropriateness of the instructional or supplemental material, he/she may appeal the Superintendent's decision to the Board. The Superintendent shall present the contesting individual's *Challenge to Instructional Material* form to the Board at the next regularly scheduled meeting along with the written responses to the challenge. The Board may elect, if it so chooses, to hear brief verbal presentations from the parties involved in the challenge.

The Board shall decide at that meeting or their next regularly scheduled meeting whether to retain the material, limit the availability of the material, or remove the material from the school. The Board's primary consideration in reaching its decision shall be if the instructional and supplemental materials, including classroom events or activities associated with classroom instruction, are:

- Misleading;
- Factually inaccurate; or
- Otherwise inappropriate for the intended educational use.

In addition to the notification requirements under Policy 5.5 and all other challenge rights under this policy, parents and legal guardians may opt their students out of any of the following by submission of form 5.6F2 regardless of whether any of the listed items are offered as part of a sex education class or program or as part of any other class, activity, or program except when the item is directly related to a requirement under the Arkansas academic standards; a District employee is responding to questions posed by students during class regarding sex education, sexual orientation, or gender identity as it relates to a topic of instruction; or a District employee refers to the sexual orientation or gender identity of a historical person, group, or public figure when such information provides necessary context in relation to a topic of instruction:

- a. Curricula;
- b. Materials;
- c. Tests;
- d. Surveys;
- e. Questionnaires;
- f. Activities; and
- g. Instruction of any kind.

Students who are excused under this policy from participating in any or all portions of items A-G above shall not be penalized

for grading purposes if the student satisfactorily performs alternative lessons related to health.

The rights provided to parents under this policy transfer to the student when the student turns eighteen (18) years old.

Changing Schedule of Classes

1. The principal, or his/her designee, will not approve changes after the first week of a semester except in unusual circumstances such as extended illness of the student or family emergencies. The principal will determine if a student should be permitted to change his/her class schedule after the deadline for changes. Students enrolled in a two-semester class required for accreditation will not be allowed to drop at semester.
2. If the student and/or parent or legal guardian do not agree with the decision of the principal, the student and his/her parents or legal guardian may make a written request to the Superintendent for permission to appeal the principal's decision to the ORSD school board at the next regularly scheduled meeting. A called school board meeting could be held if absolutely necessary.
3. Under no circumstances, will the Board consider a request for a schedule change before the principal acts on the request.

Check-Out/Check-In Procedures

1. After having arrived on school property, all student check-ins and check-outs must be logged through the principal's office.
2. All student check-outs must be cleared through the principal's office. A parent/guardian signed note with date, time of check-out and reason for leaving campus must be submitted. Parental phone permission given to an administrator / designee may be sufficient for student release. A student—no matter his or her age—cannot check-out without written or phone permission from the parent/guardian. The early dismissal must be verified with the supervising teacher before the student can be released from class.
3. Students may not check-out of school by permission of anyone other than parents or guardians, unless specific written instructions from the parents/guardians regarding designated approved adults are on file in the principal's office prior to check-out. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to make the school aware of any legal proceedings affecting student check-outs. By law, school grounds are not to be used as custodial exchange sites (AR Code 9-13-104).
4. Students may not leave campus to run approved school errands unless prior parental permission/ approval is given in writing and presented before check-out occurs.
5. Check-outs for reason other than illness, funeral or family emergency are generally considered unexcused absences.

6. ORSD schools have a closed campus policy. No student will be allowed to leave school during lunch to go eat.

Classification of Students

* Freshman: completion of requirements for grades 7th and 8th.

* Sophomore: student must have completed 6 units of course work.

* Junior: student must have completed 12 units of course work.

* Senior: student must have completed 18 units of course work.

If a student fails to meet the above requirements, that student will be held back in a grade until deficiencies are satisfied.

Closed Campus (4.10)

All schools in the District shall operate closed campuses. Students are required to stay on campus from their arrival until dismissal at the end of the regular school day unless given permission to leave the campus by a school official. Students must sign out in the office upon their departure. Parent permission must be attained for a student to check out.

College Admission Requirements

1. Students that plan to go to college are urged to start planning in the ninth grade to take the required courses that the college you plan to attend requires for admission.
2. ORSD graduation requirements may or may not meet admission requirements for certain colleges and universities. Students should talk with the counselor concerning college entrance requirements.

Communicable Diseases and Parasites (4.34)

1. Students with communicable diseases or with human host parasites that are transmittable in a school environment shall demonstrate respect for other students by not attending school while they are capable of transmitting their condition to others. Students whom the school nurse determines are unwell or unfit for school attendance or who are believed to have a communicable disease or condition will be required to be picked up by their parent or guardian. Specific examples include, but are not limited to: Varicella (chicken pox), measles, scabies, conjunctivitis (Pink Eye), impetigo/MRSA (Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus), streptococcal and staphylococcal infections, ringworm, mononucleosis, Hepatitis A, B, or C, mumps, vomiting, diarrhea, and fever (100.4 F when taken orally).¹ A student who has been sent home by the school nurse will be subsequently readmitted, at the discretion of the school nurse, when the student is no longer a transmission risk. In some instances, a letter from a health care provider may be required prior to the

student being readmitted to the school.

2. To help control the possible spread of communicable diseases, school personnel shall follow the District's exposure control plan when dealing with any blood-borne, food-borne, and airborne pathogens exposures. Standard precautions shall be followed relating to the handling, disposal, and cleanup of blood and other potentially infectious materials such as all body fluids, secretions and excretions (except sweat).

3. In accordance with 4.57-IMMUNIZATIONS, the District shall maintain a copy of each student's immunization record and a list of individuals with exemptions from immunization which shall be education records as defined in policy 4.13. That policy provides that an education record may be disclosed to appropriate parties in connection with an emergency if knowledge of the information is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other individuals.

4. A student enrolled in the District who has an immunization exemption may be removed from school at the discretion of the Arkansas Department of Health during an outbreak of the disease for which the student is not vaccinated. The student may not return to school until the outbreak has been resolved and the student's return to school is approved by the Arkansas Department of Health.

5. The parents or legal guardians of students found to have live human host parasites that are transmittable in a school environment will be asked to pick their child up. The parents or legal guardians will be given information concerning the eradication and control of human host parasites. A student may be readmitted after the school nurse or designee has determined the student no longer has live human host parasites that are transmittable in a school environment.

6. Each school may conduct screenings of students for human host parasites that are transmittable in a school environment as needed. The screenings shall be conducted in a manner that respects the privacy and confidentiality of each student.

Complaints and Grievances

If a student and/or the parent of a student involved in a disciplinary ruling wishes to contest that disciplinary ruling, they must state their complaint in writing within ten (10) days to the school principal asking that the ruling be changed. If a complaint is not satisfactorily resolved by the principal, an appeal is possible to the superintendent, then to the school board.

Computer Software Copyright (5.9)

1. The District shall observe copyright laws governing computer software reproduction. Unless specifically allowed by the software purchase agreement, the Copyright Act allows the purchaser of software to:

A. Make one copy of software for archival purposes in case the original is destroyed or damaged through mechanical failure of a computer. However, if the original is sold or given away, the archival copy must be

destroyed;

B. Make necessary adaptations to use the program; and/or

C. Add features to the program for specific applications. These improvements may not be sold or given away without the copyright owner's permission.

2. The District shall abide by applicable licensing agreements before using computer software on local-area or wide-area networks.

Contact with Students While at School (4.15)

CONTACT BY PARENTS

Parents wishing to speak to their children during the school day shall register first with the office.

CONTACT BY NON-CUSTODIAL PARENTS

If there is any question concerning the legal custody of the student, the custodial parent shall present documentation to the principal or the principal's designee establishing the parent's custody of the student. It shall be the responsibility of the custodial parent to make any court ordered "no contact" or other restrictions regarding the non-custodial parent known to the principal by presenting a copy of a file-marked court order. Without such a court order on file, the school will release the child to either of his/her parents. Non-custodial parents who file with the principal a date-stamped copy of current court orders granting unsupervised visitation may eat lunch, volunteer in their child's classroom, or otherwise have contact with their child during school hours and the prior approval of the school's principal. Such contact is subject to the limitations outlined in Policy 4.16, Policy 6.5, and any other policies that may apply.

Arkansas law provides that, in order to avoid continuing child custody controversies from involving school personnel and to avoid disruptions to the educational atmosphere in the District's schools, the transfer of a child between his/her custodial parent and non-custodial parent, when both parents are present, shall not take place on the school's property on normal school days during normal hours of school operation. The custodial or non-custodial parent may send to/drop off the student at school to be sent to/picked up by the other parent on predetermined days in accordance with any court order provided by the custodial parent or by a signed agreement between both the custodial and non-custodial parents that was witnessed by the student's building principal.¹ Unless a valid no-contact order has been filed with the student's principal or the principal's designee, district employees shall not become involved in disputes concerning whether or not that parent was supposed to pick up the student on any given day.

CONTACT BY LAW ENFORCEMENT, SOCIAL SERVICES, OR BY COURT ORDER

State Law requires that Department of Human Services employees, local law enforcement, or agents of the

Crimes Against Children Division of the Division of Arkansas State Police may interview students without a court order for the purpose of investigating suspected child abuse. In instances where the interviewers deem it necessary, they may exercise a "72-hour hold" without first obtaining a court order. Except as provided below, other questioning of students by non-school personnel shall be granted only with a court order directing such questioning, with permission of the parents of a student (or the student if above eighteen (18) years of age), or in response to a subpoena or arrest warrant.

If the District makes a report to any law enforcement agency concerning student misconduct or if access to a student is granted to a law enforcement agency due to a court order, the principal or the principal's designee shall make a good faith effort to contact the student's parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis. The principal or the principal's designee shall not attempt to make such contact if presented documentation by the investigator that notification is prohibited because a parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis is named as an alleged offender of the suspected child maltreatment. This exception applies only to interview requests made by a law enforcement officer, an investigator of the Crimes Against Children Division of the Division of Arkansas State Police, or an investigator or employee of the Department of Human Services.

In instances other than those related to cases of suspected child abuse, principals must release a student to either a police officer who presents a subpoena for the student, or a warrant for arrest, or to an agent of state social services or an agent of a court with jurisdiction over a child with a court order signed by a judge. Upon release of the student, the principal or designee shall give the student's parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis notice that the student has been taken into custody by law enforcement personnel or a state's social services agency. If the principal or designee is unable to reach the parent, he or she shall make a reasonable, good faith effort to get a message to the parent to call the principal or designee, and leave both a day and an after-hours telephone number.

CONTACT BY PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE STANDARDS BOARD INVESTIGATORS

Investigators for the Professional Licensure Standards Board may meet with students during the school day to carry out the investigation of an ethics complaint.

Daily Bell Schedule

Student announcements will start at 7:45 a.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence. Class will begin each morning at 7:50 a.m. The inside

class bell will signal the beginning and end of the period. Every student must be seated in his/her proper classroom when the last bell rings. Students will have four minutes between classes to move from one class to another. Those students who make a habit of being late will be subject to disciplinary action. The final bell of the day will ring at 3:20 p.m.

District Web Site (5.20)

The Ouachita River School District shall maintain a web page to provide information about its schools, students, and activities to the community. This policy is adopted to promote continuity between the different pages on the district website by establishing guidelines for their construction and operation.

The Ouachita River School District website shall be used for educational purposes only. It shall not create either a public or a limited public forum. Any link from any page on the District's site may only be to another educational site.¹ The website shall not use "cookies" to collect or retain identifying information about visitors to its website nor shall any such information be given to "third parties." Any data collected shall be used solely for the purpose of monitoring site activity to help the district improve the usefulness of the site to its visitors.²

Each school's web page shall be under the supervision of the school's Web Master and the District's website shall be under the supervision of the District's Web Master. They shall have the responsibility for ensuring that web pages meet appropriate levels of academic standards and are in compliance with these guidelines and any additional administrative regulations. To this end, the District and School Web Masters shall have the authority to review and edit any proposed changes to web pages to ensure their compliance with this policy. All such editing shall be viewpoint neutral.

District and school web pages shall also conform to the following guidelines:

1. All pages on the District's website may contain advertising and links only to educational sources.
2. The District's home page shall contain links to existing individual school's web pages and the school home pages shall link back to the District's home page. The District's home page may also include links to educational extracurricular organization's web pages, which shall also link back to the District's home page.
3. Photos along with the student's name shall only be posted on web pages after receiving written permission from the student's parents or the student if the student is over the age of eighteen (18).³
4. The District's web server shall host the Ouachita River School District's website.⁴

5. No web page on the District website may contain public message boards or chat rooms.
6. All web pages on the District website shall be constructed to download in a reasonable length of time.
7. The District's home page shall contain a link to a privacy policy notice, which must be placed in a clear and prominent place and manner.⁵
8. With the exception of students who may retain the copyright of material they have created that is displayed on a District web page, all materials displayed on the District web site are owned by the District.
9. The District shall include the following information on its website through a link located on the District's homepage titled "State Required Information":⁶
 - a. Local and state revenue sources;
 - b. Administrator and teacher salary and benefit expenditure data;
 - c. District balances, including legal balances and building fund balances;
 - d. Minutes of regular and special meetings of the school board;
 - e. The district's budget for the ensuing year;
 - f. A financial breakdown of monthly expenditures of the district;
 - g. The salary schedule for all employees including extended contract and supplementary pay amounts;
 - h. Current contract information (not including social security numbers, telephone numbers, personal addresses or signatures) for all district employees;
 - i. The district's annual budget;
 - j. The annual statistical report of the district;
 - k. The district's personnel policies;
 - l. The annual School Performance Report;⁷
 - m. School-Level Improvement Plans;⁸
 - n. The School District Support Plan;⁸
 - o. Student discipline policies;
 - p. Comprehensive School Counseling Plan;
 - q. The District financial policies;
 - r. Student handbooks;⁹
 - s. The Annual Report to the Public;
 - t. The parent, family, and community engagement plan;
 - u. The Immunization waiver report from Policy 4.57—
IMMUNIZATIONS;
 - v. School District Calendar;
 - w. List of statutory, rule, or Standards for Accreditation waivers the District has received under A.C.A. § 6-15-103;
 - x. The District's Teacher and Administrator Recruitment and Retention Plan;
 - y. The total amount of State funds used for teacher salaries;

The information and data required for items A through K in 9 above shall be the actual data for the previous two (2) school-years and the projected data for the current school-year.

Before July 15 of each year, the District shall post on its website the following information:¹⁰

- The dyslexia intervention programs used during the previous school year that were specifically responsive to assisting students with dyslexia;
- The number of students during the previous school year who received dyslexia intervention; and
- The total number of students identified with dyslexia during the previous school year.

If the District's reading curriculum is not taken from the DESE list of approved curricula, the District shall post the reading curriculum the District uses and a statement that the curriculum is not on the list of DESE approved curricula.

The District shall include the following information on its website that may be accessed through a link located on the District's homepage titled "Title IX/Sex Discrimination":¹¹

- Contact information for the District's Title IX Coordinator;
- A statement that any person may report sex discrimination, including sexual harassment, to the Title IX Coordinator in person or by using the mailing address, telephone number, or email address provided. A report may be made at any time, including during non-business hours, and may be on the individual's own behalf or on behalf of another individual who is the person alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sex discrimination or sexual harassment;
- Copies of the District's sexual harassment policies;
- Copies of the District's Procedures governing the grievance and appeal process;
- The process for filing a formal complaint of sexual harassment; and
- Direct links to or copies of the materials used to train the District's Title IX Coordinators, investigators, and decision-makers.

The District and school webmasters are responsible for ensuring all District webpages meet required standards to be accessible to individuals with disabilities.

Elementary Library Policies & Procedures

1. Students will be provided library time each week. The librarian will use this time to teach library skills, promote a respect for literature and books, and provide time for students to select and check out books.

2. Check-Out Policy:

A. Students that are in grades K-1st are only allowed to check out one book at a time. Students may check out two books at a time from the library for students in 2nd -6th grade unless special arrangements are made with the librarian.

B. All books may be checked out for two weeks. The following steps will be taken if a book becomes overdue:

1. First week overdue—a grace period will be given.
 2. Second week overdue—a reminder notice will be sent with the student.
 3. A notice will be sent to the parents including the cost of the book if it is not returned.
- 3. Damaged or Lost Books:**
- A. If a book is lost the student who checked it out will be expected to pay for a book. The cost will be that of the replacement cost of the book.
 - B. A student who returns a damaged book that can be repaired and placed back on the shelf will be charged for the damage. If the damage is such that it shortens the circulation life of the book, the student will pay two-thirds of the original cost of the book; otherwise the damage will be assessed at one-third of the original cost. The librarian will make the judgment of the degree of damage.
 - C. If a book is damaged to the point of discard, the student who did the actual damage will pay the same cost as if it were lost.

Emergency Drills (4.37)

All schools in the District shall conduct fire drills at least monthly. Tornado drills shall also be conducted not fewer than three (3) times per year.¹ Students who ride school buses,² shall also participate in emergency evacuation drills at least twice each school year.

The District shall annually conduct a lockdown drill at all schools in the District in collaboration with local law enforcement, medical professionals, fire department officials, and emergency management personnel. The lockdown drill training will include use of the District's emergency communication method with law enforcement.^{3,4} Students will be included in the drills to the extent that is developmentally appropriate for the age of both the students and grade configuration of the school.⁵

Drills may be conducted during the instructional day or during non-instructional time periods.

Other types of emergency drills may also be conducted to test the implementation of the District's emergency plans in the event of violence, terrorist attack, natural disaster, other emergency, or the District's emergency communication with law enforcement method³. Students shall be included in the drills to the extent practicable.⁵

English Learners (5.27)

The district shall utilize the special needs funding it receives for identified English Learners (EL) on activities, and materials listed in the DESE Rules Governing Student Special Needs Funding.

The expenditures of EL supplemental funding shall be evaluated at least annually to determine their overall effectiveness. The evaluation shall specifically address how the use of EL funds is in alignment with the district's school

district support plan in addressing identified achievement gaps and student performance deficiencies.

Equal Educational Opportunity (4.11)

No student in the Ouachita River School District shall, on the grounds of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, or disability be excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity sponsored by the District. The District has a limited open forum granting equal access to the Boy Scouts of America and other youth groups.¹

Inquiries on non-discrimination may be directed to the Superintendent², who may be reached at 479-394-2348³.

Any person may report sex discrimination, including sexual harassment, to the Title IX Coordinator in person or by using the mailing address, telephone number, or email address provided above. A report may be made at any time, including during non-business hours, and may be on the individual's own behalf or on behalf of another individual who is the person alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sex discrimination or sexual harassment.

For further information on notice of non-discrimination or to file a complaint, visit <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/complaintintro.html>; for the address and phone number of the office that serves your area, or call 1-800-421-3481.

Equivalence between Schools (5.23)

The Ouachita River School District is committed to providing a quality education for all students in each of the district's schools. The equitable distribution of district resources is one means the district shall use to ensure all of its students receive a quality education. The Board directs that services in Title I schools, when taken as a whole, be at least comparable to services in schools that are not receiving Title I funds. Curriculum materials, instructional supplies, and the percentages of qualified personnel shall be equivalent between all schools in the district when compared on a grade-span by grade-span basis¹, school-by-school basis¹. Specifically, the goal of the district is to have its students given an equitable opportunity to learn regardless of the school they attend within the district.

The Board understands that the equivalence between schools shall not be measured by such things as:

1. Changes in enrollment after the start of the school year;
2. Varying costs associated with providing services to children with disabilities,
3. Unexpected changes in personnel assignments occurring after the beginning of the school year;

4. Expenditures on language instruction education programs and;
5. Other expenditures from supplemental State or local funds consistent with the intent of Title I.

High School Library Information/Regulations

1. The library is open before school at 7:45 a.m. and at noon. Students are encouraged to come in to check books in and out at this time.

2. Students are expected to enter the library quietly and remain quiet throughout the time they remain in the library.

3. Each student is expected to use self-discipline and to have a sense of respect and courtesy for library materials. The items in the library are very expensive and care needs to be taken in the use and handling.

4. Check-Out Policy:

A. Students may check out three books at a time from the library unless arrangements are made with the librarian. If the books are not returned, the student will not be allowed to check out another book until the books are returned.

B. All books may be checked out for two weeks. The following steps will be taken if a book becomes overdue:

1. First day overdue—a grace period will be given with no fine.

2. Second day overdue and each day thereafter five cents (\$.05) a day fine for each overdue day.

C. A list will be posted on the window of the library listing the students and overdue book or fines owed to the library. This is a reminder for the students.

D. At the end of each grading period, a list will be given to the principal of all fines and books that need to be returned to the library.

E. Damaged or Lost Books:

1. If a book is lost, the student who checked it out will be expected to pay for the book. The charge will be the replacement cost of the book.

2. A student who returns a damaged book that can be repaired and placed back on the shelf will be charged for the damage. If the damage is such that it shortens the circulation life of the book, the student will pay two-thirds of the original cost. The librarian will make the judgment.

3. If a book is damaged to the point of discard, the student who did the actual damage will pay the same cost as if it were lost. Here, again, the person who checked out the book will be held responsible for payment.

F. Report cards will be held at the end of the nine-weeks until books and fines are taken care of. Parents will be notified of books which are overdue, lost, and of fines.

Homeless Students (4.40)

The Ouachita River School District will afford the same services and educational opportunities to homeless children as are afforded to non-homeless children. The Superintendent

or his/her designee shall appoint an appropriate staff person to be the local educational agency (LEA) liaison for homeless children and youth whose responsibilities shall include, but are not limited to:

- Receive appropriate time and training in order to carry out the duties required by law and this policy;
- Coordinate and collaborate with the State Coordinator, community, and school personnel responsible for education and related services to homeless children and youths;
- Ensure that school personnel receive Professional development and other support regarding their duties and responsibilities for homeless youths;
- Ensure that unaccompanied homeless youths:
 - Are enrolled in school;
 - Have opportunities to meet the same challenging State academic standards as other children and youths; and
 - Are informed of their status as independent students under the Higher Education Act of 1965 and that they may obtain assistance from the LEA liaison to receive verification of such status for purposes of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid;
- Ensure that public notice of the educational rights of the homeless children and youths is disseminated in locations frequented by parents or guardians of such youth, and unaccompanied homeless youths, including schools, shelters, public libraries, and soup kitchens, in a manner and form that is easily understandable.

To the extent possible, the LEA liaison and the building principal shall work together to ensure no homeless child or youth is harmed due to conflicts with District policies solely because of the homeless child or youth's living situation; this is especially true for District policies governing fees, fines, and absences.¹

Notwithstanding Policy 4.1, homeless students living in the district are entitled to enroll in the district's school that non-homeless students who live in the same attendance area are eligible to attend. If there is a question concerning the enrollment of a homeless child due to a conflict with Policy 4.1 or 4.2, the child shall be immediately admitted to the school in which enrollment is sought pending resolution of the dispute, including all appeals. It is the responsibility of the District's LEA liaison for homeless children and youth to carry out the dispute resolution process.

For the purposes of this policy "school of origin" means:

- The school that a child or youth attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled, including a preschool; and
- The designated receiving school at the next grade level for all feeder schools when the child completes the final grade provided by the school of origin.

The District shall do one of the following according to what is in the best interests of a homeless child:

1. Continue the child's or youth's education in the school of origin for the duration of homelessness:
 - In any case in which a family becomes homeless between academic years or during an academic year; and
 - For the remainder of the academic year, if the child or youth becomes permanently housed during an academic year; or
2. Enroll the child or youth in any public school that non-homeless students who live in the attendance area in which the child or youth is actually living are eligible to attend.

In determining the best interest of the child or youth, the District shall:

- Presume that keeping the child or youth in the 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;
- Consider student-centered factors related to the child's or youth's best interest, including factors related to 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.

If the District determines that it is not in the child's or youth's best interest to attend the school of origin or the school requested by the parent or guardian, or (in the case of an unaccompanied youth) the youth, the District shall provide the child's or youth's parent or guardian or the unaccompanied youth with a written explanation of the reasons for its determination, in a manner and form understandable to such parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth, including information regarding the right to appeal. For an unaccompanied youth, the District shall ensure that the LEA liaison assists in placement or enrollment decisions, gives priority to the views of such unaccompanied youth, and provides notice to such youth of the right to appeal.

The homeless child or youth must be immediately enrolled in the selected school regardless of whether application or enrollment deadlines were missed during the period of homelessness.

The District shall be responsible for providing transportation for a homeless child, at the request of the parent or guardian (or in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the LEA Liaison), to and from the child's school of origin.²

A homeless student shall be immediately eligible to participate in interscholastic activities at the school in which the student is enrolled.

For the purposes of this policy, students shall be considered homeless if they lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and:

a. Are:

- Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason;
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters;
- Abandoned in hospitals; or
- b. 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;
- c. Are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
- d. Are migratory children who are living in circumstances described in clauses (a) through (c).

In accordance with Federal law, information on a homeless child or youth's living situation is part of the student's education record and shall not be considered, or added, to the list of directory information in Policy 4.13.³

Marketing of Personal Information (5.25)

1. Ouachita River School District shall not collect, disclose, or use personal information for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information or to otherwise provide that information to others for that purpose.
2. Personal information is defined, for the purposes of this policy only, as individually identifiable information including:
 - A. a student or parent's first and last name,
 - B. a home or other physical address (including street name and the name of the city or town),
 - C. telephone number, and
 - D. social security identification number.
3. The district may collect, disclose, or use personal information that is collected from students for the exclusive purpose of developing, evaluating, or providing educational products or services for, or to, students or educational institutions such as the following:
 - A. College or other postsecondary education recruitment, or military recruitment;
 - B. Book clubs, magazines, and programs providing access to low cost literary products;
 - C. Curriculum and instructional materials used by elementary schools and secondary schools;
 - D. Tests and assessments used by elementary schools and secondary schools to provide cognitive, evaluative, diagnostic, clinical, aptitude, or achievement information about students (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;
 - E. The sale by students of products or services to raise funds for school related or education related activities; and
 - F. Student recognition programs.

National Anthem (4.44)

Each school in the District shall broadcast The Star-Spangled Banner at:

- The commencement of each school-sanctioned sporting event; however, if two (2) or more school-sanctioned sporting events occur on the same day at the same school, then the broadcast of The Star-Spangled Banner may be performed at only one (1) of the events; and
- At least one (1) time each week during school hours.

The broadcast of The Star-Spangled Banner shall be selected from any recording that adheres to the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Rules, or, when appropriate, performed from original sheet music that adheres to DESE rules by:

- A school-sanctioned band program;
- A school-sanctioned chorale program, vocal group, or vocalist; or
- The attendees of a school-sanctioned event led by a vocalist selected by the principal of the school hosting the school-sanctioned event.

Students shall not be compelled to participate in the performance of The Star-Spangled Banner, but students who choose not to participate in the performance of The Star-Spangled Banner shall not disrupt those students choosing to participate in the performance of The Star-Spangled Banner. Students choosing not to participate in the performance of The Star-Spangled Banner who do not disrupt the participation of performance of The Star-Spangled Banner shall not be subject to any comments, retaliation, or disciplinary action.

Parent Engagement

1. Our Plan:

A. The ORSD recognizes that a child's education is a responsibility shared by the school, family, and community at large during the entire time the child spends in school. To support the goal of the schools to educate all students effectively, the schools and parents must work as knowledgeable partners.

B. To encourage communication with parents, ORSD Schools shall prepare informational packets, schedule no less than two (2) parent-teacher conferences per school year, an open house, Parents Involvement Meetings, and plan and engage in other activities determined by the school to be beneficial to encourage communication with parents. Teachers shall establish frequent communication with parents or guardians.

C. To promote and support responsible parenting, a parent resource center with parenting books, magazines, and other informative materials will be available for parents to borrow for review.

D. A parent volunteer survey will be sent home and a volunteer resource book, listing the interests and availability of volunteers, will be made available for school staff members' use.

E. To encourage parents to participate as full partners in the decisions that affect his or her child and family, the school shall sponsor seminars to inform parents of high school students about how to be involved in the decisions affecting course selection, career planning, and preparation for post-secondary opportunities.

2. Our Roles: For your child to succeed we all have to work together. The following is a list of some of our goals. As a parent I shall:

- A. See that my child is punctual and attends school regularly;
- B. Talk positively about the school experience;
- C. Talk positively about teachers, education, and homework;
- D. Show interest in what my child is learning;
- E. Help my child find ways to apply his learning to everyday life;
- F. Avoid comparing my child's grades with others;
- G. Develop realistic expectations for my child;
- H. Provide a quiet place and time for homework;
- I. Go over my child's work with him/her;
- J. Encourage my child to read at home;
- K. Develop a consistent and effective discipline plan;
- L. Support the school's discipline plan.

3. Our Roles: As a teacher I shall:

- A. Provide meaningful homework that reinforces learning;
- B. Communicate and work with parents to support learning;
- C. Encourage my students to succeed and report progress to the parent in a timely manner;
- D. Offer the best possible education to each child to the best of my ability.

4. Our Roles: As a student I shall:

- A. Attend school regularly;
- B. Complete and return homework assignments;
- C. Conform to rules of student conduct;
- D. Respect classmates, all school adults and our school environment;
- E. Read or study at least 20-40 minutes each night depending on my age.

5. Our Roles: As a principal I shall:

- A. Provide an environment that allows for positive communication between all of us;
- B. Encourage teachers to regularly provide assignments that will reinforce classroom instruction;
- C. Provide a safe school environment;
- D. Furnish the classrooms with the needed supplies and equipment;
- E. Be available whenever a parent or student has a concern about our educational process.

Parent-Teacher Communication (3.30)

1. The district recognizes the importance of communication between teachers and parents/legal guardians, to help promote positive communication, parent/teacher conferences shall be held once each

semester. Parent-teacher conferences are encouraged and may be requested by parents or guardians when they feel they need to discuss their child's progress with his/her teacher.

2. Teachers are required to communicate during the school year with the parent(s) or legal guardian(s), or care-giving adult or adults in a student's home to discuss the student's academic progress unless the student has been placed in the custody of the Department of Human Services and the school has received a court order prohibiting parent or legal guardian participation in parent/teacher conferences. More frequent communication is required with the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of students who are performing below grade level.

3. All parent/teacher conferences shall be scheduled at a time and place to best accommodate those participating in the conference. Each teacher shall document the participation or non-participation of parent(s)/legal guardian(s) for each scheduled conference.

4. If a student is to be retained at any grade level or denied course credit, notice of, and the reasons for retention shall be communicated promptly in a personal conference.

Period of Silence (5.10) (A.C.A § 6-10-115)

There shall be one (1) minute of silence at the beginning of each school day. Students may reflect, pray, or engage in a silent activity.

Permanent Records (4.38)

Permanent school records, as required by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), shall be maintained for each student enrolled in the District until the student receives a high school diploma or its equivalent or is beyond the age of compulsory school attendance¹. A copy of the student's permanent record shall be provided to the receiving school district within ten (10) school days after the date a request from the receiving school district is received².

Physical Examinations or Screenings (4.41)

1. The district conducts routine health screenings such as hearing, vision, and scoliosis due to the importance these health factors play in the ability of a student to succeed in school. The intent of the exams or screenings is to detect defects in hearing, vision, or other elements of health that would adversely affect the student's ability to achieve to his/her full potential.

2. The rights provided to parents under this policy transfer to the student when he/she turns 18 years old.

3. Except in instances where a student is suspected of having a contagious or infectious disease, parents shall have the right to opt their student out of the exams or screenings by using form 4.41F or by providing certification from a physician that he/she has recently examined the student. (4.41F—Objection to Physical Examinations or Screenings: This form may be obtained in the principal's office.)

Placement of Multiple Birth Siblings (4.53)

1. The parent, guardian or other person having charge or custody of multiple birth siblings in grades pre-K through 6 may request that the multiple birth siblings are placed in either the same or separate classrooms. The request shall be in writing not later than the 14th calendar day prior to the first day of classes at the beginning of the academic year. The school shall honor the request unless it would require the school to add an additional class to the sibling's grade level. If one parent of multiple birth siblings requests a placement that differs from that of the other parent of the same multiple birth siblings, the school shall determine the appropriate placement of the siblings.

2. The school may change the classroom placement of one or more of the multiple birth siblings if:

A. There have been a minimum of 30 instructional days since the start of the school year; and

B. After consulting with each classroom teacher in which the siblings were placed, the school determines the parent's classroom placement request is:

1. Detrimental to the educational achievement of one or more of the siblings;

2. Disruptive to the siblings' assigned classroom learning environment; or

3. Disruptive to the school's educational or disciplinary environment.

3. If a parent believes the school has not followed the requirements of this policy, the parent may appeal the multiple birth siblings' classroom placement to the Superintendent. The Superintendent's decision regarding the appeal shall be final.

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence (4.46)

The Pledge of Allegiance shall be recited:

1. During the first class period of each school day;

2. At the commencement of each school-sanctioned after-school assembly; and

3. At the commencement of each school-sanctioned sporting event; however, if two (2) or more school-sanctioned sporting events occur on the same day at the same school, then the Pledge may be recited at only one (1) of the school-sanctioned sporting events.

Students choosing to participate in the recitation of the Pledge shall do so by facing the flag with their right hands over their hearts, or in an appropriate salute if in uniform, while reciting the Pledge. Students choosing not to participate shall either stand or sit quietly while the other students recite the Pledge.

Students shall not be compelled to recite the Pledge, but students who choose not to recite the Pledge shall not disrupt those students choosing to recite the Pledge. Students choosing not to recite the Pledge who do not disrupt those students who choose to recite the Pledge shall not be subject to any comments, retaliation, or disciplinary action.

Following the recitation of the Pledge, there shall be an observance of one (1) minute of silence. During the one (1) minute of silence, each student may reflect, pray, meditate, or engage in any other silent activity that is not likely to interfere with or distract another student. Students who do not disrupt the one (1) minute of silence shall not be subject to any comments, retaliation, or disciplinary action.

Possession and use of Electronic Devices

(4.47)

Students are responsible for conducting themselves in a manner that respects the rights of others. Possession and use of any electronic device, whether district or student owned, that interferes with a positive, orderly classroom environment does not respect the rights of others and is expressly forbidden.

To protect the security of statewide assessments, no electronic device, as defined in this policy, shall be accessible by a student at any time during assessment administration unless specifically permitted by a student's individualized education program (IEP) or individual health plan;¹ this means that when a student is taking an AESAA assessment, the student shall not have his/her electronic device in his/her possession. Any student violating this provision shall be subject to this policy's disciplinary provisions. The prohibition in this policy does not extend to the electronic device the District provides the student for the student's use during assessment administration to the extent the student is using the District provided device to complete the assessment.

As used in this policy, "electronic devices" means anything that can be used to transmit or capture images, sound, or data.

Misuse of electronic devices includes, but is not limited to:

1. Using electronic devices during class time in any manner other than specifically permitted by the classroom instructor;
2. Permitting any audible sound to come from the device when not being used for reason #1 above;
3. Engaging in academic dishonesty, including cheating, intentionally plagiarizing, wrongfully giving or receiving help during an academic examination, or wrongfully obtaining test copies or scores;
4. Using the device to record audio or video or to take photographs in areas where a general expectation of personal privacy exists, including but not limited to locker rooms and bathrooms;
5. Creating, sending, sharing, viewing, receiving, or possessing an indecent visual depiction of oneself or another person.

Use of an electronic device is permitted to the extent it is approved in a student's IEP or it is needed in an emergency that threatens the safety of students, staff, or other individuals.

Before and after normal school hours, possession of electronic devices is permitted on the school campus. The use of such devices at school sponsored functions outside the regular school day is permitted to the extent and within the limitations allowed by the event or activity the student is attending.

A parent shall obtain approval from the student's building principal before operating a student-tracking safety device at school or at a school-sponsored event if the device has recording or listen-in capability. The District requires the device's recording and listen-in technology to be disabled while the device is on the campus or at the school-sponsored event because of student privacy concerns. The District prohibits unauthorized audio or visual recordings or transmission of audio or images of other students. The student's parent shall agree in writing to the requirement for the device's recording and listening-in technology to be disabled and that the District may prohibit future use of the device on campus or at a school-sponsored activity if it is determined that the device's recording or listening-in capabilities were used in violation of this policy before the student safety tracking device may be on campus or at a school-sponsored event.

The student and/or the student's parents or guardians expressly assume any risk associated with students owning or possessing electronic devices. Students misusing electronic devices shall have them confiscated. Confiscated devices may be picked up at the school's administration office by the student's parents or guardians.² Students have no right of privacy as to the content contained on any electronic devices that have been confiscated.³ A search of a confiscated device shall meet the reasonable individualized suspicion requirements of Policy 4.32—SEARCH, SEIZURE, AND INTERROGATIONS.

Students who use school issued cell phones and/or computers for non-school purposes, except as permitted by the district's Internet/computer use policy, shall be subject to discipline, up to and including suspension or expulsion. Students are forbidden from using school issued cell phones while driving any vehicle at any time. Violation may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.⁴

No student shall use any wireless communication device for the purposes of browsing the internet; composing or reading emails and text messages; or making or answering phone calls while driving a motor vehicle that is in motion and on school property. Violation may result in disciplinary action up to and including suspension.⁵

Privacy of Students' Records/ Directory Information (4.13)

Except when a court order regarding a student has been presented to the district to the contrary, all students' education records are available for inspection and copying by the parent of his/her student who is under the age of eighteen (18). At the age of eighteen (18), the right to inspect and copy a student's records transfers to the student. A student's parent or the student, if over the age of 18, requesting to review the student's education records will be allowed to do so within no more than forty-five (45) days of the request. The district forwards education records to schools that have requested them and in which the student seeks or intends to enroll, or is already enrolled so long as the disclosure is for purposes related to the student's enrollment or transfer.

The district shall receive written permission before releasing education records to any agency or individual not authorized by law to receive and/or view the education records without prior parental permission. The District shall maintain a record of requests by such agencies or individuals for access to, and each disclosure of, personally identifiable information from the education records of each student. Disclosure of education records is authorized by law to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A personal record kept by a school staff member is not considered an education record if it meets the following tests.

- it is in the sole possession of the individual who made it;
- it is used only as a personal memory aid; and
- information contained in it has never been revealed or made available to any other person, except the maker's temporary substitute.

For the purposes of this policy 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.

For the purposes of this policy 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, contracted duty, or duty of elected office.

In addition to releasing PII to school officials without permission, the District may disclose PII from the education records of students in foster care placement to the student's caseworker or to the caseworker's representative without getting prior consent of the parent (or the student if the student is over eighteen (18)). For the District to release the student's PII without getting permission:

The student must be in foster care;

The individual to whom the PII will be released must have legal access to the student's case plan; and
The Arkansas Department of Human Services, or a sub-agency of the Department, must be legally responsible for the care and protection of the student.

The District discloses PII from an education record to appropriate parties, including parents, in connection with an emergency if knowledge of the information is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other individuals. The superintendent or designee shall determine who will have access to and the responsibility for disclosing information in emergency situations.

When deciding whether to release PII in a health or safety emergency, the District may take into account the totality of the circumstances pertaining to a threat to the health or safety of a student or other individuals. If the District determines that there is an articulable and significant threat to the health or safety of a student or other individuals, it may disclose information from education records to any person whose knowledge of the information is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other individuals.

For purposes of this policy, the Ouachita River School District does not distinguish between a custodial and noncustodial parent, or a non-parent such as a person acting in loco parentis or a foster parent with respect to gaining access to a student's records. Unless a court order restricting such access has been presented to the district to the contrary, the fact of a person's status as parent or guardian, alone, enables that parent or guardian to review and copy his child's records.

If there exists a court order which directs that a parent not have access to a student or his/her records, the parent, guardian, person acting in loco parentis, or an agent of the Department of Human Services must present a file-marked copy of such order to the building principal and the superintendent. The school will make good-faith efforts to act in accordance with such court order, but the failure to do so does not impose legal liability upon the school. The actual responsibility for enforcement of such court orders rests with the parents or guardians, their attorneys and the court which issued the order.

A parent or guardian does not have the right to remove any material from a student's records, but such parent or guardian may challenge the accuracy of a record. The right to challenge the accuracy of a record does not include the right to dispute a grade, disciplinary rulings, disability placements, or other such determinations, which must be done only through the appropriate teacher and/or administrator, the decision of whom is final. A challenge to the accuracy of material contained in a student's file must be initiated with the building principal, with an appeal available to the Superintendent or his/her designee. The challenge shall clearly identify the part of the student's record the parent wants changed and specify why he/she believes it is inaccurate or misleading. If the school determines not to

amend the record as requested, the school will notify the requesting parent or student of the decision and inform them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amending the record. The parent or eligible student will be provided information regarding the hearing procedure when notified of the right to a hearing.

Unless the parent or guardian of a student (or student, if above the age of eighteen [18]) objects, "directory information" about a student may be made available to the public, military recruiters, post-secondary educational institutions, prospective employers of those students, as well as school publications such as annual yearbooks and graduation announcements.⁴ "Directory information" includes, but is not limited to, a student's name, address, telephone number, electronic mail address, photograph, date and place of birth, dates of attendance,⁵ his/her placement on the honor roll (or the receipt of other types of honors), as well as his/her participation in school clubs and extracurricular activities, among others. If the student participates in inherently public activities (for example, basketball, football, or other interscholastic activities), the publication of such information will be beyond the control of the District. "Directory information" also includes a student identification (ID) number, user ID, or other unique personal identifier used by a student for purposes of accessing or communicating in electronic systems and a student ID number or other unique personal identifier that is displayed on a student's ID badge, provided the ID cannot be used to gain access to education records except when used in conjunction with one or more factors that authenticate the user's identity, such as a personal identification number (PIN), password or other factor known or possessed only by the authorized user.

A student's name and photograph will only be displayed on the district or school's web page(s) after receiving the written permission from the student's parent or student if over the age of 18.

The form for objecting to making directory information available is located in the back of the student handbook and must be completed and signed by the parent or age-eligible student and filed with the building principal's office no later than ten (10) school days after the beginning of each school year or the date the student is enrolled for school. Failure to file an objection by that time is considered a specific grant of permission. The district is required to continue to honor any signed-opt out form for any student no longer in attendance at the district.

The right to opt out of the disclosure of directory information under Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) does not prevent the District from disclosing or requiring a student to disclose the student's name, identifier, or institutional email address in a class in which the student is enrolled.

Parents and students over the age of 18 who believe the district has failed to comply with the requirements for the lawful release of student records may file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education (DOE) at

Student Privacy Policy Office

U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202

The District shall ensure that all contracts that disclose or make available student personally identifiable information to vendors, including school service contract providers, school service on-demand providers, and other third parties, including without limitation subcontractors of contract providers, include express provisions that safeguard the privacy and security of student personally identifiable information that meet the requirements under A.C.A. § 6-18-2601 et seq. The District shall maintain a list of the school service contract providers that the District contracts with for school services that include or make available student personally identifiable information. The list shall be updated at least once at the beginning of each semester and provided to parents upon request.

Religion in the Schools (5.10)

1. The First Amendment of the Constitution states that "Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..." As the Supreme Court has stated (*Abington School District v. Schempp*, 374 U.S. 203) the Amendment thus, "embraces two concepts—freedom to believe and freedom to act. The first is absolute but, in the nature of things, the second cannot be." Therefore, it is the Board's policy that the school system, as an agency of the government, shall be neutral in matters regarding religion and will not engage in any activity that either advocates or disparages religion. The District shall assume no role or responsibility for the religious training of any student.

2. The need for neutrality does not diminish our school system's educational responsibility to address the historical role of religion in the development of our culture. Since we live in a diverse society, the District's goal shall be to address the subject of religion objectively in such a way that it promotes an understanding of, and tolerance for, each other's religious or non-religious views.

3. Discussions concerning religious concepts, practices, or disciplines are permissible when presented in a secular context in their relation to an inclusive study of religion or to the study of a particular region or country. The discussions shall be such that they are objective and academically informational and do not advocate nor denigrate any particular form of religious practice.

