

# Hillsboro-Deering Cooperative School District

Annual  
Parent/Guardian  
Notice of  
Policies

2018-  
2019

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## AC - NON-DISCRIMINATION

It is the policy of the School Board that there will be no discrimination on the basis of age, gender, race, creed, color, religion, marital status, sexual orientation, national ethnic origin, economic status or disability for employment in, participation in, admission/access to, or operation and administration of any educational program or activity in the School District.

The District will not discriminate against any employee who is a victim of domestic violence, harassment, sexual assault, or stalking.

The Superintendent or his/her designee will receive all inquiries, complaints, and other communications relative to this policy and the applicable laws and regulations concerned with non-discrimination.

This policy of non-discrimination is applicable to all persons employed or served by the district. Any complaints or alleged infractions of the policy, law or applicable regulations will be processed through the grievance procedure. This policy implements PL 94-142, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the American with Disabilities Act, Title VI or VII of the Civil Rights act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and the laws of New Hampshire pertaining to non-discrimination.

### **Legal References:**

*RSA 354-A:6, Opportunity for Employment without Discrimination a Civil Right*

*RSA 354-A:7, Unlawful Discriminatory Practices*

*The Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967*

*Title I of The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990*

*Title VII of The Civil Rights Act of 1964 (15 or more employees)*

*RSA 186:11, XXXIII, Discrimination*

*RSA 275:71, Prohibited Conduct by Employer*

Board Approval: 11/17/14

## **ACE-PROCEDURAL SAFEGUARDS NONDISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF HANDICAP/DISABILITY**

The school district will ensure that all students with a handicap or disability are provided all necessary procedural safeguards as are required by law. Such procedural safeguards are found in pertinent federal and state laws and regulations. In addition, all staff, students, parents and other interested persons are directed to the New Hampshire Department of Education Procedural Safeguards Handbook.

**Patricia Parenteau** is the designated employee, charged with coordinating efforts to comply with Section 504.

### **Legal References:**

*34 C.F.R. Part 104, Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Handicap  
Section 504 of The Rehabilitation Act of 1973*

Revision approved 11/7/16

## **JH-ATTENDANCE, ABSENTEEISM AND TRUANCY**

### **Absences**

The Board requires that school-aged children enrolled in the District attend school in accordance with all applicable state laws and Board policies. The educational program offered by the District is predicated upon the presence of the student and requires continuity of instruction and classroom participation in order for students to achieve academic standards and consistent educational progress.

Attendance shall be required of all students enrolled in the District during the days and hours that school is in session, except that the Principal may excuse a student for temporary absences when receiving satisfactory evidence of conditions or reasons that may reasonably cause the student's absence.

The Board considers the following to be excused absences:

1. Illness
2. Recovery from an accident
3. Required court attendance
4. Medical and dental appointments
5. Death in the immediate family
6. Observation or celebration of a bona fide religious holiday
7. Such other good cause as may be acceptable to the Principal or permitted by law

Any absence that has not been excused for any of these reasons will be considered an unexcused absence.

In the event of an illness, parents must call the school and inform the District of the student's illness and absence. For other absences, parents must provide written notice or a written excuse that states one of these reasons for non-attendance. The Principal may require parents to provide additional documentation in support of their written notice, including but not limited to doctor's notes, court documents, obituaries, or other documents supporting the claimed reason for non-attendance.

If parents wish for their child to be absent for a reason not listed above, the parent must provide a written explanation of the reason for such absence, including why the student will be absent and for how long the student will be absent. The Principal will make a determination as to whether the stated reason for the student's absence constitutes good cause and will notify the parents via telephone and writing of his/her decision. If the Principal determines that good cause does not exist, the parents may request a conference with the Principal to again explain the reasons for non-attendance. The Principal may then reconsider his initial determination. At this juncture, the Principal's decision shall be final. However, parents may appeal this decision in writing to the Superintendent

within 5 days. This decision can be appealed to the school board.

### **Family Vacations/Educational Opportunities**

Generally, absences other than for illness during the school year are discouraged. The school principal or his/her designee may, however, grant special approval of absence for family vacations, provided written approval is given in advance. Parents are asked to write a note to their child's teacher at least two weeks before the trip. This advance planning will allow the teacher enough time to work with parents and the student regarding homework completion.

### **Tuancy**

Tuancy is defined as any unexcused absence from class or school. Any absence that has not been excused for any of the reasons listed above will be considered an unexcused absence.

Ten half-days of unexcused absence during a school year constitutes habitual truancy.

A half-day absence is defined as a student missing more than two hours of time and less than three and one-half hours of time.

Any absence of more than three and one-half hours of time shall be considered a full-day absence.

The Principal or Truant Officer is hereby designated as the District employee responsible for overseeing truancy issues.

### **Intervention Process to Address Truancy**

The Principal shall ensure that the administrative guidelines on attendance properly address the matter of truancy by including a process that identifies students who are habitually truant, as defined above.

When the Principal identifies a student who is habitually truant or who is in danger of becoming habitually truant, he/she shall commence an intervention with the student, the student's parents, and other staff members as may be deemed necessary. The intervention shall include processes including, but not limited to:

1. Investigates the cause(s) of the student's truant behavior;
2. Considers, when appropriate, modification of his/her educational program to meet particular needs that may be causing the truancy;
3. Involves the parents in the development of a plan designed to reduce the truancy;
4. Seeks alternative disciplinary measures, but still retains the right to impose discipline in accordance with the District's policies and administrative guidelines on student discipline;
5. Determination as to whether school record keeping practices and parental notification of the student's absences have an effect on the child's attendance.

### **Parental Involvement in Truancy Intervention**

When a student reaches habitual truancy status or is in danger of reaching habitual truancy status, the Principal will send the student's parent a letter which includes:

1. A statement that the student has become or is in danger of becoming habitually truant;
2. A statement of the parent's responsibility to ensure that the student attends school; and
3. A request for a meeting between the parents and the Principal to discuss the student's truancy and to develop a plan for reducing the student's truancy.