4. Accommodation will be considered for those portions of instructional activities in the schools that unduly burden a student's sincere religious belief provided such accommodation doesn't amount to a significant change in curriculum, program, or course of instruction and when it is possible that a substitution of equally rigorous

material that advances the same instructional goals can be arranged. Parents and students are advised that such accommodations are easier to grant when the objection is to non-state mandated Framework material than if the material is required by the Frameworks.

5. A student or the student's parent can request the student's teacher accommodate the student's objection based on a religious belief to an instructional activity. Any such request must be made at least 25 school days prior to the assignment's due date. Any objection must be raised in accordance with this policy's requirements or it will not be considered.

6. Upon receiving such a request, the student's teacher shall determine within five (5) work days if an accommodation is possible under the provisions of this policy. If the teacher decides an accommodation

cannot be made or if the student or the student's parent believes the accommodation to be unreasonable, the student or the student's parent may request a conference with the teacher and the teacher's principal. A requested conference will occur at a time of mutual convenience, but no later than five (5) working days following the request. The principal shall have five (5) working days in which to make a decision on the appeal. If the student, the student's parent, or the teacher is unsatisfied with the principal's decision, it may be appealed to the District Superintendent who shall convene a conference between the student, the parent and the teacher. The requested conference will occur at a time of mutual convenience, but no later than five (5) working days following the request. The Superintendent shall have five (5) working days in which to make a decision on the appeal which shall be final with no further right of appeal.

7. The teacher in charge of each classroom may, at the opening of school each day, conduct a brief period of silence with the participation of all students in the classroom who desire to participate*

8. Students and employees may engage in personal religious practices, such as prayer, at any time, and shall do so in a manner and at a time so that the educational process is not disrupted.

Reporting of Grades

1. Report cards will be sent home with students every nine weeks. Report cards will be mailed to the high school students' parents at the end of the school year.

2. If a student has failing grades in any subject, the parents are requested to make an appointment to meet with the teachers involved.

School Closings

During extremely bad weather such as ice or snow, where in the judgment of school administration running buses would be dangerous, the school will make school closing announcements over local radio stations and other appropriate media.

Selection of Library/Media Center Materials (5.7)

1. The ultimate authority for the selection and retention of materials for the schools' media centers rests with the Board of Education which shall serve as a final arbiter in resolving a challenge to any media center materials. Licensed media center personnel shall make the initial selections in consultation with school and district licensed staff. Materials selected shall be in accordance with the guidelines of this policy.

2. The purpose of the schools' libraries/media centers is to supplement and enrich the curriculum and instruction offered by the District. Promoting the dialogue characteristic of a healthy democracy necessitates the maintenance of a broad range of materials and information representing varied points of view on current and historical issues. In the selection of the materials and resources to be available in each library/media center consideration will be given to their age appropriateness. Materials should be available to challenge the different interests, learning styles, and reading levels of the school's students and that will help them attain the District's educational goals.

3. Selection Criteria: The criteria used in the selection of media center materials shall be that the materials:

A. Support and enhance the curricular and educational goals of the district;

B. Are appropriate for the ages, learning styles, interests, and maturity of the schools' students, or parents in the case of parenting literature;

C. Contribute to the examination of issues from varying points of view and help to broaden students understanding of their rights and responsibilities in our society;

D. Help develop critical thinking skills;

E. Are factually and/or historically accurate, in the case of non-fiction works and/or serve a pedagogical purpose;

F. Have literary merit as perceived by the educational community; and

G. Are technically well produced, physically sound (to the extent appropriate), and represent a reasonably sound economic value.

4. Retention and Continuous Evaluation: Media center materials shall be reviewed regularly to ensure the continued appropriateness of the center's collection to the school's curriculum and to maintain the collection in good repair. Those materials no longer meeting the selection criteria, have not been used for a long period of time, or are too worn to be economically repaired shall be withdrawn from the collection and disposed of. A record of withdrawn media materials including the manner of their disposal shall be maintained for a period of three years.

5. Gifts: Gifts to the media centers shall be evaluated to determine their appropriateness before they are placed in any media center. The evaluation shall use the same criteria as for all other materials considered for inclusion in the media centers. Any items determined to be

unacceptable shall be returned to the donor or disposed of at the discretion of the media specialist. The media centers shall have a list of desired items to give to prospective donors to aid them in their selection of materials to donate.

6. Challenges:

A. The parent of a student affected by a media selection, a District employee, or any other resident of the district may formally challenge the appropriateness of a media center selection by following the procedure outlined in this policy. The challenged material shall remain available throughout the challenge process.

B. Before any formal challenge can be filed, the individual contesting (hereinafter complainant) the appropriateness of the specified item shall request a conference through the principal's office with a licensed media center employee. The complainant shall be given a copy of this policy and the Request for Formal Reconsideration Form prior to the conference. The meeting shall take place at the earliest possible time of mutual convenience, but in no case later than five (5) working days from the date of the request unless it is by the choice of the complainant.

C. In the meeting, the media specialist shall explain the selection criteria and how the challenged material fits the criteria. The complainant shall explain his/her reasons for objecting to the selected material. If, at the completion of the meeting, the complainant wishes to make a formal challenge to the selected material, he/she may do so by completing the Request for Formal Reconsideration Form and submitting it to the principal's office.

D. To review the contested media, the principal shall select a committee of five (5) or seven (7) licensed personnel consisting of the principal as chair and at least one media specialist. The remaining committee members shall be personnel with curriculum knowledge appropriate for the material being contested and representative of diverse viewpoints. The task of the committee shall be to determine if the challenged material meets the criteria of selection. No material shall be withdrawn solely for the viewpoints expressed within it and shall be reviewed in its entirety and not selected portions taken out of context. However, the librarian shall have the discretion to remove any item pending a decision by the committee.

E. The principal shall convene a meeting after a reasonable time for the committee members to adequately review the contested material and the Request for Formal Reconsideration Form submitted by the complainant. The complainant shall be allowed to present the complaint to the committee after which time the committee shall meet privately to discuss the material. The committee shall vote by secret ballot to determine whether the contested material shall be removed from the media center's collection. A member from the voting majority shall write a summary of the reasons for their decision. A notice of the committee's decision and the summary shall be given (by hand or certified mail) to the complainant.

F. If the decision is to not remove the material, the complainant may appeal the committee's decision to the district Board of Directors by filing a written appeal to the Superintendent within 5 working days of the committee's decision or of written receipt of the decision. The Superintendent shall present the original complaint and the committee's decision along with the summary of its reasons for its position plus a recommendation of the administration, if so desired, to the Board within 15 days of the committee's decision. The Board shall review the material submitted to them by the Superintendent and make a decision within thirty (30) days of receipt of the information. The Board's decision is final. (5.7F—Request for Reconsideration of Library/Media Center Materials: This form may be obtained in the principal's office.)

Student Acceleration (4.54)

The Board believes that acceleration is an effective and research-based intervention for the academic growth of students who are ready for an advanced or faster-paced curriculum. Acceleration can allow a student to move through the traditional educational setting more rapidly, based on assessed readiness, capability, and motivation. At the same time, the Board understands that acceleration is not a replacement for gifted education services or programs.

Generally, acceleration can occur through one of two broad categories: content based and grade based. Grade based acceleration shortens the number of years a student would otherwise spend in K-12 education, while content based acceleration occurs within the normal K-12 time span. Either form of acceleration can be triggered by either a parent/guardian, student, or community member's request or by the referral of school personnel. In either case, the process of determining the appropriateness of the request shall be under the direction of the district/school¹ Gifted and Talented Program Coordinator. The district/school¹ Gifted and Talented Program Coordinator shall convene the Acceleration Placement Committee² and communicate with the individuals necessary for the Acceleration Placement Committee to make an informed decision, which shall include the student's parents or guardians.³

While the needs of the student should dictate when acceleration decisions are considered, the Board believes the optimal time for referrals is in the spring, which gives adequate time for working through the determination process and for preparing those concerned for a smooth transition to the acceleration beginning in the following school-year.

The District's Gifted and Talented (GT) Program Coordinator¹ will create a written format to govern the referral and determination process, which shall be made available to any parent or staff member upon request.

The parents/guardians of any student whose request for acceleration has been denied may appeal the decision, in writing to the District's GT Coordinator¹. The Districts GT Coordinator¹ and the Acceleration Placement Committee will again thoroughly review the case study that was completed on the student. Upon completion of the review, the Committee will either request additional new testing be conducted to help the Committee make its determination or it will uphold the initial decision. The Committee's decision may not be further appealed.

Student Dress and Grooming (4.25)

The Ouachita River Board of Education recognizes that dress can be a matter of personal taste and preference. At the same time, the District has a responsibility to promote an environment conducive to student learning. This requires limitations to student dress and grooming that could be disruptive to the educational process because they are immodest, disruptive, unsanitary, unsafe, could cause property damage, or are offensive to common standards of decency.

Students are prohibited from wearing, while on the school grounds during the school day and at school-sponsored events, clothing that exposes underwear, buttocks, or the breast of a female. This prohibition does not apply, however to a costume or uniform worn by a student while participating in a school-sponsored activity or event.

A student shall not be disciplined or discriminated against based upon the student's natural, protective, or cultural hairstyle. A student's natural, protective, or cultural hairstyle includes without limitation afros, dreadlocks, twists, locs, braids, cornrow braids, Bantu knots, curls, and hair styled to protect hair texture or for cultural significance.

The Superintendent shall establish student dress codes for the District's schools, to be included in the student handbook, and are consistent with the above criteria.

Student Handbook (4.42)

It shall be the policy of the Ouachita River School District that the most recently adopted version of the Student Handbook be incorporated by reference into the policies of this district. In the event that there is a conflict between the student handbook and a general board policy or policies, the more recently adopted language will be considered binding and controlling on the matter provided the parent(s) of the student, or the student if 18 years of age or older have acknowledged receipt of the controlling language.

Principals shall review all changes to student policies and ensure that such changes are provided to students and parents, either in the Handbook or, if changes are made after the handbook is printed, as an addendum to the handbook.

Principals and counselors shall also review Policies 4.45—SMART CORE CURRICULUM AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS and the current DESE Standards for Accreditation Rules to ensure that there is no conflict. If a conflict exists, the Principal and/or Counselor shall notify the Superintendent and Curriculum Coordinator immediately, so that corrections may be made and notice of the requirements given to students and parents.

Student Illness/Accident (4.36)

1. If a student becomes too ill to remain in class and/or could be contagious to other students, the principal or designee will attempt to notify the student's parent or legal guardian. The student will remain in the school's health room or a place where he/she can be supervised until the end of the school day or until the parent/legal guardian can check the student out of school.
2. If a student becomes seriously ill or is injured while at school and the parent/legal guardian cannot be contacted, the failure to make such contact shall not unreasonably delay the school's expeditious transport of the student to an appropriate medical care facility. The school assumes no responsibility for treatment of the student. When available, current, and applicable, the student's emergency contact numbers and medical information will be utilized. Parents are strongly encouraged to keep this information up to date.

Student Medications (4.35)

Prior to the administration of any medication, including any dietary supplement or other perceived health remedy not regulated by the US Food and Drug Administration, to any student under the age of eighteen (18), written parental consent is required. The consent form shall include authorization to administer the medication and relieve the Board and its employees of civil liability for damages or injuries resulting from the administration of medication to students in accordance with this policy. All signed medication consent forms are to be maintained by the school nurse.

Unless authorized to self-administer or otherwise authorized by this policy, students are not allowed to carry any medications, including over-the-counter (OTC) medications or dietary supplement or other any perceived health remedy not regulated by the US Food and Drug Administration, while at school. The parent or legal guardian will need to bring the student's medication to the school nurse. When medications are brought to the school nurse, the nurse shall document, in the presence of the parent, the quantity of the medication(s). Each person present shall sign a form verifying the quantity of the medication(s).

Medications, including those for self-administration, must be in the original container and be properly labeled with the student's name, the ordering provider's name, the name of the medication, the dosage, frequency, and instructions for the administration of the medication (including times). Additional information accompanying the medication shall state the

purpose for the medication, its possible side effects, and any other pertinent instructions (such as special storage requirements) or warnings. Schedule II medications that are permitted by this policy to be brought to school shall be stored in a double locked cabinet.

Students with an individualized health plan (IHP) may be given OTC medications to the extent giving such medications are included in the student's IHP.

The district's supervising registered nurse is responsible for creating procedures for the administration of medications on and off campus.

The school shall not keep outdated medications or any medications past the end of the school year. Parents shall be notified ten (10) days in advance of the school's intention to dispose of any medication. Medications not picked up by the parents or legal guardians within the ten (10) day period shall be disposed of by the school nurse in accordance with current law and rules.¹

Schedule II Medications²

Option 2: Students taking Schedule II medications methylphenidate (e.g. Ritalin or closely related medications as determined by the school nurse), dextroamphetamine (Dexedrine), and amphetamine sulfate (e.g. Adderall or closely related medications as determined by the school nurse) shall be allowed to attend school.

Students taking Schedule II medications not included in the previous sentence³ shall be allowed to bring them to school under the provisions of this policy and shall be permitted to attend and participate in classes **only** to the extent the student's doctor has specifically authorized such attendance and participation.⁵ A doctor's prescription for a student's Schedule II medication is **not** an authorization. Attendance authorization shall specifically state the degree and potential danger of physical exertion the student is permitted to undertake in the student's classes and extracurricular activities. Without a doctor's written authorization, a student taking Schedule II medications, other than those specifically authorized in this policy, shall **not** be eligible to attend classes, but shall be eligible for homebound instruction if provided for in their IEP or 504 plans.⁴

Self-Administration of Medication

Students who have written permission from their parent or guardian and a licensed health care practitioner on file with the District may:

- 1) Self-administer either a rescue inhaler or auto-injectable epinephrine;
- 2) Perform his/her own blood glucose checks;
- 3) Administer insulin through the insulin delivery system the student uses;

- 4) Treat the student's own hypoglycemia and hyperglycemia; or
- 5) Possess on his or her person:
 - a) A rescue inhaler or auto-injectable epinephrine; or
 - b) the necessary supplies and equipment to perform his/her own diabetes monitoring and treatment functions.

A student may be authorized to self-administer a stress dose medication to treat the student's adrenal insufficiency with:

1. The written authorization of the student's parent, legal guardian, or person standing in loco parentis; and
2. A written order from the student's treating physician stating that the student:
 - a. Is capable of completing the proper method of self-administration of the stress dose medication; and
 - b. Has been instructed on the details of the student's medical condition and the events that may lead to an adrenal crisis.

The parent, legal guardian, or person standing in loco parentis of a student who is authorized to self-administer a stress dose medication shall sign an IHP developed by the school nurse for the school where the student is enrolled. The IHP shall include a requirement for the notification of appropriate staff following the self-administration of a stress dose medication, which shall include the school nurse, teacher of the classroom where the stress dose medication was administered, and a school administrator.

Students who have a current consent form on file shall be allowed to carry and self-administer such medication while:

- In school;
- At an on-site school sponsored activity;
- While traveling to or from school; or
- At an off-site school sponsored activity.

A student is prohibited from sharing, transferring, or in any way diverting his/her medications to any other person. The fact that a student with a completed consent form on file is allowed to carry a rescue inhaler, auto-injectable epinephrine, diabetes medication, stress dose medication, or combination does not require the student to have such on the student's person. The parent or guardian of a student who qualifies under this policy to self-carry a rescue inhaler, auto-injectable epinephrine, diabetes medication, stress dose medication, or any combination on the student's person shall provide the school with the appropriate medication, which shall be immediately available to the student in an emergency.

Students may possess and use a topical sunscreen that is approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for OTC use to avoid overexposure to the sun without written authorization from a parent, legal guardian, or healthcare professional while the student is on school property or at a school-related event or activity. The parent or guardian of a student may provide

written documentation authorizing specifically named District employee(s), in addition to the school nurse, to assist a student in the application of sunscreen. The District employee(s) named in the parent or legal guardian's written authorization shall not be required to assist the student in the application of sunscreen.

Emergency Administration of Glucagon and Insulin

Students may be administered Glucagon, insulin, or both in emergency situations by the school nurse or, in the absence of the school nurse, a trained volunteer school employee designated as a care provider, provided the student has:

1. an IHP that provides for the administration of Glucagon, insulin, or both in emergency situations; and
2. a current, valid consent form on file from their parent or guardian.

When the nurse is unavailable, the trained volunteer school employee who is responsible for a student shall be released from other duties during:

- A. The time scheduled for a dose of insulin in the student's IHP; and
- B. Glucagon or non-scheduled insulin administration once other staff have relieved him/her from other duties until a parent, guardian, other responsible adult, or medical personnel has arrived.

A student shall have access to a private area to perform diabetes monitoring and treatment functions as outlined in the student's IHP.

Emergency Administration of Epinephrine

The school nurse or other school employees designated by the school nurse as a care provider who have been trained⁶ and certified by a licensed physician may administer an epinephrine auto-injector in emergency situations to students who have an IHP that provides for the administration of an epinephrine auto-injector in emergency situations.

The parent of a student who has an authorizing IHP, or the student if over the age of eighteen (18), shall annually complete and sign a written consent form provided by the student's school nurse authorizing the nurse or other school employee(s) certified to administer auto-injector epinephrine to administer auto-injector epinephrine to the student when the employee believes the student is having a life-threatening anaphylactic reaction.

Students with an order from a licensed health care provider to self-administer auto-injectable epinephrine and who have written permission from their parent or guardian shall provide the school nurse an epinephrine auto-injector. This epinephrine will be used in the event the school nurse, or other school employee certified to administer auto-injector epinephrine, in good faith

professionally believes the student is having a life-threatening anaphylactic reaction and the student is either not self-carrying his/her /epinephrine auto-injector or the nurse is unable to locate it.

Emergency Administration of Albuterol

The school nurse or other school employees designated by the school nurse as a care provider who have been trained⁶ and certified by a licensed physician, advanced practice registered nurse, or physician assistant may administer albuterol in emergency situations to students who have an IHP that provides for the administration of albuterol in emergency situations.

The parent of a student who has an authorizing IHP, or the student if over the age of eighteen (18), shall annually complete and sign a written consent form provided by the student's school nurse authorizing the nurse or other school employee(s) certified to administer albuterol to administer albuterol to the student when the employee believes the student is in perceived respiratory distress.

The school nurse for each District school shall keep albuterol on hand. The school nurse or other school employee designated by the school nurse as a care provider who has been trained⁶ and certified by a licensed physician, advanced practice registered nurse, or physician assistant may administer albuterol to those students who the school nurse, or other school employee certified to administer albuterol, in good faith professionally believes is in perceived respiratory distress.

Emergency Administration of Anti-opioid

The school nurse for each District school shall keep anti-opioid injectors on hand and the school nurse and school resource officer shall possess an anti-opioid at all times when on duty. The school nurse, other school employee, volunteer, or student may administer anti-opioid in accordance with the District's procedures to a student who the school nurse, or other observer, in good faith believes is having an opioid overdose.

An opioid overdose rescue kit shall be placed within all storage locations in the District high school buildings that currently contain an automated external defibrillator for public use. The opioid overdose rescue kits shall be located where it is readily available to the public, be visually free of advertisement, and contain an anti-opioid.

Emergency Administration of Emergency Adrenal Insufficiency Medication

The school nurse or other school employees designated by the school nurse as a care provider who have been trained⁶

and certified by a licensed physician may administer an injectable emergency dose medication in emergency situations to students who have an IHP that provides for the administration of an injectable emergency dose medication in emergency situations.

The parent of a student who has an authorizing IHP, or the student if over the age of eighteen (18), shall annually complete and sign a written consent form provided by the student's school nurse authorizing the nurse or other school employee(s) certified to administer an injectable emergency dose medication to administer an injectable emergency dose medication to the student when the employee believes the student is having an adrenal crisis due to adrenal insufficiency.

Students who have met the requirements to be authorized to self-administer a stress dose medication under this policy shall provide the school nurse an emergency injectable dose of the student's medication. This emergency injectable dose will be used in the event the school nurse, or other school employee certified to administer an injectable emergency dose medication, in good faith professionally believes the student is having an adrenal crisis due to adrenal insufficiency.

Seizure Disorder Medications

Students who have been diagnosed with a seizure disorder shall have a seizure action plan that shall be a written IHP designed to acknowledge and prepare for the healthcare needs of the student. The student's seizure action plan shall be created in collaboration between District staff and the student's Parents, legal guardians, persons having lawful control of the student, or persons acting in loco parentis or the student if over eighteen (18). As part of the creation of the student's seizure action plan, the student's Parents, legal guardians, persons having lawful control of the student, or persons acting in loco parentis shall:

1. Provide the school with written authorization to administer the seizure medication at school;
2. Provide a written statement from the student's healthcare provider that shall contain the following information:
 - The student's name;
 - The name and purpose of the medication;
 - The prescribed dosage;
 - The route of administration;
 - The frequency that the medication should be administered; and
 - The circumstances under which the medication should be administered;
3. Provide the prescribed medication to the school in its unopened, sealed package with the label affixed by the dispensing pharmacy intact, which shall be stored in a safe and secure location accessible only by District personnel or volunteers with training to administer seizure medication.

The written authorization, written statement, and seizure action plan shall be kept on file in the office of the school nurse or school administrator and distributed to any school personnel or volunteers responsible for the supervision or care of the student.

Immunizations (4.57)

Definitions

"In process" means the student has received at least one dose of the required immunizations and is waiting the minimum time interval to receive the additional dose(s).

"Serologic testing" refers to a medical procedure used to determine an individual's immunity to Hepatitis B, Measles, Mumps, Rubella and Varicella.

General Requirements

Unless otherwise provided by law or this policy, no student shall be admitted to attend classes in the District who has not been age appropriately immunized against¹:

- Poliomyelitis;
- Diphtheria;
- Tetanus;
- Pertussis;
- Red (rubella) measles;
- Rubella;
- Mumps;
- Hepatitis A;
- Hepatitis B;
- Meningococcal disease;
- Varicella (chickenpox); and
- Any other immunization required by the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH).

The District administration has the responsibility to evaluate the immunization status of District students. The District shall maintain a list of all students who are not fully age appropriately immunized or who have an exemption provided by ADH to the immunization requirements based on medical, religious, or philosophical grounds. Students who are not fully age appropriately immunized when seeking admittance shall be referred to a medical authority for consultation.

The only types of proof of immunization the District will accept are immunization records provided by a:

- A. Licensed physician;
- B. Health department;
- C. Military service;
- D. Official record from another educational institution in Arkansas; or
- E. An immunization record printed off of the statewide immunization registry with the Official Seal of the State of Arkansas.

The proof of immunization must include the vaccine type and dates of vaccine administration. Documents stating "up-to-date", "complete", "adequate", and the like will not be accepted as proof of immunization. No self or parental history of varicella disease will be accepted as a history of varicella disease must be documented by a licensed physician, advanced practice nurse, doctor of

osteopathy, or physician assistant. Valid proof of immunization and of immunity based on serological testing shall be entered into the student's record.

In order to continue attending classes in the District, the student must have submitted:

- 1) Proof of immunization showing the student to be fully age appropriately vaccinated;
- 2) Written documentation by a public health nurse or private physician of proof the student is in process of being age appropriately immunized, which includes a schedule of the student's next immunization;
- 3) A copy of a letter from ADH indicating immunity based on serologic testing; and/or
- 4) A copy of the letter from ADH exempting the student from the immunization requirements for the current school year, or a copy of the application for an exemption for the current school year if the exemption letter has not yet arrived.

Students whose immunization records or serology results are lost or unavailable are required to receive all age appropriate vaccinations or submit number 4 above.

Temporary Admittance

While students who are not fully age appropriately immunized or have not yet submitted an immunization waiver may be enrolled to attend school, such students shall be allowed to attend school on a temporary basis only. Students admitted on a temporary basis may be admitted for a maximum of thirty (30) days (or until October 1st of the current school year for the tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis, and meningococcal vaccinations required at ages eleven (11) and sixteen (16) respectively if October 1st is later in the current school year than the thirty (30) days following the student's admittance). No student shall be withdrawn and readmitted in order to extend the thirty (30) day period. Students may be allowed to continue attending beyond the thirty (30) day period if the student submits a copy of either number 2 or number 4 above.

Students who are in process shall be required to adhere to the submitted schedule. Failure of the student to submit written documentation from a public health nurse or private physician demonstrating the student received the vaccinations set forth in the schedule may lead to the revocation of the student's temporary admittance; such students shall be excluded from school until the documentation is provided.

The District will not accept copies of applications requesting an exemption for the current school year that are older than two (2) weeks based on the date on the application. Students who submit a copy of an application to receive an exemption from the immunization requirements for the current year to gain temporary admittance have thirty (30) days from the

admission date to submit either a letter from ADH granting the exemption or documentation demonstrating the student is in process and a copy of the immunization schedule. Failure to submit the necessary documentation by the close of the thirty (30) days will result in the student being excluded until the documentation is submitted.

Exclusion from School

In the event of an outbreak, students who are not fully age appropriately immunized, are in process, or are exempt from the immunization requirements may be required to be excluded from school in order to protect the student. ADH shall determine if it is necessary for students to be excluded in the event of an outbreak. Students may be excluded for no fewer than twenty-one (21) days or even longer depending on the outbreak. No student excluded due to an outbreak shall be allowed to return to school until the District receives approval from ADH.

Students who are excluded from school are not eligible to receive homebound instruction unless the excluded student had a pre-existing IEP or 504 Plan and the IEP/504 team determines homebound instruction to be in the best interest of the student. To the extent possible, the student's teacher(s) shall place in the principal's office a copy of the student's assignments:

- for the remainder of the week by the end of the initial school day of the student's exclusion; and
- by the end of each school's calendar week for the upcoming week until the student returns to school.²

It is the responsibility of the student or the student's parent/legal guardian to make sure that the student's assignments are collected.

Students excluded from school shall have five (5) school days from the day the student returns to school to submit any homework and to make up any examinations. State mandated assessments are not included in "examinations" and the District has no control over administering state mandated make-up assessments outside of the state's schedule. Students shall receive a grade of zero for any assignment or examination not completed or submitted on time.³

Annually by December 1, the District shall create, maintain, and post to the District's website a report that includes the following for each disease requiring an immunization under this policy:

- The number of students in the District that were granted an exemption by the Department of Health from an immunization;
- The percentage of students in the District that were granted an exemption by the Department of Health from an immunization;
- The number of students within the District who have failed to provide to the public school proof of

the vaccinations required and have not obtained an exemption from ADH;

- The percentage of students within the District who have failed to provide to the public school proof of the vaccinations required and have not obtained an exemption from ADH; and

The percentage of a population that must receive an immunization for herd immunity to exist.

Student Organizations/Equal Access (4.12)

1. Non-curriculum related secondary school student organizations wishing to conduct meetings on school premises during non-instructional time shall not be denied equal access on the basis of the religious, political, philosophical, or other content of the speech at such meetings. Such meetings must meet the following criteria.

A. The meeting is to be voluntary and student initiated;

B. There is no sponsorship of the meeting by the school, the government, or its agents or employees;

C. The meeting must occur during non-instructional time;

D. Employees or agents of the school are present at religious meetings only in a non-participatory capacity;

E. The meeting does not materially and substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of educational activities within the school; and

F. Non-school persons may not direct, conduct, control, or regularly attend activities of student groups.

2. All meetings held on school premises must be scheduled and approved by the principal. The school, its agents, and employees retain the authority to maintain order and discipline, to protect the well-being of students and faculty, and to assure that attendance of students at meetings is voluntary.

3. Fraternities, sororities, and secret societies are forbidden in the District's schools. Membership to student organizations shall not be by a vote of the organization's members, nor be restricted by the student's race, religion, sex, national origin, or other arbitrary criteria. Hazing, as defined by law, is forbidden in connection with initiation into, or affiliation with, any student organization, extracurricular activity or sport program.

Student Participation in Surveys (5.24)

1. No student shall be required to submit to a survey, analysis, or evaluation which is administered or distributed by a school, and is funded in whole or in part by any program administered by the U.S. Department of Education without the prior written consent of the parent/guardian that reveals information concerning the following:

- A. political affiliations;
- B. mental and psychological problems potentially embarrassing to the student or his family;
- C. sex behavior and attitudes;
- D. illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, and

demeaning behavior;

E. critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships;

F. legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers;

G. religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or student's parent;

H. or income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program).

2. No surveys shall be administered without the prior approval of the school principal. Any survey created by a third party, or funded, in whole or in part, as part of any US Department of Education administered program, containing one or more of the eight categories listed above shall be available to be inspected by a student's parent/guardian before the survey is administered or distributed by a school to a student. Parents/guardians shall have the right to deny permission for their child to participate in the taking of the survey. The school shall not penalize students whose parents/guardians exercise this option. The school shall take reasonable precautions to protect students' privacy during their participation in the administration of any survey, analysis, or evaluation containing one or more of the eight categories listed above.

3. Parents or guardians wishing to inspect a survey, analysis, or evaluation shall be able to do so in the administrative office of the administering school where the surveys shall be available for inspection for a period of ten (10) days (regular school days when school is in session) after the notice of intent to administer the survey is sent. Included in the notice shall be information regarding how the survey or questionnaire will be administered; how it will be utilized; and the persons or entities that will have access to the results of the completed survey or questionnaire. Parents may refuse to allow their student to participate before or after reviewing the survey or questionnaire.

4. The requirements of sections one, two, and three of this policy do not apply to a survey administered to a student in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

5. Prior written parental permission is required before any survey or questionnaire (not including tests mandated by state or Federal law or regulation and standardized scholastic achievement tests) is administered to a student the responses to which are to be provided to a person or entity other than another public school, school district, or any branch of the Federal Government and which requests or requires a student to provide any of the eight (8) categories of information listed above and/or the following:

- A. A student's name;
- B. The name of the student's parent or member of the student's family;
- C. The address, telephone number, or email address of a student or a member of a student's family;
- D. A personal identification number, such as a social

security number, driver's license number, or student identification number of a student or a member of the student's family;

E. Any information, the disclosure of which is regulated, or prohibited by any other state or federal law or regulation.

6. The rights provided to parents under this policy transfer to the student when he/she turns 18 years old. (5.24F1—Objection to Participation in Surveys, Analysis, or Evaluations and 5.24F2---Permission to participate in a Survey, Analysis, or Evaluation: These form may be obtained in the principal's office.)

Student Media and the Distribution of Literature

(4.14) Student Media

The Superintendent and the student media advisors(s)¹ shall jointly develop administrative regulations for the implementation of this policy. The regulations shall include definitions of terms and the time(s), place(s), and manner(s) of the dissemination of student media, which shall include timelines for the review of materials.

Definitions

"School-sponsored media" means all student media that are:

- Supported financially by the school;
- Supported by the use of school facilities; or
- Produced in conjunction with a class.

"Student journalist" means a student who gathers, writes, edits, photographs, records, video tapes, or prepares information for dissemination in student media.

"Student media" means any means of communication that are:²

- Prepared, substantially written, published, or broadcasted by a student;
- Distributed or generally made available, either free of charge or for a fee, to members of the student body; and
- Prepared under the direction of a student media advisor.

"Student media" does not include media that is intended for distribution or transmission solely in the classroom in which it is produced.

"Student media advisor" means an individual who is employed, appointed, or designated by the District to supervise or provide instruction with respect to student media.

Student Media

While the District recognizes a student's right of expression under the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States, school-sponsored media does not provide an open public forum for public

expression. Student media, as well as the content of student expression in school-sponsored activities, shall be subject to the editorial review of the District's administration, whose actions shall be reasonably related to legitimate pedagogical concerns and adhere to the following limitations:

1. Advertising may be accepted for media that does not condone or promote products that are inappropriate for the age and maturity of the audience or that endorses such things as tobacco, alcohol, or drugs.
2. Media may be regulated to prohibit communications determined by the appropriate teacher, student media advisor, and/or administrator to be ungrammatical; poorly written; inadequately researched; biased or prejudiced; vulgar or profane; or unsuitable for immature audiences.
3. Media may be regulated to prohibit the dissemination of material that may reasonably be perceived to advocate drug or alcohol use; irresponsible sex; conduct that is otherwise inconsistent with the shared values of a civilized social order; or to associate the school with any position other than neutrality on matters of political controversy.
4. Prohibited media includes those that:
 - a. Are obscene as to minors;
 - b. Are libelous or slanderous, including material containing defamatory falsehoods about public figures or governmental officials, and made with knowledge of their falsity or a reckless disregard of the truth;
 - c. Constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy as defined by state law;
 - d. Suggest or urge the commission of unlawful acts on the school premises;
 - e. Suggest or urge the violation of lawful school regulations;
 - f. Scurrilously attacks ethnic, religious, or racial groups; or
 - g. Harass, threaten, or intimidate a student.

Student Media on School Web Pages

Student media displayed on school web pages shall follow the same guidelines as listed above and shall also:

1. Not contain any non-educational advertisements;
2. Adhere to the restrictions regarding use of Directory Information as prescribed in Policy 4.13 including not using a student's photograph when associated with the student's name unless written permission has been received from the student's parent or student if over the age of eighteen (18);
3. State that the views expressed are not necessarily those of the School Board or the employees of the district.

Student Distribution of Non-school Literature, Publications, and Materials

A student or group of students who distribute ten (10) or fewer copies of the same non-school-sponsored literature, publications, or materials shall do so in a time, place, and manner that does not cause a substantial disruption of the orderly education environment. A student or group of students wishing to distribute more than ten (10) copies of non-school-sponsored materials³ shall have school authorities⁴ review their non-school-sponsored materials at least three (3) school days⁴ in advance of their desired time of dissemination. School authorities shall review the non-school-sponsored materials, prior to their distribution and will bar from distribution those non-school-sponsored materials that are obscene, libelous, pervasively indecent, or advertise unlawful products or services. Material may also be barred from distribution if there is evidence that reasonably supports a forecast that a substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school or educational environment will likely result from the distribution.⁶ Concerns related to any denial of distribution by the principal shall be heard by the superintendent, whose decision shall be final.

The school principal or designee shall establish reasonable regulations governing the time, place, and manner of student distribution of non-school-sponsored materials. The regulations shall:

1. Be narrowly drawn to promote orderly administration of school activities by preventing disruption and may not be designed to stifle expression;
2. Be uniformly applied to all forms of non-school-sponsored materials;
3. Allow no interference with classes or school activities;
4. Specify times, places, and manner where distribution may and may not occur⁷; and
5. Not inhibit a person's right to accept or reject any literature distributed in accordance with the regulations.⁸

Students shall be responsible for the removal of excess literature that is left at the distribution point for more than 3 days.⁹

Student Name, Title, or Pronoun

(4.62)

A District employee shall not address a student with a:

1. Name other than that listed on the student's birth certificate, except for a derivative of the name; or
2. Pronoun or title that is inconsistent with the student's biological sex.

A student shall not be subject to discipline for declining to address a person using a:

- a. Name other than that listed on the student's birth certificate, except for a derivative of the name; or
- b. Pronoun or title that is inconsistent with the person's biological sex.

Student Religious Expression

(4.63)

The Ouachita River School District Board of Directors does not allow the discrimination against a student based on a student's voluntary religious expression, if any. At the same time, the District shall provide a process to eliminate any actual or perceived sponsorship or attribution to the District of a student's public voluntary expression of a religious viewpoint, if any.

Student Assignments

Student assignments include, but are not limited to:

- Homework;
- Classwork;
- Artwork; and
- Other written or oral assignments.

A student may express the student's religious viewpoint, if any, in the student's assignments without discrimination based on the religious content, if any. A student's assignments shall:

1. Be graded and judged:
 - By ordinary academic standards of substance and relevance; and
 - Against other conventional, pedagogical topics as identified by the District curriculum; and
2. Not be penalized or rewarded based on the religious content, if any, of the student's assignments.

Student Presenters

A student's expression of a religious viewpoint, if any, on an otherwise permissible subject shall not be excluded from a forum, whether oral or in writing, where students are allowed to speak.

The District has the right to restrict student speech that is inappropriate in the school setting by being obscene, vulgar, offensively lewd, or indecent.

Review of written student forums shall be handled in accordance with Policy 4.14—STUDENT MEDIA AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF LITERATURE.

If the forum is a scheduled event with designated student speakers, the building principal shall have an opportunity to review pre-written remarks prior to the student's presentation at the scheduled forum. The principal may require the student to amend the student's remarks to the extent necessary to address any portions that are determined to be inappropriate. A student's refusal to amend the remarks that were determined to be inappropriate may be prohibited from participation in the forum. A student who diverts from the approved pre-written remarks during a speech in such a manner that is determined to be inappropriate by the building principal or another present District staff member may be asked to return to the approved remarks. If a student refuses to return to the approved remarks or continues to divert from the approved remarks in a manner that is determined to be

inappropriate may be escorted from the forum and disciplined in accordance with the District's Student Code of Conduct.

If the timing or format of the forum does not provide for pre-written remarks to be reviewed, then the building principal or other District staff shall have the authority to address a student whose remarks are determined to be inappropriate. The building principal or District staff member shall initially ask the student to cease the inappropriate remarks. If the student refuses or makes additional inappropriate remarks after being directed to cease such remarks, Then the building principal or District staff member may escort the student from the forum and the student may be disciplined in accordance with the District's Student Code of Conduct

There shall be a disclaimer that a student speaker's speech does not reflect the endorsement, sponsorship, position, or expression of the District. The disclaimer shall be provided at all forums where students speak and at all graduation ceremonies. The disclaimer shall be provided orally or in writing as most appropriately fits the format of the forum.

Information on how to participate in a student forum shall be provided to all students.¹

In addition to the salutatorian and valedictorian selection process in Policy 5.17—HONOR ROLL AND HONOR GRADUATES, the following students may speak during the District's graduation ceremony:²

Student Use of Multiple Occupancy Room (4.61)

Definitions

"Multiple occupancy room" means an area in a District building that is designed or designated to be used by one (1) or more individuals at the same time and in which one (1) or more individuals may be in various stages of undress in the presence of other individuals, which includes, without limitation, a restroom, locker room, changing room, or shower room.

"Sex" means the physical condition of being male or female based on genetics and physiology, which may be demonstrated by the sex identified on a student's original birth certificate.

Each multiple occupancy room in a District building shall be designated as either male or female. Except as permitted by this policy, a student shall not enter a multiple occupancy room that does not correspond to the student's sex.

An individual who is unwilling or unable to use a multiple occupancy room designated for the individual's sex shall be granted a reasonable accommodation, which may include, without limitation, access to a single-occupancy restroom or changing area. A reasonable accommodation shall not include

access to a restroom or changing area that is designated for use by members of the opposite sex to an individual while members of the opposite sex of the individual are present or may be present in the restroom or changing area.

The prohibitions in this policy do not apply to an individual who enters a multiple occupancy room designated for use by the opposite sex when the individual enters for any of the following reasons:

- custodial, maintenance, or inspection purposes;
- To render emergency medical assistance;
- To address an ongoing emergency, including without limitation a physical altercation;
- To accommodate individuals protected under the Americans with Disabilities Act; or
- To assist young children who are in need of physical assistance when using a restroom or changing facility that is located in the District.

Student Vehicles (4.33)

1. Students who have presented a valid driver's license and proof of insurance to the appropriate office personnel, may drive their vehicle to school. Vehicles driven to school shall be parked in the area designated for student parking. Parking on school property is a privilege which may be denied to a student for any disciplinary violation, at the discretion of the student's building principal.

2. Students are not permitted to loiter in parking areas and are not to return to their vehicles during the school day for any reason unless given permission to do so by school personnel.

3. It is understood that there is no expectation of privacy in vehicles in parking areas. Drivers of vehicles parked on a school campus will be held accountable for illegal substances or any other item prohibited by District policy found in their vehicle. The act of a student parking a vehicle on campus is a grant of permission for school or law enforcement authorities to search that vehicle.

Student Visitors (4.16)

The board strongly believes that the purpose of school is for learning. Social visitors, generally, disrupt the classroom and interfere with learning that should be taking place. Therefore, visiting with students at school is strongly discouraged, unless approved by the principal and scheduled in advance. This includes visits made by former students, friends, and/or relatives of teachers or students. Any visitation to the classroom shall be allowed only with the permission of the school principal and all visitors must first register at the office.

Use of Copyrighted Materials (5.8)

1. The Board of Education encourages the enrichment of the instructional program through the proper use of supplementary materials. To help ensure the appropriate use of copyrighted materials, the Superintendent, or his

designee, will provide district personnel with information regarding the “fair use” doctrine of the U.S. Copyright Code as detailed in the “Agreement on Guidelines for Classroom Copying in Not-for-Profit Educational Institutions with Respect to Books and Periodicals” and “Guidelines for Educational Uses of Music.”

2. The District will not be responsible for any employee violations of the use of copyrighted materials.

Video Surveillance and Other Student Monitoring (4.48)

1. The Board has a responsibility to maintain discipline, protect the safety, security, and welfare of its students, staff, and visitors while at the same time safeguarding district facilities, vehicles, and equipment. As part of fulfilling this responsibility, the board authorizes the use of video/audio surveillance cameras, automatic identification technology, data compilation devices, and technology capable of tracking the physical location of district equipment, students, and/or personnel. The placement of video/audio surveillance cameras shall be based on the presumption and belief that students, staff and visitors have no reasonable expectation of privacy anywhere on or near school property, facilities, vehicles, or equipment, with the exception of places such as rest rooms or dressing areas where an expectation of bodily privacy is reasonable and customary.

2. Signs shall be posted on campus buildings and in district vehicles to notify students, staff, and visitors that video cameras may be in use. Parents and students shall also be notified through the student handbook that cameras may be in use in school buildings, on school grounds and in school vehicles. Students will be held responsible for any violations of school discipline rules caught by the cameras and other technologies authorized in this policy.

3. The district shall retain copies of video recordings until they are erased which may be accomplished by either deletion or copying over with a new recording. Other than video recordings being retained under the provisions of this policy’s following paragraph, the district’s video recordings may be erased any time greater than two weeks after they were created.

4. Videos, automatic identification, or data compilations containing evidence of a violation of student conduct rules and/or state or federal law shall be retained until the issue of the misconduct is no longer subject to review or appeal as determined by board policy or student handbook; any release or viewing of such records shall be in accordance with current law.

5. Students who vandalize, damage, disable, or render inoperable (temporarily or permanently) surveillance cameras and equipment, automatic identification, or data compilation devices shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action and referral to appropriate law enforcement authorities.

Web Site Privacy Policy (5.20.1)

1. The Ouachita River School District operates and

maintains a web site for the purpose of informing the citizens of the district about its activities. The web site does not use “cookies” or ISP addresses to collect or retain personally identifying information about visitors to its web site nor is any such information given to “third parties.” Any data collected is used solely for the purpose of monitoring site activity to help the district improve the usefulness of the site to its visitors.

2. The site serves no commercial purpose and does not collect any information from individuals for such purpose.

3. Photographs of students shall not be displayed on any page of the district’s web site without the prior written consent of the parent (or the student if 18 or older).

4. The site provides for email communication between the District and individuals for the purpose of exchanging information regarding the District and its activities or between teachers and their students. The site may also provide for password protected communication between the District and its staff.

ACADEMICS

Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and ADE Approved Honor Courses (5.21)

Students in grades 7-12 who take advanced placement (AP) courses; International Baccalaureate (IB) courses; honors or concurrent credit college courses;¹ or other courses approved for weighted credit by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) or the Division of Career and Technical Education (DCTE) shall be graded according to the following schedule:

A = 100 – 90
B = 89 – 80
C = 79 – 70
D = 69 – 60
F = 59 and below

For the purpose of determining grade point averages, the numeric value of each letter grade shall be:

A = 5 points
B = 4 points
C = 3 points
D = 2 point
F = 0 points

For a student to be eligible to receive weighted credit for an AP, or IB course:

- The course must be taught by an Arkansas licensed teacher who has received the appropriate training required by Arkansas statute and DESE Rule or, for an AP teacher, is in the process of completing an Additional Training Plan; and
- The student takes the applicable AP or IB examination after completing the entire course. Credit shall be given for each grading period during the course of the

year, but shall be retroactively removed from a student's grade for any course in which the student fails to take the applicable exam. Students who do not take the applicable exam shall receive the same numeric value for the grade he/she receives in the course as if it were a non-AP or IB course.²

"Honors Courses" are those courses that have been approved by DESE as honors courses. Honors courses must stress higher order learning and be offered in addition to curriculum offerings required by the Standards for Accreditation.