### **Developing and Coordinating Strategies for Truancy Reduction**

The Board encourages the administration to seek truancy-prevention and truancy-reduction strategies along the recommendations listed below. However, these guidelines shall be advisory only. The Superintendent is authorized to develop and utilize other means, guidelines and programs aimed at preventing and reducing truancy.

1. Coordinate truancy-prevention strategies based on the early identification of truancy, such as prompt notification of absences to parents.

2. Assist school staff to develop site attendance plans by providing development strategies, resources, and referral procedures.
3. Encourage and coordinate the adoption of attendance-incentive programs at school sites and in individual classrooms that reward and celebrate good attendance and significant improvements in attendance.

### **Parental Notification of Truancy Policy**

The Superintendent shall ensure that this policy is included in or referenced in the student handbook and is made available to parents annually at the beginning of each school year.

### **Legal References:**

*RSA 189:34, Appointment*

*RSA 189:35-a, Truancy Defined*

*RSA 193:1, Duty of Parent; Compulsory Attendance by Pupil*

*RSA 193:7 Penalty*

*RSA 193:8, Notice Requirements*

*RSA 193:16 Bylaws as to Nonattendance*

*NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed 306.04 (a)(1), Attendance and Absenteeism*

*NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed 306.04 (c), Policy Relative to Attendance and Absenteeism*

Board Approval of Revision: 10/21/13

## **JICD STUDENT DISCIPLINE AND DUE PROCESS**

### **Definitions**

1. Disciplinary measures include, but are not limited to, removal from the classroom, detention, in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, restriction from activities, probation, and expulsion.
2. Removal from the classroom means a student is sent to a supervised location to be determined by the building Principal or designee. It is within the discretion of the person in charge of the classroom to remove the student.
3. Detention means the student's presence is required for disciplinary purposes before or after the hours when the student is assigned to be in class. The building Principal or designee is authorized to establish guidelines or protocol for when detention shall be served (either before school or after school). Whether a student will serve detention, and the length of the detention, is within the discretion of the licensed employee disciplining the student or the building Principal.
4. An in-school suspension means the student will attend school but will be temporarily isolated from one or more classes while under supervision. An in-school suspension will not exceed ten consecutive school days.
5. An out-of-school suspension means the temporary denial of a student's attendance at school for a specific period of time for gross misconduct, for neglect, or refusal to conform to school rules or policies.
6. A restriction from school activities means a student will attend school, classes, and practice but will not participate in school extra-curricular activities.
7. Probation means a student is given a conditional suspension of a penalty for a definite period of time in addition to being reprimanded. The conditional suspension will mean the student must meet the conditions and terms for the suspension of the penalty. Failure of the student to meet these conditions and terms will result in immediate reinstatement of the penalty.
8. Expulsion means the permanent denial of a pupil's attendance at school for any of the reasons listed

in RSA 193:13, II and III.

### **Standards for Removal from Classroom and Detention**

Students may be removed from the classroom at the classroom teacher's discretion if the student refuses to obey the teacher's directives, becomes disruptive, fails to abide by school rules or policies, or otherwise impedes the educational purpose of the class.

Likewise, classroom teachers may assign students to detention for similar conduct.

The building Principal or designee may assign students to detention under the same standard.

### **Standards for In-School Suspension, Restriction of Activities, and Probation**

The building Principal or designee is authorized to issue in-school suspensions, restrictions of activities, or place a student on probation for any conduct that causes material or substantial disruption to the school environment, interferes with the rights of others, presents a threat to the health and safety of students, employees, and visitors, violates other board Policies, is otherwise inappropriate, or is prohibited by law.

### **Process for Out-of-School Suspension:**

The power of suspension is authorized as follows:

1. The building Principal or designee is authorized to suspend a student for ten (10) school days or less for gross misconduct, for neglect, or refusal to conform to school district policies and rules. The Superintendent will be informed of all out of school suspensions.
  - A. Pursuant to Ed 317.04(a)(1), a suspension of ten (10) school days or less shall be considered a "short-term suspension" and may be issued for gross misconduct, for neglect, or refusal to conform to the reasonable policies and rules of the school under RSA 193:13, I.
  - B. As required by RSA 193:13(a), educational assignments shall be made available to the suspended pupil during the period of suspension.
2. The Superintendent is authorized to continue the suspension of a pupil for a period in excess of ten (10) school days. Prior to this extended suspension, the Superintendent will provide an informal hearing on the matter. The informal hearing need not rise to the level and protocol of an official hearing before the School Board, but must comply with the requirements of Department of Education Administrative Rule 317.04, Disciplinary Procedures, subsection (f)(3)g.
  - A. Pursuant to Ed 317.04(a)(2), a suspension in excess of ten (10) school days shall be considered a "long-term suspension."
  - B. A long-term suspension may be issued for an act of theft, destruction, or violence as defined in RSA Chapter 193-D, for possession of a pellet paint ball gun or BB gun or rifle as provided by RSA 193:13, II, or for any violation of any rule established using the authority granted by RSA 189:15, provided the rule includes notice that a student may receive a long-term suspension and/or may be expelled for violation of the rule and the rule has been recorded in the official records of the School Board.
3. Any suspension in excess of ten (10) school days, as described in Paragraph 2 of this Section, is appealable to the School Board, provided the Superintendent receives the appeal in writing within ten (10) days after the issuance of the Superintendent's decision described in Paragraph 2. Any suspension in excess of ten (10) school days shall remain in effect while this appeal is pending.
4. Due process standards for short-term suspensions (ten (10) days or less) will adhere to the requirements of Ed 317.04(f)(1).
5. Due process standards for long-term suspensions (more than ten (10) days) will adhere to the

requirements of Ed 317.04(f)(2).

### **Process for Expulsion**

1. Any pupil may be expelled by the School Board for an act of theft, destruction, or violence as defined in RSA Chapter 193-D, for possession of a pellet paint ball gun or BB gun or rifle as provided by RSA 193:13, II, or for any violation of any rule established using the authority granted by RSA 189:15, provided the rule includes notice that a student may receive a long-term suspension and/or may be expelled for violation of the rule and the rule has been recorded in the official records of the School Board.
2. Additionally, any pupil may be expelled by the School Board for bringing or possessing a firearm as defined in Section 921 U.S.C. Title 18 in a safe school zone, as defined in RSA 193-D:1, unless such pupil has written authorization from the Superintendent. Any expulsion under this provision shall be for a period of not less than twelve (12) months.
3. The District will ensure that the due process standards set forth in Ed 317.04(f)(3) are followed.
4. An expulsion will run until the School Board restores the student's permission to attend school. A student seeking restoration of permission to attend school shall file a written request with the Superintendent which details the basis for the request.

### **Notice**

This policy and school rules which inform the student body of the content of RSA 193:13 shall be printed in the student handbook and made available on the District's website to students, parents, and guardians. The Principal or designated building administrator shall also inform the student body concerning this policy and school rules which address the content of RSA 193:13 through appropriate means, which may include posting and announcements. See: Ed. 317.04(d).

### **Legal Reference:**

*RSA 189:15, Regulations*  
*RSA 193:13, Suspension & Expulsion of Pupils*  
*RSA Chapter 193-D*  
*NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed 306.04(a)(3), Discipline*  
*NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed 306.04(f), Student Discipline Policy*  
*NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed 317.04, Suspension and Expulsion of Pupils*  
*Assuring Due Process Disciplinary Procedures*  
*In re Keelin B., 162 N.H. 38, 27 A.3d 689 (2011)*

### **Appendix: JICD-R**

Revision Approved: 12/04/17

### **JICFA – HAZING**

It is the policy of the School Board that no student or employee of the District shall participate in or be a member of any secret fraternity or secret organization that is in any degree related to the school or to a school activity. No student organization or any person associated with any organization sanctioned by the Board of Education shall engage or participate in hazing. This District does not permit or condone student hazing.

For the purposes of this policy, hazing is defined as any act directed toward a student, or any coercion or intimidation of a student to act or to participate in or submit to any act, when: (1) Such act is likely or would be perceived by a reasonable person as likely to cause physical or psychological injury to any

person; and (2) Such act is a condition of initiation into, admission into, continued membership in or association with any organization. Hazing includes but is not limited to an activity which recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of initiation or admission into or affiliation with any organization sanctioned or authorized by the Board of Education.

"Endanger the physical health" shall include, but is not limited to, any brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping; beating; branding; forced calisthenics; exposure to the elements; forced consumption of any food, beverage, drug or controlled dangerous substance; or any forced physical activity which could adversely affect the physical health or safety of the individual.

"Endanger the mental health" shall include any activity, except those activities authorized by law, which would subject the individual to extreme mental stress, such as prolonged sleep deprivation, forced prolonged exclusion from social contact which could result in extreme embarrassment, or any other forced activity which could adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the individual.

Any hazing activity, upon which the initiation or admission into or affiliation with an organization sanctioned or authorized by the Board of Education is conditioned, directly or indirectly, shall be presumed to be a forced activity, even if the student willingly participates in such activity.

This policy is not intended to deprive School District authorities from taking necessary and appropriate disciplinary action toward any student or employee. Students or employees who violate this policy will be subject to disciplinary action which may include expulsion for students and employment termination for employees.

The Superintendent shall take reasonable measures within the scope of the District's authority to prevent student hazing. All hazing reported to the District or which any District staff member has knowledge of shall be promptly reported to law enforcement, as required by RSA 631:7, Student Hazing.

A copy of this policy will be furnished to each student, teacher and coach in the School District, including being printed in the student handbook.

**Legal Reference:**

*RSA 631:7, Student Hazing*

*New Hampshire Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed 306.04(a)(7), Student Hazing*

Board Approval: 10/16/17

**JICG/ADC-TOBACCO PRODUCTS BAN - USE AND POSSESSION IN AND ON SCHOOL FACILITIES AND GROUNDS**

***USE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS STRICTLY PROHIBITED IN/ON ALL SCHOOL FACILITIES AND/OR GROUNDS***

No person shall use any tobacco product in any facility maintained by the School District, nor on any of the grounds of the District.

No student shall purchase, attempt to purchase, possess or use any tobacco product in any facility, in any school vehicle or anywhere on school grounds maintained by the District.

"Tobacco products" mean cigarettes, cigars, snuff, smokeless tobacco, smokeless cigarettes, e-cigarettes, liquid nicotine, products containing tobacco, and tobacco in any other form.

"Facility" is any place which is supported by public funds and which is used for the instruction of students enrolled in preschool programs and in all grades maintained by the District. This definition shall include all administrative buildings and offices and areas within facilities supportive of instruction and subject to educational administration,



including, but not limited to, lounge areas, passageways, rest rooms, laboratories, classrooms, study areas, cafeterias, gymnasiums, maintenance rooms, and storage areas.

Signs shall be placed by the District in all buildings, facilities and school vehicles stating that use of tobacco products is prohibited.

It is the responsibility of the building principal(s), or designee, to enforce this policy; they may report any violation to the local police department. Employees and students who are found to have violated this policy may face disciplinary actions in accordance with other applicable board policies.

The Superintendent of Schools is responsible for ensuring that this policy is implemented.

**Legal References:**

*RSA 155:64 – 77, Indoor Smoking Act*

*RSA 126 – K:2, Youth Access to and Use of Tobacco Products*

*RSA 126 – K:6, Possession and Use of Tobacco Products by Minors*

*RSA 126 K:7, Use of Tobacco Products on Public Educational Grounds Prohibited*

Board Approval of Revision: 2/17/14

**JICI – WEAPONS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY**

Weapons are not permitted on school property, in school vehicles or at school-sponsored activities. This policy applies to students and members of the public alike. Student violations of this policy may result in both school disciplinary action and notification of local law enforcement authorities as mandated by law. Members of the public who violate this policy will be reported to local law enforcement authorities.

The term “weapons” includes, but is not limited to, firearms (rifles, pistols, revolvers, pellet guns, BB guns, etc.) knives, slingshots, metallic knuckles, firecrackers, billy-clubs, stilettos, switchblade knives, swords, canes, pistol canes, black jacks, daggers, dirk knives, explosives, incendiaries, martial arts weapons or self-defense weapons (as defined by RSA 159:24 and RSA 159:20 respectively), or any other object or substance which, in the manner it is used or threatened to be used, is known to be capable of producing death or bodily injury.