For career and technical education courses taken after July 1, 2023, career and technical courses that are eligible for weighted credit are those career and technical education courses that are approved by DCTE to exceed the curriculum standards for a non-weighted class and lead to an approved industry-recognized certification. A student shall receive weighted credit for each approved career and technical education course upon the student:

- Completing the relevant career and technical pathway; and
- Earning the high-value industry credential aligned with the career and technical pathway.

Students who transfer into the district will be given weighted credit for the AP courses; IB courses; honors or concurrent credit college courses;¹ and other courses approved by DESE and DCTE for weighted credit that were taken for weighted credit at his/her previous school(s) according to the preceding scale.

Arkansas Course Choice Program

(5.19)

District students are eligible to take courses through the Arkansas Course Choice Program (ACCP) if the student is:

- Seeking to take a course not offered by the District; or
- Attending a District school that received a school letter grade of C, D, or F.¹

The ACCP course catalog shall be made available to all students during student course selection.² The District shall not actively discourage, intimidate, or threaten a student during course selection to not take a course through the ACCP.

A student attending courses through the ACCP shall enroll in at least one (1) course at the District, which may be either in person or a digital course offered by the District.

A District student attending courses through the ACCP is entitled to the following services as if the student were attending courses at the District:

1. Required assessments, including without limitation:
 - a. Statewide assessments;
 - b. Advanced Placement; and
 - c. International Baccalaureate,
2. Participation in extracurricular or co-curricular activities; and
3. Special education services pursuant to the student's individualized education program.

Credits earned through the ACCP shall appear on a student's official transcript and count fully towards the student's graduation requirements.

Computer Science Course Prerequisites and Progression

(5.16)

Traditional Progression

A student who has not previously received a computer science credit may elect to take an introductory level computer science course. A student who passes a computer science course level is eligible to take the next level computer science course in the same computer science course emphasis.

Alternative Progression

A student who does not have credit for any computer science course, the introductory level computer science course, for the particular computer science emphasis, or the preceding level course for the computer science emphasis may be placed in a computer science course based on any combination of the following factors:¹

- The student's grade point average;
- Recommendation from the student's teacher(s);
- Completion of computer science internships or independent studies;
- Demonstration of previous computer science work by the student; or
- Proficiency report from a computer science proficiency evaluation tool.²

Digital Learning Courses

(5.11)

Definitions

For the purposes of this policy:

"Blended Learning" is education in which instruction and content are delivered through supervised instruction in a classroom and online delivery of instruction with some element of student control over time, place, path, or pace.

"Digital Learning" means a digital technology or internet-based educational delivery model that does not rely exclusively on compressed interactive video (CIV). Digital learning includes online and blended learning.

“Instructional Materials” means:

1. Traditional books, textbooks, and trade books in printed and bound form;
2. Activity-oriented programs that may include:
 - a. Manipulatives;
 - b. Hand-held calculators;
 - c. Other hands-on materials; and
3. Technology-based materials that require the use of electronic equipment in order to be used in the learning process.

“Online Learning” is education in which instruction and content are delivered primarily over the Internet. The term does not include print-based correspondence education, broadcast television or radio, videocassettes, compact disks and stand-alone educational software programs that do not have a significant Internet-based instructional component.

“Public School Student Accessing Courses at a Distance” means a student who is scheduled for a full course load through the District and attends all classes virtually.

Digital Course Offerings

The District shall offer one or more digital learning course(s) through one or more District approved provider(s) as either a primary or supplementary method of instruction. The courses may be in a blended learning, online-based, or other technology-based format and shall be tailored to meet the needs of each student.

All digitally offered courses shall meet or exceed the State Board of Education's curriculum standards and requirements and be capable of being assessed and measured through standardized or local assessments. Additionally, the District shall ensure there is sufficient infrastructure to handle and facilitate a quality digital learning environment.

The District shall annually determine what District created digital learning courses it will provide to our students.¹ The District may also choose to provide digital learning courses by contracting with outside providers of such courses, who have been pre-approved as part of the Arkansas Course Choice Program by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). The School Board shall determine the provider method or combination of methods for the District. The Superintendent shall ensure that all digital learning courses provided to District students, regardless of the source of the course, have been approved by DESE.

District created digital courses and any digital courses the district purchases from outside providers shall adhere to the guidelines for the use of digitally transmitted copyrighted materials set forth in Policy 5.8—USE OF COPYRIGHTED MATERIALS as well as applicable statutory requirements.

The District shall require all outside providers to incorporate Policy 5.8 as a condition of the service contract. Failure of the outside provider to abide by Policy 5.8 shall constitute a breach of contract and the outside provider shall be responsible for any costs resulting from such breach.

A student may elect to take any scheduled courses digitally if offered digitally by the District or, if applicable, through the Arkansas Course Choice Program. The student's attendance in the student's digital course(s) shall be determined in accordance with Policy 4.7—ABSENCES.²

The District is responsible for providing all instructional materials for each student who enrolls in a District approved digital learning course.³

Except as required by Policy 5.19, the District may restrict a student's access to digital courses when the student's building principal determines the student's participation in such a course would not be academically appropriate based on the student's past performance in digital courses. Furthermore, the student's building principal may revoke a student's eligibility to continue taking a digital learning course if the student's performance during the semester indicates the student is not succeeding in the course.⁴

Concurrent Credit (5.22)

A ninth (9th) through twelfth (12th) grade student who successfully completes a college course(s) from an institution approved by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) shall be given credit toward high school grades and graduation at the rate of one (1) high school credit for each three (3) semester hours of college credit. Unless approved by the school's principal, **prior to enrolling for the course**, the concurrent credit shall be applied toward the student's graduation requirements as an elective.

As permitted by the DESE Rules Governing Grading and Course Credit, a student who takes a three (3) semester hour remedial/developmental education course shall receive a half (1/2) credit for a high school career focus elective. The remedial/developmental education course cannot be used to meet core subject area/unit requirements.

Participation in the concurrent high school and college credit program must be documented by a written agreement between:

- The student;
- The student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) if the student is under the age of eighteen (18);
- The District; and
- The publicly supported community college, technical college, four-year college or university, or private

institution of higher education the student attends to take the concurrent credit course.

Students are responsible for having the transcript for the concurrent credit course(s) they've taken sent to their school in order to receive credit for the course(s). Credit for concurrent credit courses will not be given until a transcript is received. Students may not receive credit for the course(s) they took or the credit may be delayed if the transcripts are not received at all or in a timely manner; this may jeopardize students' eligibility for extracurricular activities and/or graduation¹

Students will retain credit earned through the concurrent credit program that was applied toward a course required for high school graduation from a previously attended, accredited, public school.

A student eligible to receive free or reduced price meals shall not be responsible for any of the costs for the student's first six (6) concurrent credit hours so long as the concurrent credit courses are taught on the District grounds and by a teacher employed by the District.² Any and all costs of concurrent credit courses beyond the six (6) hours permitted, that are not taught on the District's campus, or are not taught by a teacher employed by the District are the responsibility of the student. Students who are not eligible to receive free or reduced price meals are responsible for any and all costs associated with concurrent credit courses.

Grading (5.15)

Parents, legal guardians, persons having lawful control of a student, or persons standing in loco parentis shall be kept informed concerning the progress of their student. Parent-teacher conferences are encouraged and may be requested by parents, guardians, persons having lawful control of a student, persons standing in loco parentis, or teachers. If the progress of a student is unsatisfactory in a subject, the teacher shall attempt to schedule a parent-teacher conference. In the conference, the teacher shall explain the reasons for difficulties and shall develop, cooperatively with the parents, a plan for remediation, which may enhance the probability of the student succeeding. The school shall also send timely progress reports and issue grades for each nine (9) week grading period¹ to keep parents/guardians informed of their student's progress.

The evaluation of each student's performance on a regular basis serves to give the parents/guardians, students, and the school necessary information to help effect academic improvement. Students' grades shall reflect only the extent to which a student has achieved the expressed educational objectives of the course.

The grades of a child in foster care shall not be lowered due to an absence from school due to:

- (1) A change in the child's school enrollment;

- (2) The child's attendance at a dependency-neglect court proceeding; or
- (3) The child's attendance at court-ordered counseling or treatment.

The grading scale for 1-12 grades in the district shall be as follows. Grade reports for kindergarten may be represented in the form of a skills check list.

A = 100 – 90

B = 89 – 80

C = 79 – 70

D = 69-60

F = 59 and below

For the purpose of determining grade point averages, the numeric value of each letter grade shall be

A = 4 points

B = 3 points

C = 2 points

D = 1 point

F = 0 points

The grade point values for Advanced Placement (AP), approved courses for weighted credit, International Baccalaureate (IB), and approved honor courses shall be one (1) point greater than for regular courses with the exception that an F shall still be worth zero (0) points.

The final grades of students who transfer in for part of a semester will be determined by blending the grades earned in the district with those earned outside the district. Each final grade will be calculated by taking the percent in weeks earned outside the district and combining that with the percent in weeks earned inside the district. For example: If a student earned a 70% in 3 weeks outside the district while earning an 85% in 6 weeks in the district, the average for the 9 weeks' period would be an 80%. $(3 \times 70) + (6 \times 85)$ divided by 9 = 80%

Graduation Requirements for Special Education Students

Special education students will meet all school/state requirements for graduation as outlined above by satisfactorily completing said courses in either the regular classroom or the special education room as specified by the student's individual educational plan.

Homework (5.14)

1. Homework is considered to be part of the educational program of the District. Assignments shall be an extension of the teaching/learning experience that promotes the student's educational development. As an extension of the classroom, homework must be planned and organized and should be viewed by the students as purposeful.

2. Teachers should be aware of the potential problem students may have completing assignments from

multiple teachers and vary the amount of homework they give from day to day.

Honor Roll, Honor Graduates, Valedictorian and Salutatorian (5.17)

HONOR ROLL

1. Students in grades 3-6 who maintain all A's for the grading period will be recognized as an "A" honor roll students for that grading period. Students in grades 3-6 who maintain all A's and B's for the grading period will be recognized as A/B honor roll students for that grading period. Semester grades will determine the honor roll at the end of each semester.

2. Students in grades 7-12 who maintain all A's for the grading period will be recognized as an "A" honor roll students for that grading period. Students in grades 7-12 who maintain all A's and B's for the grading period will be recognized as A/B honor roll students for that grading period. Semester grades will determine the honor roll at the end of each semester.

HONOR GRADUATES: Eligibility

3. Students must meet ORSD honor curriculum and minimum cumulative GPA, be a full time student, attend and receive grades from an ORSD High School for a minimum of the last two semesters of their high school career to be an honor graduate.

4. Students must successfully complete the following curriculum and maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.25 to be considered an honor graduate:

A. English: 4 CREDITS from the following courses:

- 1 - English 9
- 1 - English 10
- 1 - English 11 or AP English Language & Composition or English Composition I
- 1 - English 12 or Transitional English 12 or AP Literature & Composition or English Composition I or English Composition II

B. Mathematics: 4 CREDITS from the following courses:

- 1 - Algebra I
- 1 - Geometry
- 1 - Algebra II
- 1 - Algebra III or Pre-Calculus or Statistics or College Algebra or Trigonometry or AP Calculus or AP Statistics

C. Science: 3 CREDITS from the following courses:

- 1 - Physical Science or AP Environmental Science
- 1 - Biology or AP Biology
- 1 - Chemistry or Physics

D. Social Studies: 3 CREDITS from the following courses:

- .5 - Civics or American National Government (AR Civics requirement) or AP Civics
- 1 - World History
- .5 - Economics or Economics w/Personal Finance
- 1 - US History or American History or AP US History

E. Foreign Language: 2 CREDITS **OR** meet Arkansas Academic Challenge (AAC) Scholarship requirements. If foreign language is required for AAC, must be two credits from the same foreign language.

F. Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate Program and/or concurrent credit courses, which includes UARM Career Center courses:

Minimum of ONE of the following criteria:

- Two (2) CREDITS from AP courses (may or may not be listed in honors curriculum)
- Four (4) concurrent credit courses (may or may not be listed in honors curriculum)
- One (1) AP course AND two (2) concurrent credit courses (may or may not be listed in honors curriculum and may include UARM Career Center courses).

5. Any parent or guardian who does not want to have their student identified as an honor graduate shall submit a written request to the principal of the school requesting that the student not be identified. A student 18 years old or older who does not want to be identified as an honor graduate shall submit a written request to the principal of the school requesting to not be identified.

VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN

Eligibility:

6. Students must meet ORSD honor curriculum and minimum cumulative GPA, be a full time student, attend and receive grades from an ORSD High School for a minimum of the last two years (four semesters) of their high school career to be eligible for valedictorian and salutatorian.

7. The GPA calculated at the completion of the second semester of the senior year will be used to determine the Valedictorian and Salutatorian and the final class rank.

8. The graduate with the highest GPA, successfully completing ORSD Honor Graduates Curriculum, enrolled in public school for grades 9-12 and attended ORSD for minimum of last two years full time inclusively shall be Valedictorian of graduating class.

9. The graduate with the second highest GPA, successfully completing ORSD Honor Graduates

Curriculum, enrolled in public school for grades 9-12 and attended ORSD for minimum of last two years full time inclusively shall be Salutatorian of graduating class.

10. If there are no honor graduates in a given graduation class, the students earning the 2 highest GPA's will be the Valedictorian and Salutatorian respectively*.

*If there are no honor graduates, students completing the Honor Graduate Curriculum but have less than 3.25 GPA will be considered for Valedictorian and Salutatorian before students who have not completed the Honor Graduate Curriculum.

Make-Up Work (4.8)

Students who miss school due to an excused absence shall be allowed to make up the work they missed during their absence under the following rules:¹

1. Students are responsible for asking the teachers of the classes they missed what assignments they need to make up.²
2. Teachers are responsible for providing the missed assignments when asked by a returning student.²
3. Students are required to ask for their assignments on their first day back at school or their first class day after their return.²
4. Make-up tests are to be rescheduled at the discretion of the teacher, but must be aligned with the schedule of the missed work to be made up.
5. Students shall have one class day to make up their work for each class day they are absent.³
6. Make-up work which is not turned in within the make-up schedule for that assignment shall receive a zero.⁴
7. Students are responsible for turning in their make-up work without the teacher having to ask for it.²
8. Students who are absent on the day their make-up work is due must turn in their work the day they return to school whether or not the class for which the work is due meets the day of their return.
9. As required/permitted by the student's Individual Education Program or 504 Plan.

Work may not be made up for credit for unexcused absences **unless** the unexcused absences are part of a signed agreement as permitted by policy 4.7—
ABSENCES.⁵

Work for students serving an out-of-school suspension or expulsion shall be in accordance with the District's programs, measures, or alternative means and methods to continue student engagement and access to education during the student's period of suspension or expulsion.

In lieu of the timeline above, assignments for students who are excluded from school by the Arkansas

Department of Health during a disease outbreak are to be made up as set forth in Policy 4.57—
IMMUNIZATIONS.

In addition to the make-up work process above, at the conclusion of a pregnancy-related or parenting-related period of absence, a student may choose from various options to make up missed work, including without limitation:

- a. Retaking a semester at the District school where the student is enrolled;
- b. Participating in an online course credit recovery program;
- c. Being granted six (6) weeks to continue at the same pace and finish the semester at a later date, provided that the student may:
 - Complete the student's coursework within the current school year; or
 - Attend previously scheduled summer school classes made available by the District Where the student is enrolled; and
- d. Receiving home-based instruction services.

Semester Grades

1. The Semester grade will be determined as follows:
 - A. 1st Nine Weeks Grade = 45%
 - B. 2nd Nine Weeks Grade = 45%
 - C. Semester Test = 10%

Smart Core Curriculum and Graduation Requirements for the Classes of 2024, and 2025

(4.45)

All students are required to participate in the Smart Core curriculum unless their parents or guardians, or the students if they are eighteen (18) years of age or older, sign a *Smart Core Waiver Form* to not participate. While Smart Core is the default option, a *Smart Core Information Sheet* and a *Smart Core Waiver Form*¹ will be sent home with students prior to their enrolling in seventh (7th) grade, or when a seventh (7th) through twelfth (12th) grade student enrolls in the district for the first time and there is not a signed waiver form in the student's permanent record. This policy is to be included in student handbooks for grades six (6) through twelve (12) and both students and parents must sign an acknowledgement they have received the policy. Those students not participating in the Smart Core curriculum will be required to fulfill the Core curriculum or the Alternate Pathway to Graduation when required by their IEP to be eligible for graduation. Counseling by trained personnel shall be available to students and their parents or legal guardians prior to the deadline for them to sign and return the waiver form.

While there are similarities between the two curriculums,

following the Core curriculum may not qualify students for some scholarships and admission to certain colleges could be jeopardized. Students initially choosing the Core curriculum may subsequently change to the Smart Core curriculum **providing** they would be able to complete the required course of study by the end of their senior year.² Students wishing to change their choice of curriculums must consult with their counselor to determine the feasibility of changing paths.

This policy, the Smart Core curriculum, and the courses necessary for graduation shall be reviewed by staff, students, and parents as part of the annual school district support plan development process³ to determine if changes need to be made to better serve the needs of the district's students. The superintendent, or his/her designee, shall select the composition of the review panel.

Sufficient information relating to Smart Core and the district's graduation requirements shall be communicated to parents and students to ensure their informed understanding of each; this shall be accomplished through holding an informational meeting for parents, legal guardians, or persons standing in loco parentis to students enrolled in grades six through twelve (6-12) with the school counselor and may be accomplished through any or all of the additional following means:⁴

- Inclusion in the student handbook of the Smart Core curriculum and graduation requirements;
- Discussion of the Smart Core curriculum and graduation requirements at the school's annual public meeting, PTA meetings, or a meeting held specifically for the purpose of informing the public on this matter; and/or
- Distribution of a newsletter(s) to parents or guardians of the district's students.

Administrators, or their designees, shall train newly hired employees, required to be licensed as a condition of their employment, regarding this policy. The district's annual professional development shall include the training required by this paragraph.⁵

To the best of its ability, the District shall follow the requirements covering the transfer of course credit and graduation set forth in the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children and the Arkansas Military Child School Transitions Act of 2021 for all students who meet the definition of "eligible child" in Policy 4.2—ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS including the waiving of specific courses that are required for graduation if similar coursework has been satisfactorily completed.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The number of units students must earn to be eligible for high school graduation is to be earned from the categories listed below. A minimum of twenty-two (22) units is required for graduation for a student participating in either the Smart Core or Core curriculum. In addition to the twenty-two (22) units required for graduation by the Division of Elementary and

Secondary Education (DESE), the district requires an additional 22 units to graduate for a total of 22 units. The additional required units may be taken from any electives offered by the district.⁶ There are some distinctions made between Smart Core units and Graduation units. Not all units earned toward graduation necessarily apply to Smart Core requirements. Career education courses that are determined by DESE to be eligible for use in the place of a listed course may be substituted for the course as designated by DESE.

All students must receive a passing score on the Arkansas Civics Exam in order to graduate.

Students shall be trained in quality psychomotor skill bases in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of automated external defibrillators in order to graduate.

Personal and Family Finance

All students shall receive credit in a course covering the Personal and Family Finance Standards in order to graduate.

SMART CORE: Sixteen (16) units

English: four (4) units – 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th

Oral Communications: one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) unit

Mathematics: four (4) units (all students under Smart Core must take a mathematics course in grade 11 or 12 and complete Algebra II.)

- 1) Algebra I or Algebra A & B* which may be taken in grades 7-8 or 8-9;
- 2) Geometry or Geometry A & B* which may be taken in grades 8-9 or 9-10;

* A two-year algebra equivalent or a two-year geometry equivalent may each be counted as two units of the four-unit requirement for the purpose of meeting the **graduation** requirement, but only serve as one unit each toward fulfilling the **Smart Core** requirement.

- 3) Algebra II; and
- 4) The fourth unit may be either:

- A math unit approved by DESE beyond Algebra II; or
- A computer science flex credit may be taken in the place of a fourth math credit.

Natural Science: three (3) units

- a. DESE approved biology – 1 credit;
- b. DESE approved physical science – 1 credit; and
- c. A third unit that is either:
 - An additional science credit approved by DESE; or
 - A computer science flex credit may be taken in the place of a third science credit.

Social Studies: three (3) units

- Civics - one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) unit
- World History - one unit
- American History - one unit
- Other social studies – one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) Unit

Physical Education: one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) unit

Note: While one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) unit is required for graduation, no more than one (1) unit may be applied toward fulfilling the necessary units to graduate.

Health and Safety: one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) unit

Economics – one half ($\frac{1}{2}$) unit – dependent upon the licensure of the teacher teaching the course, this can count toward the required three (3) social studies credits or the six (6) required Career Focus elective credits.⁸⁷

Fine Arts: one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) unit

CAREER FOCUS: - Six (6) units

All career focus unit requirements shall be established through guidance and counseling based on the student's contemplated work aspirations. Career focus courses shall conform to the curriculum policy of the district and reflect state curriculum frameworks through course sequencing and career course concentrations where appropriate.

A student who enlists in a branch of the United States Armed Forces or the National Guard through the military delayed entry program, the National Guard Split Training Option, or other similar early entry program and completes basic training before graduating from high school shall receive two (2) units of the Career Focus graduation requirements.

a student who completes at least seventy-five (75) clock hours of documented community service in grades nine (9) through twelve (12) at any certified service agency or a part of a service-learning school program shall receive one (1) Career Focus credit.⁸

CORE: Sixteen (16) units

English: four (4) units – 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th

Oral Communications: one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) unit

Mathematics: four (4) units

- Algebra or its equivalent* - 1 unit
- Geometry or its equivalent* - 1 unit
- All math units must build on the base of algebra and geometry knowledge and skills.
- (Comparable concurrent credit college courses may be substituted where applicable)
- A computer science flex credit may be taken in the place of a math credit beyond Algebra I and Geometry

* A two-year algebra equivalent or a two-year geometry equivalent may each be counted as two units of the four (4) unit requirement.

Science: three (3) units

- a. DESE approved biology – 1 credit;
- b. DESE approved physical science – 1 credit; and
- c. A third unit that is either:

- An additional science credit approved by DESE; or
- A computer science flex credit may be taken in the place of a third science credit.

Social Studies: three (3) units

- Civics one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) unit
- World history, one (1) unit
- American History, one (1) unit
- Other social studies – one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) unit

Physical Education: one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) unit

Note: While one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) unit is required for graduation, no more than one (1) unit may be applied toward fulfilling the necessary units to graduate.

Health and Safety: one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) unit

Economics – one half ($\frac{1}{2}$) unit – dependent upon the licensure of the teacher teaching the course, this can count toward the required three (3) social studies credits or the six (6) required Career Focus elective credits.⁷

Fine Arts: one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) unit

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A student who enlists in a branch of the United States Armed Forces or the National Guard through the military delayed entry program, the National Guard Split Training Option, or other similar early entry program and completes basic training before graduating from high school shall receive two (2) units of the Career Focus graduation requirements.

a student who completes at least seventy-five (75) clock hours of documented community service in grades nine (9) through twelve (12) at any certified service agency or a part of a service-learning school program shall receive one (1) Career Focus credit.⁸

Smart Core Curriculum and Graduation Requirements for the Class of 2026

(4.45.1)

All students are required to participate in the Smart Core curriculum unless their parents or guardians, or the students if they are eighteen (18) years of age or older, sign a *Smart Core Waiver Form* to not participate. While Smart Core is the default option, a *Smart Core Information Sheet* and a *Smart Core Waiver Form*¹ will be sent home with students prior to their enrolling in seventh (7th) grade, or when a seventh (7th) through twelfth (12th) grade student enrolls in the district for the first time and there is not a signed waiver form in the student's permanent record. This policy is to be included in student

handbooks for grades six (6) through twelve (12) and both students and parents must sign an acknowledgement they have received the policy. Those students not participating in the Smart Core curriculum will be required to fulfill the Core curriculum or the Alternate Pathway to Graduation when required by their IEP to be eligible for graduation. Counseling by trained personnel shall be available to students and their parents or legal guardians prior to the deadline for them to sign and return the waiver form.

While there are similarities between the two curriculums, following the Core curriculum may not qualify students for some scholarships and admission to certain colleges could be jeopardized. Students initially choosing the Core curriculum may subsequently change to the Smart Core curriculum **providing** they would be able to complete the required course of study by the end of their senior year.² Students wishing to change their choice of curriculums must consult with their counselor to determine the feasibility of changing paths.

This policy, the Smart Core curriculum, and the courses necessary for graduation shall be reviewed by staff, students, and parents as part of the annual school district support plan development process³ to determine if changes need to be made to better serve the needs of the district's students. The superintendent, or his/her designee, shall select the composition of the review panel.

Sufficient information relating to Smart Core and the district's graduation requirements shall be communicated to parents and students to ensure their informed understanding of each; this shall be accomplished through holding an informational meeting for parents, legal guardians, or persons standing in loco parentis to students enrolled in grades six through twelve (6-12) with the school counselor and may be accomplished through any or all of the additional following means:⁴

- Inclusion in the student handbook of the Smart Core curriculum and graduation requirements;
- Discussion of the Smart Core curriculum and graduation requirements at the school's annual public meeting, PTA meetings, or a meeting held specifically for the purpose of informing the public on this matter; and/or
- Distribution of a newsletter(s) to parents or guardians of the district's students.

Administrators, or their designees, shall train newly hired employees, required to be licensed as a condition of their employment, regarding this policy. The district's annual professional development shall include the training required by this paragraph.⁵

To the best of its ability, the District shall follow the requirements covering the transfer of course credit and graduation set forth in the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children and the Arkansas Military Child School Transitions Act of 2021 for all students who meet the definition of "eligible child" in Policy 4.2—ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS including the waiving of specific courses

that are required for graduation if similar coursework has been satisfactorily completed.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The number of units students must earn to be eligible for high school graduation is to be earned from the categories listed below. A minimum of twenty-two (22) units is required for graduation for a student participating in either the Smart Core or Core curriculum. In addition to the twenty-two (22) units required for graduation by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), the district requires an additional 22 units to graduate for a total of 44 units. The additional required units may be taken from any electives offered by the district.⁶ There are some distinctions made between Smart Core units and Graduation units. Not all units earned toward graduation necessarily apply to Smart Core requirements. Career education courses that are determined by DESE to be eligible for use in the place of a listed course may be substituted for the course as designated by DESE.

All students must receive a passing score on the Arkansas Civics Exam in order to graduate.

Students shall be trained in quality psychomotor skill bases in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of automated external defibrillators in order to graduate.

Personal and Family Finance

All students shall receive credit in a course covering the Personal and Family Finance Standards in order to graduate.

Computer Science

All students shall earn one (1) unit of credit in a computer science or computer science related career and technical education course in order to graduate.

SMART CORE: Sixteen (16) units

English: four (4) units – 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th

Oral Communications: one-half (½) unit

Mathematics: four (4) units (all students under Smart Core must take a mathematics course in grade 11 or 12 and complete Algebra II.)

- 1) Algebra I or Algebra A & B* which may be taken in grades 7-8 or 8-9;
- 2) Geometry or Geometry A & B* which may be taken in grades 8-9 or 9-10;

* A two-year algebra equivalent or a two-year geometry equivalent may each be counted as two units of the four-unit requirement for the purpose of meeting the **graduation** requirement, but only serve as one unit each toward fulfilling the **Smart Core** requirement.

- 3) Algebra II; and

- 4) The fourth unit may be either:

- A math unit approved by DESE beyond Algebra II; or
- A computer science flex credit may be taken in the place of a fourth math credit.

Natural Science: three (3) units

- a. DESE approved biology – 1 credit;
- b. DESE approved physical science – 1 credit; and
- c. A third unit that is either:
 - o An additional science credit approved by DESE; or
 - o A computer science flex credit may be taken in the place of a third science credit.

Social Studies: three (3) units

- Civics - one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) unit
- World History - one unit
- American History - one unit
- Other social studies – one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) Unit

Physical Education: one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) unit

Note: While one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) unit is required for graduation, no more than one (1) unit may be applied toward fulfilling the necessary units to graduate.

Health and Safety: one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) unit

Economics – one half ($\frac{1}{2}$) unit – dependent upon the licensure of the teacher teaching the course, this can count toward the required three (3) social studies credits or the six (6) required Career Focus elective credits.⁷

Fine Arts: one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) unit

CAREER FOCUS: - Six (6) units

All career focus unit requirements shall be established through guidance and counseling based on the student's contemplated work aspirations. Career focus courses shall conform to the curriculum policy of the district and reflect state curriculum frameworks through course sequencing and career course concentrations where appropriate.

A student who enlists in a branch of the United States Armed Forces or the National Guard through the military delayed entry program, the National Guard Split Training Option, or other similar early entry program and completes basic training before graduating from high school shall receive two (2) units of the Career Focus graduation requirements.

a student who completes at least seventy-five (75) clock hours of documented community service in grades nine (9) through twelve (12) at any certified service agency or a part of a service-learning school program shall receive one (1) Career Focus credit.⁸

CORE: Sixteen (16) units

English: four (4) units – 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th

Oral Communications: one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) unit

Mathematics: four (4) units

- Algebra or its equivalent* - 1 unit
- Geometry or its equivalent* - 1 unit

- All math units must build on the base of algebra and geometry knowledge and skills.
 - (Comparable concurrent credit college courses may be substituted where applicable)
 - A computer science flex credit may be taken in the place of a math credit beyond Algebra I and Geometry
- * A two-year algebra equivalent or a two-year geometry equivalent may each be counted as two units of the four (4) unit requirement.

Science: three (3) units

- a. DESE approved biology – 1 credit;
- b. DESE approved physical science – 1 credit; and
- c. A third unit that is either:
 - o An additional science credit approved by DESE; or
 - o A computer science flex credit may be taken in the place of a third science credit.

Social Studies: three (3) units

- Civics one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) unit
- World history, one (1) unit
- American History, one (1) unit
- Other social studies – one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) unit

Physical Education: one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) unit

Note: While one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) unit is required for graduation, no more than one (1) unit may be applied toward fulfilling the necessary units to graduate.

Health and Safety: one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) unit

Economics – one half ($\frac{1}{2}$) unit – dependent upon the licensure of the teacher teaching the course, this can count toward the required three (3) social studies credits or the six (6) required Career Focus elective credits.⁷

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a student who completes at least seventy-five (75) clock hours of documented community service in grades nine (9) through twelve (12) at any certified service agency or a part of a service-learning school program shall receive one (1) Career Focus credit.⁸

Smart Core Curriculum and Graduation Requirements for The Class of 2027 and Thereafter

(4.52.2)

All students are required to participate in the Smart Core curriculum unless their parents or guardians, or the students if they are eighteen (18) years of age or older, sign a *Smart Core Waiver Form* to not participate. While Smart Core is the default option, a *Smart Core Information Sheet* and a *Smart Core Waiver Form*¹ will be sent home with students prior to their enrolling in seventh (7th) grade, or when a seventh (7th) through twelfth (12th) grade student enrolls in the district for the first time and there is not a signed waiver form in the student's permanent record. This policy is to be included in student handbooks for grades six (6) through twelve (12) and both students and parents must sign an acknowledgement they have received the policy. Those students not participating in the Smart Core curriculum will be required to fulfill the Core curriculum or the Alternate Pathway to Graduation when required by their IEP to be eligible for graduation. Counseling by trained personnel shall be available to students and their parents or legal guardians prior to the deadline for them to sign and return the waiver form.

While there are similarities between the two curriculums, following the Core curriculum may not qualify students for some scholarships and admission to certain colleges could be jeopardized. Students initially choosing the Core curriculum may subsequently change to the Smart Core curriculum **providing** they would be able to complete the required course of study by the end of their senior year.² Students wishing to change their choice of curriculums must consult with their counselor to determine the feasibility of changing paths.

This policy, the Smart Core curriculum, and the courses necessary for graduation shall be reviewed by staff, students, and parents as part of the annual school district support plan development process³ to determine if changes need to be made to better serve the needs of the district's students. The superintendent, or his/her designee, shall select the composition of the review panel.

Sufficient information relating to Smart Core and the district's graduation requirements shall be communicated to parents and students to ensure their informed understanding of each; this shall be accomplished through holding an informational meeting for parents, legal guardians, or persons standing in loco parentis to students enrolled in grades six through twelve (6-12) with the school counselor and may be accomplished through any or all of the additional following means:⁴

- Inclusion in the student handbook of the Smart Core curriculum and graduation requirements;
- Discussion of the Smart Core curriculum and graduation requirements at the school's annual public meeting, PTA meetings, or a meeting held specifically for the purpose of informing the public on this matter; and/or
- Distribution of a newsletter(s) to parents or guardians of the district's students.

Administrators, or their designees, shall train newly hired employees, required to be licensed as a condition of their employment, regarding this policy. The district's annual professional development shall include the training required by this paragraph.⁵

To the best of its ability, the District shall follow the requirements covering the transfer of course credit and graduation set forth in the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children and the Arkansas Military Child School Transitions Act of 2021 for all students who meet the definition of "eligible child" in Policy 4.2—ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS including the waiving of specific courses that are required for graduation if similar coursework has been satisfactorily completed.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The number of units students must earn to be eligible for high school graduation is to be earned from the categories listed below. A minimum of twenty-two (22) units is required for graduation for a student participating in either the Smart Core or Core curriculum. In addition to the twenty-two (22) units required for graduation by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), the district requires an additional 22 units to graduate for a total of 22 units. The additional required units may be taken from any electives offered by the district.⁶ There are some distinctions made between Smart Core units and Graduation units. Not all units earned toward graduation necessarily apply to Smart Core requirements. Career education courses that are determined by DESE to be eligible for use in the place of a listed course may be substituted for the course as designated by DESE.

All students must receive a passing score on the Arkansas Civics Exam in order to graduate.

Students shall be trained in quality psychomotor skill bases in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of automated external defibrillators in order to graduate.

Personal and Family Finance

All students shall receive credit in a course covering the Personal and Family Finance Standards in order to graduate.

Computer Science

All students shall earn one (1) unit of credit in a computer science or computer science related career and technical education course in order to graduate.

Community Service

Each student must receive seventy-five (75) clock hours of community service that is certified by the service agency or organization where the student volunteers.

The community service must be in programs or activities, either in Arkansas or outside of Arkansas, that meet the requirements established by the State Board and the District Board of Directors and include preparation, action, and reflection components. Except as provided by this policy, a student must receive at least the following documented clock hours of community service each year:

- Fifteen (15) hours for students in grade nine (9);
- Twenty (20) hours for students in grade ten (10);
- Twenty (20) hours for students in grade eleven (11); and
- Twenty (20) hours for students in grade twelve (12).

Students transferring into the District after grade nine (9) or students who are graduating early may receive a diploma provided that the minimum requirement for each year the student attends the District is met. The District Board of Directors may grant a waiver of the community service requirement for extenuating circumstances on a case-by-case basis, which may include without limitation:

- A major illness associated with a student or a family member of a student;
- Student homelessness or housing insecurity; and
- Notice to the public school district board of directors if the student is a major contributor to family income.

SMART CORE: Sixteen (16) units

English: four (4) units – 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th

Oral Communications: one-half (½) unit

Mathematics: four (4) units (all students under Smart Core must take a mathematics course in grade 11 or 12 and complete Algebra II.)

5) Algebra I or Algebra A & B* which may be taken in grades 7-8 or 8-9;

6) Geometry or Geometry A & B* which may be taken in grades 8-9 or 9-10;

* A two-year algebra equivalent or a two-year geometry equivalent may each be counted as two units of the four-unit requirement for the purpose of meeting the graduation requirement, but only serve as one unit each toward fulfilling the **Smart Core** requirement.

7) Algebra II; and

8) The fourth unit may be either:

- A math unit approved by DESE beyond Algebra II; or
- A computer science flex credit may be taken in the place of a fourth math credit.

Natural Science: three (3) units

d. DESE approved biology – 1 credit;

e. DESE approved physical science – 1 credit; and

f. A third unit that is either:

- An additional science credit approved by DESE; or
- A computer science flex credit may be taken in the place of a third science credit.

Social Studies: three (3) units

- Civics - one-half (½) unit
- World History - one unit
- American History - one unit
- Other social studies – one-half (½) Unit

Physical Education: one-half (½) unit

Note: While one-half (½) unit is required for graduation, no more than one (1) unit may be applied toward fulfilling the necessary units to graduate.

Health and Safety: one-half (½) unit

Economics – one half (½) unit – dependent upon the licensure of the teacher teaching the course, this can count toward the required three (3) social studies credits or the six (6) required Career Focus elective credits.⁷

Fine Arts: one-half (½) unit

CAREER FOCUS: - Six (6) units

All career focus unit requirements shall be established through guidance and counseling based on the student's contemplated work aspirations. Career focus courses shall conform to the curriculum policy of the district and reflect state curriculum frameworks through course sequencing and career course concentrations where appropriate.

A student who enlists in a branch of the United States Armed Forces or the National Guard through the military delayed entry program, the National Guard Split Training Option, or other similar early entry program and completes basic training before graduating from high school shall receive two (2) units of the Career Focus graduation requirements.

CORE: Sixteen (16) units

English: four (4) units – 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th

Oral Communications: one-half (½) unit

Mathematics: four (4) units

- Algebra or its equivalent* - 1 unit
- Geometry or its equivalent* - 1 unit
- All math units must build on the base of algebra and geometry knowledge and skills.
- (Comparable concurrent credit college courses may be substituted where applicable)
- A computer science flex credit may be taken in the place of a math credit beyond Algebra I and Geometry

* A two-year algebra equivalent or a two-year geometry equivalent may each be counted as two units of the four (4) unit requirement.

Science: three (3) units

d. DESE approved biology – 1 credit;

e. DESE approved physical science – 1 credit; and

f. A third unit that is either:

- An additional science credit approved by DESE; or
- A computer science flex credit may be taken in the place of a third science credit.

Social Studies: three (3) units

- Civics one-half (½) unit
- World history, one (1) unit
- American History, one (1) unit
- Other social studies – one-half (½) unit

Physical Education: one-half (½) unit

Note: While one-half (½) unit is required for graduation, no more than one (1) unit may be applied toward fulfilling the necessary units to graduate.

Health and Safety: one-half (½) unit

Economics – one half (½) unit – dependent upon the licensure of the teacher teaching the course, this can count toward the required three (3) social studies credits or the six (6) required Career Focus elective credits.⁷

Fine Arts: one-half (½) unit

CAREER FOCUS: - Six (6) units

All career focus unit requirements shall be established through guidance and counseling based on the student's contemplated work aspirations. Career focus courses shall conform to the curriculum policy of the district and reflect state curriculum frameworks through course sequencing and career course concentrations where appropriate.

A student who enlists in a branch of the United States Armed Forces or the National Guard through the military delayed entry program, the National Guard Split Training Option, or other similar early entry program and completes basic training before graduating from high school shall receive two (2) units of the Career Focus graduation requirements.

Student Promotion and Retention (4.55)

A disservice is done to students through social promotion and is prohibited by state law. The District shall, at a minimum, evaluate each student annually in an effort to help each student who is not performing at grade level. Parents, legal guardians, persons having lawful control of the student, or persons acting in loco parentis shall be kept informed concerning the progress of their student(s). Notice of a student's possible retention or required retaking of a course shall be included with the student's grades sent home to each parent/guardian or the student if 18 or older. Parent-teacher conferences are encouraged and may be held as necessary in an effort to improve a student's academic success.

Each time a student is assessed by use of a high-quality literacy screener, with results at least once each semester, the Parents, legal guardians, persons having lawful control of the student, or persons acting in loco parentis, and teacher(s) of a student in kindergarten through eighth (8th) grade shall be notified in writing of the student's independent grade-level-equivalency in reading and, in a parent friendly manner, the student's reading progress.

Any grades, course credits, and/or promotions received by a student while enrolled in the Division of Youth Services system of education shall be considered transferable in the same manner as those grades, course credits, and promotions from other accredited Arkansas public educational entities.

Promotion or retention of students, or their required retaking of a course shall be primarily based on the following criteria.¹ If there is doubt concerning the promotion or retention of a student or his/her required retaking of a course, a conference shall be held before a final decision is made that includes the following individuals:

- a. The building principal or designee;
- b. The student's teacher(s);
- c. School counselor;
- d. A 504/special education representative (if applicable); and
- e. The student's parents, legal guardians, persons having lawful control of the student, or persons standing in loco parentis.

The conference shall be held at a time and place that best accommodates those participating in the conference. The school shall document participation or non-participation in required conferences. If the conference attendees fail to agree concerning the student's placement or receipt of course credit, the final decision shall rest with the principal or the principal's designee.

Each student² shall have a student success plan (SSP) developed by school personnel in collaboration with the student's parents and the student that is reviewed and updated annually. A student's SSP shall use multiple academic measures to personalize learning in order for students to achieve their grade-level expectations and individual growth. The SSP will identify if the student is in need of additional support or acceleration. Academic measures to be used in creating and updating a student's SSP shall include, but are not limited to:

- Statewide student assessment results;
- Subject grades;
- Student work samples; and
- Local assessment scores.

The SSP for a student in kindergarten through grade three (K-3) who does not meet the reading standard as set by the state board and determined by a high-quality literacy screener or the statewide assessment shall include an individual reading plan for each student. An individual reading plan shall include:

1. The student's specific, diagnosed reading skill needs, including without limitation:
 - Phonemic awareness;
 - Phonics decoding;
 - Text reading fluency;
 - Vocabulary-building strategies; and
 - Self-regulated use of reading comprehension strategies, as identified by high-quality literacy screener data;
2. The goals and benchmarks for the student's growth;
3. How the student's progress will be monitored and evaluated;
4. The type of additional instructional services and interventions the student may receive;
5. The intensive, evidence-based literacy intervention program aligned to the science of reading the student's teacher will use to address the areas of

phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension;

6. The strategies the student's parents, legal guardians, or persons standing in loco parentis to the student are encouraged to use in assisting the student to achieve the student's reading goal; and
7. Any additional services the student's teacher determines are available and appropriate to accelerate the student's reading skill development.

All parents, legal guardians, or persons standing in loco parentis shall be notified in writing:

- a. Of the content of their child's independent reading plan and progress on the independent reading plan throughout the year; and
- b. By no later than October 1 of each year, or as soon as practicable if a student's reading need is identified after October 1:
 - o Of their student's eligibility to participate in the literacy tutoring grant program;
 - o The process for applying for the literacy tutoring grant program; and
 - o Other information provided by DESE.

For each student who does not meet the reading standard established by the state board by the end of third (3rd) grade, including students who are promoted to the fourth (4th) grade under a good cause waiver, the District, during the subsequent summer and school year, shall:

- a. Provide at least ninety (90) minutes of evidence-based literacy instruction aligned to the science of reading during each school day;
- b. Assign the student to:

- If the District has a teacher with a value-added model score in the top quartile statewide in English language arts for the past three (3) years, a teacher with a value-added model score in the top quartile statewide in English language arts for the past three (3) years; or
- If the District is unable to identify a teacher with a value-added model score in the top quartile statewide in English language arts for the past three (3) years, a teacher:
 - o With a highly-effective rating according to the Teacher Excellence and Support System, when possible; or
 - o Deemed to be a high-performing teacher as defined by a Master Professional Educator designation.