In addition, any student who is determined to have brought a firearm (as defined by 18 U.S.C. §921) to school will be expelled for not less than one year (365 days). This expulsion may be modified by the Superintendent upon review of the specific case in accordance with other applicable law.

Pursuant to the provisions of 20 U.S.C. § 7151, Gun-Free Schools Act, the Board requires the Superintendent or designee to contact local law enforcement authorities and/or the Division of Children and Youth Services and notify them of any student who brings a firearm or weapon on school property.

Weapons under control of law enforcement personnel are permitted.

All students will receive written notice of this policy at least once each year.

**Legal References:**

*18 U.S.C. § 921 Et seq., Firearms*

*20 U.S.C. § 7151, Gun-Free Schools Act*

*RSA 193-D, Safe School Zones*

*RSA 193:13, Suspension and Expulsion of Students*

*NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed. 317, Standards and Procedures for Suspension and Expulsion of Pupils Including Procedures Assuring Due Process*

Board Approval of Revision: 5/20/13

# JICK- PUPIL SAFETY AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION-BULLYING POLICY

## **I. Definitions** (RSA 193-F:3)

1. **Bullying.** Bullying is hereby defined as a single significant incident or a pattern of incidents involving a written, verbal, or electronic communication, or a physical act or gesture, or any combination thereof, directed at another pupil which:

- (1) Physically harms a pupil or damages the pupil's property;
- (2) Causes emotional distress to a pupil;
- (3) Interferes with a pupil's educational opportunities;
- (4) Creates a hostile educational environment; or
- (5) Substantially disrupts the orderly operation of the school.

Bullying shall also include actions motivated by an imbalance of power based on a pupil's actual or perceived personal characteristics, behaviors, or beliefs, or motivated by the pupil's association with another person and based on the other person's characteristics, behaviors, or beliefs.

2. **Cyberbullying.** Cyberbullying is defined as any conduct defined as "bullying" in this policy that is undertaken through the use of electronic devices. For purposes of this policy, any references to the term bullying shall include cyberbullying.

3. **Electronic devices.** Electronic devices include, but are not limited to, telephones, cellular phones, computers, pagers, electronic mail, instant messaging, text messaging, and websites.

4. **School property.** School property means all real property and all physical plant and equipment used for school purposes, including public or private school buses or vans.

Any reference in this policy to "parent" shall include parents or legal guardians.

## **II. Statement Prohibiting Bullying or Cyberbullying of a Pupil** (RSA 193-F:4, II(a))

The Board is committed to providing all pupils a safe and secure school environment. This policy is intended to comply with RSA 193-F. Conduct constituting bullying and/or cyberbullying will not be tolerated and is hereby prohibited.

Further, in accordance with RSA 193-F:4, the District reserves the right to address bullying and, if necessary, impose discipline for bullying that:

- (1) Occurs on, or is delivered to, school property or a school-sponsored activity or event on or off school property; or
- (2) Occurs off of school property or outside of a school-sponsored activity or event, if the conduct interferes with a pupil's educational opportunities or substantially disrupts the orderly operations of the school or school-sponsored activity or event.

The Superintendent of Schools is responsible for ensuring that this policy is implemented.

## **III. Statement prohibiting retaliation or false accusations** (RSA 193-F:4, II(b))

### **False Reporting**

A student found to have wrongfully and intentionally accused another of bullying may face discipline or other consequences, ranging from positive behavioral interventions up to and including suspension or expulsion.

A school employee found to have wrongfully and intentionally accused a student of bullying shall face

discipline or other consequences be determined in accordance with applicable law, District policies, procedures and collective bargaining agreements.

### Reprisal or Retaliation

The District will discipline and take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, or other employee who retaliates against any person who makes a good faith report of alleged bullying or against any person who testifies, assists, or participates in a proceeding or hearing relating to such bullying.

1. The consequences and appropriate remedial action for a student, teacher, school administrator or school volunteer who engages in reprisal or retaliation shall be determined by the Principal after consideration of the nature, severity and circumstances of the act, in accordance with law, Board policies and any applicable collective bargaining agreements.
2. Any student found to have engaged in reprisal or retaliation in violation of this policy shall be subject to measures up to, and including, suspension and expulsion.
3. Any teacher or school administrator found to have engaged in reprisal or retaliation in violation of this policy shall be subject to discipline up to, and including, termination of employment.
4. Any school volunteer found to have engaged in reprisal or retaliation in violation of this policy shall be subject to measures up to, and including, exclusion from school grounds.

### Process To Protect Pupils From Retaliation

If the alleged victim or any witness expresses to the Principal or other staff member that he/she believes he/she may be retaliated against, the Principal shall develop a process or plan to protect that student from possible retaliation.

Each process or plan may be developed on a case-by-case basis. Suggestions include, but are not limited to, re-arranging student class schedules to minimize their contact, stern warnings to alleged perpetrators, temporary removal of privileges, or other means necessary to protected against possible retaliation.

### **IV. Protection of all Pupils** (RSA 193-F:4, II(c))

This policy shall apply to all pupils and school-aged persons on school district grounds and participating in school district functions, regardless of whether or not such pupil or school-aged person is a student within the District.

### **V. Disciplinary Consequences For Violations of This Policy** (RSA 193-F:4, II(d))

The district reserves the right to impose disciplinary measures against any student who commits an act of bullying, falsely accuses another student of bullying, or who retaliates against any student or witness who provides information about an act of bullying.

In addition to imposing discipline under such circumstances, the board encourages the administration and school district staff to seek alternatives to traditional discipline, including but not limited to early intervention measures, alternative dispute resolution, conflict resolution and other similar measures.

### **VI. Distribution and Notice of This Policy** (RSA 193-F:4, II(e))

#### Staff and Volunteers

All staff will be provided with a copy of this policy annually. The Superintendent may determine the method of providing the policy (employee handbook, hard copy, etc.)