- c. Provide parents, legal guardians, or persons standing in loco parentis to students with a "read-at-home" plan to support student early literacy growth, which shall include evidence-based science of reading strategies and tools that are aligned to a student's individual reading plan for parents, legal guardians, or persons standing in loco parentis to use with their student;
- d. Notify parents, legal guardians, or persons standing in loco parentis to a student regarding their student's eligibility for a literacy tutoring grant;

- e. Be given priority to receive a literacy tutoring grant; and
- f. Be given the option to participate in additional intensive, evidence-based literacy intervention programs aligned to the science of reading.

The SSP of a student in kindergarten through grade eight (K-8) who is not performing at or above grade level on the state assessment, as defined by the State Board of Education shall include a math intervention plan. The math intervention plan may include the:

1. Provision of each student with access to high-dosage, targeted math tutoring in the subsequent school year, which shall include three (3) or more tutoring sessions a week in a one-on-one or small-group setting;
2. Assignment to:
 - if the District has a teacher with a value-added model score in the top quartile statewide in math for the previous three (3) years, a teacher, with a value-added model score in the top quartile statewide in math for the previous three (3) years; or
 - if the District is unable to find a teacher with a value-added model score in the top quartile statewide in math for the previous three (3) years, a teacher:
 - o With a highly-effective rating in the Teacher Excellence and Support System, when possible; or
 - o Deemed to be a high-performing teacher as defined by a Master Professional Educator designation; and
3. Provision of each student with extended time on math instruction during or after school.

All parents, legal guardians, or persons standing in loco parentis shall receive written notification of their student's math intervention plan and progress on the student's math intervention plan throughout the school year.

By the end of grade eight (8), the student's SSP shall:⁴

- o Guide the student along pathways to graduation;
- o Address accelerated learning opportunities;
- o Address academic deficits and interventions; and
- o Include college and career planning components.

Based on a student's score on the college and career assessment:

- The student's SSP will be updated in order to assist the student with college and career readiness skills, course selection in high school, and improved academic achievement; and
- Provide a basis for counseling concerning postsecondary preparatory programs.

A student's SSP shall include the recommended sequence of courses for successful completion of the diploma pathway selected by the student but be sufficiently flexible to allow the student to change the student's selected diploma pathway. The school counselor shall meet with the student's parent, legal guardian, or persons standing in loco parentis and the

student to review the student's SSP annually and to revise the student's SSP as necessary to identify the courses to be taken each year until all required core courses are completed. Part of the review shall include an explanation of the possible impacts the revisions to the plan might have on the student's graduation requirements and postsecondary education goals. Any change made to a student's SSP as part of the review that amends the student's diploma pathway shall be structured to ensure that the student will meet the high school graduation requirements for the student's chosen diploma pathway and be qualified for admission to a postsecondary educational institution or to enter the workforce. After each review, the student's SSP shall be signed by the student; student's parent, legal guardian, or person standing in loco parentis to the student; and the school counselor.

An SSP shall be created:

1. By no later than the end of the school year for a student in grade eight (8) or below² who enrolls in the District during the school year; or
2. As soon as reasonably possible for a student in grade nine (9) or above who enrolls in the District at the beginning or during the school year.

A student's individualized education program (IEP) may act in the place of the student's SSP if the IEP addresses academic deficits and interventions for the student's failure to meet standards-based academic goals at an expected rate or level and includes a transition plan that addresses college and career planning components. Promotion or retention of students with an IEP shall be based on their successful attainment of the goals set forth in their IEP.

Students who either refuse to sit for a Statewide assessment or attempt to boycott a Statewide assessment by failing to put forth a good faith effort on the assessment as determined by the assessment administrator/proctor, or whose parents do not send their student to school on the dates the assessments are originally administered or scheduled as make-up days shall not be permitted to participate in any non-curriculum related extracurricular activity, including school dances, prom, homecoming, senior events, and may be prevented from walking or participating in graduation exercises. The student shall remain ineligible to participate until the student takes the same or a following Statewide assessment, as applicable. The Superintendent or designee may waive this paragraph's provisions when the student's failure was due to exceptional or extraordinary circumstances.⁵ Students falling under the provisions of this paragraph shall be permitted to attend curriculum related field trips occurring during the school day.⁶

ATTENDANCE / ENROLLMENT

Absences (4.7)

If any student's Individual Education Program (IEP) or 504 Plan conflicts with this policy, the requirements of the student's IEP or 504 Plan take precedence.

Education is more than the grades students receive in their courses. Important as that is, students' regular attendance at school, whether in person or digitally, is essential to their social and cultural development and helps prepare them to accept responsibilities they will face as an adult. Interactions with other students and participation in the instruction within the classroom enrich the learning environment and promote a continuity of instruction which results in higher student achievement.

Absences for students enrolled in synchronous digital courses shall be determined in the same manner as for District students attending courses in person.¹

Attendance Guidelines:

In order to be in compliance with the Ouachita River School District attendance policy students shall abide by the following guidelines and will be coded accordingly:

SCHOOL BUSINESS (SB)

1. Participation in any school related event during school hours. (it is the school official's responsibility to communicate to the office the list of participants)
2. College Tours WITHOUT a school official. (it is the student's responsibility to obtain a letter from the institution in which they visited)
3. 4-H sanctioned activities. (students are responsible for providing documentation regarding the activity)
4. Military recruitment or training. (it is the student's responsibility to provide documentation regarding the absence)

Students who serve as pages for a member of the General Assembly shall be considered on instructional assignment and shall not be considered absent from school for the day the student is serving as a page.⁷ Up to one (1) time during each scheduled election, a student shall not be considered absent from school for the time the student accompanies the student's parent when the parent is exercising the parent's right to vote in a scheduled election.

MEDICAL (MD)

In order to be coded as a medical absence the student, parent, legal guardian, or person having lawful control of the student; or person standing in loco parentis must provide a medical note from the following:

1. Medical Doctor or hospital

2. Dentist
3. Eye Doctor
4. Counselor
5. Or any establishment that pertains to the health and well-being of the student
6. School Nurse (the absence can only be coded MD if the nurse has sent the student home. The School Nurse shall communicate with the office in this case.)
7. Absences due to conditions related to pregnancy or parenting, including without limitation:
 - Labor, delivery, and recovery;
 - Prenatal and postnatal medical appointments and other medically necessary, pregnancy-related absences;
 - The illness or medical appointment of a child belonging to a parent who is enrolled at a District school;
 - A legal appointment related to pregnancy or parenting, including without limitation:
 - Adoption;
 - Custody; and
 - Visitation;
 - A reasonable amount of time to accommodate a lactating student's need to express breast milk or to breastfeed the student's child on the District's campus; and
 - At least ten (10) school days of absences for both a parenting mother and a parenting father after the birth of a child.⁶

COURT (C)

Anytime a student has a legal obligation he/she must provide the appropriate documentation.

EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES (EXC)

The student's absence will only qualify for this code if the parent, legal guardian, or person having lawful control of the student; or person standing in loco parentis has met with the principal or designee about the situation in which the absence pertains. It will then be at the discretion of the principal or designee.

IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION (ISS)

The in-school suspension will provide discipline for students while allowing them to stay at school.

*****DURING THE PERIOD OF THEIR SUSPENSION, THE STUDENT SERVING ISS SHALL NOT ATTEND OR PARTICIPATE IN ANY SCHOOL-SPONSORED ACTIVITIES DURING THE IMPOSED SUSPENSION.*****

OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION (OSS)

The out-of-school suspension is a discipline action

intended for students to serve off campus.

*****DURING THE PERIOD OF THEIR SUSPENSION, THE STUDENT SERVING OSS SHALL NOT ATTEND OR PARTICIPATE IN ANY SCHOOL-SPONSORED ACTIVITIES DURING THE IMPOSED SUSPENSION. ALSO, DURING THE PERIOD OF THEIR SUSPENSION, STUDENTS SERVING OSS ARE NOT PERMITTED ON CAMPUS EXCEPT TO ATTEND A STUDENT/PARENT/ADMINISTRATOR CONFERENCE.*****

ABSENCES

Absences WILL NOT be coded as excused or unexcused. Any absence not defined by the above attendance guidelines shall be considered an absence and will be coded (A) for Absent.

Students who serve as pages for a member of the General Assembly shall be considered on instructional assignment and shall not be considered absent from school for the day the student is serving as a page.⁴

Students with (12)⁵ absences in a course in a semester may not receive credit for that course. At the discretion of the principal after consultation with persons having knowledge of the circumstances of the absences, the student may be denied promotion or graduation. Excessive absences shall not be a reason for expulsion or dismissal of a student.

When a student has (6)⁵ absences, his/her parents, legal guardians, persons with lawful control of the student, or persons standing in loco parentis shall be notified⁶. Notification shall be by telephone, email, or letter.

Whenever a student exceeds (12)⁵ absences in a semester, the District shall notify the prosecuting authority and the parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or persons standing in loco parentis shall be subject to a civil penalty as prescribed by law.

It is the Arkansas General Assembly's intention that students having excessive absences be given assistance in obtaining credit for their courses. Therefore, at any time prior to when a student exceeds the number of absences permitted by this policy, the student, or his/her parent, legal guardian, person with lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis may petition the school or district's administration for special arrangements to address the student's absences. If formal arrangements are granted, they shall be formalized into a written agreement which will include the conditions of the agreement and the consequences for failing to fulfill the agreement's requirements. The agreement shall be signed by the student, the student's parent; legal guardian; person

having lawful control of the student; or person standing in loco parentis, and the school or district administrator or designee.⁷

The District shall notify the Department of Finance and Administration whenever a student fourteen (14) years of age or older is no longer in school. The Department of Finance and Administration is required to suspend the former student's operator's license unless he/she meets certain requirements specified in the statute.

****Please see the "Absences Policy" on the Ouachita River Website at <https://www.ouachitariversd.org/> ****

Compulsory Attendance Requirements (4.3)

Every parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the child, or person standing in loco parentis of any child age five (5) through seventeen (17) years on or before August 1 of that year who resides, as defined by policy (4.1—RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS), within the District shall enroll the child and ensure the attendance of the child at a District school with the following exceptions:

1. The child is enrolled in private or parochial school.
2. The child is being home-schooled and the conditions of policy (4.6—HOME SCHOOLING) have been met.
3. The child will not be age six (6) on or before August 1 of that particular school year and the parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the child, or person standing in loco parentis of the child elects not to have him/her attend kindergarten. A kindergarten waiver form prescribed by regulation of the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education must be signed and on file with the District administrative office.
4. The child has received a high school diploma or its equivalent as determined by the State Board of Education.
5. The child is age sixteen (16) or above and is enrolled in a post-secondary vocational-technical institution, a community college, or a two-year or four-year institution of higher education.
6. The child is age sixteen (16) or seventeen (17) and has met the requirements to enroll in an adult education program as defined by A.C.A. § 6-18-201 (b).

Entrance Requirements (4.2)

To enroll in a school in the District, the child must be a resident of the District as defined in District policy (4.1—RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS), meet the criteria outlined in policy 4.40—HOMELESS STUDENTS or in policy 4.52—STUDENTS WHO ARE FOSTER CHILDREN, be accepted as a transfer student under the provisions of policy 4.4, or participate under a school choice option and submit the required paperwork as required by the choice option under Policy 4.5.

Students may enter kindergarten if they will attain the

age of five (5) on or before August 1 of the year in which they are seeking initial enrollment. Any student who has been enrolled in a state-accredited or state-approved kindergarten program in another state for at least sixty (60) days, will become five (5) years old during the year in which he/she is enrolled in kindergarten, and meets the basic residency requirement for school attendance may be enrolled in kindergarten upon written request to the District. Any student who was enrolled in a state-accredited or state-approved kindergarten program in another state or in a kindergarten program equivalent in another country, becomes a resident of this state as a direct result of active military orders or a court-ordered change of custody, will become five (5) years of age during the year in which he or she is enrolled in kindergarten, and meets the basic residency requirement for school attendance may be enrolled in kindergarten upon a written request to the District.

Any child who will be six (6) years of age on or before October 1 of the school year of enrollment and who has not completed a state-accredited kindergarten program shall be evaluated by the district and may be placed in the first grade if the results of the evaluation justify placement in the first grade and the child's parent or legal guardian agrees with placement in the first grade; otherwise the child shall be placed in kindergarten.

Any child may enter first grade in a District school if the child will attain the age of six (6) years during the school year in which the child is seeking enrollment and the child has successfully completed a kindergarten program in a public school in Arkansas.

Any child who has been enrolled in the first grade in a state-accredited or state-approved elementary school in another state for a period of at least sixty (60) days, who will become age six (6) years during the school year in which he/she is enrolled in grade one (1), and who meets the basic residency requirements for school attendance may be enrolled in the first grade.

Students who move into the District from an accredited school shall be assigned to the same grade as they were attending in their previous school (mid-year transfers) or as they would have been assigned in their previous school. Private school students shall be evaluated by the District to determine their appropriate grade placement. Home school students enrolling or re-enrolling as a public school student shall be placed in accordance with policy 4.6—HOME SCHOOLING.

The district shall make no attempt to ascertain the immigration status, legal or illegal, of any student or his/her parent or legal guardian presenting for enrollment.¹

Prior to the child's admission to a District school:²

1. The parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco

parentis shall furnish the child's social security number, or if they request, the district will assign the child a nine (9) digit number designated by the Division of Elementary and Secondary education.

2. The parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis shall provide the district with one (1) of the following documents indicating the child's age:
 - a. A birth certificate;
 - b. A statement by the local registrar or a county recorder certifying the child's date of birth;
 - c. An attested baptismal certificate;
 - d. A passport;
 - e. An affidavit of the date and place of birth by the child's parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis;
 - f. United States military identification; or
 - g. Previous school records.
3. The parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis shall indicate on school registration forms whether the child has been expelled from school in any other school district or is a party to an expulsion proceeding. Any person who has been expelled from any other school district shall receive a hearing before the Board at the time the student is seeking enrollment in the District. The Board reserves the right to not allow the enrollment of such students until the time of the person's expulsion has expired following the hearing before the Board.³
4. In accordance with Policy 4.57—IMMUNIZATIONS, the child shall be age appropriately immunized or have an exemption issued by the Arkansas Department of Health.

Uniformed Services Member's Children

For the purposes of this policy:

"Activated reserve components" means members of the reserve component of the uniformed services who have received a notice of intent to deploy or mobilize under Title 10 of the United States Code, Title 32 of the United States Code, or state mobilization to active duty.

"Active duty"⁴ means full-time duty status in the active, uniformed services of the United States, including without limitation members of The National Guard and Reserve on active duty orders under 10 U.S.C. chapters 1209 and 1211 or 42 U.S.C. § 204.

"Deployment" means a period of time extending from six (6) months before a member of the uniformed services' departure from their home station on military orders through six (6) months after return to his or her home station.

"Dual status military technician" means a federal civilian employee who is:

- a. Employed under 5 U.S.C. § 3101 or 32 U.S.C. § 709(b);
- b. Required as a condition of his or her employment to maintain membership in the Selected Reserve; and
- c. Assigned to a civilian position as a technician in the organizing, administering, instructing, or training of the Selected Reserve or in the maintenance and repair of supplies or equipment issued to the Selected Reserve of the United States Armed Forces.

"Eligible child" means the children of:

- Active duty members of the uniformed services;
- Members of the active and activated reserve components of the uniformed services;
- Members or veterans of the uniformed services who are severely injured and medically discharged or retired for a period of one (1) year after medical discharge or retirement;
- Members of the uniformed services who die on active duty or as a result of injuries sustained on active duty for a period of one (1) year after death;
- Dual status military technicians; and
- Traditional members of the National Guard and reserve components of the armed forces who are relocating to the state for employment or to serve as a member of an Arkansas-based reserve component unit.

"Traditional member of the National Guard or federal reserves" means an active member of the Selected Reserve subject to mobilization and deployment for which he or she attends monthly and annual training periods.

"Transition" means the:

- Formal and physical process of transitioning from public school to public school; or
- Period of time in which a student moves from a sending district to a receiving district.

"Uniformed services"⁴ means the United States Army, United States Navy, United States Air Force, United States Marine Corps, United States Space Force, United States Coast Guard, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps, the United States Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Services, and the state and federal reserve components of each of these bodies.

"Veteran" means an individual who served in the uniformed services and who was discharged or released from the uniformed services under conditions other than dishonorable.

The superintendent shall designate an individual as the District's military education coordinator, who shall serve as the primary point of contact for an eligible child and for the eligible child's parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the eligible child, or person standing in loco parentis. The

individual the superintendent designates as the District's military education coordinator shall have specialized knowledge regarding the educational needs of children of military families and the obstacles that children of military families face in obtaining an education.⁵

An eligible child as defined in this policy shall:

1. Be allowed to continue his/her enrollment at the grade level commensurate with his/her grade level he/she was in at the time of transition from his/her previous school, regardless of age;
2. Be eligible for enrollment in the next highest grade level, regardless of age if the student has satisfactorily completed the prerequisite grade level in his/her previous school;
3. Enter the District's school on the validated level from his/her previous accredited school when transferring into the District after the start of the school year;
4. Be enrolled in courses and programs the same as or similar to the ones the student was enrolled in his/her previous school to the extent that space is available. This does not prohibit the District from performing subsequent evaluations to ensure appropriate placement and continued enrollment of the student in the courses/and/or programs;
5. Be provided services comparable to those the student with disabilities received in his/her previous school based on his/her previous Individualized Education Program (IEP). This does not preclude the District school from performing subsequent evaluations to ensure appropriate placement of the student;
6. Make reasonable accommodations and modifications to address the needs of an incoming student with disabilities, subject to an existing 504 or Title II Plan, necessary to provide the student with equal access to education. This does not preclude the District school from performing subsequent evaluations to ensure appropriate placement of the student;
7. Be enrolled by an individual who has been given the special power of attorney for the student's guardianship. The individual shall have the power to take all other actions requiring parental participation and/or consent;
8. Be eligible to continue attending District schools if he/she has been placed under the legal guardianship of a noncustodial parent living outside the district by a custodial parent on active military duty.

Following the receipt of advanced notice of the enrollment of an eligible student from a military family, the District shall treat the notice as a provisional enrollment and provide the student with materials regarding:

- a. Academic courses;
- b. Electives;

- c. Sports; and
- d. Other relevant information regarding the public school.

In the event that official copies of an eligible child's education records are not available at the time the eligible child is transferring, then the District shall:

- Pre-register and place an eligible child based on the eligible child's unofficial education records pending receipt of the eligible child's official records; and
- Request the eligible child's official education records from the sending district.

To facilitate a smooth transition between the student's previous coursework and the curriculum best suited to ensure educational success in the student's new school, the District may enroll an inbound transitioning eligible student in digital coursework, if available, at the request of the military family.

International Exchange Students

"Host family" means the individual or family with whom an international exchange student is placed by an international student exchange visitor placement organization under the International Student Exchange Visitor Placement Organization Registration Act, § 6-18-1701 et seq.

"International exchange student" means a student who is placed with a host family by an international student exchange visitor placement organization under the International Student Exchange Visitor Placement Organization Registration Act, § 6-18-1701 et seq.

Before an international exchange student may attend a District school, the District requires all international student exchange visitor placement organizations that are placing international exchange students within the District to:

- Be certified by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel;
- Provide documented proof of the international exchange student's English proficiency; and
- Notify the District at least three (3) weeks before the beginning of the academic semester the international exchange student plans to enroll in the District.

The District shall admit for enrollment and attendance an international exchange student who has been placed with a host family who resides within the District boundaries. The international exchange student shall attend the school in the District based on the attendance zone where the host family resides.⁶

Upon an international exchange student's arrival, the international exchange student may be required to submit to quarantine to prevent the spread of infectious diseases as may be necessary, which shall not exceed

seven (7) days unless otherwise recommended by the Arkansas Department of Health or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

International exchange students are expected to follow the District handbook and student code of conduct as the District has the authority to expel a student for violations of the school district's written student discipline policies or if the international exchange student presents a danger to the District's students or employees.

Statewide assessment results achieved by an international exchange student enrolled in the District shall be included in the District's results on the statewide assessments.⁷

The District shall provide English-language services to international exchange students as necessary.⁸

Virtual Attendance

(4.3.1)

Every student who is learning virtually, by choice or necessity, blended, or by being enrolled in Ouachita River School District, will meet compulsory attendance requirements by remaining actively engaged in all appropriate online learning activities included in the curriculum.

Level of active engagement will be determined by:

- Completing at least ninety-five percent (95%) of daily assignments given by the instructor(s) to a satisfactory level of completion and quality determined by the instructor(s); and/or,
- Logging into the appropriate District Learning Management System (LMS) and participating in the required activities for an amount of time appropriate to the age of the student not exceeding six (6) hours of instruction per day. This does not include homework, projects, or other supplemental assignments from the instructor; and/or,
- Onsite participation in District and State assessments; and/or,
- When necessary, engagement requirements outlined in an Individualized Student Success Plan; and/or,
- Other requirements determined by the building principal and/or instructor(s) to satisfactorily complete the assigned learning tasks required to gain the knowledge and skills necessary for promotion to the next grade level or graduation.

Failure to meet these engagement requirements will result in an unexcused absence each day that the time

and engagement requirements are not met. Absences may be excused and made up according to District policies 4.7 -- ABSENCES, and 4.8 -- MAKE-UP WORK

Home Schooling (4.6)

Enrollment in Home School

Parents or legal guardians desiring to provide a home school for their children shall give written notice to the Superintendent of their intent to home school. The notice shall be given:

1. At the beginning of each school year, but no later than August 15;
2. Five (5) school days prior to withdrawing the child (provided the student is not currently under disciplinary action for violation of any written school policy, including, but not limited to, excessive absences) and at the beginning of each school year thereafter; or
3. Within thirty (30) calendar days of the parent or legal guardian establishing residency within the district during the school year.

Written notice of the parent or legal guardian's intent to home school shall be delivered to the Superintendent through any of the following methods:

- Electronically, including without limitation by:
 - Use of the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education's (DESE) online system;
 - Email; or
 - Facsimile;
- By mail; or
- In person.

The notice shall include:

- a. The name, sex, date of birth, grade level, and the name and address of the school last attended, if any;
- b. The mailing address and telephone number of the home school;
- c. The name of the parent or legal guardian providing the home school;
- d. Indicate if the home-schooled student intends to participate in extracurricular activities during the school year;
- e. A statement of whether the home-schooled student plans to seek a high school equivalency diploma during the current school year;
- f. A statement that the parent or legal guardian agrees that the parent or legal guardian is responsible for the education of their children during the time the parents or legal guardians choose to home school; and
- g. A signature of the parent or legal guardian.

To aid the District in providing a free and appropriate public education to students in need of special education services, the parents or legal guardians home-schooling their children shall provide information that might indicate the need for special education services.

A student who has been temporarily issued items, resources, supplies, materials, or other property belonging to the District

is eligible for enrollment in a home school during the school year after:

- The items, resources, supplies, materials, or other property belonging to the District have been returned to the District;
- The items, resources, supplies, materials, or other property belonging to the District have been paid for; or
- The semester has ended.

The superintendent or the board of directors may waive the required five (5) school day waiting period for a student's enrollment in home school during a semester if the superintendent or the board of directors is satisfied with the return of temporarily issued items, resources, supplies, materials, or other District property.

Enrollment or Re-Enrollment in Public School

A home-schooled student who wishes to enroll or re-enroll in a District school shall submit:

- A transcript listing all courses taken and semester grades from the home school;
- Score of at least the thirtieth percentile on a nationally recognized norm-referenced assessment taken in the past year; and
- A portfolio of indicators of the home-schooled student's academic progress, including without limitation:
 - Curricula used in the home school;
 - Tests taken and lessons completed by the home-schooled student; and
 - Other indicators of the home-schooled student's academic progress.

If a home-schooled student is unable to provide a nationally recognized norm-referenced score, the District may either assess the student using a nationally recognized norm-referenced assessment or waive the requirement for a nationally recognized norm-referenced assessment score.

A home-schooled student who enrolls or re-enrolls in the District will be placed at a grade level and academic course level equivalent to or higher than the home-schooled student's grade level and academic course level in the home school:

1. As indicated by the documentation submitted by the home-schooled student;
2. By mutual agreement between the public school and the home-schooled student's parent or legal guardian; or
3. If the home-schooled student fails to provide the documentation required by this policy, with the exception of the nationally recognized norm-referenced assessment score, the District may have sole authority to determine the home-schooled student's grade placement and course credits. The District will determine the home-schooled student's grade placement and course credits in the same manner the District uses when determining grade placement and course credits for students enrolling or re-enrolling in the District who attended another public or private school.

The District shall afford a home-schooled student who enrolls or re-enrolls in a public school the same rights and privileges enjoyed by the District's other students. The District shall not deny a home-schooled student who enrolls or re-enrolls in the District any of the following on the basis of the student having attended a home school:

- a. Award of course credits earned in the home school;
- b. Placement in the proper grade level and promotion to the next grade level;
- c. Participation in any academic or extracurricular activity;
- d. Membership in school-sponsored clubs, associations, or organizations;
- e. A diploma or graduation, so long as the student has enrolled or re-enrolled in the District to attend classes for at least the nine (9) months immediately prior to graduation; or
- f. Scholarships.

Residence Requirements (4.1)

Definitions:

• "In loco parentis" means relating to the responsibility to undertake the care and control of another person in the absence of:

1. Supervision by the person's parent or legal guardian; and
2. Formal legal approval.

"Reside" means to be physically present and to maintain a permanent place of abode for an average of no fewer than four (4) calendar days and nights per week for a primary purpose other than school attendance.

"Resident" means a student whose parents, legal guardians, persons having lawful control of the student, or persons standing in loco parentis reside in the school district.

"Residential address" means the physical location where the student's parents, legal guardians, persons having lawful control of the student, or persons standing in loco parentis reside. A student may use the residential address of a parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis only if the student resides at the same residential address and if the guardianship or other legal authority is not granted solely for educational needs or school attendance purposes.

The schools of the District shall be open and free through the completion of the secondary program to all persons between the ages of five (5) and twenty-one (21) years whose parents, legal guardians, persons having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis reside within the District¹ and to all persons between those ages who have been legally transferred to the District for educational purposes.

Any person eighteen (18) years of age or older may establish a residence separate and apart from his or her parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of

the student, or a person standing in loco parentis for school attendance purposes.

In order for a person under the age of eighteen (18) years to establish a residence for the purpose of attending the District's schools separate and apart from his or her parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or a person standing in loco parentis, the student is required to reside in the District for a primary purpose other than that of school attendance; however, a student previously enrolled in the district whose parents move the student into another district or who is placed under the legal guardianship of a noncustodial parent living outside the district by a custodial parent on active military duty may continue to attend district schools.² A foster child who was previously enrolled in a District school and who has had a change in placement to a residence outside the District, may continue to remain enrolled in his/her current school unless the presiding court rules otherwise.³

Under instances prescribed in A.C.A. § 6-18-203, a child or ward of an employee of the district or of the education coop to which the district belongs may enroll in the district even though the employee and the employee's child or ward reside outside the district.⁴

Children whose parent or legal guardian relocates within the state due to a mobilization, deployment, or available military housing while on active duty in or serving in the reserve component of a branch of the United States Armed Forces or National Guard may continue attending school in the school district the children were attending prior to the relocation or attend school in the school district where the children have relocated. A child may complete all remaining school years at the enrolled school district regardless of mobilization, deployment, or military status of the parent or guardian.

School Choice (4.5)

Standard School Choice

Exemption

The District is under an enforceable desegregation court order/court-approved desegregation plan¹ that explicitly limits the transfer of students between school districts and has submitted the appropriate documentation to the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).² As a result of the desegregation order/desegregation plan¹, the District is exempt from the provisions of the Public School Choice Act of 2015 (Standard School Choice) and the Arkansas Opportunity Public School Choice Act (Opportunity School Choice). The District shall notify the superintendents of each of its geographically contiguous school districts of its exemption.³ The exemption prohibits the District from accepting any school choice applications from students wishing to transfer into or out of the District through standard School Choice or Opportunity School Choice.⁴

Definition

"Sibling" means each of two (2) or more children having a parent in common by blood, adoption, marriage, or foster care.

Transfers into the District

Capacity Determination and Public Pronouncement

The Board of Directors will annually adopt a resolution containing the capacity standards for the District. The resolution will contain the acceptance determination criteria identified by academic program, class, grade level, and individual school. The school is not obligated to add any teachers, other staff, or classrooms to accommodate choice applications. The District may only deny a Standard School Choice application if the District has a lack of capacity by the District having reached ninety percent (90%) of the maximum student population in a program, class, grade level, or school building authorized by the Standards or other State/Federal law.⁵

The District shall advertise in appropriate broadcast media and either print media or on the Internet to inform students and parents in adjoining districts of the range of possible openings available under the School Choice program. The public pronouncements shall state the application deadline; the requirements and procedures for participation in the program; and include contact information for the primary point of contact at the District for school choice questions. Such pronouncements shall be made no later than January 1.⁶

Application Process

The student's parent shall submit a school choice application on a form approved by DESE to this District and the student's resident district. Except for students who are transferring under Uniformed Service Member Dependent School Choice, the transfer application must be postmarked, emailed, or hand delivered between January 1 and May 1 of the year preceding the fall semester the applicant would begin school in the District. The District shall date and time stamp all applications the District receives as both the resident and nonresident district as they are received in the District's central office. Except for applications from students who are transferring under Uniformed Service Member Dependent School Choice, applications postmarked, emailed, or hand delivered on or after May 2 will not be accepted. Statutorily, preference is required to be given to siblings of students who are already enrolled in the District. Therefore, siblings whose applications fit the capacity standards approved by the Board of Directors may be approved ahead of an otherwise qualified non-sibling applicant who submitted an earlier application as identified by the application's date and time stamp.

Except for students who are transferring under Uniformed Service Member Dependent School Choice, no earlier than January 1 of each year, the Superintendent will consider all properly submitted applications for School Choice. By July 1,

the Superintendent shall notify the parent and the student's resident district, in writing, of the decision to accept or reject the application.

Accepted Applications

Applications which fit within the District's stated capacity standards shall be provisionally accepted, in writing, with the notification letter stating a reasonable timeline by which the student shall enroll in the District by taking the steps detailed in the letter, including submission of all required documents. If the student fails to enroll within the stated timeline, or if all necessary steps to complete the enrollment are not taken, or examination of the documentation indicates the applicant does not meet the District's stated capacity standards, the acceptance shall be null and void.⁷

A student, whose application has been accepted and who has enrolled in the District, is eligible to continue enrollment until completing his/her secondary education. Continued enrollment is conditioned upon the student meeting applicable statutory and District policy requirements. Any student who has been accepted under choice and who fails to initially enroll under the timelines and provisions provided in this policy; chooses to return to his/her resident district; or enrolls in a home school or private school voids the transfer and must reapply if, in the future, the student seeks another school choice transfer. A subsequent transfer application will be subject to the capacity standards applicable to the year in which the application is considered by the District.

A present or future sibling of a student who continues enrollment in this District may enroll in the District by submitting a Standard School Choice application. Applications of siblings of presently enrolled choice students are subject to the provisions of this policy including the capacity standards applicable to the year in which the sibling's application is considered by the District. A sibling who enrolls in the District through Standard School Choice is eligible to remain in the District until completing his/her secondary education.

Students whose applications have been accepted and who have enrolled in the district shall not be discriminated against on the basis of gender, national origin, race, ethnicity, religion, or disability.

Rejected Applications

The District may reject an application for a transfer into the District under Standard School Choice due to a lack of capacity. However, the decision to accept or reject an application may not be based on the student's previous academic achievement, athletic or other extracurricular ability, English proficiency level, or previous disciplinary proceedings other than a current expulsion.⁸

An application may be provisionally rejected if it is for an opening that was included in the District's capacity resolution, but was provisionally filled by an earlier applicant. If the provisionally approved applicant subsequently does not enroll

in the District, the provisionally rejected applicant could be provisionally approved and would have to meet the acceptance requirements to be eligible to enroll in the District.

Rejection of applications shall be in writing and shall state the reason(s) for the rejection. Unless the student's application was rejected due to the application not being timely received by both the resident and nonresident districts, a student whose application was rejected may request a hearing before the State Board of Education to reconsider the application. The request for a hearing must be submitted in writing to the State Board within ten (10) days of receiving the rejection letter from the District.

Transfers Out of the District

All Standard School Choice applications for transfers out of the District shall be granted.

Facilities Distress School Choice Applications

There are a few exceptions from the provisions of the rest of this policy that govern choice transfers triggered by facilities distress. Any student attending a school district that has been identified as being in facilities distress may transfer under the provisions of this policy, but with the following four (4) differences:

- The receiving district cannot be in facilities distress;
- The transfer is only available for the duration of the time the student's resident district remains in facilities distress;
- The student is not required to meet the May 1 application deadline; and
- The student's resident district is responsible for the cost of transporting the student to this District's school.

Opportunity School Choice

Transfers into or Within the District⁹

For the purposes of this section of the policy, a "lack of capacity"¹⁰ is defined as when the receiving school has reached the maximum student-to-teacher ratio allowed under federal or state law, the DESE Rules for the Standards for Accreditation, or other applicable rules. There is a lack of capacity if, as of the date of the application for Opportunity School Choice, ninety-five percent (95%) or more of the seats at the grade level at the nonresident school are filled.

Unless there is a lack of capacity¹⁰ at the District's school or the transfer conflicts with the provisions of a federal desegregation order applicable to the District, a student may transfer from the student's assigned school to another school in the District⁹ or from the student's resident district into the District if:

- Either:

- The student's resident district has been classified by the state board as in need of Level 5 — intensive support; or
- The student's assigned school has a rating of "F"; and
- Except for students who are transferring under Uniformed Service Member Dependents School Choice, the student's parent, guardian, or the student if the student is over eighteen (18) years of age has submitted an application of the student's request to transfer by no earlier than January 1 and no later than May 1 of the school year before the school year the student intends to transfer to both the sending and receiving school districts.

Except for students who are transferring under Uniformed Service Members Dependent School Choice or seeking to transfer within the District, the Superintendent shall notify in writing the parent or guardian, or the student if the student is over eighteen (18) years of age, and the student's resident district whether the Opportunity School Choice application has been accepted or rejected by no later than July 1 of the school year the student is seeking to enroll. If the student is seeking a transfer within the District, the Superintendent shall notify in writing the parent or guardian, or the student if the student is over eighteen (18) years of age, whether the Opportunity School Choice application has been accepted or rejected within fifteen (15) days from receipt of the student's application. The notification shall be sent via First-Class Mail to the address on the application.

If the application is accepted, the notification letter shall state the deadline by which the student must enroll in the receiving school or the transfer will be null and void.

If the District rejects the application, the District shall state in the notification letter the specific reasons for the rejection.¹¹ Unless the student's application was rejected due to the application not being timely received by both the resident and nonresident districts, a parent or guardian, or the student if the student is over eighteen (18) years of age, may appeal the District's decision to deny the application to the State Board of Education. The appeal must be in writing to the State Board of Education via hand delivery or certified mail, return receipt requested, no later than ten (10) calendar days, excluding weekends and legal holidays, after the notice of rejection was received from the District.

Except for students who are transferring under Uniformed Service Member Dependent School Choice, a student's transfer under Opportunity School choice is effective at the beginning of the next school year and the student's enrollment is irrevocable for the duration of the school year and is renewable until the student completes high school or is beyond the legal age of enrollment. This provision for continuing eligibility under Opportunity School Choice does not negate the student's right to apply for transfer to a district other than the student's assigned school or resident district under the Standard School Choice provisions of this policy.

The District may, but is not obligated to provide transportation to and from the transferring district.¹²

Transfers out of, or within, the District⁹

If a District school receives a rating of "F" or the District has been classified by the State Board as in need of Level 5 Intensive Support, the District shall timely notify parents, guardians, or students, if over eighteen (18) years of age, as soon as practicable after the school or district designation is made of all options available under Opportunity School Choice. The District shall offer the parent or guardian, or the student if the student is over eighteen (18) years of age, an opportunity to submit an application to enroll the student in:

1. A school district that has not been classified by the State Board as in need of Level 5 Intensive Support; or
2. If there is more than one school within the District covering the grade level of the student seeking to transfer that does not have a rating of "F", a public school within the District that is nearest to the student's legal residence that does not have a rating of "F"; or
3. If there is not more than one school within the District covering the grade level of the student seeking to transfer that does not have a rating of "F", a public school that does not have a rating of "F" within a School district that has not been classified by the State Board as in need of Level 5 Intensive Support.

Additionally, the District shall request public service announcements to be made over the broadcast media and in the print media at such times and in such a manner as to inform parents or guardians of students in adjoining districts of the availability of the program, the application deadline, and the requirements and procedure for nonresident students to participate in the program.¹³

Uniformed Service Member Dependent School Choice

"Uniformed service member" means an active or reserve component member of the:

- United States Army, United States Navy, United States Air Force, United States Marine Corps, United States Space Force, or United States Coast Guard;
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps; or
- United States Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service.

"Uniformed service veteran" means a former uniformed service member who has been discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.

A student shall be eligible for school choice under Uniformed Service Member Dependent School Choice if the student is a dependent of a:

- Uniformed service member in full-time active-duty status;
- Surviving spouse of a uniformed service member;
- Reserve component uniformed service member during the period six (6) months before until six (6) months after

a Title 10, Title 32, or state active duty mobilization and service; or

- Uniformed service veteran who is returning to civilian status at the conclusion of the uniformed service veteran's active duty status.

A student's parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of a student, or person standing in loco parentis to the student shall submit a school choice application by mail, e-mail, or in person to the student's nonresident district and resident district. The application shall be accompanied by:

- a. A copy of the identification card of the student's parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis that qualifies the student under this section; and
- b. A copy of the official orders, assignment notification, or notice of mobilization of the student's parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis.

The application deadline required under Standard School Choice and Opportunity School Choice shall not apply to uniformed service member dependents.

The superintendent of the nonresident district shall notify the parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis of the student in writing whether the student's application has been accepted or rejected within fifteen (15) days of the nonresident district's receipt of the application. A student's transfer under the Uniformed Services Member Dependent School Choice is effective immediately upon the nonresident district's written notification of an acceptance.

A student shall be permitted only one (1) school transfer per academic year.

The parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of a student, or person standing in loco parentis to a student shall be responsible for transportation of the student.

Unsafe School Choice Program

Any student that becomes the victim of a violent criminal offense while in or on the grounds of a District school or who is attending a school classified by DESE as a persistently dangerous public school shall be allowed to attend a safe public school within the District.

Student Transfers (4.4)

Transfer applications received by the District shall be placed on the Board's next meeting agenda.¹ At least five (5) days before the meeting where the transfer application appears on the agenda, the superintendent shall notify the Board regarding:

- All transfer applications received since the last meeting; and

- The superintendent's recommendation concerning each transfer application.

Each transfer application shall be considered individually and receive a separate vote by the Board. The parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis to a student who submits a transfer application shall be given at least five (5) minutes to present the student's case for a transfer to the Board.

The Board may reject a nonresident's application for admission if its acceptance would necessitate the addition of staff or classrooms, exceed the capacity of a program, class, grade level, or school building, or cause the District to provide educational services not currently provided in the affected school.² The District shall reject applications that would cause it to be out of compliance with applicable laws and regulations regarding desegregation.

If the superintendent intends to recommend the Board deny the transfer application, the superintendent shall provide a written explanation of the reasons for the recommendation to the Board and the parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis to the student.

The parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of a student, or person standing in loco parentis to the student who submitted a transfer application that was rejected may appeal the decision of the Board to the State Board of Education.

Any student transferring from a school accredited by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to a school in this district shall be placed into the same grade the student would have been in had the student remained at the former school. Any grades, course credits, and/or promotions received by a student while enrolled in the Division of Youth Services system of education shall be considered transferable in the same manner as those grades, course credits, and promotions from other accredited Arkansas public educational entities.

Any student transferring from a school that is not accredited by the DESE to a District school shall be evaluated by District staff to determine the student's appropriate grade placement. A student transferring from home school will be placed in accordance with Policy 4.6—HOME SCHOOLING.

Any person who has been expelled from any other school district shall receive a hearing before the Board at the time the student is seeking enrollment in the District. The Board reserves the right to not allow the enrollment of such students until the time of the person's expulsion has expired following the hearing before the Board.³

Except as otherwise required or permitted by law,⁴ the responsibility for transportation of any nonresident student admitted to a school in this District shall be borne by the student or the student's parents. The District and the resident district may enter into a written agreement with the student or student's parents to provide transportation to or from the District, or both.

Tardies (4.9)

Promptness is an important character trait that District staff is encouraged to model and help develop in our schools' students. At the same time, promptness is the responsibility of each student. Students who are late to class show a disregard for both the teacher and their classmates which compromises potential student achievement.

High School:

A student who is not in the room and seated when the bell sounds for the "Morning Announcements" at 7:45 a.m. will be counted as tardy. A student who is checking into school between 7:45 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. (15 minutes or less) will be counted tardy. A student that checks into school more than 15 minutes after the bell rings will be counted absent.

Elementary: Arrival, Dismissal, and Early Dismissal

Students go to class each morning at 7:45 a.m. Non-bus students should not arrive before 7:30 a.m. All students that arrive between 7:30 a.m. and 7:45 a.m. must go to the Cafeteria upon arrival. Students choosing to eat breakfast at school should eat prior to going to their homeroom class. Students who arrive at school after 8:00 a.m. should be accompanied to the office by an adult.

☐ **A student who arrives after 7:50 and before 8:20 will be counted tardy.**

☐ **A student who arrives after 8:20 will be counted absent ½ day a.m.**

☐ **A student who leaves school between 8:20 and 11:30 will be counted absent ½ day a.m.**

☐ **A student who leaves school between 11:30 and 3:00 will be counted absent ½ day p.m.**

☐ **Students that leave and return to school during the same day will be counted absent according to the amount of time missed.**

o **Less than 1 hour – tardy notation**

o **1 – 3 hours – ½ day absence**

o **More than 3 hours – full day absence**

STUDENT SERVICES

Bus Transportation

1. K-2nd grade students will not be dropped off by themselves.

2. The driver will report all violations to the student's principal. All bus drivers have been instructed to stop at

a student's house or bus stop, open the door, and if he does not see the student making an effort to get to the bus, he is to leave the student. All students are urged to make an effort to be ready for the bus when it stops for you.

3. Any and all students who ride buses are reminded of the proper conduct while riding a bus. Any student whose behavior is detrimental to the safety and welfare of other students, or who refuses to follow the instructions of the bus driver, will be denied the privilege of riding the bus to and from school. The school is not required to provide transportation for anyone--it is a privilege that you may use and enjoy as long as you conduct yourself as you should.

4. Buses may be equipped with video cameras for security and disciplinary purposes.

5. Student Transportation Regulations:

A. The purpose of the Transportation Department of the ORSD is to provide the safest, most efficient transportation possible for those students who are to be transported between their homes and school. This process is the responsibility of the entire community and requires the cooperation of all students, parents, school personnel, and citizens who drive on the roads and highways in the presence of school buses.

B. Students and parents are asked to read these regulations carefully. They must be followed if we are to provide safe, efficient transportation for the students of this district.

C. A person over eighteen (18) is guilty of a Class B misdemeanor if the person enters a school bus with the intent to commit a criminal offense, enters a school bus and disregards the orders or instructions of the driver, enters a school bus and refuses to leave the bus after being ordered to leave by the driver, intentionally causes or attempts to cause a disruption or an annoyance to another person on the bus, or recklessly engages in conduct that creates a substantial risk of creating apprehension in any person on the bus. Some actions above do not apply to certain individuals, for more information refer to AR Law 5-39-214 or Act 247 of 2005.

D. The school district encourages any person who observes an incident jeopardizing the safety of the students on a school bus to report the incident to school officials. It is most helpful when a person can identify the bus by number when making such reports. Recommendations that will assist the school in its operation are also encouraged. The telephone number of the Transportation Department of ORSD is (479) 394-2101.

E. Suspension, loss of riding privileges, or other disciplinary sanctions may be imposed when students violate the regulations outlined in this handbook.

F. Meeting the Bus:

1. Be at the bus stop five minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive. Do not arrive earlier than ten minutes beforehand.

2. Before crossing a road to enter the bus, wait until the bus has come to a complete stop and the driver has given you directions.

3. Respect the property rights of others while waiting for the bus. Don't litter or make unnecessary noise. Don't gather under carports, on porches, or on lawns without permission.

4. Stand back at least ten feet from the bus stop and do not approach the bus until it has come to a complete stop and the door is opened.

5. If you miss the bus, do not attempt to (1) ride another bus, (2) walk to or from school, or (3) hitchhike.

G. Entering and Leaving the Bus:

1. Enter and leave the bus quickly and in an orderly manner.

2. Do not enter or leave the school bus by the back door except in the case of an emergency or unless directed to do so by the driver.

3. If you must cross the road after leaving the bus in the afternoon, go to a point on the shoulder of the road ten feet in front of the bus and wait until the driver has signaled you to cross.

4. If you drop any object (book, paper, pencil, etc.) while leaving the bus, do not attempt to retrieve the object until the bus has left the scene and the road is clear of other vehicles.

H. Riding the Bus:

1. Ride only the bus to which you are assigned. Visitors are not allowed to ride buses unless permission is first obtained from school officials.

2. Obey the instructions and directions of the driver. Students are under his/her supervision. The driver will report all violations to the superintendent or principal.

3. Do not distract the driver's attention or disturb other riders on the bus. This means students must remain reasonably quiet while on the bus.

4. Remain seated while the bus is in motion or stopped except as the driver directs.

5. Legs and feet should not be in the aisle.

6. Keep all books, lunches, coats, etc., out of the aisle of the bus.

7. Knives, firearms, sharp objects, clubs, pets, or other animals are not allowed on a school bus.

I. Don'ts:

1. Eating and drinking.

2. Smoking or using tobacco of any kind.

3. Scuffling or fighting.

4. Playing individual radios, tape players, or band instruments.

5. Yelling at anyone on the bus or outside.

6. Throwing paper or any other object on the floor of the bus or outside the window.

7. Putting hands, arms, or heads out of the window.

8. Tampering with any of the bus safety devices.

J. Defacing any part of a bus by such action as writing on or damaging seats. Damage to any bus equipment (seats, windows, etc.) will be paid for by the offender.

K. Emergency Evacuation Procedures:

1. In an emergency, students should remain calm and quiet and listen for instructions from the bus driver.

If the driver is unable to conduct emergency measures, the students should follow the procedures below in leaving the bus:

2. If the exit is through the front door, students sitting in the front seat to the left of the aisle will move out first, followed by those in the right front seat and proceeding in this manner until all seats are emptied.

3. If the exit is through the rear emergency door, those students sitting next to the aisle shall leave first, beginning with those students in the rear of the bus.

4. If a rapid exit is necessary and it is possible to exit from both doors, students in the rear half of the bus should move out the back door and those in the front half should move out the front door.

5. In the event of an accident resulting in injury, persons injured should, if possible, be moved only under competent medical supervision.

6. If the bus should be overturned, students should evacuate through windows or through either door.

7. Upon leaving the bus in an emergency exit, students are to move immediately off the roadway to a safe distance from traffic. They should not cross the road unless instructed by the driver.

8. In the event of a tornado or other natural disaster, students should follow the instructions of the bus driver regarding emergency procedures.

Cafeteria

1. The school cafeteria will make hot lunches available to all students in the school provided students pay or qualify for free or reduced meals.

2. Breakfast is served at 7:30 a.m. Late arrivals (after 8:00) will not be served except in the case of a detained school bus.

3. Free and reduced lunch forms are available in the administrative offices.

4. Classes will go to the lunchroom as scheduled by the principal.

5. Students are encouraged to pay in advance and keep their accounts in good standing. (Please see policy 4.51)

6. Extra milk available in the cafeteria during meals is not included with free or reduced meals.

Food Service Prepayment (4.51)

Meal Charges¹

The district does not provide credit for students to charge for a la carte or other food and beverage items available for purchase in the school food service areas. A la carte or other food and beverage items may be purchased by either providing payment for the items at the time of receipt or by having a prepaid account with the District that may be charged for the items. Parents or students choosing to do so, may pay in advance for meals, a la carte, or other food and beverage items through any of the following methods:²

- Submitting cash or check payment at the school offices with the secretary, Administration Office, or at the designated payment box³;
- Depositing funds through the District's online service; EZSchoolPay link located on the <http://www.ouachitariversd.org/> website, Facebook, and/or on the Home Access Center (HAC).

A student's parents will be contacted by authorized District personnel regarding a student's prepaid account balance at the following times :⁴ emails will be sent out through an automated system on Thursday mornings at 6:00 a.m. or by letter given to the student every Thursday, if no email address is on file.

Unpaid Meal Access⁶

In accordance with Arkansas law, the District allows students whose accounts do not have enough funds to purchase a meal to receive an unpaid reimbursable meal at no charge. The district will notify a student's parents:

- When the student's prepaid account balance has dropped to the point that the student will begin receiving unpaid meals.

The unpaid meals provided to students will be the same reimbursable meal as the other students. Students who have submitted proper documentation to receive a meal modification in accordance with Policy 4.50—SCHOOL MEAL MODIFICATIONS shall receive the same type of modification for an unpaid meal.

Food Sharing and Its Removal from Food Service Area (4.58)

In an effort to reduce wasted food and to provide students access to healthy foods when possible, the District shall have in the district cafeteria a food sharing table located at the end of the service line. Prior to leaving the service line, students may place on or retrieve items from the table, at no additional charge, any of the following:

- Raw whole fruit traditionally eaten without the peel (e.g. bananas and oranges);
- Raw whole fruit traditionally eaten with the peel provided the fruit is wrapped to prevent contamination (e.g. apples and grapes);
- Raw whole vegetables provided the vegetable is wrapped to prevent contamination (e.g. carrot sticks);¹
- Milk; and
- Juice.²

Fruit and vegetables to be shared are to be placed into a designated container on the table.³ Milk and juice

to be shared are to be placed in an ice-filled cooler. Milk and juice may not be taken by another student unless the carton is unopened and was completely covered by ice while in the cooler. A student may not return to the table to place an item for sharing after the student has left the service line.

At all times, the sharing table will be under the supervision of the food service staff. Remaining items should be discarded at the end of the meal period, and no item may remain on the table for longer than four (4) hours.

Removing Food Items from the Food Service Area

No student shall remove school provided food items from the food service area at the end of the meal period, especially milk, juice, and other items requiring temperature controlled environments.

Except for food service workers as required by their job duties, District employees may only remove school provided food items from the food service area when required by a 504 plan or a student's IEP.

Health Services (5.18)

The Board believes that healthy children promote a better learning environment, are more capable of high student achievement, and will result in healthier, more productive adults. Therefore, the goal of the District's health services is to promote a healthy student body. This requires both the education of students concerning healthy behaviors, as well as providing health care services to pupils.

The District shall develop an age-appropriate seizure education program for the District's students consistent with training programs and guidelines developed by the Epilepsy Foundation of America.

While the school nurse is under the supervision of the school principal, the delegation of health care duties shall be in accordance with the Arkansas Nurse Practice Act and the Arkansas State Board of Nursing Rules Chapter Five: Delegation of Nursing Care.

Annually, the information reported in the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Health Services Survey shall be provided to the Board.

Enhanced Student Achievement Funding Expenditures (5.28)

Funding received from the state based on the number of students eligible for free and reduced-priced meals under the National Student Lunch Act shall be expended in accordance with guidelines outlined in the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Rules Governing Student Special Needs Funding.

Using District specific data, the District shall conduct the DESE developed needs assessment to identify areas where Enhanced Student Achievement (ESA) funds

need to be directed. The District shall develop a three-year plan for the use of the District's ESA funds. The District's plan shall:

- Describe the District's intended and implemented strategies to enhance student achievement;
- Describe how ESA funds will be used to support the strategies of the District as permitted by Arkansas law and DESE Rules;
- Include goals and measures of success for the areas where ESA funds will be directed;
- Specify the categories and types of expenditures the district intends to use to meet the needs that were identified through the needs assessment and supported by the District specific data, which may include without limitation: personnel, programs, materials, supplies, services, and equipment, which may include technology; and
- If the District uses ESA funds in areas not identified by the needs assessment or supported by the District's specific data, justification for the use of the ESA funds in these areas.

The District shall review the District's enhanced student achievement plan at least annually, which shall include a review of the progress of the implementation of the District's proposed strategies and the efficacy of the planned strategies. The District shall update the District's enhanced student achievement plan at least annually. Any amendments to the District's enhanced student achievement plan shall be submitted Along with the District's annual budget to DESE.¹

School Meal Modifications (4.50)

The district only provides modified meal components on menus to accommodate students with a disability. A parent/guardian wishing to request dietary accommodations for their student with a disability must submit to the district's Director of Child Nutrition¹ a medical statement completed by a State licensed healthcare professional, which includes:²

- Physicians, including those licensed by:
 - The Arkansas State Medical Board;
 - The Arkansas State Board of Chiropractic Examiners (Chiropractors);
 - The Arkansas Board of Podiatric Medicine (Podiatrists);
- Nurse Practitioners (APRNs in family or pediatric practice with prescriptive authority);
- Physician Assistants (PAs who work in collaborative practice with a physician); and
- Dentists.

The medical statement should include:

1. A description of the student's disability that is sufficient to understand how the disability restricts the student's diet;
2. An explanation of what must be done to accommodate the disability, which may include:
 - a. Food(s) to avoid or restrict;
 - b. Food(s) to substitute;

- c. Caloric modifications; or
- d. The substitution of a liquid nutritive formula.

If the information provided in the medical statement is unclear, or lacks sufficient detail, the district's Director of Child Nutrition¹ shall request additional information so that a proper and safe meal can be provided.

When choosing an appropriate approach to accommodate a student's disability, the District will consider the expense and efficiency of the requested accommodations. The District will offer a reasonable modification that effectively accommodates the child's disability and provides equal opportunity to participate in or benefit from the program, which may include a generic version of a product.

Parents may file a grievance regarding the request for accommodations with the District's 504 Coordinator³, who will schedule a hearing on the grievance to be held as soon as possible. The 504 coordinator shall provide a copy of the procedures governing the hearing, including that the parent has the right to be accompanied by counsel, and the appeal process upon request.

The district will not prepare meals outside the normal menu to accommodate a family's religious or personal health beliefs.

Special Education (4.49)

In accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and Arkansas Statutes, the district shall provide a free appropriate public education and necessary related services to all children with disabilities who reside:

- Within the district boundaries; or
- Outside of the District boundaries but are enrolled in the District.

It is the intent of the district to ensure that students who are disabled within the definition of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are identified, evaluated and provided with appropriate educational services. Students may be disabled within the meaning of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act even though they do not require services pursuant to the IDEA.

For students eligible for services under IDEA, the District shall follow procedures for identification, evaluation, placement, and delivery of services to children with disabilities provided in the state and federal statutes governing special education. Implementation of an Individualized Education Program (IEP) in accordance with the IDEA satisfies the district's obligation to provide a free and appropriate education under Section 504.

The Board directs the superintendent to ensure procedures are in place for the implementation of special education services and that programs are developed to conform to the requirements of state and federal

legislation. The superintendent is responsible for appointing a district coordinator for overseeing district fulfillment of its responsibilities regarding students with disabilities.¹ Among the coordinator's responsibilities shall be ensuring district enforcement of the due process rights of students with disabilities and their parents.

Wellness Policy (5.29)

The health and physical well-being of students directly affects their ability to learn. Childhood obesity increases the incidence of adult diseases occurring in children and adolescents such as heart disease, high blood pressure and diabetes. The increased risk carries forward into their adulthood. Research indicates that a healthy diet and regular physical activity can help prevent obesity and the diseases resulting from it. It is understood that the eating habits and exercise patterns of students cannot be magically changed overnight, but at the same time, the Board of Directors believes it is necessary to strive to create a culture in our schools that consistently promotes good nutrition and physical activity.

The problem of obesity and inactivity is a public health issue. The Board of Directors is keenly aware that it has taken years for this problem to reach its present level and will similarly take years to correct. The responsibility for addressing the problem lies not only with the schools and the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), but with the community and its residents, organizations and agencies. Therefore, the District shall enlist the support of the larger community to find solutions that improve the health and physical activity of our students.

Wellness Committee

To enhance the district's efforts to improve the health of our students, a School Nutrition and Physical Activity Advisory Committee (SNPAAC) shall be formed. It shall be structured in a way to ensure age-appropriate recommendations are made that correlate to the District's grade configurations.¹ The SNPAAC shall have the powers and responsibilities delegated to it by statute and Rule and are incorporated into this policy by reference.² The overarching goal of the committee shall be to promote student wellness by monitoring how well the District is doing at implementing this policy. The SNPAAC shall use modules 1, 2, 3, 4, 10, and 11 of the Centers for Disease Control' (CDC) School Health Index as a basis for annually assessing each school's progress toward meeting the requirements of this policy. The results of the annual assessment shall be included in the school district's support plan, (SDSP), provided to each school's principal, and reported to the board. Goals and objectives for nutrition and physical activity shall also be included in the SDSP.

The SNPAAC shall be made up of Individuals from the following groups to the extent interested persons from each group desire to be included in the development,

implementation, and periodic review of the District's wellness policy:³

- Members of the District's Board of Directors;
- School administrators;
- School nutrition personnel;
- Teacher organizations;
- Teachers of physical education;
- Parents;
- Students;
- Professional groups (such as nurses);
- School health professionals (such as school nurses, school counselors, and social workers); and
- Community members.

The SNPAAC shall provide written recommendations to the District's Child Nutrition Director concerning menus and other foods sold in the school cafeteria. Such recommendations shall be based, at least in part, on the information the Committee receives from the District on the requirements and standards of the National School Lunch Program and from menus for the National School Lunch Program and other food sold in the school cafeteria on a quarterly basis.⁴

The SNPAAC will meet at least quarterly. Meeting dates for the SNPAAC will be placed on the District's calendar.

School Health Coordinator

To assist the SNPAAC in ensuring that the District fulfills the requirements of this policy, a District Level School Health Coordinator (Designated District Official) shall be appointed. In addition, a school level School Health Coordinator shall be appointed who shall be responsible for assisting the District Level School Health Coordinator in ensuring that each school fulfills the requirements of this policy.⁵

Goals

In its efforts to improve the school nutrition environment, promote student health, and reduce childhood obesity, the District will adhere to the DESE Rules Governing Nutrition and Physical Activity Standards and Body Mass Index for Age Assessment Protocols. To promote nutrition, physical activity, and other school based activities that will improve student wellness, the District, working with the SNPAAC, has established the following goals:⁶

1. Implement a grade appropriate nutrition education program that will develop an awareness of and appreciation for nutrition and physical activity throughout the curriculum;
2. Enforce existing physical education requirements and engage students in healthy levels of vigorous physical activity;
3. Strive to improve the quality of physical education curricula and increase the training of physical education teachers;
4. Follow the Arkansas Physical Education and Health Education Frameworks in grades K-12;

5. Not use food or beverages as rewards for academic, classroom, or sports performances;
6. Establish class schedules and bus routes that do not directly or indirectly restrict meal access;
7. Provide students with ample time to eat their meals in pleasant cafeteria and dining areas;
8. Abide by the current allowable food and beverage portion standards;
9. Meet or exceed the more stringent of Arkansas' or the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Nutrition Standards for reimbursable meals and a la' carte foods served in the cafeteria;⁷
10. Restrict access to competitive foods as required by law and Rule;
11. Conform new and/or renewed vending contracts to the content restrictions contained in the Rules and reduce district dependence on profits from the sale of competitive foods.
12. Provide professional development to all district staff on the topics of nutrition and/or physical activity;⁸
13. Utilize the School Health Index available from the CDC to assess how well the district is doing at implementing this wellness policy and at promoting a healthy environment for its students.

Food and Beverages Outside of the District's Food Service Programs

The District will insure that drinking water is available without charge to all students throughout the school including, but not limited to, in the District's food service areas.

All food and beverages sold to students on school campus during the school day by school administrators or school non-licensed or licensed staff (principals, coaches, teachers, club sponsors, etc.); students or student groups; parents or parent groups; or another person, company, or organization associated with the school shall meet the Federal Smart Snacks requirements and Arkansas Nutrition Standards at a minimum.⁹ These restrictions include, but are not limited to, food and beverages sold in vending venues (machines, ice chests, cabinets) in school stores or as part of school fundraisers.

All food and beverages provided, but not sold, to students on the school campus during the school day by school administrators or school non-licensed or licensed staff (principals, coaches, teachers, club sponsors, etc.); students or student groups; parents or parent groups; or another person, company, or organization associated with the school shall meet the Federal Smart Snacks requirements and Arkansas Nutrition Standards at a minimum.⁹ These restrictions include, but are not limited to, food and beverages provided in vending venues (machines, ice chests, cabinets) in school stores or as part of school fundraisers.

Up to a maximum of nine (9)¹⁰ times per school year, school administration may schedule school wide events

where food and beverages provided to students are not required to meet the Federal Smart Snacks standards during the scheduled time. The schedule of the events shall be by school, approved by the principal, and shall be part of the annual school calendar.

Food and beverages outside of the District's food service programs may not be sold, served, or provided to students in the District's food service areas during meal times.

Elementary students shall not have in-school access to vending machines.

The District does not place nutrition restrictions on food or beverages brought from home that are intended for personal consumption only.⁹

Advertising

In accordance with the USDA regulations, oral, written, or graphic statements made for the purpose of promoting the sale of a food or beverage product that are made by the producer, manufacturer, seller, or any other entity with a commercial interest in the product shall only be permitted on school campus during the school day if they meet or exceed the Federal Smart Snacks standards.¹¹ This restriction does not apply to:

- Materials used for educational purposes in the classroom, including, but not limited to:
 - The use of advertisements as a media education tool; or
 - Designing and implementing the health or nutrition curriculum;
- Clothing, apparel, or other personal items used by students and staff;
- The packaging of products brought from home for personal consumption; and
- Currently existing advertisements on school property, including but not limited to, the exterior of vending machines, posters, menu boards, coolers, trash cans, cups used for beverage dispensing, and other food service equipment; however, all future contracts and replacement items shall meet the Federal Smart Snacks standards.

Adoption Awareness Instruction

The District shall provide any information provided to students on the District's adoption awareness instruction that was in written form to the parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis to a pregnant student who is enrolled in the District.

Breast Feeding

In addition to providing age-appropriate education for students regarding the nutritional benefits of breastmilk and breastfeeding practices, the District shall provide:

- Space in the District's school facilities for District employees, students, and volunteers who are breastfeeding mothers that is a private, secure, and

sanitary room or other location, other than a toilet stall, that contains Access to a power source for a breast pump or any other equipment used to express breast milk where an employee, student, or volunteer can express breast milk;

- Space in the District's school facilities for District students who are breastfeeding mothers that is a private, secure, and sanitary room or other location, other than a toilet stall, where a student can breastfeed the student's child;
- Permission to bring a breast pump and any other equipment used to express breast milk to school;
- Access to a place to safely store breast milk, which shall include, but not be limited to, a refrigerator or cooler in:
 - A nurse's office;
 - A teachers' lounge; or
 - Another private location or location with limited accessibility in which the breast milk may be safely secured;
- Access to a location to clean a breast pump and any other equipment used to express breast milk at school.
- Break time:
 - To an employee or volunteer for the purpose of expressing breast milk that, to the extent possible, shall run concurrently with existing break times; and
 - To a student that is a reasonable amount of time to accommodate the student's need to express breast milk or to breastfeed the student's child on the District's campus;
- That a student shall not incur an academic penalty for expressing breast milk or for breastfeeding the student's child on the District's campus; and
- A student the opportunity to make up any work missed due to expressing breast milk or for breastfeeding the student's child on the District's campus.

Child Care

The District shall provide student mothers and fathers information regarding available child care services.¹²

Community Engagement

The District will work with the SNPAAC to:

- a. Encourage participation in extracurricular programs that support physical activity, such as walk-to-school programs, biking clubs, after-school walking etc.;
- b. Encourage the implementation of developmentally appropriate physical activity in after-school childcare programs for participating children;
- c. Promote the reduction of time youth spend engaged in sedentary activities such as watching television and playing video games; and
- d. Encourage the development of and participation in family-oriented community-based physical activity programs.

The District will annually inform the public:

- Of the web address where the policy is located;
- Of any changes made to this policy since the previous year;
- Of the health and wellness priority goals in the District's SDSP;
- That a printed copy of the policy may be picked up at the District's central office; and
- The amounts and specific sources of funds received and expenditures made from competitive food and beverage contracts.

Assessment of District's Wellness Policy

At least once every three years,¹³ with input from the SNPACC, the District shall assess both the District as a whole and individual schools' status in regards to the implementation and compliance of the goals of this policy, including the health and wellness goals in the District's SDSP. The assessment shall be based, at least in part, on:

- The extent to which District schools are in compliance with this policy;
- The extent to which this policy compares to other model local school wellness policies;
- The annual reviews of this policy based on modules 1, 2, 3, 4, 10, and 11 of the CDC's School Health Index; and
- A description of the progress made in attaining the goals of this policy.

On the years the assessment occurs, the assessment results shall be reported to the public, including parents, students, and other members of the community as part of the District's annual report to the public.

The District will update the wellness policy based on the results from the three (3) year¹³ assessment.

District Website

The District will place on its website:

- The name, District phone number, and District email address for the District Level School Health Coordinator;
- The names, district phone numbers, and district email addresses for the School Level School Health Coordinators;⁵
- The names of the members of the SNPAAC;
- Meeting dates for the SNPAAC;
- Information on how community members may get involved with the SNPAAC;
- A copy of this policy;
- A copy of the annual review of this policy based on modules 1, 2, 3, 4, 10, and 11 of the CDC's School Health Index; and
- A copy of the most recent three (3) year¹³ assessment of this policy.

EXTRACURRICULAR

All clubs will follow rules/by-laws/regulations as set forth by National and State sponsoring organizations if applicable to their organization, i.e. FFA, FCCLA, National Honor Society, etc.

Acorn Clubs, Organizations, and Traditional Activities

1. Elementary School Christmas Program:

Elementary school annually presents a Christmas program a few days before dismissing for the Christmas holiday.

2. Harvest Festival:

This is an annual school event. Each class will select a king and queen. The king and queen must have been enrolled the previous semester. Students can only be selected for King or Queen once in elementary. Students can only be selected once for King or Queen once in high school. It is a carnival night at the end of the week highlighted by the crowning of the Harvest Festival king and queen. All proceeds from the event go to the individual classrooms or grades. In grades K-6th, this money is spent to better the instruction through purchase of materials and for playground equipment. Grades 7th-12th, this money funds Junior/Senior Prom and Senior Class expenses.

3. Junior-Senior Prom:

The Junior-Senior Prom are held each spring. This is given by the Junior class to honor the graduating seniors.

4. Sixth Grade Promotional Ceremony:

A promotional exercise is held at the end of the school year for sixth graders going on to the seventh grade.

5. Graduation:

A final graduation exercise is held during which diplomas are presented to seniors. If a special speaker is used for graduation, he or she will be secured by the school administration.

6. Athletic Homecoming:

The following policy will be in effect for homecoming activities--

A. All participants must have a 2.0 grade point average from the previous year to be eligible.

B. The queen, maid of honor, and class maids must have been an Acorn student for the previous two semesters and do not have to be in athletics. Their escorts shall be selected from an approved list from the building principal.

C. 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grades shall vote for a queen and maid of honor from a list of girls in the 12th grade. The girl receiving the most votes shall be declared queen. The girl receiving the next highest votes shall be declared maid of honor. In cases of a tie, a run-off election shall be conducted.

D. Each class (9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grades) shall elect two maids from their respective class. Girls who are elected maids one year may be elected to the court in succeeding years.

E. 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grade boys/girls who participate in athletic programs (including cheerleaders) may participate in the homecoming court. They shall choose one another as escorts (boy-girl).

F. The participants listed above will wear: Boys – white dress shirt and black slacks; Girls - a nice dress with dress shoes

G. Last year's queen will choose a boy escort from the Acorn High School grades 9-10-11-12. Her boy escort will wear an athletic uniform.

7. Acorn Tiger:

The Acorn Tiger is published yearly by the yearbook staff. Students apply by letter to the sponsor. The Acorn Tiger staff's aim is to present a lasting record of classroom activities, students and faculty/employee personnel. Both student and professional photography is used. The book is financed by advertising and by advance subscription sales in the fall.

8. The Student Body: The Student Body consists of all students enrolled in school. The students of each class elect a president, vice-president, secretary, reporter and two representatives to the Student Council. This applies to grades 7th-12th.

9. The Student Council: The Student Council serves as an active advisory group to the principal. They are a medium of expression for the student body. Each class elects two representatives. This applies to grades 7th-12th. The Senior Class officers will be the Student Council officers.

10. Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America: The FCCLA is a national organization founded in 1946. Students must have taken or be currently enrolled in Family Consumer Sciences course to be a member. The officers are elected annually and must be full-time students. Membership is voluntary and the fee will be decided annually.

11. FFA: The FFA is a national organization. Membership is voluntary and is open to students in grades 7th -12th enrolled in Ag-Ed or who previously completed 1 semester in Ag-Ed. The fee will be decided yearly.

12. Future Business Leaders of America: The FBLA is one of the largest national student organizations. Membership is voluntary and fees will be decided yearly. Members can be from grades 9th -12th and do not have to be enrolled in any business education classes to belong. Members can enter district and state competition and can attend district and state meetings.

13. Science Club is a local organization consisting of 7th-12th graders. Dues will be decided annually.

14. Art Club: Members range from 7th- 12th grade. Dues will be decided annually.

15. Fellowship of Christian Students - FCS: Members range from 7th – 12th grade. Dues will be decided annually.

16. Band Club: Members range from 7th –12th grade.

17. National Honor Society: The National Honor Society is an organization designed to promote scholarship, leadership, service and character for 10th-12th grade. Qualifications for National Honor Society include:

A. Must have attended Acorn High School for at least one semester of the 9th, 10th, or 11th grade year in order to be considered for membership. If a student transfers to Acorn High and provides a letter of good standing from his previous school's NHS, that student will be eligible for membership.

B. Student must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.25 in an honor graduate curriculum.

C. Selection is made by a minimum of five members faculty council.

D. Students are screened for qualities of leadership, service, and character, as exhibited in their school and community involvement.

E. Students must maintain the standards by which they were selected or be put on probation.

F. The faculty council has the final word concerning probation or dismissal.

Classroom Clubs, Parties & Extra-Curricular Activities

1. Parties will be given in most elementary classrooms during the holiday seasons. There will be a maximum of two parties per school year. Birthday parties at school are not permissible.

2. The ORSD recognizes the value of extra-curricular activities for students in our district and will provide opportunities for participation for students in elementary and high school. However, the scheduling of such activities will be done in such a way as to limit the interruption of instruction to students. Clubs and/or extra-curricular activities will meet on a schedule set up by the principal. Students are advised to participate in only one or two of these activities because the student cannot contribute his/her best efforts if he/she belongs to too many organizations at once.

Extracurricular Activities – Secondary Schools (4.56)

"Academic Courses" are those courses for which class time is scheduled, which can be credited to meet the minimum requirements for graduation, which is taught by a teacher required to have State licensure in the course or is otherwise qualified under Arkansas statute, and has a course content guide which has been approved by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). Any of the courses for which concurrent high school credit is earned may be from an institution of higher education recognized by DESE. If a student passes an academic course offered on a block schedule, the course can be counted twice toward meeting the requirement for students to pass four (4) academic courses per semester as required by this policy.

"Extracurricular activities" are defined as: any school sponsored program where students from one or more schools meet, work, perform, practice under supervision outside of regular class time, or are competing for the purpose of receiving an award, rating, recognition, or

criticism, or qualification for additional competition. Examples include, but are not limited to, inter/intrascholastic athletics, cheerleading, band, choral, math, or science competitions, field trips, and club activities.

"Field Trips" are when individual students or groups of students are invited to programs or events when there is no competition and the students are not interacting with each other for the purpose of planning, qualifying, or arranging for future programs or for the purpose of receiving recognition.

"Interscholastic Activities" means athletic or non-athletic/academic activities where students compete on a school vs. school basis.¹

"Intrascholastic Activities" means athletic or non-athletic/academic activities where students compete with students from within the same school.¹

"Supplemental Improvement Program (SIP)" is an additional instructional opportunity for identified students outside of their regular classroom and meets the criteria outlined in the current Arkansas Activities Association (AAA) Handbook.

Extracurricular Eligibility

The Board believes in providing opportunities for students to participate in extracurricular activities that can help enrich the student's educational experience. At the same time, the Board believes that a student's participation in extracurricular activities cannot come at the expense of his/her classroom academic achievement. Interruptions of instructional time in the classroom are to be minimal and absences from class to participate in extracurricular activities shall not exceed one per week per extracurricular activity (tournaments excepted)². Additionally, a student's participation in, and the District's operation of, extracurricular activities shall be subject to the following policy. All students are eligible for extracurricular activities unless specifically denied eligibility on the basis of criteria outlined in this policy.

Any student who refuses to sit for a Statewide assessment or attempts to boycott a Statewide assessment by failing to put forth a good faith effort on the assessment as determined by the assessment administrator/proctor, or whose parents do not send their student to school on the dates the assessments are administered or scheduled as make-up days shall not be permitted to participate in any non-curriculum related extracurricular activity. The student shall remain ineligible to participate until the student takes the same or a following statewide assessment, as applicable. The superintendent or designee may waive this paragraph's provisions when the student's failure was due to exceptional or extraordinary circumstances.³ Students falling under the provisions of this paragraph shall be

permitted to attend curriculum related field trips occurring during the school day.⁴

A student who enrolls in the district and meets the definition of “eligible child” in Policy 4.2—ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS shall be eligible to try out for an extracurricular activity regardless of the date the student enrolls in the District so long as the student meets all other eligibility requirements and the extracurricular activity is still ongoing.

A student and the parent or legal guardian of the student shall sign and return an acknowledgement of receipt and review of an information sheet regarding signs and symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest before the student may participate in an athletic activity and before each school year the student participates in an athletic activity.

No student shall be required to pay for individual or group instruction in order to participate in an extracurricular activity.

Interscholastic Activities

Each school in the District shall post on its website its schedule of interscholastic activities, including sign-up, tryout, and participation deadlines, at least one semester in advance of those activities. A hard copy of the schedule shall be available upon request.⁵

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS: Junior High

A student promoted from the sixth to the seventh grade automatically meets scholarship requirements. A student promoted from the seventh to the eighth grade automatically meets scholarship requirements for the first semester. The second semester eighth-grade student meets the scholarship requirements for junior high if he/she has successfully passed four (4) academic courses the previous semester.

The first semester ninth-grade student meets the scholarship requirements for junior high if he/she has successfully passed four (4) academic courses the previous semester.

The second semester ninth-grade student meets the scholarship requirements for junior high if he/she has successfully passed (4) academic courses the previous semester which count toward his/her high school graduation requirements.

Ninth-grade students must meet the requirements of the senior high scholarship rule by the end of the second semester in the ninth grade in order to be eligible to participate the fall semester of their tenth-grade year.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS: Senior High

In order to remain eligible for competitive interscholastic activity, a student must have passed (4) academic courses the previous semester and either:

1. Have earned a minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.0 from all academic courses the previous semester; or
2. If the student has passed four (4) academic courses the previous semester but does not have a 2.0 GPA the student must be enrolled and successfully participating in an SIP to maintain their competitive interscholastic extracurricular eligibility.

STUDENTS WITH AN INDIVIDUAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

In order to be considered eligible to participate in competitive interscholastic activities, students with disabilities must pass at least four (4) courses per semester as required by their individual education program (IEP).

Homeless Students

Students who are determined to be experiencing homelessness by the school’s homeless LEA shall be eligible for participation in interscholastic activities.

ARKANSAS ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

In addition to the foregoing rules, the district shall abide by the rules of AAA governing interscholastic activities. AAA provides catastrophic insurance coverage for students participating in AAA governed extracurricular activities who are enrolled in school. As a matter of District policy, no student may participate in a AAA governed extracurricular activity unless he or she is enrolled in a district school, to ensure all students are eligible for AAA catastrophic insurance.⁶

Intrascholastic Activities

AAA Governed Activities

Students participating in intrascholastic extracurricular activities that would be governed by AAA if they were to occur between students of different schools shall meet all interscholastic activity eligibility requirements to be eligible to participate in the comparable intrascholastic activity. The District will abide by the AAA Handbook for such activities to ensure District students are not disqualified from participating in interscholastic activities.⁷

Non-AAA Governed Activities

Unless made ineligible by District policies, all students shall be eligible to participate in non-AAA governed intrascholastic extracurricular activities. Intrascholastic activities designed for a particular grade(s) or course(s)

shall require the student to be enrolled in the grade(s) or course(s).

School Choice Transfers

A student who transfers under a legal school choice option shall not be denied participation in an extracurricular activity where the student transfers based exclusively on the student's decision to transfer. A student who transfers after July 1 of the year the student enters grade seven (7) shall complete a Changing Schools/Athletic Participation form as defined by AAA, which must be signed by the:

- Superintendent of the student's resident school district;
- Superintendent of the nonresident school district to which the student transfers; and
- Parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis to the student.

The completed Changing Schools/Athletic Participation form shall be filed with the non-resident school district where the student transfers and the AAA. The Changing Schools/Athletic Participation form shall be signed by the superintendent of a student's resident school district and the superintendent of the nonresident school district to which a student transfers unless there is demonstrable evidence of recruiting by the receiving school district personnel or that the student is transferring to the nonresident school district solely for athletic purposes.

Extracurricular Activities –Elementary

(4.56.1)

Definitions

"Extracurricular activities" are defined as: any school sponsored program where students from one or more schools meet, work, perform, practice under supervision outside of regular class time, or are competing for the purpose of receiving an award, rating, recognition, or criticism, or qualification for additional competition. Examples include, but are not limited to, inter/intrascholastic athletics, cheerleading, band, choral, math, or science competitions, field trips, and club activities.

"Field Trips" are when individual students or groups of students are invited to programs or events when there is no competition and the students are not interacting with each other for the purpose of planning, qualifying, or arranging for future programs or for the purpose of receiving recognition.

"Interscholastic Activities" means athletic or non-athletic/academic activities where students compete on a school vs. school basis.

"Intrascholastic Activities" means athletic or non-athletic/academic activities where students compete with students from within the same school.

Extracurricular Eligibility

The Board believes in providing opportunities for students to participate in extracurricular activities that can help enrich the student's educational experience. At the same time, the Board believes that a student's participation in extracurricular activities cannot come at the expense of his/her classroom academic achievement. Interruptions of instructional time in the classroom are to be minimal and absences from class to participate in extracurricular activities shall not exceed one per week per extracurricular activity¹ (tournaments or other similar events excepted with approval of the principal).² All students are eligible for extracurricular activities unless specifically denied eligibility on the basis of criteria outlined in this policy.

A student may lose his/her eligibility to participate in extracurricular activities when, in the opinion of the school's administration, the student's participation in such an activity may adversely jeopardize his/her academic achievement. Students may also be denied permission to participate in extracurricular activities as a consequence of disciplinary action taken by the administration for inappropriate behavior.³

Any student who refuses to sit for a Statewide assessment or attempts to boycott a Statewide assessment by failing to put forth a good faith effort on the assessment as determined by the assessment administrator/proctor, or whose parents do not send their student to school on the dates the assessments are administered or scheduled as make-up days shall not be permitted to participate in any non-curriculum related extracurricular activity. The student shall remain ineligible to participate until the student takes the same or a following statewide assessment, as applicable. The superintendent or designee may waive this paragraph's provisions when the student's failure was due to exceptional or extraordinary circumstances.⁴ Students falling under the provisions of this paragraph shall be permitted to attend curriculum related field trips occurring during the school day.⁵

A student who enrolls in the district and meets the definition of "eligible child" in Policy 4.2—ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS shall be eligible to try out for an extracurricular activity regardless of the date the student enrolls in the District so long as the student meets all other eligibility requirements and the extracurricular activity is still ongoing.

No student shall be required to pay for individual or group instruction in order to participate in an extracurricular activity.

A student and the parent or legal guardian of the student shall sign and return an acknowledgement of receipt and review of an information sheet regarding signs and symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest before the student may participate in an athletic activity and before each school year the student participates in an athletic activity.

Extracurricular Activity Eligibility for Home Schooled Students (4.56.2)

Home-schooled student means a student legally enrolled

in an Arkansas home school and who meets or has met the criteria for being a home-schooled student, as established by A.C.A. § 6-15-503.

Interscholastic activity means an activity between schools subject to rules of the Arkansas Activities Association that is outside the regular curriculum of the school district, such as an athletic activity, fine arts program, or a special interest group or club.

Each school in the District shall post on its website its schedule of interscholastic activities, including sign-up, tryout, and participation deadlines, at least one semester in advance of those activities. A hard copy of the schedule shall be available upon request.¹

Home-schooled students whose parent or legal guardian are not residents of the school district will be permitted to pursue participation in an interscholastic activity in the District if:

- The superintendent of the student's resident district and the superintendent of the District both agree in writing to allow the student to participate in interscholastic activities at the District; or
- The student's resident school does not offer the interscholastic activity and the superintendent of the non-resident district agrees to allow the student to enroll in the interscholastic activity.

Although not guaranteed participation in an interscholastic activity, home-school students who meet the provisions of this policy, AAA Rules, and applicable Arkansas statutes shall have an equal opportunity to try out and participate in interscholastic activities without discrimination. The District shall provide a reasonable alternative to any prerequisite for eligibility to participate in an interscholastic activity that the home-schooled student is unable to meet because of his or her enrollment in a home school.

No student shall be required to pay for individual or group instruction in order to participate in an interscholastic activity.

To be eligible to try out and participate in interscholastic activities, the student or the parent of a student shall mail or hand deliver the student's request to participate to the student's school's principal before the sign-up, tryout or participation deadline established for traditional students. Additionally, the student shall demonstrate academic eligibility by obtaining a minimum test score of the 30th percentile or better in the previous 12 months on the Stanford Achievement Test Series, Tenth Edition; another nationally recognized norm-referenced test; or a minimum score on a test approved by the State Board of Education.

A student who meets the requirements for eligibility to participate in an interscholastic activity is required to register for no more than one non-academic course³ in the District's school where the student is intending to participate in an interscholastic activity that coincides with the interscholastic activity in which the homeschooled student participates and shall be required to be at school only when participation in the

interscholastic activity requires other students who participate in the interscholastic activity to be at school.

The student shall regularly attend the class in which the student is registered beginning no later than the eleventh (11th) day of the semester in which the student's interscholastic activity participation is desired. The student must attend the practices for the interscholastic activity to the same extent as is required of traditional students.

A student and the parent or legal guardian of the student shall sign and return an acknowledgement of receipt and review of an information sheet regarding signs and symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest before the student may participate in an athletic activity and before each school year the student participates in an athletic activity.

A home-schooled student who has met the try out criteria; and who has been selected to participate in the interscholastic activity shall meet the following criteria that also apply to traditional students enrolled in the school:

- standards of behavior and codes of conduct;
- attend the practices for the interscholastic activity to the same extent as is required of traditional students;
- required drug testing;⁴
- permission slips, waivers, physical exams; and
- participation or activity fees.

Students who participate in extracurricular or athletic activities under this policy will be transported to and from the interscholastic activities on the same basis as other students are transported.

A home schooled student may begin participating in an interscholastic activity immediately upon being approved to participate by the District if:

- The home schooled student has not withdrawn from an Arkansas Activities Association member school; or
- The student has withdrawn from an AAA member school and enrolled in a home school but did not participate in an interscholastic activity that is a varsity sport at the student's resident district prior to the student's withdrawal from the AAA member school.

A student who withdrew from an AAA member school who participated in an interscholastic activity that is a varsity sport at the student's resident district during the previous three hundred sixty-five (365) days shall not be eligible to immediately participate in an interscholastic activity that is a varsity sport in the District. The student will not become eligible for full participation until the completion of the three hundred sixty-five (365) day period from when the student withdrew. A student who is not eligible for full participation may participate in tryouts, practices, classes, or other endeavors associated with the interscholastic activity until the completion of the three hundred sixty-five (365) day period from when the student withdrew.

Field Trips

Students on field trips are under the same rules and supervision as would be occurring at school. Anyone needing discipline for something happening on a field trip will be disciplined. Students will follow Make-up Work Policy for work missed.

Junior-Senior Prom Regulations

1. All school rules and regulations will apply.
2. Adults will keep a "guest book" at the door where students will be asked to sign in and out. Once in, students will not be allowed to leave and return.
3. If a student is suspected of illegal drug or alcohol use, he or she will not be allowed to stay and the administration will notify the parents of the student.
4. Members of the Junior class and their sponsors will be responsible for decorating and cleaning up the prom site.
5. The prom will conclude no later than 12:00 midnight.
6. Junior and Senior class sponsors will attend the entire event.
7. All class members and parents will be aware of rules before the event.
8. Only Junior and Senior class members, including Senior ASMSA students, of an ORSD School and their registered guests as approved by the High School principal may attend the prom.
9. After a student leaves the prom the school will no longer be responsible.
10. The ORSD will be permitted to have a Junior/Senior Prom as long as there are no major problems.
11. Please help see that there are not any problems so that you can continue to enjoy having a Junior/Senior prom.

Oden Clubs, Organizations, and Traditional Activities

1. Elementary School Christmas/End of the Year Program: Elementary teachers may either present a Christmas or end of the year program.
2. Halloween Carnival: This is an annual school event. It is a carnival night at the end of the week highlighted by the crowning of the Halloween Carnival king and queen for P-3rd, 4th-6th, and 7th-12th grades. All proceeds from the event go to the individual classrooms, grades, and PTO. This money is spent to enrich our students' campus experiences.
3. Awards Assembly: At the end of the year, the elementary school will have an academic awards assembly recognizing academic excellence and reading.
4. Junior-Senior Banquet/Prom: The Junior-Senior Banquet and Prom are held each spring. This is given by the Junior class to honor the graduating seniors.
5. Fifth Grade Graduation Ceremony: A graduation exercise is held at the end of the school year for sixth graders promoting to the seventh grade.
6. Graduation: A final graduation exercise is held during which diplomas are presented to seniors. If a

special speaker is used for graduation, he or she will be secured by the school administration.

7. Athletic Homecoming: The following policy will be in effect for homecoming activities:

A. The queen will be selected by the members of the 10th, 11th, and 12th grade student body.

* The Student Council feels that the homecoming queen and maids should be a positive representative of the Oden Student Body.

** She should be involved in school activities and demonstrate support for our school by her actions and words.

B. The queen may be selected from any class in high school (10th-12th).

C. Each class (6th-12th) will select a maid from their class.

D. In sequence, each maid will select her escort. The queen selects first, then senior maid, then junior maid, etc.

E. The queen will select two 12th grade escorts.

F. Escorts must play basketball.

G. Senior high maids must pick senior high escorts (12th grade players) and junior high maids must pick junior high escorts.

H. The escorts will wear basketball uniforms.

8. Year Book

A. The Oden Year book is published yearly by the yearbook staff.

B. staff members from grades 9th-12th will be selected from prospective students by the advisor and principal.

C. Selection preference may be given for abilities that are needed in a particular year, i.e. photography, etc.

D. Due to the nature of annual staff work, the selection process may be subjective. Selection criteria may be (but not inclusive): teacher evaluation, skills needed, disciplinary record, and other items that may be pertinent to annual staff work.

E. Annual staff work will require a commitment from each member. Failure to meet that commitment may result in a staff member being dropped from the staff.

F. After one absence, a staff member will be placed on probation. After the following consecutive absence, the staff member will be dropped from the staff.

G. Failure to meet weekly obligation of a minimum of 1 and ½ hours per week without prior approval will be cause for automatic dismissal.

H. Only students of Annual Staff and BETA Club will be allowed to participate in off-campus ad sales and will be limited to two school days per year.