The Superintendent will ensure that all school employees and volunteers receive annual training on

bullying and related district's policies.

### Students

All students will be provided with a copy of this policy annually. The Superintendent may determine the method of providing the policy (student handbook, mailing, hard copy, etc.)

Students will participate in an annual education program which sets out expectations for student behavior and emphasizes an understanding of harassment, intimidation, and bullying of students, the District's prohibition of such conduct and the reasons why the conduct is destructive, unacceptable, and will lead to discipline. Students shall also be informed of the consequences of bullying conduct toward their peers.

The Superintendent, in consultation with staff, may incorporate student anti-bullying training and education into the district's curriculum, but shall not be required to do so.

### Parents

All parents will be provided with a copy of this policy annually. The Superintendent may determine the method of providing the policy (parent handbook, mailing, etc.). Parents will be informed of the program and the means for students to report bullying acts toward them or other students. They will also be told that to help prevent bullying at school they should encourage their children to:

1. Report bullying when it occurs;
2. Take advantage of opportunities to talk to their children about bullying;
3. Inform the school immediately if they think their child is being bullied or is bullying other students;
4. Cooperate fully with school personnel in identifying and resolving incidents.

### Additional Notice and School District Programs

The Board may, from time to time, host or schedule public forums in which it will address the anti-bullying policy, discuss bullying in the schools, and consult with a variety of individuals including teachers, administrators, guidance counselors, school psychologists and other interested persons.

## **VII. Procedure for Reporting Bullying** (RSA 193-F:4, II(f))

At each school, the Principal shall be responsible for receiving complaints of alleged violations of this policy.

### Student Reporting

1. Any student who believes he or she has been the victim of bullying should report the alleged acts immediately to the Principal. If the student is more comfortable reporting the alleged act to a person other than the Principal, the student may tell any school district employee or volunteer about the alleged bullying.
2. Any school employee or volunteers who witnesses, receives a report of, or has knowledge or belief that bullying may have occurred shall inform the Principal as soon as possible, but no later than the end of that school day.
3. The Principal may develop a system or method for receiving anonymous reports of bullying. Although students, parents, volunteers and visitors may report anonymously, formal disciplinary action may not be based solely on an anonymous report. Independent verification of the anonymous report shall be necessary in order for any disciplinary action to be applied.
4. The administration may develop student reporting forms to assist students and staff in filing

such reports. An investigation shall still proceed even if a student is reluctant to fill out the designated form and chooses not to do so.

5. Upon receipt of a report of bullying, the Principal shall commence an investigation consistent with the provisions of Section XI of this policy.

### **Staff Reporting**

1. An important duty of the staff is to report acts or behavior that they witness that appears to constitute bullying.
2. All district employees and volunteers shall encourage students to tell them about acts that may constitute bullying. For young students, staff members give such information will need to provide direct assistance to the student.
3. Any school employee or volunteers who witnesses, receives a report of, or has knowledge or belief that bullying may have occurred shall inform the Principal as soon as possible, but no later than the end of the that school day.
4. Upon receipt of a report of bullying, the Principal shall commence an investigation consistent with the provisions of Section XI of this policy.

### **VIII. Procedure for Internal Reporting Requirements** (RSA 193-F:4, II(g))

In order to satisfy the reporting requirements of RSA 193-F:6, the Principal or designee shall be responsible for completing all New Hampshire Department of Education forms and reporting documents of substantiated incidents of bullying. Said forms shall be completed within 10 school days of any substantiated incident. Upon completion of such forms, the Principal or designee shall retain a copy for himself and shall forward one copy to the Superintendent. The Superintendent shall maintain said forms in a safe and secure location.

### **IX. Notifying Parents of Alleged Bullying** (RSA 193-F:4, II(h))

The Principal shall report to the parents of a student who has been reported as a victim of bullying and to the parents of a student who has been reported as a perpetrator of bullying within 48 hours of receiving the report. Such notification may be made by telephone, writing or personal conference. The date, time, method, and location (if applicable) of such notification and communication shall be noted in the report. All notifications shall be consistent with the student privacy rights under the applicable provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA).

### **X. Waiver of Notification Requirement** (RSA 193-F:4, II(i))

The Superintendent may, within a 48 hour time period, grant the Principal a waiver from the requirement that the parents of the alleged victim and the alleged perpetrator be notified of the filing of a report. A waiver may only be granted if the Superintendent deems such a waiver to be in the best interest of the victim or perpetrator. Any waiver granted shall be in writing.

### **XI. Investigative Procedures** (RSA 193-F:4, II(j))

1. Upon receipt of a report of bullying, the Principal shall, within 5 school days, initiate an investigation into the alleged act. If the Principal is directly and personally involved with a complaint or is closely related to a party to the complaint, then the Superintendent shall direct another district employee to conduct the investigation.
2. The investigation may include documented interviews with the alleged victim, alleged perpetrator and any witnesses. All interviews shall be conducted privately, separately and shall be confidential. Each individual will be interviewed separately and at no time will the alleged victim

and perpetrator be interviewed together during the investigation.

3. If the alleged bullying was in whole or in part cyberbullying, the Principal may ask students and/or parents to provide the District with printed copies of e-mails, text messages, website pages, or other similar electronic communications.

4. A maximum of 10 school days shall be the limit for the initial filing of incidents and completion of the investigative procedural steps.

5. Factors the Principal or other investigator may consider during the course of the investigation, including but not limited to:

- Description of incident, including the nature of the behavior;
- How often the conduct occurred;
- Whether there were past incidents or past continuing patterns of behavior;
- The characteristics of parties involved, (name, grade, age, etc.);
- The identity and number of individuals who participated in bullying behavior;
- Where the alleged incident(s) occurred;
- Whether the conduct adversely affected the student's education or educational environment;
- Whether the alleged victim felt or perceived an imbalance or power as a result of the reported incident; and
- The date, time and method in which parents or legal guardians of all parties involved were contacted.

6. The Principal shall complete the investigation within 10 school days of receiving the initial report. If the Principal needs more than 10 school days to complete the investigation, the Superintendent may grant an extension of up to 7 school days. In the event such extension is granted, the Principal shall notify in writing all parties involved of the granting of the extension.

7. Whether a particular action or incident constitutes a violation of this policy shall require a determination based on all facts and surrounding circumstances and shall include recommended remedial steps necessary to stop the bullying and a written final report to the Principal.

8. Students who are found to have violated this policy may face discipline in accordance with other applicable board policies, up to and including suspension. Students facing discipline will be afforded all due process required by law.

9. Consistent with applicable law, the District will not require or request that a student disclose or provide to the District the student's user name, password or other authenticating information to a student's personal social media account. However, the District may request to a student or a student's parent/guardian that the student voluntarily share printed copies of specific information from a student's personal social media account if such information is relevant to an ongoing District investigation.

## **XII. Response to Remediate Substantiated Instances of Bullying** (RSA 193-F:4, II(k))

Consequences and appropriate remedial actions for a student or staff member who commits one or more acts of bullying or retaliation may range from positive behavioral interventions up to and including suspension or expulsion of students and dismissal from employment for staff members.

Consequences for a student who commits an act of bullying or retaliation shall be varied and graded

according to the nature of the behavior, the developmental age of the student, and the student's history of problem behaviors and performance. Remedial measures shall be designed to correct the problem behavior, prevent another occurrence of the problem, protect and provide support for the victim, and take corrective action for documented systematic problems related to bullying.

Examples of consequences may include, but are not limited to:

- Admonishment
- Temporary removal from classroom
- Deprivation of privileges
- Classroom or administrative detention
- Referral to disciplinarian
- In-school suspension
- Out-of-school suspension
- Expulsion

Examples of remedial measures may include, but are not limited to:

- Restitution
- Mediation
- Peer support group
- Corrective instruction or other relevant learning experience
- Behavior assessment
- Student counseling
- Parent conferences

In support of this policy, the Board promotes preventative educational measures to create greater awareness of aggressive behavior, including bullying. The Board encourages the Superintendent to work collaboratively with all staff members to develop responses other than traditional discipline as a way to remediate substantiated instances of bullying.

### **XIII. Reporting of Substantiated Incidents to the Superintendent** (RSA 193-F:4, II(l))

The Principal shall forward all substantiated reports of bullying to the Superintendent upon completion of the Principal's investigation.

### **XIV. Communication With Parents Upon Completion of Investigation** (RSA 193-F:4, II(m))

1. Within two school days of completing an investigation, the Principal will notify the students involved in person of his/her findings and the result of the investigation.
2. The Principal will notify via telephone the parents of the alleged victim and alleged perpetrator of the results of the investigation. The Principal will also send a letter to the parents within 24 hours again notifying them of the results of the investigation.
3. If the parents request, the Principal shall schedule a meeting with them to further explain his/her findings and reasons for his/her actions.
4. In accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and other law concerning

student privacy, the District will not disclose educational records of students including the discipline and remedial action assigned to those students and the parents of other students involved in a bullying incident.

#### **XV. Appeal**

A parent or guardian who is aggrieved by the investigative determination letter of the principal or his/her designee may appeal the determination to the Superintendent for review. The appeal shall be in writing addressed to the Superintendent, shall state the reason(s) why the appealing party is aggrieved, and the nature of the relief they seek. The Superintendent shall not be required to re-investigate the matter and shall conduct such review as he/she deems appropriate under the circumstances.

It is in the best interests of students, families and the District that these matters be promptly resolved. Therefore, any such appeal to the Superintendent shall be made within ten (10) calendar days of the parent/guardian's receipt of the investigative determination letter of the principal or his/her designee. The Superintendent shall issue his/her decision in writing.

If the parent or guardian is aggrieved by the decision of the Superintendent, they may appeal the decision to the school board within ten (10) calendar days of the date of the parent/guardian's receipt of the Superintendent's decision. An appeal to the Superintendent shall be a prerequisite to any appeal to the School Board. The appeal to the School Board shall be in writing, addressed to School Board Chair in care of the Superintendent, shall state the reason(s) why the appealing party is aggrieved, and the nature of the relief they seek.

An aggrieved parent/guardian has the right to appeal the final decision of the local School Board to the State Board within thirty (30) calendar days of receipt of the written decision of the local School Board in accordance with RSA 541-A and State of New Hampshire Department of Education Regulations set forth in ED 200. The State Board may waive the thirty-day requirement for good cause shown, including, but not limited to, illness, accident, or death of a family member.

#### **XVII. School Officials** (RSA 193-F:4, II(n))

The Superintendent of schools is responsible for ensuring that this policy is implemented.

#### **XVIII. Capture of Audio Recordings on School Buses**

Pursuant to RSA 570-A:2, notice is hereby given that the Board authorizes audio recordings to be made in conjunction with video recordings of the interior of school buses while students are being transported to and from school or school activities. The Superintendent shall ensure that there is a sign informing the occupants of school buses that such recordings are occurring.

#### **XIX. Use of Video or Audio Recordings in Student Discipline Matters**

The District reserves the right to use audio and/or video recording devices on District property (including school buses) to ensure the health, safety and welfare of all staff, students and visitors. Placement and location of such devices will be established in accordance with the provisions of Policies EEAA, EEAE and ECAF.

In the event an audio or video recording is used as part of a student discipline proceeding, such video may become part of a student's education record. If an audio or video recording does become part of a student's education record, the provisions of Policy JRA shall apply.

The Superintendent is authorized to contact the District's attorney for a full legal opinion relative in the event of such an occurrence.



### **Legal References:**

*RSA 193-F:3, Pupil Safety and Violence Prevention Act*

*RSA 570-A:2, Capture of Audio Recordings on School Buses Allowed*

*NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed 306.04(a)(8), Student Harassment*

Board Approval: 8/29/16

## **JICL - STUDENT ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY FOR DISTRICT NETWORKS, ELECTRONIC DEVICES, AND INTERNET**

### **Purpose**

The Hillsboro-Deering School District is committed to the goal of having its Local and Wide Area Networks (LAN's and WAN's) used in a responsible, efficient, ethical and legal manner. The purpose of the Acceptable Use Policy is to provide the code of conduct for the use of Technology within the Hillsboro-Deering School District. All students must indicate that they understand the Acceptable Use Policy of the District as a condition of using the computers available to them in their school.