I. Situations not covered in the above guidelines are at the discretion of the advisor and administration.

9. The Student Body: The Student Body consists of all students enrolled in school. The students of each class elect a president, vice-president, secretary, reporter and two representatives to the Student Council. This applies to grades 6th-12th.

10. The Student Council: The Student Council serves as an active advisory group to the principal. They are a medium of expression for the student body. Each class elects two representatives. This applies to grades 6th-12th. Officers are elected according to the Student Council Constitution.

11. Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America: The FCCLA is a national organization founded in 1946. Students must have taken or be currently enrolled in Family Consumer Sciences course to be a member. The officers are elected annually and must be full-time students. Membership is voluntary and the fee will be decided annually.

12. FFA: The FFA is a national organization. Membership is voluntary and is open to students in grades 7th -12th enrolled in Ag-Ed or who previously completed 1 semester in Ag-Ed. The fee will be decided yearly.

13. Future Business Leaders of America: The FBLA is one of the largest national student organizations. Membership is voluntary and fees will be decided yearly. Members can be from grades 9th -12th and do not have to be enrolled in any business education classes to belong. Members can enter district and state competition and can attend district and state meetings.

14. Fellowship of Christian Students - FCS: Members range from 6th- 12th grade. Dues will be decided annually.

15. BETA Club: This is an organization designed to promote scholarship, leadership, service and character for 10th- 12th grade. Qualifications for BETA Club include:

A. Must have a 3.0 grade point average and no "C" for the previous semester.

B. Only students of Annual Staff and BETA Club will be allowed to participate in off-campus ad sales and will be limited to two school days per year.

16. Woods & Water Club: This is an outdoor education and conservation club.

A. Description: The club was founded by Tims Edwards in 1980. The O.W.W.C promotes knowledgeable conservation methods useful to the school and the community and promotes student interaction in real life situations with the environment. Most of the activities are held after school and on weekends unless they are incorporated into the academic classes. The club has participated in several service-learning, enhancement, maintenance, and development activities with the help of the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission, Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Forest Service. As penned by Montgomery County native, Robert W. Edwards, "If you take something from nature, you must give something back." This is the motto of O.W.W.C.

B. Membership is open to 6th-12th grade students who have successfully completed AGFC's Arkansas Hunter Education course.

C. Dues will be decided annually.

D. All funds come from grants, private donations,

corporate sponsors, and fund raisers. No school funds are used in this program.

DISCIPLINE

Behavior Not Covered

1. The school district reserves the right to punish behavior which is subversive to good order and discipline, even though such behavior is not specified in the preceding written orders.

2. The principal or designee shall make a reasonable, good faith effort to notify a student's parent, legal guardian, or custodian listed on student enrollment forms of the occurrence of any of the following events for students under the age of eighteen (18):

A. An authorized official of the ORSD makes a report to any law enforcement agency concerning student misconduct, or;

B. Grants law enforcement personnel, other than a school resource officer acting in the normal course and scope of his or her assigned duties, access to the student, or;

C. Knows that a student has been taken into custody by law enforcement personnel during the school day or while under school supervision.

3. Notification may not be required in some instances involving suspected child maltreatment.

Bullying (4.43)

Definitions

"Attribute" means an actual or perceived personal characteristic including without limitation race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, socioeconomic status, academic status, disability, gender, gender identity, physical appearance, health condition, or sexual orientation;

"Bullying" means the intentional harassment, intimidation, humiliation, ridicule, defamation, or threat or incitement of violence by a student against another student or public school employee by a written, verbal, electronic, or physical act that may address an attribute of the other student, public school employee, or person with whom the other student or public school employee is associated and that causes or creates actual or reasonably foreseeable:

- Physical harm to a public school employee or student or damage to the public school employee's or student's property;
- Substantial interference with a student's education or with a public school employee's role in education;
- A hostile educational environment for one (1) or more students or public school employees due to the severity, persistence, or pervasiveness of the act; or

- Substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school or educational environment;
Examples of "Bullying" include, but are not limited to, a pattern of behavior involving one or more of the following:
 1. Cyberbullying;
 2. Sarcastic comments "compliments" about another student's personal appearance or actual or perceived attributes,
 3. Pointed questions intended to embarrass or humiliate,
 4. Mocking, taunting or belittling,
 5. Non-verbal threats and/or intimidation such as "fronting" or "chesting" a person,
 6. Demeaning humor relating to a student's actual or perceived attributes,
 7. Blackmail, extortion, demands for protection money or other involuntary donations or loans,
 8. Blocking access to school property or facilities,
 9. Deliberate physical contact or injury to person or property,
 10. Stealing or hiding books or belongings,
 11. Threats of harm to student(s), possessions, or others,
 12. Sexual harassment, as governed by policy 4.27, is also a form of bullying, and/or
 13. Teasing or name-calling related to sexual characteristics or the belief or perception that an individual is not conforming to expected gender roles or conduct or is homosexual, regardless of whether the student self-identifies as homosexual or transgender (Examples: "Slut", "You are so gay.", "Fag", "Queer").

"Cyberbullying" means any form of communication by electronic act that is sent with the purpose to:

- Harass, intimidate, humiliate, ridicule, defame, or threaten a student, school employee, or person with whom the other student or school employee is associated; or
- Incite violence towards a student, school employee, or person with whom the other student or school employee is associated.

Cyberbullying of School Employees includes, but is not limited to:

- a. Building a fake profile or website of the employee;
- b. Posting or encouraging others to post on the Internet private, personal, or sexual information pertaining to a school employee;
- c. Posting an original or edited image of the school employee on the Internet;
- d. Accessing, altering, or erasing any computer network, computer data program, or computer software, including breaking into a password-protected account or stealing or otherwise accessing passwords of a school employee;
- e. Making repeated, continuing, or sustained electronic communications, including electronic mail or transmission, to a school employee;
- f. Making, or causing to be made, and disseminating an unauthorized copy of data pertaining to a school employee in any form, including without limitation the printed or electronic form of computer data, computer programs, or computer software residing in,

communicated by, or produced by a computer or computer network;

- g. Signing up a school employee for a pornographic Internet site; or
- h. Without authorization of the school employee, signing up a school employee for electronic mailing lists or to receive junk electronic messages and instant messages.

Cyberbullying is prohibited whether or not the cyberbullying originated on school property or with school equipment, if the cyberbullying results in the substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school or educational environment or is directed specifically at students or school personnel and maliciously intended for the purpose of disrupting school and has a high likelihood of succeeding in that purpose.

"Harassment" means a pattern of unwelcome verbal or physical conduct relating to another person's constitutionally or statutorily protected status that causes, or reasonably should be expected to cause, substantial interference with the other's performance in the school environment; and

"Substantial disruption" means without limitation that any one or more of the following occur as a result of the bullying:

- Necessary cessation of instruction or educational activities;
- Inability of students or educational staff to focus on learning or function as an educational unit because of a hostile environment;
- Severe or repetitive disciplinary measures are needed in the classroom or during educational activities; or
- Exhibition of other behaviors by students or educational staff that substantially interfere with the learning environment.

Respect for the dignity of others is a cornerstone of civil society. Bullying creates an atmosphere of fear and intimidation, robs a person of his/her dignity, detracts from the safe environment necessary to promote student learning, and will not be tolerated by the Board of Directors. Students who bully another person shall be held accountable for their actions whether they occur on school equipment or property; off school property at a school sponsored or approved function, activity, or event; going to or from school or a school activity in a school vehicle or school bus; or at designated school bus stops.

Students are encouraged to report behavior they consider to be bullying, including a single action which if allowed to continue would constitute bullying, to their teacher or the building principal. The report may be made anonymously. Teachers and other school employees who have witnessed, or are reliably informed that, a student has been a victim of behavior they

consider to be bullying, including a single action which if allowed to continue would constitute bullying, shall report the incident(s) to the building principal, or designee, as soon as possible. Parents or legal guardians may submit written reports of incidents they feel constitute bullying, or if allowed to continue would constitute bullying, to the building principal, or designee.

The person or persons reporting behavior they consider to be bullying shall not be subject to retaliation or reprisal in any form.

A building principal, or designee, who receives a credible report or complaint of bullying shall:

1. As soon as reasonably practicable, but by no later than the end of the school day following the receipt of the credible report of bullying:
 - a. Report to a parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of a student, or person standing in loco parentis of a student that their student is the victim in a credible report of bullying; and
 - b. Prepare a written report of the alleged incident of bullying;
2. Promptly investigate the credible report or complaint of bullying, which shall be completed by no later than the fifth (5th) school day following the completion of the written report.
3. Notify within five (5) days following the completion of the investigation the parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of a student, or person standing in loco parentis of a student who was the alleged victim in a credible report of bullying whether the investigation found the credible report or complaint of bullying to be true and the availability of counseling and other intervention services.
4. Notify within five (5) days following the completion of the investigation the parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person acting in loco parentis of the student who is alleged to have been the perpetrator of the incident of bullying:
 - a. That a credible report or complaint of bullying against their student exists;
 - b. Whether the investigation found the credible report or complaint of bullying to be true;
 - c. Whether action was taken against their student upon the conclusion of the investigation of the alleged incident of bullying; and
 - d. Information regarding the reporting of another alleged incident of bullying, including potential consequences of continued incidents of bullying;
5. Make a written record of the investigation, which shall include:
 - a. A detailed description of the alleged incident of bullying, including without limitation a detailed summary of the statements from all material witnesses to the alleged incident of bullying;
 - b. Any action taken as a result of the investigation; and

6. Discuss, as appropriate, the availability of counseling and other intervention services with students involved in the incident of bullying.

Students found to be in violation of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion. In determining the appropriate disciplinary action, consideration may be given to other violations of the student handbook which may have simultaneously occurred.¹ In addition to any disciplinary actions, the District shall take appropriate steps to remedy the effects resulting from bullying.

Notice of what constitutes bullying, the District's prohibition against bullying, and the consequences for students who bully shall be conspicuously posted in every classroom, cafeteria, restroom, gymnasium, auditorium, and school bus.² Parents, legal guardians, person having lawful control of a student, persons standing in loco parentis, students, school volunteers, and employees shall be given copies of the notice annually.³

The superintendent shall make a report annually to the Board of Directors on student discipline data, which shall include, without limitation, the number of incidents of bullying reported and the actions taken regarding the reported incidents of bullying.

Copies of this policy shall be available upon request.⁴

Conduct to and from School and Transportation Eligibility (4.19)

The District's Student Code of conduct applies to students while traveling to and from school or to and from a school activity to the same extent as if the students were on school grounds. Appropriate disciplinary actions may be taken against commuting students who violate the District's Student Code of Conduct.

The preceding paragraph also applies to student conduct while on school buses. Students shall be instructed in safe riding practices.¹ The driver of a school bus shall not operate the school bus until every passenger is seated. In addition to other disciplinary measures provided for violations of the District's Student Code of Conduct, the student's bus transportation privileges may be suspended or terminated for violations of the Student Code of Conduct related to bus behavior.

Students are eligible to receive district bus transportation if they meet the following requirements.² The transportation to and from school of students who have lost their bus transportation privileges is the responsibility of the student's parent or guardian.

Corporal Punishment (4.39)

The Ouachita River School Board authorizes the use of corporal punishment to be administered in accordance with this policy by the Superintendent or the superintendent's designated staff members who are required to have a state-issued license as a condition of their employment.¹

Prior to the administration of corporal punishment, the student receiving the corporal punishment shall be given an explanation of the reasons for the punishment and be given an opportunity to refute the charges.

All corporal punishment shall be administered privately, i.e. out of the sight and hearing of other students, shall not be excessive, or administered with malice, and shall be administered in the presence of another school administrator or designee who shall be a licensed staff member employed by the District.

Corporal punishment shall not be used as a form of discipline for a student who is intellectually disabled, non-ambulatory, non-verbal, or autistic.²

Disruption of School (4.20)

1. No student shall by the use of violence, force, noise, coercion, threat, intimidation, fear, passive resistance, or any other conduct, intentionally cause the disruption of any lawful mission, process, or function of the school, or engage in any such conduct for the purpose of causing disruption or obstruction of any lawful mission, process, or function. Nor shall any student encourage any other student to engage in such activities.

2. Disorderly activities by any student or group of students that adversely affect the school's orderly educational environment shall not be tolerated at any time on school grounds. Teachers may remove from class and send to the principal or principal's designee office a student whose behavior is so unruly, disruptive, or abusive that it seriously interferes with the teacher's ability to teach the students, the class, or with the ability of the student's classmates to learn. Students who refuse to leave the classroom voluntarily will be escorted from the classroom by the school administration.

Drugs and Alcohol (4.24)

An orderly and safe school environment that is conducive to promoting student achievement requires a student population free from the deleterious effects of alcohol and drugs. Their use is illegal, disruptive to the educational environment, and diminishes the capacity of students to learn and function properly in our schools.

Therefore, no student in the Ouachita River School District shall possess, attempt to possess, consume, use, distribute, sell, buy, attempt to sell, attempt to buy, give to any person, or be under the influence of any substance as defined in this policy, or what the student

represents or believes to be any substance as defined in this policy. This policy applies to any student who: is on or about school property; is in attendance at school or any school sponsored activity; has left the school campus for any reason and returns to the campus; or is on route to or from school or any school sponsored activity.

Prohibited substances shall include, but are not limited to: alcohol, or any alcoholic beverage; inhalants or any ingestible matter that alter a student's ability to act, think, or respond; LSD, or any other hallucinogen; marijuana, cocaine, heroin, or any other narcotic drug; PCP; amphetamines; steroids; "designer drugs"; look-alike drugs; or any controlled substance.

The sale, distribution, or attempted sale or distribution of over-the-counter (OTC) medications, dietary supplement or other perceived health remedy not regulated by the US Food and Drug Administration, or prescription drugs is prohibited. The possession or use of OTC medications, dietary supplement or other perceived health remedy not regulated by the US Food and Drug Administration, or prescription drugs is prohibited except as permitted under Policy 4.35—STUDENT MEDICATIONS.

Equal Enforcement of Regulations:

The regulations found within the student handbook apply equally without regard to sex, race, or national origin.

Expulsion (4.31)

The Board of Education may expel a student for a period longer than ten (10) school days for violation of the District's written discipline policies. The Superintendent may make a recommendation of expulsion to the Board of Education for student conduct:

- Deemed to be of such gravity that suspension would be inappropriate;
- Where the student's continued attendance at school would disrupt the orderly learning environment; or
- Would pose an unreasonable danger to the welfare of other students or staff.

Expulsion shall not be used to discipline a student in kindergarten through fifth (5th) grade unless the student's behavior:

- a. Poses a physical risk to himself or herself or to others;
- b. Causes a serious disruption that cannot be addressed through other means; or
- c. Is the act of bringing a firearm on school campus;

The Superintendent or his/her designee shall give written notice to the parents, legal guardians, persons having lawful control of the student, or persons standing in loco parentis (mailed to the address reflected on the District's records) that he/she will recommend to the Board of Education that the student be expelled for the specified length of time and state the reasons for the

recommendation to expel. The notice shall give the date, hour, and place where the Board of Education will consider and dispose of the recommendation.

The hearing shall be conducted not later than ten (10) school days¹ following the date of the notice, except that representatives of the Board and student may agree in writing to a date not conforming to this limitation.

The President of the Board, Board attorney, or other designated Board member shall preside at the hearing. The student may choose to be represented by legal counsel. Both the district administration and School Board also may be represented by legal counsel. The hearing shall be conducted in open session of the Board unless the parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, person standing in loco parentis, or student if age eighteen (18) or older, requests that the hearing be conducted in executive session. Any action taken by the Board shall be in open session.

During the hearing, the Superintendent, or designee, or representative will present evidence, including the calling of witnesses, who gave rise to the recommendation of expulsion. The student, or his/her representative, may then present evidence including statements from persons with personal knowledge of the events or circumstances relevant to the charges against the student. Formal cross-examination will not be permitted; however, any member of the Board, the Superintendent, or designee, the student, or his/her representative may question anyone making a statement and/or the student. The presiding officer shall decide questions concerning the appropriateness or relevance of any questions asked during the hearing.

Except as permitted by policy 4.22, the Superintendent shall recommend the expulsion of any student for a period of one (1) year for possession of any firearm prohibited on school campus by law. The Superintendent shall, however, have the discretion to modify the expulsion recommendation for a student on a case-by-case basis. Parents, legal guardians, persons having lawful control of a student, or persons standing in loco parentis of a student enrolling from another school after the expiration of an expulsion period for a weapons policy violation shall be given a copy of the current laws regarding the possibility of parental responsibility for allowing a child to possess a weapon on school property.² The parents, legal guardians, persons having lawful control of the student, or persons standing in loco parentis shall sign a statement acknowledging that they have read and understand said laws prior to the student being enrolled in school.

The Superintendent and the Board of Education shall complete the expulsion process of any student that was initiated because the student possessed a firearm or other prohibited weapon on school property regardless of the enrollment status of the student.

The District shall establish programs, measures, or alternative means and methods to continue student engagement and access to education during a student's period of expulsion.

Gangs and Gang Activity (4.26)

1. The Board is committed to ensuring a safe school environment conducive to promoting a learning environment where students and staff can excel. An orderly environment cannot exist where unlawful acts occur causing fear, intimidation, or physical harm to students or school staff. Gangs and their activities create such an atmosphere and shall not be allowed on school grounds or at school functions.
2. The following actions are prohibited by students on school property or at school functions:
 - A. Wearing or possessing any clothing, bandanas, jewelry, symbol, or other sign associated with membership in, or representative of, any gang;
 - B. Engaging in any verbal or nonverbal act such as throwing signs, gestures, or handshakes representative of membership in any gang;
 - C. Recruiting, soliciting, or encouraging any person through duress or intimidation to become or remain a member of any gang; and/or
 - D. Extorting payment from any individual in return for protection from harm from any gang.
 - E. Students found to be in violation of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.
3. Students arrested for gang related activities occurring off school grounds shall be subject to the same disciplinary actions as if they had occurred on school grounds.

Handicapped Students:

In the establishment of these discipline policies, the ORSD recognizes that in the case of diagnosed handicapped students the provisions of Federal Law 94-142, Ark. Act 102, Ark. Act 504, Ark. Law 6-18-507 and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) policies will prevail. In those cases, required adjustments in the policies will be made in line with the student's handicapping condition as stated on student's Individualized Educational Program (IEP).

In-School Suspension (I.S.S.)

1. Purpose: The in-school suspension will provide discipline for disruptive students while allowing them to stay in school. Students in grades K-12th may be assigned to I.S.S. The principal or his/her designee will make the I.S.S. assignment. The student will report to I.S.S. the morning assigned by the principal.

Immediately after the first bell rings, the student must report to I.S.S. The student will report with all of his/her books and essentials for the day's work. The regular classroom teachers will provide to the I.S.S. teacher necessary assignments for the student, appropriate to

the length of the stay. Students will be placed in study cubicles.

2. A break will be provided at 10:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M. for restroom and stretching.

3. Lunch break will be from 11:30-11:50. Students will be marched to and from the cafeteria. The students will sit where assigned by the teacher, and not fraternize with other students. Students may bring their own lunch, but must eat in the lunchroom.

4. Duration -- One to five days, depending upon the degree of the offense and the number of prior offenses.

5. Days in I.S.S. may be extended upon the recommendations of the I.S.S. teacher. Reasons for extended time may include but not limited to:

A. Disrespect shown to the I.S.S. teacher.

B. Failure to follow the I.S.S. rules.

C. Not completing assignments given.

D. Tardy to I.S.S.

6. Any student assigned to the I.S.S. must complete the days assigned before he/she will be reinstated in regular classes. On the first suspension, a student in grades 7th -12th may have 1 day or half day removed from their suspension for perfect conduct while in I.S.S.

7. For purpose of the attendance policy, days assigned to the I.S.S. will not be computed as absences from class.

8. Failure to comply with rules and regulations of the I.S.S. or failure to comply with directives of the instructor may result in corporal punishment, additional days in I.S.S., out-of-school suspension, recommended expulsion or other punishment deemed appropriate by the principal.

9. Any student having been assigned I.S.S. for a total of 15 days during a single semester may face possible out of school suspension, expulsion, or placement in the Alternative School.

Internet Safety and Electronic Device Use Policy (4.29)

Definition

For the purposes of this policy, "electronic device" means anything that can be used to transmit or capture images, sound, or data.

The District makes electronic device(s) and/or electronic device Internet access available to students, to permit students to perform research and to allow students to learn how to use electronic device technology. Use of district electronic devices is for educational and/or instructional purposes only. Student use of electronic device(s) shall only be as directed or assigned by staff or teachers; students are advised that they enjoy no expectation of privacy in any aspect of their electronic device use, including email, and that monitoring of student electronic device use is continuous.

No student will be granted Internet access until and unless an Internet and electronic device use agreement, signed by both the student and the parent or legal

guardian (if the student is under the age of eighteen [18]) is on file. The current version of the Internet and electronic device use agreement is incorporated by reference into board policy and is considered part of the student handbook.

Technology Protection Measures

The District is dedicated to protecting students from materials on the Internet or world wide web that are inappropriate, obscene, or otherwise harmful to minors¹; therefore, it is the policy of the District to protect each electronic device with Internet filtering software² that is designed to prevent students from accessing such materials. For purposes of this policy, "harmful to minors" means any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that:

(A) taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion;

(B) 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

(C) taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors.

Internet Use and Safety

The District is dedicated to ensuring that students are capable of using the Internet in a safe and responsible manner. The District uses technology protection measures to aid in student safety and shall also educate students on appropriate online behavior and Internet use³ including, but not limited to:

- interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms;
- Cyberbullying awareness; and
- Cyberbullying response.

Misuse of Internet

The opportunity to use the District's technology to access the Internet is a privilege and not a right. Students who misuse electronic devices or Internet access in any way will face disciplinary action, as specified in the student handbook⁴ and/or Internet safety and electronic device use agreement. Misuse of the Internet includes:

- The disabling or bypassing of security procedures, compromising, attempting to compromise, or defeating the district's technology network security or Internet filtering software;
- The altering of data without authorization;
- Disclosing, using, or disseminating passwords, whether the passwords are the student's own or those of another student/faculty/community member, to other students;
- Divulging personally identifying information about himself/herself or anyone else either on the Internet or in an email unless it is a necessary and integral part of the student's academic

endeavor. Personally identifying information includes full names, addresses, and phone numbers.

- Using electronic devices for any illegal activity, including electronic device hacking and copyright or intellectual property law violations;
- Using electronic devices to access or create sexually explicit or pornographic text or graphics;
- Using electronic devices to violate any other policy or is contrary to the Internet safety and electronic device use agreement.

Student Electronic Device and Internet use Agreement

(4.29F)

The Ouachita River School District agrees to allow the student identified above ("Student") to use the district's technology to access the Internet under the following terms and conditions which apply whether the access is through a District or student owned electronic device (as used in this Agreement, "electronic device" means anything that can be used to transmit or capture images, sound, or data):

1. **Conditional Privilege:** The Student's use of the district's access to the Internet is a privilege conditioned on the Student's abiding to this agreement. No student may use the district's access to the Internet whether through a District or student owned electronic device unless the Student and his/her parent or guardian have read and signed this agreement.

2. **Acceptable Use:** The Student agrees that he/she will use the District's Internet access for educational purposes only. In using the Internet, the Student agrees to obey all federal laws and regulations and any State laws and rules. The Student also agrees to abide by any Internet use rules instituted at the Student's school or class, whether those rules are written or oral.

3. **Penalties for Improper Use:** If the Student violates this agreement and misuses the Internet, the Student shall be subject to disciplinary action. **[Note: A.C.A. § 6-21-107 requires the district to have "...provisions for administration of punishment of students for violations of the policy with stiffer penalties for repeat offenders, and the same shall be incorporated into the district's written student discipline policy." You may choose to tailor your punishments to be appropriate to the school's grade levels.]**

4. **"Misuse of the District's access to the Internet"** includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- a. Using the Internet for other than educational purposes;
- b. Gaining intentional access or maintaining access to materials which are "harmful to minors" as defined by Arkansas law;

- c. Using the Internet for any illegal activity, including computer hacking and copyright or intellectual property law violations;
- d. Making unauthorized copies of computer software;
- e. Accessing "chat lines" unless authorized by the instructor for a class activity directly supervised by a staff member;
- f. Using abusive or profane language in private messages on the system; or using the system to harass, insult, or verbally attack others;
- g. Posting anonymous messages on the system;
- h. Using encryption software;
- i. Wasteful use of limited resources provided by the school including paper;
- j. Causing congestion of the network through lengthy downloads of files;
- k. Vandalizing data of another user;
- l. Obtaining or sending information which could be used to make destructive devices such as guns, weapons, bombs, explosives, or fireworks;
- m. Gaining or attempting to gain unauthorized access to resources or files;
- n. Identifying oneself with another person's name or password or using an account or password of another user without proper authorization;
- o. Invading the privacy of individuals;
- p. Divulging personally identifying information about himself/herself or anyone else either on the Internet or in an email unless it is a necessary and integral part of the student's academic endeavor. Personally identifying information includes full names, address, and phone number.
- q. Using the network for financial or commercial gain without district permission;
- r. Theft or vandalism of data, equipment, or intellectual property;
- s. Attempting to gain access or gaining access to student records, grades, or files;
- t. Introducing a virus to, or otherwise improperly tampering with the system;
- u. Degrading or disrupting equipment or system performance;
- v. Creating a web page or associating a web page with the school or school district without proper authorization;
- w. Providing access to the District's Internet Access to unauthorized individuals;
- x. Failing to obey school or classroom Internet use rules;
- y. Taking part in any activity related to Internet use which creates a clear and present danger of the substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the district or any of its schools; or
- z. Installing or downloading software on district computers without prior approval of the technology director or his/her designee.

5. **Liability for debts:** Students and their cosigners shall

be liable for any and all costs (debts) incurred through the student's use of the computers or access to the Internet including penalties for copyright violations.

6. No Expectation of Privacy: The Student and parent/guardian signing below agree that if the Student uses the Internet through the District's access, that the Student waives any right to privacy the Student may have for such use. The Student and the parent/guardian agree that the district may monitor the Student's use of the District's Internet Access and may also examine all system activities the Student participates in, including but not limited to e-mail, voice, and video transmissions, to ensure proper use of the system. The District may share such transmissions with the Student's parents/guardians.

7. No Guarantees: The District will make good faith efforts to protect children from improper or harmful matter which may be on the Internet. At the same time, in signing this agreement, the parent and Student recognize that the District makes no guarantees about preventing improper access to such materials on the part of the Student.

8. Signatures: We, the persons who have signed below, have read this agreement and agree to be bound by the terms and conditions of this agreement.

Laser Pointers (4.28)

Students shall not possess any hand held laser pointer while in school; on or about school property, before or after school; in attendance at school or any school-sponsored activity; in route to or from school or any school-sponsored activity; off the school grounds at any school bus stop or at any school-sponsored activity or event. School personnel shall seize any laser pointer from the student possessing it and report it to the building principal. The student may reclaim it at the close of the school year, or when the student is no longer enrolled in the District.

Prohibited Conduct (4.18)

Students and staff require a safe and orderly learning environment that is conducive to high student achievement. Certain student behaviors are unacceptable in such an environment and are hereby prohibited by the Board. Prohibited behaviors include, but shall not be limited to the following:

1. Disrespect for school employees and failing to comply with their reasonable directions or otherwise demonstrating insubordination;
2. Disruptive behavior that interferes with orderly school operations;
3. Willfully and intentionally assaulting or threatening to assault or physically abusing any student or school employee;

4. Possession of any weapon that can reasonably be considered capable of causing bodily harm to another individual;
5. Possession or use of tobacco in any form on any property owned or leased by any public school;
6. Willfully or intentionally damaging, destroying, or stealing school property;
7. Possession of any paging device, beeper, or similar electronic communication devices on the school campus during normal school hours unless specifically exempted by the administration for health or other compelling reasons;
8. Possession, selling, distributing, or being under the influence of an alcoholic beverage, any illegal drug, unauthorized inhalants, or the inappropriate use or sharing of prescription or over the counter drugs, or other intoxicants, or anything represented to be a drug;
9. Sharing, diverting, transferring, applying to others (such as needles or lancets), or in any way misusing medication or any medical supplies in their possession;
10. Inappropriate public displays of affection;
11. Cheating, copying, or claiming another person's work to be his/her own;
12. Gambling;
13. Inappropriate student dress;
14. Use of vulgar, profane, or obscene language or gestures;
15. Truancy;
16. Excessive tardiness;
17. Engaging in behavior designed to taunt, degrade, or ridicule another person on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability;
18. Possess, view, distribute or electronically transmit sexually explicit or vulgar images or representations, whether electronically, on a data storage device, or in hard copy form;
19. Hazing, or aiding in the hazing of another student;
20. Gangs or gang-related activities, including belonging to secret societies of any kind, are forbidden on school property. Gang insignias, clothing, "throwing signs" or other gestures associated with gangs are prohibited;
21. Sexual harassment;
22. Bullying;
23. Operating a vehicle on school grounds while using a wireless communication device; and
24. Theft of another individual's personal property.

The Board directs each school in the District to develop implementation regulations for prohibited student conduct consistent with applicable Board policy, State and Federal laws, and judicial decisions.

Search, Seizure, and Interrogations (4.32)

The District respects the rights of its students against arbitrary intrusion of their person and property. At the

same time, it is the responsibility of school officials to protect the health, safety, and welfare of all students enrolled in the District in order to promote an environment conducive to student learning. The Superintendent, principals, and their designees have the right to inspect and search school property and equipment. They may also search students and their personal property in which the student has a reasonable expectation of privacy, when there is reasonable and individualized suspicion to believe such student or property contains illegal items or other items in violation of Board policy or dangerous to the school community.¹ School authorities may seize evidence found in the search and disciplinary action may be taken. Evidence found which appears to be in violation of the law shall be reported to the appropriate authority.

School property shall include, but not be limited to, lockers, desks, and parking lots, as well as personal effects left there by students. When possible, prior notice will be given and the student will be allowed to be present along with an adult witness; however, searches may be done at any time with or without notice or the student's consent. A personal search must not be excessively intrusive in light of the age and sex of the student and the nature of the infraction.

The Superintendent, principals, and their designees may request the assistance of law enforcement officials to help conduct searches. Such searches may include the use of specially trained dogs.

A school official of the same sex shall conduct personal searches with an adult witness of the same sex present.

State Law requires that Department of Human Services employees, local law enforcement, or agents of the Crimes Against Children Division of the Division of Arkansas State Police, may interview students without a court order for the purpose of investigating suspected child abuse. In instances where the interviewers deem it necessary, they may exercise a "72-hour hold" without first obtaining a court order. Other questioning of students by non-school personnel shall be granted only with a court order directing such questioning, with permission of the parents of a student (or the student if above eighteen [18] years of age), or in response to a subpoena or arrest warrant.

If the District makes a report to any law enforcement agency concerning student misconduct or if access to a student is granted to a law enforcement agency due to a court order, the principal or the principal's designee shall make a good faith effort to contact the student's parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis. The principal or the principal's designee shall not attempt to make such contact if presented documentation by the investigator that notification is prohibited because a parent, guardian, person having lawful control of the

student, or person standing in loco parentis is named as an alleged offender of the suspected child maltreatment. This exception applies only to interview requests made by a law enforcement officer, an investigator of the Crimes Against Children Division of the Division of Arkansas State Police, or an investigator or employee of the Department of Human Services.

In instances other than those related to cases of suspected child abuse, principals must release a student to either a police officer who presents a subpoena for the student, or a warrant for arrest, or to an agent of state social services or an agent of a court with jurisdiction over a child with a court order signed by a judge. Upon release of the student, the principal or designee shall give the student's parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis notice that the student has been taken into custody by law enforcement personnel or a state's social services agency. If the principal or designee is unable to reach the parent, he or she shall make a reasonable, good faith effort to get a message to the parent to call the principal or designee, and leave both a day and an after-hours telephone number.

Student Assault or Battery (4.21)

A student shall not threaten, physically abuse, attempt to physically abuse, or behave in such a way as to be perceived to threaten bodily harm to any other person (student, school employee, or school visitor). Any gestures; vulgar, abusive, or insulting language; taunting, threatening, harassing, or intimidating remarks by a student toward another person that threatens their well-being is strictly forbidden. This includes, but is not limited to, fighting, racial, ethnic, religious, or sexual slurs.

Furthermore, it is unlawful, during regular school hours, and in a place where a public school employee is required to be in the course of his or her duties, for any person to address a public school employee using language which, in its common acceptance, is calculated to:

- a. Cause a breach of the peace;
- b. Materially and substantially interfere with the operation of the school; or
- c. Arouse the person to whom it is addressed to anger, to the extent likely to cause imminent retaliation.

Students guilty of such an offense may be subject to legal proceedings in addition to any student disciplinary measures.

Student Discipline (4.17)

The Ouachita River Board of Education has a responsibility to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the District's students and employees. To help maintain a safe environment conducive to high student achievement, the Board establishes policies necessary to regulate student behavior to promote an orderly school environment that is respectful of the rights of

others and ensures the uniform enforcement of student discipline. Students are responsible for their conduct that occurs:

- At any time on the school grounds;
- Off school grounds at a school sponsored function, activity, or event; and
- Going to and from school or a school activity.

The District's administrators may also take disciplinary action against a student for off-campus conduct occurring at any time that would have a detrimental impact on school discipline, the educational environment, or the welfare of the students and/or staff. A student who has committed a criminal act while off campus and whose presence on campus could cause a substantial disruption to school or endanger the welfare of other students or staff is subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion. Such acts could include, but are not limited to: a felony or an act that would be considered a felony if committed by an adult; an assault or battery; drug law violations; or sexual misconduct of a serious nature. Any disciplinary action pursued by the District shall be in accordance with the student's appropriate due process rights.¹

The District shall incorporate the District's implementation of positive behavioral supports in accordance with Policy 4.60 in the application of student discipline.

The District's personnel policy committees shall annually review the District's student discipline policies, including State and District student discipline data, and may recommend changes in the policies to the Ouachita River School Board. The Board has the responsibility of determining whether to approve any recommended changes to student discipline policies.

The District's student discipline policies shall be distributed to each student during the first week of school each year and to new students upon their enrollment. Each student's parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis shall sign and return to the school an acknowledgement form documenting that they have received the policies.

The District shall develop and provide programs, measures, or alternative means and methods for continued student engagement and educational access during periods of suspension or expulsion.

The superintendent is authorized to modify the penalties set forth in the District's student discipline policies on a case-by-case basis.

It is required by law that the principal or the person in charge report to the police any incidents the person has personal knowledge of or has received information leading to a reasonable belief that a person has committed or threatened to commit an act of violence or any crime involving a deadly weapon on school property or while under school supervision. If the person making the report is not the Superintendent, that

person shall also inform the Superintendent of the incident. Additionally, the principal shall inform any school employee or other person who initially reported the incident that a report has been made to the appropriate law enforcement agency. The Superintendent or designee shall inform the Board of Directors of any such report made to law enforcement.

The superintendent shall make a report annually to the Board of Directors on student discipline data, which shall include, without limitation: the number of incidents of bullying reported and the actions taken regarding the reported incidents of bullying.

Student Sexual Harassment (4.27)

The Ouachita River School District is committed to providing an academic environment that treats all students with respect and dignity. Student achievement is best attained in an atmosphere of equal educational opportunity that is free of discrimination. Sexual harassment is a form of discrimination that undermines the integrity of the educational environment and will not be tolerated.

The District believes the best policy to create an educational environment free from sexual harassment is prevention; therefore, the District shall provide informational materials and training to students, parents/legal guardians/other responsible adults, and employees on sexual harassment. The informational materials and training on sexual harassment shall be age appropriate and, when necessary, provided in a language other than English or in an accessible format. The informational materials and training shall include, but are not limited to:

- the nature of sexual harassment;
- The District's written procedures governing the formal complaint grievance process;¹
- The process for submitting a formal complaint of sexual harassment;
- That the district does not tolerate sexual harassment;
- That students can report inappropriate behavior of a sexual nature without fear of adverse consequences;
- The supports that are available to individuals suffering sexual harassment; and
- The potential discipline for perpetrating sexual harassment.

Definitions

"Complainant" means an individual who is alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment.

"Education program or activity" includes locations, events, or circumstances where the District exercised substantial control over both the respondent and the context in which the sexual harassment occurs.

"Formal complaint" means a document filed by a complainant or signed by the Title IX Coordinator

alleging sexual harassment against a respondent and requesting an investigation of the allegation of sexual harassment.

“Respondent” means an individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment.

“Sexual harassment” means conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies one or more of the following:

1. A District employee:
 - a. Conditions the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of the District on an individual’s participation in sexual conduct;² or
 - b. Uses the rejection of sexual conduct as the basis for academic decisions affecting that individual;²
2. The conduct is:
 - a. Unwelcome; and
 - b. Determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the District’s education program or activity; or
3. Constitutes:
 - a. Sexual assault;
 - b. Dating violence
 - c. Domestic violence; or
 - d. Stalking.

“Supportive measures” means individualized services that are offered to the complainant or made available to the respondent designed to restore or preserve equal access to the District’s education program or activity without unreasonably burdening the other party. The supportive measures must be non-disciplinary and non-punitive in nature; offered before or after the filing of a formal complaint or where no formal complaint has been filed; and offered to either party as appropriate, as reasonably available, and without fee or charge. Examples of supportive measures include, but are not limited to: measures designed to protect the safety of all parties or the District’s educational environment, or deter sexual harassment; counseling; extensions of deadlines or other course-related adjustments; modifications of work or class schedules; campus escort services; mutual restrictions on contact between the parties; changes in work or class locations; leaves of absence; and increased security and monitoring of certain areas of the campus.

Within the educational environment, sexual harassment is prohibited between any of the following: students; employees and students; and non-employees and students.

Actionable sexual harassment is generally established when an individual is exposed to a pattern of objectionable behaviors or when a single, serious act is committed. What is, or is not, sexual harassment will depend upon all of the surrounding circumstances and may occur regardless of the sex(es) of the individuals

involved. Depending upon such circumstances, examples of sexual harassment include, but are not limited to:

- Making sexual propositions or pressuring for sexual activities;
- Unwelcome touching;
- Writing graffiti of a sexual nature;
- Displaying or distributing sexually explicit drawings, pictures, or written materials;
- Performing sexual gestures or touching oneself sexually in front of others;
- Telling sexual or crude jokes;
- Spreading rumors related to a person’s alleged sexual activities;
- Discussions of sexual experiences;
- Rating other students or employees as to sexual activity or performance;
- Circulating or showing e-mails or Web sites of a sexual nature;
- Intimidation by words, actions, insults, or name calling; and
- Teasing or name-calling related to sexual characteristics or the belief or perception that an individual is not conforming to expected gender roles or conduct or is homosexual, regardless of whether or not the individual self-identifies as homosexual or transgender.

Students who believe they have been subjected to sexual harassment, or the parent/legal guardian/other responsible adult of a student who believes their student has been subjected to sexual harassment, are encouraged to bring their concerns to **any** District staff member, including a counselor, teacher, Title IX coordinator, or administrator. If the District staff member who received a report of alleged sexual harassment is not the Title IX Coordinator, then the District staff person shall inform the Title IX Coordinator of the alleged sexual harassment. As soon as reasonably possible after receiving a report of alleged sexual harassment from another District staff member or after receiving a report directly through any means, the Title IX Coordinator shall contact the complainant to:

- Discuss the availability of supportive measures;
- Consider the complainant’s wishes with respect to supportive measures;
- Inform the complainant of the availability of supportive measures with or without the filing of a formal complaint; and
- explain to the complainant the process for filing a formal complaint.

Supportive Measures

The District shall offer supportive measures to the complainant and make supportive measures available to the respondent that are designed to restore or preserve equal access to the District’s education program or activity without unreasonably burdening the other party before or after the filing of a formal complaint or where no formal complaint has been filed. The District shall

provide the individualized supportive measures to the complainant unless declined in writing by the complainant and shall provide individualized supportive measures that are non-disciplinary and non-punitive to the respondent. A complainant who initially declined the District's offer of supportive measures may request supportive measures at a later time and the District shall provide individualized supportive measures based on the circumstances when the subsequent request is received.

Formal Complaint

A formal complaint may be filed with the Title IX Coordinator in person, by mail, or by email. Upon receipt of a formal complaint, a District shall simultaneously provide the following written notice to the parties who are known:

- Notice of the District's grievance process and a copy of the procedures governing the grievance process;
- Notice of the allegations of sexual harassment including sufficient details known at the time and with sufficient time to prepare a response before any initial interview. Sufficient details include:
 - ✚ The identities of the parties involved in the incident, if known;
 - ✚ The conduct allegedly constituting sexual harassment; and
 - ✚ The date and location of the alleged incident, if known;
- A statement that the respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged conduct and that a determination regarding responsibility is made at the conclusion of the grievance process;
- That the parties may have an advisor of their choice, who may be, but is not required to be, an attorney;
- That the parties may inspect and review evidence relevant to the complaint of sexual harassment; and
- That the District's code of conduct prohibits knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during the grievance process.

If, in the course of an investigation, the District decides to investigate allegations about the complainant or respondent that are not included in the previous notice, the District shall simultaneously provide notice of the additional allegations to the parties whose identities are known.

The District may consolidate formal complaints of allegations of sexual harassment where the allegations of sexual harassment arise out of the same facts or circumstances and the formal complaints are against more than one respondent; or by more than one complainant against one or more respondents; or by one party against the other party. When the District has consolidated formal complaints so that the grievance process involves more than one complainant or more than one respondent, references to the singular "party", "complainant", or "respondent" include the plural, as applicable.

When investigating a formal complaint and throughout

the grievance process, a District shall:

- Ensure that the burden of proof and the burden of gathering evidence sufficient to reach a determination regarding responsibility rest on the District and not on the parties;
- Not require, allow, rely upon, or otherwise use questions or evidence that constitute, or seek disclosure of, information protected under a legally recognized privilege or access, consider, disclose, or otherwise use a party's records that are made or maintained by a physician, psychiatrist, psychologist, or other recognized professional or paraprofessional acting in the professional's or paraprofessional's capacity, or assisting in that capacity, and which are made and maintained in connection with the provision of treatment to the party unless the District obtains the parent, legal guardian, or other responsible adult of that party's voluntary, written consent or that party's voluntary, written consent if the party is over the age of eighteen (18) to do so for the grievance process;
- Provide an equal opportunity for the parties to present witnesses, including fact and expert witnesses, and other inculpatory and exculpatory evidence;
- Not restrict the ability of either party to discuss the allegations under investigation or to gather and present relevant evidence;
- Provide the parties with the same opportunities to have others present during any grievance proceeding, including the opportunity to be accompanied to any related meeting or proceeding by the advisor of their choice, who may be, but is not required to be, an attorney, and not limit the choice or presence of advisor for either the complainant or respondent in any meeting or grievance proceeding;
- Provide, to a party whose participation is invited or expected, written notice of the date, time, location, participants, and purpose of all hearings, investigative interviews, or other meetings, with sufficient time for the party to prepare to participate;
- Provide both parties an equal opportunity to inspect and review any evidence obtained as part of the investigation that is directly related to the allegations raised in the formal complaint so that each party can meaningfully respond to the evidence prior to the conclusion of the investigation; this includes evidence:
 - Whether obtained from a party or other source;
 - The District does not intend to rely upon in reaching a determination regarding responsibility; and
 - That is either inculpatory or exculpatory; and
- Create an investigative report that fairly summarizes relevant evidence.

At least ten (10)³ days prior to completion of the investigative report, the District shall send to each party and the party's advisor, if any, the evidence subject to inspection and review in an electronic format or a hard copy. The parties shall have at least ten (10)³ days to submit a written response to the evidence. The

investigator will consider the written responses prior to completion of the investigative report. All evidence subject to inspection and review shall be available for the parties' inspection and review at any meeting to give each party equal opportunity to refer to such evidence during the meeting.