### **Definition**

The definition of *information networks* is any configuration of hardware and software that connect users. The information network includes but is not limited to, all computer hardware, operating system, applications, stored text and data files and other internet url's for educational purposes. This includes local and external databases, electronic mail, recorded magnetic or optical media, and digitized data. Standalone computers are also governed by this acceptable use policy.

### **School District Services**

The Hillsboro-Deering School District provides information network/computer resources for teaching and learning, communication services, and business data services by maintaining access to local, regional, national, and international sources of information. Successful operation of the network and associated resources requires that all users conduct themselves in a responsible, decent, ethical, and polite manner while using the network. The user is ultimately responsible for his/her actions in accessing network resources and services.

### **Guidelines:**

- Access to the information networks and computer resources in the Hillsboro-Deering School District is a privilege not a right.
- Information networks and computers will be used for the purpose of research, education and school related business and operations.
- Any computer system and information network that requires password access will only be used by the authorized user. Account owners are responsible for all activity under their accounts.
- Technology resources of the District are limited. All users must exercise prudence in the shared use of these resources.

### **Acceptable Use**

Acceptable use of the technology within the Hillsboro-Deering School District includes activities that support learning and the teaching of others. District technology should be used for educational purposes only. Students are encouraged to use the technological resources for assignments and research.

### **Unacceptable Use**

Unacceptable use of the technological resources includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Plagiarism. Plagiarism is taking the ideas or writing of others and presenting them as if they were your own.
- Use of profanity, obscenities, or language that maybe hurtful or offensive to others.
- Use of the Hillsboro-Deering information network for profit, commercial, or illegal activity.

- Developing or spreading computer viruses, malware, or any program that disrupts the use of information networks or computers.
- Use of the information network to access material/information that is not allowed in school, or directly related to school, such as pornography, or by attempting to subvert the content filtering program to access objectionable material.
- Unauthorized logging into the information network or accessing information using someone else's ID and password, or misrepresenting your true identity to the information network.
- Accessing someone else's files or digital property without the owner's permission.
- Subverting, attempting to subvert, bypassing, or attempting to bypass network security or security procedures.
- Copying software in violation of copyright law.
- Damaging or dismantling hardware, including peripheral devices such as mice, keyboards, cables, hubs, data jacks, scanners or other equipment.
- Loading of software on computers without the consent of the technology department.
- Unauthorized game playing is not allowed on District computers whether local or Internet based.
- Submitting, publishing or displaying any defamatory, inaccurate, racially offensive, abusive, obscene, profane, sexually oriented, or threatening materials or messages either publicly or privately.

### **School District Rights**

The District reserves the right to:

- Monitor all activity. Notwithstanding FERPA and other related laws, students have no expectation of privacy regarding their use on the school district computer information network.
- Make determinations on whether specific uses of an information network are consistent with this policy.
- Log network use and monitor disk space utilization by users.
- Determine what appropriate usage of the District's computer information networks is.
- Remove a user's access to the network at any time it is determined that the user engaged in an unauthorized activity.
- Cooperate fully with any investigation concerning or relating to the District's information network activity.
- Depending on the severity, any violation of this policy will result in disciplinary action which could include but is not limited to a stern warning up to a reportable offense to local authorities.

### **School District Technology Code of Conduct**

Use of the Internet by students of the District shall be in support of education and research that is consistent with the educational mission of the Hillsboro-Deering School District. Internet usage is limited to those who have been issued District-approved accounts. Use will be in accordance with the following Technology Code of Conduct:

- Respect the privacy of others. Do not use other user's ids and passwords.
- Be ethical and courteous.
- Maintain data integrity. Do not modify, copy, or delete files of another user without their permission.
- Do not destroy or damage District hardware and software.
- Do not use the network in any way that will impact or disrupt the network accessibility or performance.
- Do not develop or distribute programs that will have a negative impact on district computers or network.
- Do not use the network or Internet for unauthorized commercial purposes.

### **Legal References:**

*RSA 194:3-d, School District Computer Networks*

*47 U.S.C. §254, Requirements For Certain Schools – Internet Safety*

*20 U.S.C. §6777, Enhancing Education Through Technology – Internet Safety*

## **JKAA- USE OF RESTRAINTS AND SECLUSION**

### **Definitions:**

1. (a) **“Restraint”** means bodily physical restriction, mechanical devices, or any device that immobilizes a person or restricts the freedom of movement of the torso, head, arms, or legs. It includes mechanical restraint, physical restraint, and medication restraint used to control behavior in an emergency or any involuntary medication. It is limited to actions taken by persons who are school or facility staff members, contractors, or otherwise under the control or direction of a school or facility.
  - (b) **“Restraint” shall not include:**
    - a. Brief touching or holding a child to calm, comfort, encourage, or guide a child, so long as limitation of freedom of movement of the child does not occur.
    - b. The temporary holding of the hand, wrist, arm, shoulder, or back for the purpose of inducing a child to stand, if necessary, and then walk to a safe location, so long as the child is in an upright position and moving toward a safe location.
    - c. Physical devices, such as orthopedically prescribed appliances, surgical dressings and bandages, and supportive body bands, or other physical holding when necessary for routine physical examinations and tests or for orthopedic, surgical, and other similar medical treatment purposes, or when used to provide support for the achievement of functional body position or proper balance or to protect a person from falling out of bed, or to permit a child to participate in activities without the risk of physical harm.
    - d. The use of seat belts, safety belts, or similar passenger restraints during the transportation of a child in a motor vehicle.
    - e. The use of force by a person to defend himself or herself or a third person from what the actor reasonably believes to be the imminent use of unlawful force by a child, when the actor uses a degree of such force which he or she reasonably believes to be necessary for such purpose and the actor does not immobilize a child or restrict the freedom of movement of the torso, head, arms, or legs of any child.
2. **“Medication restraint”** occurs when a child is given medication involuntarily for the purpose of immediate control of the child’s behavior.
3. **“Mechanical restraint”** occurs when a physical device or devices are used to restrict the movement of a child or the movement or normal function of a portion of his or her body.
4. **“Physical restraint”** occurs when a manual method is used to restrict a child’s freedom of movement or normal access to his or her body.
5. **“Seclusion”** means the involuntary placement of a child alone in a place where no other person is present and from which the particular child is unable to exit, either due to physical manipulation by a person, a lock, or other mechanical device or barrier. The term shall not include the voluntary separation of a child from a stressful environment for the purpose of allowing the child to regain self-control, when such separation is to an area which a child is able to leave. Seclusion does not include circumstances in which there is no physical barrier between the child and any other person or the child is physically able to leave the place. A circumstance may be considered seclusion even if a window or other device for visual observation is present, if the other elements of this definition are satisfied.