After the investigative report is sent to the parties, the decision-maker shall:

- Provide each party the opportunity to submit written, relevant questions that a party wants asked of any party or witness;
- Provide each party with the answers;
- Allow for additional, limited follow-up questions from each party; and
- Provide an explanation to the party proposing the questions any decision to exclude a question as not relevant. Specifically, questions and evidence about the complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant, unless such questions and evidence about the complainant's prior sexual behavior are offered to prove that someone other than the respondent committed the conduct alleged by the complainant, or if the questions and evidence concern specific incidents of the complainant's prior sexual behavior with respect to the respondent and are offered to prove consent.

No earlier than ten (10) days following the completion of the investigation period, the decision-maker, who cannot be the same person as the Title IX Coordinator or the investigator, shall issue a written determination regarding responsibility. The written determination shall include—

1. Identification of the allegations potentially constituting sexual harassment;
2. A description of the procedural steps taken from the receipt of the formal complaint through the determination, including:
 - a. Any notifications to the parties;
 - b. Interviews with parties and witnesses;
 - c. site visits;
 - d. Methods used to gather other evidence; and
 - e. Hearings held;
3. Findings of fact supporting the determination;
4. Conclusions regarding the application of the District's code of conduct to the facts;
5. A statement of, and rationale for, the result as to each allegation, including:
 - a. A determination regarding responsibility;
 - b. Any disciplinary sanctions imposed on the respondent; and
 - c. Whether remedies designed to restore or preserve equal access to the District's education program or activity will be provided by the District to the complainant; and
6. The procedures and permissible bases for the complainant and respondent to appeal.

The written determination shall be provided to the parties

simultaneously. The determination regarding responsibility shall become final on the earlier of:

- If an appeal is not filed, the day after the period for an appeal to be filed expires; or
- If an appeal is filed, the date the written determination of the result of the appeal is provided to the parties.

The District shall investigate the allegations in a formal complaint. If the conduct alleged in the formal complaint would not constitute sexual harassment as defined in this policy even if proved; did not occur in the District's education program or activity; or did not occur against a person in the United States, then the District shall dismiss the complaint as not meeting the definition of sexual harassment under this policy. A dismissal for these reasons does not preclude action under another provision of the District's code of conduct.

The District may dismiss the formal complaint or any allegations therein, if at any time during the grievance process:

- The complainant notifies the Title IX Coordinator in writing that the complainant would like to withdraw the formal complaint or any allegations therein;
- The respondent is no longer enrolled at the District; or
- Specific circumstances prevent the District from gathering evidence sufficient to reach a determination as to the formal complaint or allegations therein.

Upon the dismissal of a formal complaint for any reason, the District shall promptly send written notice of the dismissal and reason(s) for the dismissal simultaneously to the parties.

The District may hire an individual or individuals to conduct the investigation or to act as the determination-maker when necessary.

Appeals

Either party may appeal a determination regarding responsibility or from a dismissal of a formal complaint or any allegations therein, on the following bases:

- a. The existence of a procedural irregularity that affected the outcome of the matter;
- b. Discovery of new evidence that was not reasonably available at the time the determination regarding responsibility or dismissal was made, that could affect the outcome of the matter;
- c. The Title IX Coordinator, investigator, or decision-maker had a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or the individual complainant or respondent that affected the outcome of the matter; or
- d. An appeal of the disciplinary sanctions from the initial determination.⁴

For all appeals, the District shall:

1. Notify the other party in writing when an appeal is filed;
2. Simultaneously Provide all parties a written copy of the District's procedures governing the appeal process;

3. Implement appeal procedures equally for both parties;
4. Ensure that the decision-maker⁵ for the appeal is not the same person as the decision-maker that reached the original determination regarding responsibility or dismissal, the investigator, or the Title IX Coordinator;
5. Provide all parties a reasonable, equal opportunity to submit a written statement in support of, or challenging, the outcome;
6. Issue a written decision describing the result of the appeal and the rationale for the result; and
7. Provide the written decision simultaneously to both parties.

Confidentiality

Reports of sexual harassment, both informal reports and formal complaints, will be treated in a confidential manner to the extent possible. Limited disclosure may be provided to:

- individuals who are responsible for handling the District's investigation and determination of responsibility to the extent necessary to complete the District's grievance process;
- Submit a report to the child maltreatment hotline;
- Submit a report to the Professional Licensure Standards Board for reports alleging sexual harassment by an employee towards a student; or
- The extent necessary to provide either party due process during the grievance process.⁵

Except as listed above, the District shall keep confidential the identity of:

- ✚ Any individual who has made a report or complaint of sex discrimination;
- ✚ Any individual who has made a report or filed a formal complaint of sexual harassment;
- ✚ Any complainant;
- ✚ Any individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of sex discrimination;
- ✚ Any respondent; and
- ✚ Any witness.

Any supportive measures provided to the complainant or respondent shall be kept confidential to the extent that maintaining such confidentiality does not impair the ability of the District to provide the supportive measures.

Emergency removal⁶

The District may remove a respondent from the District's education program or activity on an emergency basis only after the completion of an individualized safety and risk analysis that determines that an immediate threat to the physical health or safety of any student or other individual arising from the allegations of sexual harassment justifies removal. A removed student will be provided with notice and an opportunity to challenge the removal decision immediately following the removal.

Retaliation Prohibited

Students, or the parents/legal guardians/ other responsible adult of a student, who submit a report or file a formal complaint of sexual harassment,; testified;

assisted; or participate or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing on sexual harassment shall not be subjected to retaliation or reprisal in any form, including threats; intimidation; coercion; discrimination; or charges for code of conduct violations that do not involve sex discrimination or sexual harassment, arise out of the same facts or circumstances as a report or formal complaint of sex discrimination, and are made for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege under this policy. The District shall take steps to prevent retaliation and shall take immediate action if any form of retaliation occurs regardless of whether the retaliatory acts are by District officials, students, or third parties.

Disciplinary Sanctions

It shall be a violation of this policy for any student to be subjected to, or to subject another person to, sexual harassment. Following the completion of the District's grievance process, any student who is found by the evidence to more likely than not⁷ have engaged in sexual harassment will be subject to disciplinary action up to, and including, expulsion. No disciplinary sanction or other action that is not a supportive measure may be taken against a respondent until the conclusion of the grievance process.

Students who knowingly fabricate allegations of sexual harassment or purposely provide inaccurate facts shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion. A determination that the allegations do not rise to the level of sexual harassment alone is not sufficient to conclude that any party made a false allegation or materially false statement in bad faith.

Records

The District shall maintain the following records for a minimum of seven (7) years:

- Each sexual harassment investigation including:
- Any determination regarding responsibility;
- any disciplinary sanctions imposed on the respondent;
- Any remedies provided to the complainant designed to restore or preserve equal access to the District's education program or activity;
- Any appeal and the result therefrom;
- All materials used to train Title IX Coordinators, investigators, and decision-makers;
- Any actions, including any supportive measures, taken in response to a report or formal complaint of sexual harassment, which must include:
 - The basis for the District's conclusion that its response was not deliberately indifferent; and
 - Document:
 - If supportive measures were provided to the complainant, the supportive measures taken designed to restore or preserve equal access to the District's education program or activity; or

- If no supportive measures were provided to a complainant, document the reasons why such a response was not clearly unreasonable in light of the known circumstances.

Suspension from School (4.30)

Students who are not present at school cannot benefit from the educational opportunities the school environment affords. Administrators, therefore, shall strive to find ways to keep students in school as participants in the educational process. There are instances, however, when the needs of the other students or the interests of the orderly learning environment require the removal of a student from school. The Board authorizes school principals or their designees to suspend students for disciplinary reasons for a period of time not to exceed ten (10) school days,¹ including the day upon which the suspension is imposed. The suspension may be in school or out of school. Students are responsible for their conduct that occurs:

- At any time on the school grounds;
- Off school grounds at a school-sponsored function, activity, or event; and
- Going to and from school or a school activity.

A student may be suspended for behavior including, but not limited to, that:

1. Is in violation of school policies, rules, or regulations;
2. Substantially interferes with the safe and orderly educational environment;
3. School administrators believe will result in the substantial interference with the safe and orderly educational environment; and/or
4. Is insubordinate, incorrigible, violent, or involves moral turpitude.

Out-of-school suspension (OSS) shall not be used to discipline a student in kindergarten through fifth (5th) grade unless the student's behavior:

- a. Poses a physical risk to himself or herself or to others;
- b. Causes a serious disruption that cannot be addressed through other means; or
- c. Is the act of bringing a firearm on school campus;

OSS shall not be used to discipline a student for skipping class, excessive absences, or other forms of truancy.

The school principal or designee shall proceed as follows in deciding whether or not to suspend a student:

1. The student shall be given written notice or advised orally of the charges against him/her;
2. If the student denies the charges, he/she shall be given an explanation of the evidence against him/her and be allowed to present his/her version of the facts; and

3. If the principal finds the student guilty of the misconduct, he/she may be suspended.

When possible, notice of the suspension, its duration, and any stipulations for the student's re-admittance to class will be given to the parent(s), legal guardian(s), person(s) with lawful control of the student, person(s) standing in loco parentis, or to the student if age eighteen (18) or older prior to the suspension. Such notice shall be handed to the parent(s), legal guardian(s), person(s) having lawful control of the student, person(s) standing in loco parentis, or to the student if age eighteen (18) or older or mailed to the last address reflected in the records of the school district.

Generally, notice and hearing should precede the student's removal from school, but if prior notice and hearing are not feasible, as where the student's presence endangers persons or property or threatens disruption of the academic process, thus justifying immediate removal from school, the necessary notice and hearing should follow as soon as practicable.

It is the responsibility of a student's parents', legal guardians, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis to provide current contact information to the district, which the school shall use to immediately notify the parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of a student, or person standing in loco parentis upon the suspension of a student. The notification shall be by one of the following means, listed in order of priority:²

- A primary call number;
 - The contact may be by voice, voice mail, or text message.
- An email address;
- A regular first class letter to the last known mailing address.

The district shall keep a log of contacts attempted and made to the parent, legal guardian, person having lawful control of the student, or person standing in loco parentis.

The District shall establish programs, measures, or alternative means and methods to continue student engagement and access to education during a student's period of OSS.

During the period of their suspension, students serving OSS are not permitted on campus except to attend a student/parent/administrator conference or when necessary as part of the District's engagement or access to education program.³

During the period of their suspension, students serving in-school suspension shall not attend or participate in any school-sponsored activities during the imposed suspension.³

Suspensions initiated by the principal or his/her designee may be appealed to the Superintendent, but not to the Board.

Suspensions initiated by the Superintendent may be appealed to the Board.

Tobacco, Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems, And Related Products (4.23)

1. Smoking or use of tobacco or products containing tobacco in any form (including, but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, and snuff) in or on any real property owned or leased by a District school, including school buses owned or leased by the District, is prohibited. Students who violate this policy may be subject to legal proceedings in addition to student disciplinary measures.
2. Students shall not exhibit tobacco-related gear or paraphernalia.
3. Intensive instructional programs shall be implemented to make students fully aware of the hazards associated with the using of tobacco products.
4. Advertising or marketing of tobacco products is prohibited in school buildings, on school property, at school functions, and in all school publications.
5. With the exception of recognized tobacco cessation products, this policy's prohibition includes any tobacco or nicotine delivery system or product. Specifically, the prohibition includes any product that is manufactured, distributed, marketed, or sold as e-cigarettes, e-cigars, e-pips, or under any other name or descriptor.

Weapons and Dangerous Instruments (4.22)

Definitions

"Firearm" means any device designed, made, or adapted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or any device readily convertible to that use.

"Possession" means having a weapon on the student's body or in an area under the student's control.

"Weapon" means any:

- Firearm;
- Knife;
- Razor;
- Ice pick;
- Dirk;
- Box cutter;
- Nun-chucks;
- Pepper spray, mace, or other noxious spray;
- Explosive;
- Taser or other instrument that uses electrical current to cause neuromuscular incapacitation; or
- Any other instrument or substance capable of causing bodily harm.

No student, except for Military personnel (such as ROTC cadets) acting in the course of their official duties or as otherwise expressly permitted by this policy, shall possess a weapon, display what appears to be a weapon, or threaten to use a weapon before or after school while:

- In a school building;
- On or about school property;
- At any school sponsored activity or event;
- On route to or from school or any school sponsored activity; or
- Off the school grounds at any school bus stop.

If a student discovers prior to any questioning or search by any school personnel that he/she has accidentally brought a weapon, other than a firearm, to school on his/her person, in a book bag/purse, or in his/her vehicle on school grounds, and the student informs the principal or a staff person immediately, the student will not be considered to be in possession of a weapon unless it is a firearm. The weapon shall be confiscated and held in the office until such time as the student's parent/legal guardian shall pick up the weapon from the school's office. Repeated offenses are unacceptable and shall be grounds for disciplinary action against the student as otherwise provided for in this policy.

Except as permitted in this policy, students found to be in possession on the school campus of a firearm shall be recommended for expulsion for a period of one (1) year. The superintendent shall have the discretion to modify such expulsion recommendation for a student on a case-by-case basis.¹

Parents or legal guardians of students expelled under this policy shall be given a copy of the current laws regarding the possibility of parental responsibility for allowing a child to possess a firearm on school property.² Parents or legal guardians shall sign a statement acknowledging that they have read and understand said laws prior to readmitting the student. Parents or legal guardians of a student enrolling from another school after the expiration of an expulsion period for a firearm policy violation shall also be given a copy of the current laws regarding the possibility of parental responsibility for allowing a child to possess a firearm on school property. The parents or legal guardians shall sign a statement acknowledging that they have read and understand said laws prior to the student being enrolled in school.

The mandatory expulsion requirement for possession of a firearm does not apply to a firearm brought to school for the purpose of participating in activities approved and authorized by the district that include the use of firearms. Such activities may include ROTC programs; hunting safety or military education; or before or after-school hunting or rifle clubs. Firearms brought to school for such purposes shall be brought to the school employee

designated to receive such firearms. The designated employee shall store the firearms in a secure location until they are removed for use in the approved activity.

The district shall report any student who brings a firearm to school to the criminal justice system or juvenile delinquency system by notifying local law enforcement.

Student Behavioral Intervention and Restraint

(4.60)

Definitions

"Aversive behavioral intervention" means a physical or sensory intervention program that is intended to modify behavior through the use of a substance or stimulus that the intervention implementer knows will cause physical trauma, emotional trauma, or both, to a student, even when the substance or stimulus appears to be pleasant or neutral to others.

Examples of aversive behavioral interventions include, but are not limited to:

- Hitting;
- Pinching;
- Slapping;
- Using a water spray;
- Using noxious fumes;
- Requiring extreme physical exercise;
- Using loud auditory stimulus;
- Withholding meals; and
- Denying reasonable access to toileting facilities.

"Behavioral intervention" means the implementation of a service, support, or strategy to teach and increase appropriate behavior or substantially decrease or eliminate behavior that is dangerous, inappropriate, or otherwise impedes the learning of a student.

"Behavior Intervention Plan" (BIP) means a written plan that:

- Is developed by a problem-solving and intervention team and delineates emotional, social, or behavioral goals for a student and the steps that the school, student, parent of the student, and others will take to positively support the progress of the student towards the student's emotional, social, or behavioral goals;
- Is comprised of practical and specific strategies to increase or reduce a defined behavior or one (1) or more patterns of behavior exhibited by a student; and
- Includes the following at a minimum:
 - A definition or description of the desired target behavior or outcome in specific measurable terms;
 - A plan for preventing and eliminating inappropriate student behavior by changing a condition that is triggering, motivating, underlying, or supporting that behavior as determined through a FBA;
 - A plan for teaching a student to demonstrate appropriate social, emotional, or behavioral self-

management, or a new method to address or meet the student's needs;

- A description of how a specific incentive or consequence will be used as needed to decrease or eliminate inappropriate student behavior and increase appropriate behavior;
- A plan for managing a crisis situation;
- A system to collect, analyze, and evaluate data about the student;
- The school personnel, resources, and training needed before implementation of the BIP; and
- The timeline for implementing different facets of an intervention, including without limitation when the intervention will be formally reviewed.

"Chemical restraint" means the use of a drug or medication to control the behavior of a student or restrict the free movement of the student; however, chemical restraint does not include the use of medication that is prescribed by a licensed physician, or other qualified health professional acting within the scope of the individual's professional authority under state law, for the standard treatment of a medical or psychiatric condition of a student and is administered as prescribed by the licensed physician or other qualified health professional acting within the scope of the individual's professional authority under state law.

"Crisis" means a situation in which a student engages in a behavior that threatens the health and safety of the student or others and includes without limitation a situation in which the student becomes aggressive or violent at school and is unable to regain self-control without posing a danger of injury to himself or herself or others.

"Crisis intervention" means the implementation of a service, support, or strategy to immediately stabilize a crisis and prevent the crisis from reoccurring after the crisis ends.

"Dangerous behavior" means the behavior of a student that presents an imminent danger of serious physical harm to the student or others; however, dangerous behavior does not include the following:

- Disrespect;
- Noncompliance;
- Insubordination; or
- Destruction of property that does not create an imminent danger.

"De-escalation" means the use of a behavior management technique that helps a student increase the student's control over the student's emotions and behavior and results in a reduction of a present or potential level of danger that in turn reduces the level of imminent danger of serious physical harm to the student or others.

"Emergency" means a serious and unexpected situation that requires immediate action and which may be dangerous.

"Functional Behavior Assessment" (FBA) means a problem analysis step that:

- Occurs within the context of data-based problem-solving and involves:
 - The review of existing records and other sources of information;
 - Diagnostic or historical interviews;
 - Structured academic or behavioral observations; and
 - Authentic, criterion-referenced, or norm-referenced tests; and
- Is performed with the goal of determining why a specific problem or situation is occurring in order to directly link a strategic intervention to an assessment and solve or resolve the specific problem or situation.

"Imminent danger" means an existing dangerous situation that could reasonably be expected to immediately cause death or serious physical harm.

"Mechanical restraint" means the use of a device or equipment to restrict the free movement of a student; however, mechanical restraint does not include a device that is used by trained school personnel or a student for a specific and approved therapeutic purpose or safety purpose for which the device was designed or prescribed or a vehicle safety restraint that is appropriately used in the manner for which it was designed during the transport of a student in a moving vehicle.

"Physical escort" means a temporary touching or holding of the hand, wrist, arm, shoulder, or back of a student for the purpose of redirecting or inducing the student to move to a safe location.

"Physical restraint" means a personal restriction that immobilizes or reduces the ability of a student to move the student's torso, arm, leg, or head freely; however, physical restraint does not include a physical escort.

"Positive behavioral support" means the application of behavior analysis that:

- Is used to achieve socially important behavior change;
- Occurs at the:
 - Prevention level for all students in a school;
 - Strategic intervention level for a student who is not responding, from a social-emotional and behavioral perspective, to the prevention level; and
 - Intensive service or crisis-management level for a student who needs multifaceted or comprehensive behavioral or mental health services; and
- Involves a planned and collaborative school-wide approach that is implemented with a goal:
 - Of establishing a positive and supportive school environment that:
 - Teaches and reinforces prosocial behavior in a student;

- Holds a student positively accountable for meeting an established behavioral expectation; and
- Maintains a level of consistency throughout the implementation process; and
- That is accomplished by using positive behavioral programs, strategies, or approaches.

"Prone restraint" means restraining a student in a face-down position on the floor or another surface and applying physical pressure to the body of the student to keep the student in the prone position.

"Serious physical harm" means bodily injury that involves a substantial risk of death, extreme physical pain, protracted and obvious disfigurement, or protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member, organ, or mental faculty.

"Supine restraint" means the restraint of a student in a face-up position on the student's back on the floor or another surface and with physical pressure applied to the body of the student to keep the student in the supine position.

Positive Behavioral Supports

The District shall implement positive behavioral supports to be used at the:

1. Prevention level for each student in a school;
2. Strategic intervention level for a student who is not responding, from a social, emotional, or behavioral perspective, to the prevention level; and
3. Intensive service or crisis-management level for a student who needs multifaceted or comprehensive behavioral or mental health services.

The District's positive behavioral support shall include:

- a. The teaching and reinforcing of interpersonal, social, problem solving, conflict resolution, and coping skills to a student;
- b. Holding a student positively accountable for meeting an established behavioral expectation;
- c. Maintaining a high level of consistency through the implementation of the positive behavioral support process; and
- d. The following interrelated activities:
 - ✚ Providing a school-wide approach to the discipline and safety of each student rather than an approach to only the behavior problem of a single student;
 - ✚ Focusing on preventing the development and occurrence of problem behavior;
 - ✚ Regularly reviewing behavior data to adapt the District's procedures to meet the needs of every student; and
 - ✚ Providing a multitier approach to academic and behavioral services and support to meet the academic and behavioral achievement needs of each student.

The following principles shall form the basis of the District's positive behavioral support system and conflict resolution or de-escalation approach:

1. A student has the right to be treated with dignity;
2. A student should receive necessary academic, social, emotional, and behavioral support that is provided in a safe and least-restrictive environment possible;
3. Positive and appropriate academic, social, emotional, or behavioral intervention, as well as mental health support, should be provided routinely to each student who needs the intervention or support;
4. Behavioral intervention should emphasize prevention as part of the District's system of positive behavioral support; and
5. Each student who exhibits an ongoing behavior that interferes with the student's learning or the learning of others, and who is nonresponsive to effectively implemented classroom or administrative intervention, should receive additional intensive behavioral intervention that is based on a FBA and data-based problem solving.

Problem Solving and Intervention Team

A problem-solving and intervention team shall be established for each student who exhibits social, emotional, or behavioral difficulty that may escalate, if not addressed, to potentially dangerous behavior. The problem-solving and intervention team shall include at least one (1) member who is an academic and behavioral assessment and intervention professional.

A student's problem-solving and intervention team shall:

- a. Work with the teachers of a student to complete a FBA of the student and an assessment of any problematic situations involving the student;
- b. Consider the need for a BIP with the goal of preventing or resolving the social, emotional, or behavioral difficulty of the student and developing a response that will de-escalate and stabilize a potential emergency situation that approaches the danger level; and
- c. Regularly review the data on incidents involving the use of physical restraint on the student and adjust, as necessary, the procedures concerning the use of physical restraint on the student.

Special education procedures shall be followed if a student is suspected of having a disability that relates to behavioral concerns.

Physical Restraint

Except in the case of a clearly unavoidable emergency situation in which a trained member of school personnel is not immediately available due to the unforeseeable nature of the emergency situation, the physical restraint of a student shall only be used by a member of school personnel who is appropriately trained to administer physical restraint.

When using physical restraint on a student, school personnel shall:

- use the least restrictive technique necessary to end imminent danger or serious physical harm to a student and others;
- Use the safest method available and appropriate to the situation;
- Consider the health and safety of a student, including without limitation whether the student has an existing medical condition that makes the use of physical restraint inadvisable;
- Not restrict the ability of a student to communicate unless the use of a less restrictive technique will not prevent imminent danger of serious physical harm to the student or others;
- Use only the amount of force that is reasonably necessary to protect a student or others from imminent danger of serious physical harm to the student or others;
- Not verbally abuse, ridicule, humiliate, taunt, or engage in any other similar action towards the student; and
- continuously and visually observe and monitor the student while the student is under physical restraint.

Physical restraint of a student shall only be used for a limited period of time and shall not be used:

- When imminent danger or serious physical harm to the student or others dissipates;
- If a medical condition occurs that puts the student at risk of harm;
- Unless the behavior of the student poses an imminent danger of serious physical harm to the student or others;
- After the threat of imminent danger of serious physical harm to the student or others dissipates; or
- In the following manner:
 - To punish or discipline the student;
 - To coerce the student;
 - To force the student to comply;
 - To retaliate against the student;
 - To replace the use of an appropriate educational or behavioral support;
 - As a routine safety measure;
 - As a planned behavioral intervention in response to behavior of the student that does not pose an imminent danger of serious physical harm to the student or others;
 - As a convenience for school personnel; or
 - To prevent property damage unless the act of damaging property committed by the student poses an imminent danger or serious physical harm to the student and others.

Even in an emergency, supine restraint shall not be used on a student except by a staff person who has been certified by a crisis intervention training program and the certified staff person determines that supine restraint is required to provide safety for the student and others.

At no time shall school personnel use the following on a student:

- ✚ Mechanical restraint;

- ✚ Chemical restraint;
- ✚ Aversive behavioral interventions that compromise health and safety;
- ✚ Physical restraint that is life-threatening or medically contraindicated; or
- ✚ Prone restraint or other restraint that restricts the breathing of a student.

Following the first incident of physical restraint used on a student, an FBA shall be conducted unless a previous FBA was conducted for the same behavior that was at issue when the physical restraint was used.

The use of physical restraint on a student as a planned behavioral intervention shall not be included in a student's IEP, 504 Plan, BIP, individual safety plan, or other individual planning document but may be considered as a crisis intervention if appropriate for the student. A student's IEP team or 504 Plan team shall consider whether an FBA should be performed; if a BIP should be developed for the student or if a student's existing BIP should be revised; and if additional behavioral goals and interventions should be included in the student's existing IEP or 504 Plan.

Parents may submit complaints regarding an incident involving the use of physical restraint on their student. A complaint shall be referred for review to the appropriate school personnel:

- The student's problem-solving and intervention team;
- The student's IEP team; or
- The student's 504 Plan team.

A complaint by a parent shall be handled by the appropriate District staff in the same manner as a debrief following the use of physical restraint on a student.¹

Use of a physical restraint technique that is abusive shall be reported to the Child Abuse Hotline and law enforcement.

Reports and Debriefing

After the occurrence of an incident involving physical restraint of a student, the building principal, or the principal's designee, shall be notified of the incident as soon as possible but by no later than the end of the school day when the incident occurred.

The student's parent shall be notified of the incident of the use of physical restraint via verbal or electronic communication as soon as possible but by no later than the end of the school day when the incident occurred. In the event the student's parent is unable to be notified via verbal or electronic communication within twenty-four (24) hours after the incident occurred, then the parent shall be mailed written notification of the incident within forty-eight (48) hours after the incident occurred.

school personnel involved in the incident shall document the incident in a written report, which is to be completed within twenty-four (24) hours after the incident occurred. The written report of the incident shall:

1. Include all information contained in the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Physical Restraint or Seclusion Incident Record and Debriefing Report;
2. Be maintained in the student's education record; and
3. Be provided to the student's parent within one (1) school day of the completion of the report.

A debriefing meeting shall be held within two (2) school days after the incident occurred. The following school personnel shall be present at the debriefing meeting:²

- a. A member of school personnel who was present during the incident;
- b. A member of school personnel who was in the proximity of the student on whom physical restraint was used immediately before and during the time of the incident;
- c. A school administrator; and
- d. Any other member of school personnel determined to be appropriate by the District.

The purpose of the debriefing meeting shall be to:

- Determine whether the procedures used during the incident were necessary;
- Evaluate the use of any behavioral supports and de-escalation techniques by school personnel before and during the incident;
- Evaluate the school district's positive behavioral supports system and prevention techniques in order to minimize future use of physical restraint; and
- If a trained member of school personnel was not immediately available due to the unforeseeable nature of the emergency situation when the incident occurred:
 - Reevaluate the training needs of school personnel;
 - Reevaluate the physical restraint policy and practices; and
 - Develop a plan to prevent a future incident.

At a debriefing meeting, school personnel shall:

1. Consider relevant information in the student's education record, including without limitation:
 - a. The concerns of the student's parent;
 - b. The student's social and medical history;
 - c. The student's FBA, if one exists;
 - d. The student's BIP, if one exists;
2. Consider relevant information from the teachers, parents, and other District professionals;
3. Discuss whether positive behavior supports were appropriately implemented;
4. Discuss the duration and frequency of the use of physical restraint on the student;
5. Discuss appropriate action that may be taken to prevent and reduce the need for physical restraint;
6. Consider whether additional intervention and support is necessary for the student;
7. Consider whether additional intervention and support is necessary for school personnel; and

8. Consider how and when to debrief a person who was not present at the debriefing meeting, including without limitation:
 - a. The student;
 - b. The student's parent; and
 - c. Other school personnel or students who witnessed the incident.

same information, shall be completed during the debriefing meeting. A copy of the report shall be:

- Submitted to the building principal;³
- Mailed to the student's parent within two (2) days of the date on which the debriefing meeting was held; and
- Maintained as part of the student's education record along with other documents consulted during the debriefing meeting.

DESE's Physical Restraint or Seclusion Incident Record and Debriefing Report, or an alternative report that includes the

Who is Responsible for Student Conduct?

1. Freedom is a constitutional right, but it does not mean the absence of reasonable rules and regulations that serve to guide the actions of individuals. Along with freedom comes the responsibility to act in a way that insures that all participants may enjoy the same freedom. To obtain the greatest possible benefit to the students, teachers, administrators, parents, Board of Education and the entire community, it is essential that all work together to insure that they treat all persons equally and with dignity in respect to their rights and responsibilities.
2. Students have the responsibility to pursue their education in the ORSD in a way that shows respect for other students, faculty members, parents and other citizens. Students should be aware that they have a responsibility to cooperate with and help the school staff in the orderly and efficient conduct of the schools by abiding by rules and regulations established by the Board of Education and the school of attendance, and implemented by teachers and school administrators. Each student is responsible for his own conduct at all times.
3. Parents/guardians should carefully read the pages of this Parents/guardians, this attempt to promote good citizenship and success in life may not succeed and the student will be the one to suffer the consequences of struggling through life without benefit of an education.
4. Arkansas Law 6-17-106 states that any person who shall abuse or insult a public school teacher while that teacher is performing normal and regular or assigned school responsibilities shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction be liable for a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$1,500.
5. According to Arkansas Law 6-18-511, if a teacher removes a student from class twice during any nine (9) week period, for repeatedly interfering with the teacher's ability to teach by being unruly, disruptive, or abusive, the principal or his designee will request a conference be held for the purposes of determining the causes of the problem, and possible solutions.
6. No unauthorized person (non-student) shall purposely enter or remain unlawfully in a school vehicle or on the school premises.
7. Teachers are responsible for the supervision of the behavior of all the students in the school. This includes not only the students who are regularly assigned to the teacher, but all other students with whom the teacher comes in contact. Each teacher is expected to maintain the kind of atmosphere and decorum that will promote the learning process, and to utilize sound techniques that seem appropriate. These techniques include conferences with students and parents, referral to counselors at the school or referral to other supportive service personnel of the District (nurse, attendance caseworkers, educational examiners, and psychologist). When the teacher is unable to assist the student to maintain proper control of his behavior, the student is to be referred to the appropriate administrator in the school.
8. Administrators of each school will disseminate and explain to all students at the beginning of the school year, and will disseminate to each new student upon registration, the rules and regulations currently in effect for that school. In developing rules, the administrator is expected to involve representatives of the teaching staff, the student body and the patrons of the school. The administrator of each school is responsible for conducting continued in service education for all personnel on a regular basis to interpret and implement established policies. Each principal, or the principal's designee, is authorized to assign students to detention, work detail, community service, probation status, and to suspend or recommend the expulsion of students. The principal is expected to inform the parents or guardians of any student whose behavior is in serious conflict with established laws, rules and procedures.
9. The Superintendent is responsible for exercising leadership in establishing all necessary procedures, rules and regulations to make effective the Board of Education policies relating to standards of student behavior.
10. The Board of Education of the ORSD, acting through the Superintendent, holds all school employees responsible for the supervision of the behavior of students while legally under the supervision of the school. The board expects all employees to be concerned with student behavior and when and where unacceptable behavior occurs to take appropriate action.

Student Discipline Guidelines: K-2nd

1. The teachers of the ORSD are professionals. They are in charge of the campus as well as their classroom. They are allowed to make decisions based on their professional knowledge on all aspects of their duties. If a teacher observes a violation of school rules by any student under the jurisdiction of the school, the teacher's word will be final and action will be taken on that observation according to the student disciplinary policies. The teacher will not be superseded unless the situation warrants and deemed necessary by the administration. Parents may be called in on discipline behavior according to the discretion of the administration.

2. A student may be punished, suspended, or expelled for immorality, refractory conduct, insubordination, infectious disease, or other conduct that would tend to impair the discipline of the school or harm the other pupils, regardless of whether a specific prohibition of the conduct is contained in this student handbook.

3. In disciplining students, the teacher and/or administration may use, but is not limited to, the following list:

- A. Verbal or Written Warning
- B. Time-Out
- C. Constructive Writing
- D. Detention (Noon and After School)
- E. Principal's Office Detention/ISS
- F. Saturday School
- G. Corporal Punishment
- H. Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) for an age-appropriate amount of time
- I. Expulsion

4. In disciplining students in grades K-12th, principals will use the punishment suggested as a guideline. Principals have the authority to alter the punishment.

Activation of Fire Alarm by Student/Bomb Threat

The student may be punished as follows:

1. Consequences: Suspension, expulsion, and/or criminal charges may be filed for turning in a false alarm.
2. LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES MAY BE NOTIFIED.

Alcohol or Illegal Drugs:

A student shall not use or possess alcohol or other illegal drugs (illegal, prescription or over-the-counter) while at school or any school function. If a student is found violating this rule, the student may be punished as follows:

- 1st **Offense:** Parent/Teacher/Administrator conference and an age appropriate
- 2nd **Offense:** Ten (10) days out-of-school suspension.
- 3rd **Offense:** Recommend expulsion.

Level of severity will be considered before punishment is administered.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES MAY BE NOTIFIED.

Behavior Not Covered:

The ORSD reserves the right to punish behavior which is subversive to good order and discipline even though such behavior is not specified in the preceding written orders as deemed appropriate by school officials.

Bullying (4.43):

A student shall not bully others while in school, on school property, in school vehicles, on school buses, at designated school bus stops, at school sponsored activities, or at school sanctioned events.

1st **Offense:** Warning by teacher and/or principal/notification to parents, and/or time-out, recess detention, and/or community service.

2nd **Offense:** Corporal Punishment or principal's office detention/ISS.

3rd **Offense:** Age-appropriate out-of-school suspension.

4th **Offense:** Recommend expulsion.

Bus Violation:

All students will be assigned a seat. The student will stay in his/her seat all the way to school and all the way home and on all school activities. Bus drivers may change or reassign a seat for disciplinary reasons. Students will not be allowed to stand except for loading and unloading. All other school rules apply while riding on the bus. For any action that may distract the bus driver, the student may be punished as follows:

1st **Offense:** Warning and/or Time-out/notification to parents (unless incident is severe)/ISS.

2nd **Offense:** Corporal punishment and notification to parents.

3rd **Offense:** Three (3) days suspension of bus riding privileges.

4th **Offense:** Indefinite loss of riding privileges.

Cheating (Academic Dishonesty):

A student will not cheat on tests or classroom assignments, nor will a student aid other students in cheating on said work. The student may be punished as follows:

1st **Offense:** Student receives zero on work and parent notification.

2nd **Offense:** Student receives zero on work and shall conference with Teacher/Parent/Student/Administrator.

Computer Use Violations:

A student shall follow the Student Electronic Device and Internet Use Agreement. Students who violate the signed agreement may be punished as follows:

1st **Offense:** warning, detention, suspension, computer use rights suspended

2nd **Offense:** 3 days ISS & limit computer rights for up to 30 days

3rd **Offense:** 3 days OSS & limit computer rights indefinitely

Destruction of School Property:

No student shall destroy or damage any property of another or that belonging to the school district. The parent/guardian shall be responsible for all damages to property caused by his/her child. The student may be punished as follows:

1. ACCIDENTAL...Consequences: Pay for the damages and notify parents.

2. INTENTIONAL

1st Offense: Corporal Punishment and notification to parents with damage retribution expected.

2nd Offense: Age-appropriate suspension.

3rd Offense: Recommended expulsion.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES MAY BE NOTIFIED.

Disorderly Conduct:

A student's behavior shall not impair the discipline of the school or harm others, regardless of whether a specific prohibition of the conduct is contained in this handbook.

The student may be punished as follows:

1st Offense: Corporal punishment, One (1) days ISS, or OSS

2nd Offense: Three (3) days ISS

3rd Offense: Three (3) days OSS

4th Offense: Recommend expulsion

LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES MAY BE NOTIFIED

Disrespectful:

Students will not show disrespect for faculty or staff members by shouting or yelling at, threatening, or any other action that can be considered disrespectful. The student may be punished as follows:

1st Offense: Warning by teacher and/or principal/notification to parents, Time-out, recess detention, and/or community service.

2nd Offense: Corporal Punishment or principal's office detention/ISS.

3rd Offense: Age-appropriate out-of-school suspension.

4th Offense: Recommend expulsion.

Distribution of Illegal Drugs:

No student shall destroy or damage any property of another or that belonging to the school district. The parent/guardian shall be responsible for all damages to property caused by his/her child. The student may be punished as follows:

1. Ten (10) days out-of-school suspension and recommended expulsion.

2. LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES WILL BE CONTACTED.

Dress Code (4.25):

The school board recognizes that among those rights retained by the people under our constitutional form of government is the freedom to govern one's personal appearance. When, however, dress and grooming disrupt the learning process for the individual student,

other students, or the learning climate of the school, it becomes a matter subject to disciplinary action. Student dress, grooming and appearance should be the responsibility of the individual and his and her parents under the following guidelines:

1. Dress and grooming should be clean and in keeping with health and sanitary practices.

2. Students may not wear clothing or hairstyles that can be hazardous to them in their educational activities.

3. Dress and grooming should not disrupt the educational process.

4. A student shall not wear clothing imprinted with profanity or language "mentioning" drugs, alcohol, sex, violence, tobacco, or any saying that could be disruptive to a good learning situation.

5. No sleepwear shall be worn to school except for special events approved by the principal.

6. Students in Grades K thru 2nd can wear regular shorts to school.

7. Sleeveless shirts shall not sag under the arm.

8. All clothing will be worn so as not to expose undergarments.

9. Headgear may be worn in the classroom at the teacher's discretion.

10. Teachers are to enforce these rules strictly at all times. All violators are to be sent to the office with a signed dress code violation form. Cases in question will be decided by administration. Violations will be handled in the following manner:

1st Offense: The student will be given a warning and required to change clothes. The time out of class will be unexcused and a Parent/Teacher/Administrator conference.

2nd Offense: The student will be considered insubordinate and may be given an age appropriate In-School Suspension.

Equal Enforcement of Regulations: The regulations found within the student handbook apply equally without regard to sex, race, or national origin.

Fighting:

When students fight, it may be difficult to determine who is at fault. When a cooling off period is needed, both students may be immediately suspended until an effort to determine fault is made. If a student is found to have initiated the fight, he may or may not be suspended. Alternate punishment may be applied with regard to actual involvement. The student may be punished as follows:

1st Offense: Warning by teacher and/or principal/notification to parents, and/or time-out, recess detention, and/or community service.

2nd Offense: Corporal Punishment or principal's office detention/ISS.

3rd Offense: Age-appropriate out-of-school suspension.

4th Offense: Recommend expulsion.

Severity of fight will be considered before the

punishment is administered.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES MAY BE NOTIFIED.

Fireworks:

A student shall not use or possess fireworks while at school or at any school function. The student may be punished as follows:

1st Offense: Warning from principal and notification to parents and/or parent conference.

2nd Offense: Age-appropriate suspension and parent's conference.

3rd Offense: Recommend expulsion.

Gambling:

A student shall not gamble while on school property, school buses or at school-sponsored events. The student may be punished as follows:

1st Offense: Warning from principal and notification to parents.

2nd Offense: Age-appropriate suspension and parent conference.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES MAY BE NOTIFIED.

Gang Activity:

Any gang related activity as outlined in 4.18 and 4.26 shall result in punishment up to expulsion.

General Conduct, Classroom Misbehavior. And Violation of Classroom Rules:

1. A student will be in class on time and have the materials needed for that class. This means the proper textbook, paper, pencil, and other items designated by the teacher.

2. A student shall not disrupt a class by making unnecessary noise, talking without permission, keeping other students from doing assigned class work, refusing to do assigned class work, sleeping, refusing to keep his/her head up off the desk top, refusing to pay proper attention to the teacher, eating food, or any action that will distract from a learning atmosphere in the classroom. The student may be punished as follows:

1st offense: A warning from the teacher and/or notification to parents.

2nd offense: Corporal punishment / detention /ISS/ time-out

3rd offense: Age-appropriate suspension and conference with parents. More than three (3) offenses will result in additional corporal punishment, out-of-school suspension, or recommend expulsion.

Handicapped Students: In the establishment of these discipline policies, the ORSD recognizes that in the case of diagnosed handicapped students the provisions of Federal Law 94-142, Ark. Act 102, Ark. Act 504, Ark. Law 6-18-507 and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) policies will prevail. In those cases, required adjustments in the policies will be made in line with the student's handicapping condition as stated on student's Individualized Educational Program

(IEP).

Horseplay and Disruption in the hall:

The student may be punished as follows:

1st Offense: Warning from teacher.

2nd Offense: Time out or recess detention.

3rd Offense: Corporal punishment, principal's office detention/ISS and parent notification.

Immoral Conduct/Unlawful Sexual Contact: Students shall not touch other students in a sexually offensive manner. The student may be punished as follows:

1st Offense: Immediate Teacher / Parent / Administrator / Counselor Conference or child sent home until such time said conference can take place.

2nd Offense: 10 day out-of-school suspension.

3rd Offense: Recommend Expulsion.

If deemed necessary by the principal, expulsion could be recommended on first offense.

Inappropriate Contact between Children:

The student may be punished as follows:

1st Offense: Warning and parents notified.

2nd Offense: Time out and counseling as needed.

3rd Offense: Parent conference before student may return to school. Severe violations may result in days of out-of-school suspension, or recommend expulsion.

Indecent Exposure:

Students shall not expose their sex organs and/or any private body parts in a public place or in public view or under circumstances knowing the conduct is likely to cause affront or alarm. The student may be punished as follows:

1st Offense: Immediate Teacher / Parent / Administrator / Counselor Conference or child sent home until such time said conference can take place.

2nd Offense: Age-appropriate suspension.

3rd Offense: Recommend Expulsion.

If deemed necessary by the principal, expulsion could be recommended on first offense.

Insubordination (Disobeying): A student will not disregard a direction or command from a faculty or staff member. If a student is observed violating a direction or command (insubordinate), the student may be punished as follows:

1st Offense: Warning by teacher and/or principal/notification to parents, and/or time-out, recess detention, and/or community service.

2nd Offense: Corporal Punishment or principal's office detention/ISS.

3rd Offense: Age-appropriate out-of-school suspension.

4th Offense: Recommend expulsion.

Littering:

Throwing objects or items that will clutter the campus or the ground or other areas rather than in a designated

trash receptacle is considered littering. The student may be punished as follows:

1st Offense: Required to pick up debris on campus for one recess.

2nd Offense: Corporal Punishment or principal's office detention/ISS.

Lying to Faculty/Staff Members:

Lying to members of the faculty/staff will not be tolerated. In the event a student is being questioned concerning his/her involvement in a situation meriting disciplinary action, the student will receive additional disciplinary action for lying. Lying is considered a separate offense. The student may be punished as follows:

1st Offense: Warning by teacher and/or principal/notification to parents.

2nd Offense: Time-out, recess detention, and/or community service.

3rd Offense: Corporal Punishment or principal's office detention/ISS.

4th Offense: Age-appropriate out-of-school suspension.

Non-Educational Items Brought to School by Students:

Students may not bring items to school such as toys, radios, Walkman, video games, remote control cars, sports equipment, trading cards, pagers, walkie-talkie, etc. that are deemed non-educational and distract from the learning environment. The student may be punished as follows:

1st Offense: Items confiscated and kept until the end of the day and returned to student to be taken home and not brought back to school.

2nd Offense: Items confiscated and returned only to parent at parent conference.

3rd Offense: Items confiscated and returned to parent at the end of the semester.

Obscene Materials:

A student shall not have in his/her possession or distribute obscene materials while at school. Obscene by definition: being anything that is sexually oriented, immoral, or lewd. The student may be punished as follows:

1st Offense: Warning by teacher and/or principal and parent notification.

2nd Offense: Time-out, recess detention, and/or community service.

3rd Offense: Corporal Punishment or principal's office detention/ISS.

4th Offense: Age-appropriate out-of-school suspension.

5th Offense: Recommend expulsion.

Other Dangerous Items:

Students will not bring to school or have in their possession items such as lighters, b-bs, laser pointers, rubber bands, sling shots or blow guns, water guns, and

any other items that can be used to aggravate or harass another person. The student may be punished as follows: Items will be confiscated and kept in the office until a parent can obtain them.

1st Offense: Items confiscated and parent notification.

2nd Offense: Items confiscated and corporal punishment or principal's office detention/ISS.

3rd Offense: Items confiscated and age-appropriate suspension.

Other Non-Educational Items Brought to School by Students--Cellular (Cell) Phones.

Cell phones will be allowed at school under the following guidelines:

1. They may be used before school begins and after school ends.

2. During all class time including time between classes, cell phones must be put away out of sight and turned off. Use of cell phones during class may constitute cheating.

3. If cell phones are visible, activates (rings), or are used during non-test class time, the following punishment may be used:

1st Offense: Cell phone is confiscated and returned to the student at the end of the day and a letter to the parents or guardians explaining the incident and subsequent offenses.

2nd Offense: Cell phone is confiscated and returned to the parent.

3rd Offense: Cell phone is confiscated and returned to the parent; ISS may be assigned.

4th Offense: Cell phone is confiscated and returned to the parent and corporal punishment or suspension. Cell phone privilege at school shall be revoked for this student.

4. Cell phones are strictly prohibited during any testing. If cell phones activate (rings) while they are "put away," punishment will follow 5.51, 3, a – d. If cell phones are visible or are used during test class time, the following punishment shall be used:

A. Cell phone is confiscated and returned to the parent or guardian.

B. Cell phone privilege at school shall be revoked for this student.

C. Student may be suspended.

Possession or Use of Prohibited Weapon:

1. A student shall not possess, handle, or transmit a knife of any size or description. Other items prohibited may include, but not limited to, the following: razor, ice pick, explosive, pistol, shotgun, rifle, pellet gun, or any other object that reasonably can be considered a weapon, or dangerous instrument or any contraband materials.

2. Guns will be considered as a dangerous weapon, whether assembled or unassembled. Pursuant to Ark. Law 6-18-507, any student bringing weapons to school will be expelled for a period of not less than one year for possession of any firearm or other weapon prohibited upon school campus by law; however, the

superintendent shall have discretion to modify such expulsion requirements for a student on a case-by-case basis.

3. Depending upon the severity of the offense and the intent of the action, the student may be punished as follows:

A. Disciplinary conference, corporal punishment, ISS, OSS, or expulsion.

B. LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES MAY BE NOTIFIED.

Sexual Harassment:

Sexual harassment as outlined in policy 4.27 shall result in punishment up to expulsion.

Stealing/Theft:

A student shall not take or have in their possession any item or article that rightfully belongs to another person.

The student may be punished as follows:

Consequences: Property returned in the same condition or payment of the item(s) stolen and/or:

1st Offense: Warning by teacher and/or principal/notification to parents.

2nd Offense: Time-out, recess detention, and/or community service.

3rd Offense: Corporal Punishment or principal's office detention/ISS.

4th Offense: Age-appropriate out-of-school suspension and parent conference.

5th Offense: Recommend expulsion.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES MAY BE NOTIFIED.

Student Assault or Battery/Terroristic Threatening: (4.21)

A student shall not threaten harm or make physical contact with another student. The student will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.

Truancy:

1. Students absent from class without permission whether on or off campus. A student leaving campus without signing out is also considered truant.

2. A student shall not be absent from school without parent or school authorities' prior knowledge and consent. After arrival on campus, a student absent from his classroom or other assigned learning station without permission from school authorities will be considered as truant.

3. Each truancy will be treated as an unexcused absence. Students found to be truant will not be allowed to make up tests and assignments.

4. The student may be punished as follows: Parents will be notified and the day will be considered as an unexcused absence. Severity may result in parent conference, out of school suspension, or possible expulsion.

Unacceptable Language:

A student shall not use profanity, obscene gestures,

and/or vulgar language at any time for any reason. The student May be punished as follows:

1st Offense: Warning by teacher and/or principal and parent notification.

2nd Offense: Time-out, recess detention, and/or community service.

3rd Offense: Corporal Punishment or principal's office detention/ISS.

4th Offense: Age-appropriate out-of-school suspension.

5th Offense: Recommend expulsion.

Unexcused Tardiness:

Students will arrive at class on time. All students tardy to class must have an excuse before being admitted to any classroom. For any unexcused tardy, the student may be punished as follows:

1. Students who arrive after the 8:00 bell will be considered tardy.

Use/possession of Tobacco Products including e-cigarettes:

(Products can be returned to parents only and may be obtained in the office.) The student may be punished as follows:

1st Offense: Warning from principal and parents must attend a conference before the student will be allowed to return to school.

2nd Offense: Age-appropriate suspension and parent conference.

Student Discipline Guidelines: 3rd-6th

Oden Campus 6th Grade students will follow 7th-12th Grade Student Discipline Guidelines.

1. A student may be punished, suspended, or expelled for immorality, refractory conduct, insubordination, infectious disease, or other conduct that would tend to impair the discipline of the school or harm the other pupils, regardless of whether a specific prohibition of the conduct is contained in this student handbook.

2. In disciplining students, the teacher and/or administration may use, but is not limited to, the following list:

A. Verbal or Written Warning

B. Time-Out

C. Constructive Writing

D. Detention (Noon and After School)

E. In-School-Suspension (ISS)

F. Saturday School

G. Corporal Punishment

H. Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) for an age-appropriate amount of time

I. Expulsion

Activation of Fire Alarm by Student/Bomb Threat:

The student may be punished as follows:

1. Consequences: Suspension, expulsion, and/or criminal charges may be filed for turning in a false alarm.

2. LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES MAY BE NOTIFIED

Alcohol or Illegal Drugs:

A student shall not use or possess alcohol or other illegal drugs (illegal, prescription or over-the-counter) while at school or any school function. If a student is found violating this rule, the student may be punished as follows:

1st Offense: 10 days out-of-school suspension/parent conference.

2nd Offense: Recommend Expulsion.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES MAY BE NOTIFIED.

Behavior Not Covered:

The ORSD reserves the right to punish behavior which is subversive to good order and discipline even though such behavior is not specified in the preceding written orders as deemed appropriate by school officials.

Bullying (4.43):

A student shall not bully others while in school, on school property, in school vehicles, on school buses, at designated school bus stops, at school sponsored activities, or at school sanctioned events.

1st Offense: Corporal punishment or 1 day of ISS/notification to parents.

2nd Offense: 2 days of ISS.

3rd Offense: 4 days of ISS.

4th Offense: 3 days of out-of-school suspension.

5th Offense: Recommend expulsion.

Academic Dishonesty:

A student will not cheat on tests or classroom assignments, nor will a student aid other students in cheating on said work. The student may be punished as follows:

1st Offense: Student receives zero on work and parent notification.

2nd Offense: 2 days ISS, student receives zero on work and parent notification.

3rd Offense: 5 days ISS, student receives zero on work and Teacher / Parent / Student / Administrator Conference.

Bus Violation:

All students will be assigned a seat. The student will stay in his/her seat all the way to school and all the way home and on all school activities. Bus drivers may change or reassign a seat for disciplinary reasons. Students will not be allowed to stand except for loading and unloading. All other school rules apply while riding on the bus. For any action that may distract the bus driver, the student may be punished as follows:

1st Offense: Corporal punishment or 1 day ISS and parent notification.

2nd Offense: 2 days of ISS.

3rd Offense: 5 days of suspension of bus riding privileges.

4th Offense: Indefinite loss of riding privileges.

Computer Use Violations:

A student shall follow the Student Electronic Device and Internet Use Agreement. Students who violate the signed agreement may be punished as follows:

1st Offense: warning, detention, suspension, limit computer rights

2nd Offense: 3 days ISS & limit computer rights for up to 30 days

3rd Offense: 3 days OSS & limit computer rights indefinitely

Destruction of School Property:

No student shall destroy or damage any property of another or that belonging to the school district. The parent/guardian shall be responsible for all damages to property caused by his/her child. The student may be punished as follows:

1. ACCIDENTAL...Consequences: Pay for the damages and notify parents.

2. INTENTIONAL

1st Offense: Corporal Punishment or 1 day ISS and notification to parents with damage retribution expected.

2nd Offense: 3 days of out-of-school suspension.

3rd Offense: Recommended Expulsion.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES MAY BE NOTIFIED.

Disorderly Conduct:

A student's behavior shall not impair the discipline of the school or harm others, regardless of whether a specific prohibition of the conduct is contained in this handbook. The student may be punished as follows:

1st Offense: Corporal punishment, One (1) days ISS, or OSS

2nd Offense: Three (3) days ISS

3rd Offense: Three (3) days OSS

4th Offense: Recommend expulsion

LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES MAY BE NOTIFIED.

Disrespect to Faculty or Staff Members:

Students will not show disrespect for faculty or staff members by shouting or yelling at, threatening, or any other action that can be considered disrespectful. The student may be punished as follows:

1st Offense: Warning, corporal punishment or 1 day ISS and parent notification.

2nd Offense: 2 days of ISS and parent conference.

3rd Offense: 3 days of out-of-school suspension.

4th Offense: Recommend expulsion.

Severity may result in additional days of ISS, automatic suspension, or expulsion.

Distribution of Illegal Drugs:

No student shall destroy or damage any property of another or that belonging to the school district. The parent/guardian shall be responsible for all damages to property caused by his/her child. The student may be

punished as follows:

1. Ten (10) days out-of-school suspension and recommended expulsion.
2. LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES WILL BE CONTACTED.

Dress Code (4.25):

The school board recognizes that among those rights retained by the people under our constitutional form of government is the freedom to govern one's personal appearance. When, however, dress and grooming disrupt the learning process for the individual student, other students, or the learning climate of the school, it becomes a matter subject to disciplinary action. Student dress, grooming and appearance should be the responsibility of the individual and his and her parents under the following guidelines:

1. Dress and grooming should be clean and in keeping with health and sanitary practices.
2. Students may not wear clothing or hairstyles that can be hazardous to them in their educational activities such as shop, lab work, physical education, art or on-the-job training.
3. Dress and grooming should not disrupt the educational process. All students shall wear clothing that covers the midriff.
4. A student shall not wear clothing imprinted with profanity or language "mentioning" drugs, alcohol, sex, violence, tobacco, or any saying that could be disruptive to a good learning situation.
5. No sleepwear shall be worn to school except for special events approved by the principal.
6. No "Yoga pants," tights, or other thin, form-fitting pants shall be worn without being covered by dress, skirt, or shorts that meet current code.
7. Shorts, skirts, dresses, and holes in clothing are to reach at least to the tip of the middle finger of the student while standing with their hands to their sides. (No spandex shorts or cut-offs.)
8. Sleeveless shirts shall not sag under the arm.
9. All clothing will be worn so as not to expose undergarments.
10. Blouses or shirts with thin or "Spaghetti" straps shall not be worn unless an opaque blouse or shirt is worn over or under the shirt at all times.
11. Headgear may be worn in the classroom at the teacher's discretion.
12. Teachers are to enforce these rules strictly at all times. All violators are to be sent to the office with a signed dress code violation form. Cases in question will be decided by administration. Violations will be handled in the following manner:

1st Offense: The student will be given a warning and required to change clothes. The time out of class will be unexcused. A letter to notify parents of the violation will be sent home.

2nd Offense: The student will be considered insubordinate and may be given Corporal punishment, three (3) days ISS, or OSS.

3rd Offense: Five (5) days ISS.

4th Offense: Five (5) days OSS.

5th Offense: Recommend expulsion.

Equal Enforcement of Regulations:

The regulations found within this handbook apply equally without regard to sex, race, or national origin.

Fighting:

When students fight, it may be difficult to determine who is at fault. When a cooling off period is needed, both students may be immediately suspended until an effort to determine fault is made. If a student is found to have initiated the fight, he may or may not be suspended. Alternate punishment may be applied with regard to actual involvement. The student may be punished as follows:

1st Offense: Corporal punishment or 1 day of I.S.S./notification to parents.

2nd Offense: 2 days of ISS.

3rd Offense: 4 days of ISS.

4th Offense: 3 days of out-of-school suspension.

5th Offense: Recommend expulsion.

Severity of fight will be considered before the punishment is administered.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES MAY BE NOTIFIED.

Fireworks:

A student shall not use or possess fireworks while at school or at any school function. The student may be punished as follows:

1st Offense: Corporal punishment or 1 day ISS/notification to parents.

2nd Offense: 2 days ISS.

3rd Offense: 3 days of out-of-school suspension and parent conference.

4th Offense: Recommend Expulsion.

Gambling:

A student shall not gamble while on school property, school buses or at school-sponsored events. The student may be punished as follows:

1st Offense: Corporal punishment or 1 day ISS and notification to parents.

2nd Offense: 3 days of out-of-school suspension.

3rd Offense: Recommend Expulsion.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES MAY BE NOTIFIED.

Gang Activity:

Any gang related activity as outlined in section 4.26 shall result in punishment up to expulsion.

General Conduct, Classroom Misbehavior, and Violation of Classroom Rules:

A student will be in class on time and have the materials needed for that class.

1. This means the proper textbook, paper, pencil, and other items designated by the teacher.

2. A student shall not disrupt a class by making unnecessary noise, talking without permission, keeping other students from doing assigned class work, refusing to do assigned class work, sleeping, refusing to keep his/her head up off the desk top, refusing to pay proper attention to the teacher, eating food, or any action that will distract from a learning atmosphere in the classroom. The student may be punished as follows:

1st offense: Warning/conference, corporal punishment, detention, or ISS.

2nd offense: Corporal punishment, detention, or ISS.

3rd offense: Three (3) days ISS or OSS.

More than three (3) offenses will result in additional corporal punishment, ISS, out-of-school suspension, or recommend expulsion.

Handicapped Students:

In the establishment of these discipline policies, the ORSD recognizes that in the case of diagnosed handicapped students the provisions of Federal Law 94-142, Ark. Act 102, Ark. Act 504, Ark. Law 6-18-507 and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) policies will prevail. In those cases, required adjustments in the policies will be made in line with the student's handicapping condition as stated on student's Individualized Educational Program (IEP).

Horseplay or Disruption in the Hall:

The student may be punished as follows:

1st Offense: Warning from teacher.

2nd Offense: Corporal punishment or 1 day of ISS/parent notification.

3rd Offense: 2 days of ISS.

4th Offense: 3 days of out-of-school suspension and conference with parent.

5th Offense: Recommend Expulsion.

Immoral Conduct/Unlawful Sexual Contact: Students shall not touch other students in a sexually offensive manner. The student may be punished as follows:

1st Offense: Immediate Teacher / Parent / Administrator / Counselor Conference or child sent home until such time said conference can take place.

2nd Offense: 10 days of out-of-school suspension.

3rd Offense: Recommend Expulsion.

If deemed necessary by the principal expulsion could be recommended on first offense.

Inappropriate Contact Between Children:

The student may be punished as follows:

1st Offense: Warning, corporal punishment or 1 day ISS and referral to school counselor/parent conference.

2nd Offense: 2 days of ISS and parent conference before student may return to school.

3rd Offense: 3 days of out-of-school suspension.

4th Offense: Recommend Expulsion.

Severe violations may result in immediate days of out-of-school suspension, or recommend expulsion.

Indecent Exposure:

Students shall not expose their sex organs and/or any private body parts in a public place or in public view or under circumstances knowing the conduct is likely to cause affront or alarm.

The student may be punished as follows:

1st Offense: Immediate Teacher / Parent / Administrator / Counselor Conference or child sent home until such time said conference can take place.

2nd Offense: 10 days out-of-school suspension.

3rd Offense: Recommend Expulsion.

If deemed necessary by the principal, expulsion could be recommended on first offense.

Insubordination (Disobeying): A student will not disregard a direction or command from a faculty or staff member. If a student is observed violating a direction or command (insubordinate), the student may be punished as follows:

1st Offense: Warning by teacher and/or principal/notification to parents.

2nd Offense: Corporal punishment or 1 day ISS and parent notification.

3rd Offense: 2 days of ISS and parent conference.

4th Offense: 3 days of out-of-school suspension.

5th Offense: Recommend expulsion.

Littering:

Throwing objects, or items that will clutter the campus or the ground or other areas rather than in a designated trash receptacle is considered littering. The student may be punished as follows:

1st Offense: Required to pick up debris on campus at noon recess.

2nd Offense: Corporal Punishment or 1 day of ISS.

Lying to Faculty/Staff Members:

Lying to members of the faculty/staff will not be tolerated. In the event a student is being questioned concerning his/her involvement in a situation meriting disciplinary action, the student will receive additional disciplinary action for lying. Lying is considered a separate offense. The student may be punished as follows:

1st Offense: Warning by teacher and/or principal & notification to parents.

2nd Offense: Corporal punishment or 1 day of ISS.

3rd Offense: 2 days ISS.

4th Offense: 3 days of out-of-school suspension.

Non-Educational Items Brought to School by Students:

Students may not bring items to school such as toys, radios, walk-man, video games, remote control cars, sports equipment, trading cards, pagers, walkie-talkie, etc. that are deemed non-educational and distract from the learning environment. The student may be punished as follows:

1st Offense: Items confiscated and kept until the end of the day and returned to student to be taken home and not brought back to school.

2nd Offense: Items confiscated and returned only to parent at parent conference.

3rd Offense: Items confiscated and returned to parent at the end of the semester.

Obscene Materials:

A student shall not have in his/her possession or distribute obscene materials while at school. Obscene by definition: being anything that is sexually oriented, immoral, or lewd. The student may be punished as follows:

1st Offense: Corporal punishment or 1 day ISS/parent conference.

2nd Offense: 2 days ISS and parent conference.

3rd Offense: 3 days of out-of-school suspension and parent conference.

4th Offense: Recommend Expulsion.

Other Dangerous Items:

Students will not bring to school or have in their possession items such as lighters, b-b's, laser pointers, rubber bands, sling shots or blow guns, water guns, and any other items that can be used to aggravate or harass another person. Items will be confiscated and kept in the office until a parent can obtain them. The student may be punished as follows:

1st Offense: Items confiscated, corporal punishment or 1 day ISS and parent notification.

2nd Offense: Items confiscated and 2 days ISS.

3rd Offense: Items confiscated and 3 days of out-of-school suspension.

4th Offense: Recommend Expulsion.

Other Non-Educational Items Brought to School by Students--Cellular (Cell) Phones:

Cell phones will be allowed at school under the following guidelines:

1. They may be used before 7:45a.m, and after 3:10 p.m.

2. During all class time including time between classes, cell phones must be put away out of sight and turned off. Use of cell phones during class may constitute cheating.

3. If cell phones are visible, activates (rings), or are used during non-test class time, the following punishment may be used:

1st Offense: Cell phone is confiscated and returned to the student after the last bell and a letter to the parents or guardians explaining the incident and subsequent offenses.

2nd Offense: Cell phone is confiscated and returned to the parent and 1 day of ISS.

3rd Offense: Cell phone is confiscated and returned to the parent and 3 days of ISS and privilege revoked.

4. Cell phones are strictly prohibited during any testing, including State Testing. If cell phones activate (rings) while they are "put away," punishment will follow. If cell phones are visible or used during test or class time, the following punishment shall be used:

A. Cell phone is confiscated and returned to the

parent or guardian and...

B. Cell phone privilege at school shall be revoked for this student. Student may be suspended.

Possession or use of Prohibited Weapon:

Depending upon the severity of the offense and the intent of the action, the student may be punished as follows:

1. Disciplinary conference, corporal punishment, ISS, OSS, or expulsion.

2. LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES MAY BE NOTIFIED.

Possession or Use of Tobacco Products including e-cigarettes:

(Products can be returned to parents only and may be obtained in the office.) The student may be punished as follows:

1st Offense: Corporal punishment or 1 day ISS/parent notification.

2nd Offense: 3 days of ISS.

3rd Offense: 5 days of out-of-school suspension.

4th Offense: Out of school suspension or Recommend Expulsion.

Public Display of Affection:

The student may be punished as follows:

1st Offense: Warning.

2nd Offense: One (1) day I.S.S. and parent conference.

3rd Offense: Three (3) days I.S.S. and parent conference.

Severe violations may result in additional days of I.S.S., out-of-school suspension, or recommended expulsion.

Sexual Harassment:

Sexual harassment as outlined in policy 4.27 shall result in punishment up to expulsion.

Stealing/Theft:

A student shall not take or have in their possession any item or article that rightfully belongs to another person. The student may be punished as follows: Property returned in the same condition or payment of the item(s) stolen and/or:

1st Offense: Corporal punishment or 1 day ISS/notification to parents.

2nd Offense: 2 days ISS.

3rd Offense: 3 days of out-of-school suspension and parent conference.

4th Offense: Recommend Expulsion.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES MAY BE NOTIFIED.

Student Assault or Battery/Terroristic Threatening:

(4.21) (see pg. 62)

A student shall not threaten harm or make physical contact with another student. The student will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.

Truancy:

Students absent from class without permission whether on or off campus. A student leaving campus without signing out is also considered truant. The student may be punished as follows:

- 1st offense:** Warning/conference, corporal punishment, detention, or ISS.
- 2nd offense:** Corporal punishment, detention, or ISS.
- 3rd offense:** Three (3) days ISS.

More than three (3) offenses will result in additional corporal punishment, ISS, or recommend expulsion.

Unacceptable Language:

A student shall not use profanity, obscene gestures, and/or vulgar language at any time for any reason. The student may be punished as follows:

- 1st Offense:** Warning by teacher and/or principal and parent notification.
- 2nd Offense:** Corporal punishment or 1 day ISS and parent contacted.
- 3rd Offense:** 2 days ISS and parent conference.
- 4th Offense:** 3 days of out-of-school suspension.
- 5th Offense:** Recommend Expulsion.

Unexcused Tardies:

Students will arrive at class on time. All students tardy to class must have an excuse before being admitted to any classroom.

- 1. Students who arrive after the first bell will be considered as tardy.
- 2. Students who leave before the last bell will be considered as not completing the school day and will be counted like a tardy.

Any unexcused tardy, the student may be punished as follows:

- 1st Offense:** Warning
- 2nd Offense:** Warning
- 3rd Offense:** Referral/ Parents Notified
- 4th Offense:** ISS or Corporal Punishment
- 5th Offense:** ISS or Corporal Punishment
- 6th and Additional Offenses:** ISS, Corporal Punishment, After School Detention or Saturday Detention

Student Discipline Guidelines: 7th - 12th

Oden Campus 6th Grade students will follow 7th-12th Grade Student Discipline Guidelines.

- 1. A student may be punished, suspended, or expelled for immorality, refractory conduct, insubordination, infectious disease, or other conduct that would tend to impair the discipline of the school or harm the other pupils, regardless of whether a specific prohibition of the conduct is contained in this student handbook.
- 2. In disciplining students, the teacher and/or administration may use, but is not limited to, the following list:
 - A. Verbal or Written Warning

- B. Time-Out
- C. Constructive Writing
- D. Detention (Noon and After School)
- E. In-School-Suspension (ISS)
- F. Saturday School
- G. Corporal Punishment
- H. Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) for an age-appropriate amount of time
- I. Expulsion

Academic Dishonesty:

A student will not cheat on tests or classroom assignments, nor will a student aid other students in cheating on said work. The student may be punished as follows:

- 1st Offense:** Student receives zero on work and parent notification.
- 2nd Offense:** 3 days ISS, student receives zero on work and parent notification.
- 3rd Offense:** 5 days ISS, student receives zero on work and Teacher/Parent/Student/Administrator Conference.

Activation of Fire Alarm by Student/Bomb Threat:

The student may be punished as follows:

- 1. Consequences: Suspension, expulsion, and/or criminal charges may be filed for turning in a false alarm.
- 2. LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES MAY BE NOTIFIED

Alcohol or Illegal Drugs:

A student shall not use or possess alcohol or other illegal drugs (illegal, prescription or over-the-counter) while at school or any school function. If a student is found violating this rule, the student may be punished as follows:

- 1st Offense:** Ten (10) days out-of-school suspension.
- 2nd Offense:** Recommend expulsion.
- LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES MAY BE NOTIFIED.

Behavior Not Covered:

The ORSD reserves the right to punish behavior which is subversive to good order and discipline even though such behavior is not specified in the preceding written orders as deemed appropriate by school officials.

Bullying (4.43):

A student shall not bully others while in school, on school property, in school vehicles, on school buses, at designated school bus stops, at school sponsored activities, or at school sanctioned events. Any person or persons who file a complaint will not be subject to retaliation or reprisal in any form.

The student may be punished as follows:

- 1st Offense:** 3 days of ISS.
- 2nd Offense:** 5 days OSS.
- 3rd Offense:** 10 days OSS / recommend expulsion.

Bus Violation:

All students will be assigned a seat. The student will stay in his/her seat all the way to school and all the way home and on all school activities. Bus drivers may change or reassign a seat for disciplinary reasons. Students will not be allowed to stand except for loading and unloading. All other school rules apply while riding on the bus. Any action that may distract the bus driver, the student may be punished as follows:

1st Offense: Corporal punishment and/or three (3) days ISS and/or loss of riding privilege.

2nd Offense: Five (5) days off the bus and three (3) days ISS.

3rd Offense: Three (3) days OSS and indefinite loss of riding privilege as determined by principal.

Computer Use Violations:

A student shall follow the Student Electronic Device and Internet Use Agreement. Students who violate the signed agreement may be punished as follows:

1st Offense: warning, detention, suspension, limit computer rights

2nd Offense: 3 days ISS & limit computer rights for up to 30 days

3rd Offense: 3 days OSS & limit computer rights indefinitely

Destruction of School Property:

No student shall destroy or damage any property of another or that belonging to the school district. The parent/guardian shall be responsible for all damages to property caused by his/her child. The student may be punished as follows:

1. ACCIDENTAL...Consequences: Pay for the damages and notify parents.

2. INTENTIONAL

1st offense: Three (3) days ISS and parents of the students will be required to pay for repair or replacement of property damaged.

2nd Offense: Five (5) days out-of-school suspension and parents of the students will be required to pay for repair or replacement of property damaged.

3rd Offense: Ten (10) days out-of-school suspension and parents of the students will be required to pay for repair or replacement of property damaged.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES MAY BE NOTIFIED.

Disorderly Conduct:

A student's behavior shall not impair the discipline of the school or harm others, regardless of whether a specific prohibition of the conduct is contained in this handbook. The student may be punished as follows:

1st Offense: Corporal punishment, three (3) days ISS, or OSS

2nd Offense: Five (5) days ISS

3rd Offense: Five (5) days OSS

4th Offense: Recommend expulsion

LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES MAY BE NOTIFIED

Disrespect to Faculty or Staff Members:

Students will not show disrespect for faculty or staff members by shouting or yelling at, threatening, or any other action that can be considered disrespectful. The student may be punished as follows:

1st Offense: Corporal punishment, three (3) days ISS, or OSS.

2nd Offense: Five (5) days ISS.

3rd Offense: Five (5) days OSS.

4th Offense: Recommend expulsion.

Severity may result in additional days of ISS, automatic suspension, or expulsion.

Distribution of Illegal Drugs:

A student shall not distribute illegal drugs.

The student may be punished as follows:

1. Ten (10) days out-of-school suspension and recommended expulsion.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES WILL BE CONTACTED.

Dress Code (4.25):

The school board recognizes that among those rights retained by the people under our constitutional form of government is the freedom to govern one's personal appearance. When, however, dress and grooming disrupt the learning process for the individual student, other students, or the learning climate of the school, it becomes a matter subject to disciplinary action. Student dress, grooming and appearance should be the responsibility of the individual and his and her parents under the following guidelines:

1. Dress and grooming should be clean and in keeping with health and sanitary practices.

2. Students may not wear clothing or hairstyles that can be hazardous to them in their educational activities such as shop, lab work, physical education, art or on-the-job training.

3. Dress and grooming should not disrupt the educational process.

4. A student shall not wear clothing imprinted with profanity or language "mentioning" drugs, alcohol, sex, violence, tobacco, or any saying that could be disruptive to a good learning situation.

5. No sleepwear shall be worn to school except for special events approved by the principal.

6. No "Yoga pants," tights, or other thin, form-fitting pants shall be worn without being covered by dress, skirt, or shorts that meet current code.

7. Shorts, skirts, dresses, and holes in clothing are to reach at least to the tip of the middle finger of the student while standing with their hands to their sides.

8. Sleeveless shirts shall not sag under the arm.

9. All clothing will be worn so as not to expose undergarments, midribs, buttocks, or breasts.

10. Headgear may be worn in the classroom at the teacher's discretion.

11. Teachers are to enforce these rules strictly at all times. All violators are to be sent to the office with a signed dress code violation form. Cases in question will

be decided by administration. Violations will be handled in the following manner:

1st Offense: The student will be given a warning and required to change clothes. The time out of class will be unexcused. A letter to notify parents of the violation will be sent home.

2nd Offense: The student will be considered insubordinate and may be given Corporal punishment, three (3) days ISS, or OSS.

3rd Offense: Five (5) days ISS.

4th Offense: Five (5) days OSS.

5th Offense: Recommend expulsion.

Driving Vehicles:

A student that is a licensed driver, will drive carefully, park in designated area, and get out of the vehicle until the school day is over unless accompanied by a staff or faculty member. Violators may be punished as follows:

1st Offense: Parent conference required before student is allowed to drive again on campus and/or loss of driving privilege.

2nd Offense: Three (3) days ISS and loss of driving on campus for length of time determined by the principal.

3rd Offense: Three (3) days out-of-school suspension and loss of driving privilege for the remainder of the school year.

Severe cases may result in any combination of the following: immediate and permanent loss of driving privilege, additional days of ISS or OSS.

Fighting:

When students fight, it may be difficult to determine who is at fault. When a cooling off period is needed, both students may be immediately suspended until an effort to determine fault is made. If a student is found to have initiated the fight, he may or may not be suspended. Alternate punishment may be applied with regard to actual involvement. The student may be punished as follows:

1st Offense: ISS, corporal punishment, or OSS.

2nd Offense: Three (3) days OSS.

3rd Offense: Five (5) days OSS.

4th Offense: Recommend expulsion.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES MAY BE NOTIFIED.

Severity of fight will be considered before the punishment is administered.

Fireworks:

A student shall not use or possess fireworks while at school or at any school function. The student may be punished as follows:

1st Offense: Possession - Five (5) days ISS; Use - Five (5) days OSS.

2nd Offense: Possession - Five (5) days OSS; Use - Ten (10) days OSS.

3rd Offense: Recommend expulsion.

Gambling:

A student shall not participate in any activity which may

be termed gambling or wagering where the stakes are money or are any other object(s) of value. The student may be punished as follows:

1st Offense: ISS, corporal punishment, or OSS.

2nd Offense: Three (3) days out-of-school suspension.

3rd Offense: Ten (10) days out-of-school suspension.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES MAY BE NOTIFIED.

Gang Activity:

Any gang related activity as outlined in section 4.26 shall result in punishment up to expulsion.

General Conduct, Classroom Misbehavior, and Violation of Classroom Rules:

A student will be in class on time and have the materials needed for that class.

1. This means the proper textbook, paper, pencil, and other items designated by the teacher.

2. A student shall not disrupt a class by making unnecessary noise, talking without permission, keeping other students from doing assigned class work, refusing to do assigned class work, sleeping, refusing to keep his/her head up off the desk top, refusing to pay proper attention to the teacher, eating food, or any action that will distract from a learning atmosphere in the classroom. The student may be punished as follows:

1st offense: Warning/conference, corporal punishment, detention, or ISS.

2nd offense: Corporal punishment, detention, or ISS.

3rd offense: Three (3) days ISS or OSS.

More than three (3) offenses will result in additional corporal punishment, ISS, out-of-school suspension, or recommend expulsion.

Horseplay or Disruption in the Hall:

The student may be punished as follows:

1st Offense: Warning and/or corporal punishment

2nd Offense: Three (3) days I.S.S.

3rd Offense: Five (5) days I.S.S.

4th Offense: Three days out-of-school suspension.

Immoral Conduct/Unlawful Sexual Conduct:

The student may be punished as follows:

1st Offense: Ten (10) days suspension.

2nd Offense: Recommend Expulsion.

If deemed necessary by the principal expulsion could be recommended on first offense.

Insubordination (Disobeying): A student will not disregard a direction or command from a faculty or staff member. If a student is observed violating a direction or command (insubordinate), the student may be punished as follows:

1st Offense: Corporal punishment, three (3) days ISS, or OSS.

2nd Offense: Five (5) days ISS.

3rd Offense: Five (5) days OSS.

4th Offense: Recommend expulsion.

Littering:

Throwing objects, or items that will clutter the campus or the ground or other areas rather than in a designated trash receptacle is considered littering. The student may be punished as follows:

1st Offense: Required to pick up debris on campus for one noon period (after eating lunch).

2nd Offense: Corporal punishment.

Lockers:

Students should keep lockers provided by the school locked at all times. Students are responsible for lost or stolen articles in their lockers.

1. Students keep their lockers secured at all times and not give friends their combination.

2. Don't try to hide or conceal anything in your locker that you wouldn't want your parents to find at home or anything that violates school policy.

3. Lockers will be assigned to the students by the school. Students are not to change lockers without permission from the principal's office.

Lying to Faculty/Staff Members:

Lying to members of the faculty/staff will not be tolerated. In the event a student is being questioned concerning his/her involvement in a situation meriting disciplinary action, the student will receive additional disciplinary action for lying. Lying is considered a separate offense. The student may be punished as follows: Disciplinary conference, corporal punishment, ISS, or out-of-school suspension.

Non-Educational Items Brought to School by Students:

Students may not bring items to school such as toys, radios, Walkman, video games, remote control cars, sports equipment, trading cards, pagers, walkie-talkie, etc. that are deemed non educational and distract from the learning environment. The student may be punished as follows:

1st Offense: Items confiscated and kept until the end of the day and returned to student to be taken home and not brought back to school.

2nd Offense: Items confiscated and returned only to parent at parent conference

3rd Offense: Items confiscated and returned to parent at the end of the semester

Obscene Materials:

A student shall not have in his/her possession or distribute obscene materials while at school. The student may be punished as follows:

1st Offense: Three (3) days I.S.S. and/or corporal punishment.

2nd Offense: Three (3) days out-of-school suspension.

3rd Offense: Ten (10) days out-of-school suspension.

Other Dangerous Items:

Students will not bring to school or have in their possession items such as lighters, b-b's, rubber bands, sling shots or blow guns, water guns, laser pointers, and any other items that can be used to aggravate or harass another person. The student may be punished as follows:

1st Offense: Items confiscated and corporal punishment.

2nd Offense: Items confiscated and three (3) days I.S.S.

3rd Offense: Five (5) days I.S.S.

4th Offense: Five (5) days out-of-school suspension.

Other Non-Educational Items Brought to School by Students--Cellular (Cell) Phones:

Cell phones will be allowed at school under the following guidelines:

1. They may be used before first bell, between classes, at lunch, and after the last bell.

2. Cell phones may be used for academic work at the teacher's discretion.

3. During all class time including time between classes, cell phones must be put away out of sight and turned off. Use of cell phones during class may constitute cheating.

4. If cell phones are visible, activates (rings), or are used during non-test class time, the following punishment may be used:

1st Offense: Cell phone is confiscated and returned to the parent.

2nd Offense: Cell phone is confiscated and returned to the parent and 1 day of ISS.

3rd Offense: Cell phone is confiscated and returned to the parent and 3 days of ISS and privilege revoked.

5. Cell phones are strictly prohibited during any testing, including State Testing. If cell phones activate (rings) while they are "put away," punishment will follow. If cell phones are visible or used during test class time, the following punishment shall be used:

A. Cell phone is confiscated and returned to the parent or guardian and...

B. Cell phone privilege at school shall be revoked for this student. Student may be suspended.

Possession or Use of Prohibited Weapon:

1. Depending upon the severity of the offense and the intent of the action, the student may be punished as follows: Disciplinary conference, corporal punishment, ISS, OSS, or expulsion.

2. LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES MAY BE NOTIFIED.

Possession (Or Use) Of Tobacco Products including e-cigarettes:

The student may be punished as follows:

1st Offense: Corporal punishment, three (3) days ISS, or three (3) days OSS.

2nd Offense: Five (5) days ISS or 3 days OSS.

3rd Offense: Ten (10) days OSS.

Public Display of Affection:

The student may be punished as follows:

1st Offense: Warning.

2nd Offense: One (1) day I.S.S. and parent conference.

3rd Offense: Three (3) days I.S.S. and parent conference.

Severe violations may result in additional days of I.S.S., out-of-school suspension, or recommended expulsion.

Sexual Harassment (4.27):

Sexual harassment as outlined on section 4.27 shall result in punishment up to expulsion.

Stealing/Theft:

A student shall not take or have in their possession any item or article that rightfully belongs to another person.

The student may be punished as follows:

Consequences: Property returned in the same condition or payment of the item(s) stolen and/or...

1st Offense: Corporal punishment and/or five (5) days ISS.

2nd Offense: Five (5) days OSS.

3rd Offense: Recommend expulsion.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES MAY BE NOTIFIED.

Student Assault or Battery/Terroristic Threatening: (4.21)

A student shall not threaten harm or make physical contact with another student. The student will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.

Truancy:

Students absent from class without permission whether on or off campus. A student leaving campus without signing out is also considered truant. The student may be punished as follows:

1st Offense: Three (3) days ISS and parent notification.

2nd Offense: Five (5) days ISS and parent notification.

3rd Offense: Five (5) days ISS and suspension.

4th Offense: Recommend expulsion.

Unacceptable Language:

A student shall not use profanity, obscene gestures, and or vulgar language at any time for any reason. The student may be punished as follows:

1st Offense: Corporal punishment.

2nd Offense: Three (3) days I.S.S.

3rd Offense: Three (3) days out-of-school suspension

Unexcused Tardies:

Students will arrive at class on time. All students tardy to class must have an excuse before being admitted to any classroom.

1. Students who arrive after the first bell will be considered as tardy.

2. Students who leave before the last bell will be considered as not completing the school day and will be counted like a tardy.

Any unexcused tardy, the student may be punished as follows:

1st Offense: Warning

2nd Offense: Referral/Parent Notified

3rd Offense: Detention or ISS or Corporal Punishment

4th Offense and Additional Offenses: ISS or Corporal Punishment, After School Detention or Saturday Detention

School Calendar



Ouachita River School District 2023-2024 Calendar

Independence Day ORSD
Closed.....4th
Board Meeting @ Oden.....24th

JULY '23						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

JANUARY '24						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

New Year's Day.....1st
Staff Development Day (NO
STUDENTS).....5th
Classes Resume (2nd Semester
Begins).....8th
Report Cards.....10th
Board Meeting @ Oden.....22nd

District Staff Development.....15th
Staff Development Day.....16th
Public Meeting & Open
House.....17th
First Day of School.....21st
Board Meeting @ Acorn.....28th

AUGUST '23						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

FEBRUARY '24						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

Progress Reports.....5th
President's Day (NO
SCHOOL).....19th
Board Meeting @ Acorn.....26th

Labor Day (NO SCHOOL).....4th
Progress Reports.....19th
Board Meeting @ Oden.....25th

SEPTEMBER '23						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

MARCH '24						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

End of 3rd Nine Wks.(44
Days/287.32 hours).....8th
Parent/Teacher Conference-
Report Cards.....14th
No School (makeup snow
day).....15th
Spring Break.....18th-22nd
Board Meeting @ Oden.....25th

Harvest Festival @ Acorn... 13th
End of First Nine Wks.(41
Days/267.73).....17th
Board Meeting @ Acorn.....23rd
Parent/Teacher Conference-
Report Cards.....26th
Halloween Carnival @
Oden.....28th

OCTOBER '23						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

APRIL '24						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Progress Reports.....17th
Board Meeting @ Acorn.....22nd

Progress Reports.....16th
Fall Break.....13th & 14th
Thanksgiving Break.....20th-24th
Board Meeting @ Oden.....27th

NOVEMBER '23						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

MAY '24						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Acorn Graduation.....16th
Oden Graduation.....17th
End of 4th Nine Wks. (45
Days/293.85 hours).....17th
Last Day of School (170
Days/1,110.10 hours).....17th
Board Meeting @ Oden.....20th
Memorial Day (ORS
Closed).....27th

End of 2nd Nine Wks.(40
Days/261.20).....21st
End of 1st Semester 82
Days).....21st
Board Meeting @ Acorn.....18th
Christmas Break.....22nd-5th

DECEMBER '23						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

JUNE '24						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Board Meeting @ Acorn.....24th

School starts daily- 7:50 am
School dismissal daily- 3:20 pm

MP 1= 41 days/267.73 hours
MP 2= 40 days/261.20 hours
MP 3= 43 days/280.79 hours
MP 4= 45 days/293.85 hours
**Total Instructional Days
169/1,103.57 hours**

(4.56.2F) Home Schooled Students' Letter of Intent to Participate in an Extracurricular Activity at Resident District

Student's Name (Please Print) _____

Parent or Guardian's Resident Address

Street _____ Apartment _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Student's date of birth ____/____/____ Last grade level the student completed _____

Student has demonstrated academic eligibility by obtaining a verifiable minimum test score of the 30th percentile or better in the previous 12 months on the Stanford Achievement Test Series, Tenth Edition, or another nationally recognized norm-referenced test approved by the State Board of Education. _____

Name of test, Date taken, and score achieved _____

Extracurricular activity(ies) the student requests to participate in

Course(s) the student requests to take at the school _____

Proof of identity _____

Date Submitted ____/____/____

Parent's Signature _____

District Parent Engagement Plan/Supplement to the Student Handbook

FULL PLAN POSTED ON THE DISTRICT WEBSITE: www.ouachitariversd.org

2023/2024 SUMMARY

Ouachita River School District recognizes that a child's education is a responsibility shared by the school and family during the entire time the child spends in school.

To welcome parents into the schools and to seek parental support and assistance, the district and schools shall not have any policies or procedures that would discourage a parent from visiting the school.

The process for parents to follow to resolve concerns will be placed in the Student/Parent Handbook, distributed to all parents, and made available in the school offices.

2023/2024 designated parent engagement contacts for Ouachita River School District

For Acorn Elementary questions or concerns-----Kim Posey 479-394-4833 ext. 305

For Acorn High School questions or concerns-----Tammy Young 479-394-7339

For Oden K-12 questions or concerns-----Jennifer Barrett 870-326-4311

IMPORTANT PARENT INVOLVEMENT DATES

(www.ouachitariversd.org will post updates throughout the year)

****** ALL MEETINGS AND THE TWO PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES THIS YEAR
WILL BE SCHEDULED AT A TIME, PLACE, AND MANNER MUTUALLY AGREED UPON
BY TEACHERS AND PARENTS. *******

***FALL BREAK:** Nov. 13th & 14th

***THANKSGIVING:** Nov. 20st-24th

***CHRISTMAS:** Dec. 22nd –Jan.5th

***SPRING BREAK:** March 18th -22th, 2024

***PARENT ENGAGEMENT PLAN/TITLE I PLANNING/DISTRICT ACSIP MEETINGS:** May 6, 2024

***LAST DAY OF SCHOOL:** May 17, 2024

***ACORN GRADUATION:** May 16, 2024

***ODEN GRADUATION:** May 17, 2024

FOR QUESTIONS CONTACT:

William Edwards/OUACHITA RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT/870-326-4311