### **Procedures for Managing The Behavior of Students:**

The Superintendent is authorized to establish procedures for managing the behavior. Such procedures shall be consistent with this policy and all applicable laws. The Superintendent is further authorized to establish any other procedures necessary to implement this policy and/or any other legal requirements.

**Circumstances in Which Restrain May Be Used:**

Restraint will only be used to ensure the immediate physical safety of any person when there is a substantial and imminent risk of serious bodily harm to the student or others.

Restraint will only be used by trained school staff.

Restraint will not be as punishment for the behavior of a student.

Restraint will not be imposed for longer than is necessary to protect the student or others from the substantial and imminent risk of serious bodily harm.

No period of restraint of a student may exceed 15 minutes without the approval of a supervisory employee designated by the director to provide such approval. No period of restraint of a student may exceed 30 minutes unless an assessment of the mental, emotional, and physical well-being of the student is conducted by a trained and authorized employee.

**Circumstances in Which Seclusion May Be Used:**

The School Board recognizes the statutorily imposed conditions of seclusions and hereby adopts those conditions, as defined by RSA 126-U:5-b.

Seclusion may only be used when a student's behavior poses a substantial and imminent risk of physical harm to the student or others.

Seclusion will be used only by trained school staff.

Seclusion will not be used as a form of punishment for the behavior of a student.

**Prohibition of Dangerous Restraint Techniques**

The School Board recognizes and hereby prohibits the use of "dangerous restraint techniques" as defined in RSA 126-U:4.

**Civil or Criminal Liability – School Officials:**

Nothing in the District's Policy or Procedures on the use of child restraint should be understood in any way to undercut the protection from civil and criminal liability provided school officials for the use of force against a minor, consistent with state law found at RSA 627:1, 4 and 6.

**Reporting Requirements and Parental Notification:**

In the event restraint or seclusion is used on a student, the building principal or designee will notify the student's parents/guardian/guardian ad litem of the occurrence, as soon as practical and in no event later than the time of the return of the child to the parent or guardian or the end of the business day, whichever is earlier.

The building principal or designee will, within 5 business days after the occurrence, submit a written notification/report to the Superintendent or designee. The notification shall contain all the requirements and information as mandated by RSA 126-U:7 II. The Superintendent or designee may develop a reporting form or other documents necessary to satisfy these reporting requirements.

Unless prohibited by court order, the Superintendent or designee shall, within 2 business days of receipt of the notification required in the above paragraph, send by first class mail to the child's parent or guardian the information contained in the notification/report. Each notification/report prepared under this section shall be retained by the school or facility for review in accordance with rules adopted under RSA 541-A by the state board of education and the department of health and human services.

If a school employee has intentional physical contact with a student in response to a student's aggressive misconduct or disruptive behavior, the building principal or designee will make reasonable efforts to inform the student's parent or guardian as soon as possible, but no later than the end of the school day. The building principal or designee will also prepare a written report of the incident within five (5) business days of the incident. The report will include information required under RSA 126-U:7 V.

**Transportation:**

The school district will not use mechanical restraints during the transportation of children unless case-specific circumstances dictate that such methods are necessary.

Whenever a student is transported to a location outside the school, the Superintendent or designee will ensure that all reasonable and appropriate measures consistent with public safety are made to transport or escort the student in a manner which:

1. Prevents physical and psychological trauma;
2. Respects the privacy of the child; and
3. Represents the least restrictive means necessary for the safety of the child.

Whenever a student is transported using mechanical restraints, the Superintendent or designee will document in writing the reasons for the use of the mechanical restraints.

This policy shall be provided to the parent, guardian or legal representative of each child at each school.

**Legal References:**

*RSA 126-U, Limiting the Use of Child Restraint Practices*

Board Approval of Revision: 3/5/18

**JRA- ACCESS TO STUDENT RECORDS - FERPA**

**General Statement.** It is the policy of the School Board that all school district personnel will follow the procedures outlined herein as they pertain to the maintenance of student records. Furthermore, it is the policy of the School Board that all school district personnel will follow the provisions of the Family Educational Rights Privacy Act (FERPA) and its corresponding regulations.

**Education Record.** For the purposes of this policy and in accordance with FERPA, the term “educational record” is defined as all records, files, documents and other material containing information directly related to a student; and maintained by the school district; or by such other agents as may be acting for the school district. Such records include, but are not limited to, handwriting, videotape, audiotape, electronic or computer files, film, print, microfilm and/or microfiche.

**Directory Information.** For the purposes of this policy, and in accordance with the provisions of FERPA and New Hampshire RSA 189:1-e, the term “directory information” means:

- Students' name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, dates of enrollment
- Parents'/guardians' name and address
- Students' grade level, enrollment status and dates of attendance
- Students' photograph
- Students' participation in recognized school activities and sports
- Weight and height of members of athletic teams

- Students' diplomas, certificates, awards and honors received

The District may release or disclose student directory information without prior consent of the student's parents/eligible students. Within the first three weeks of each school year, the District will provide notice to parents/eligible students that the District may publish directory information without their prior consent. Parents/eligible students will be given until two (2) weeks after the first full day of school to notify the District in writing of any or all directory information items that they refuse to permit the District to release or disclose. Notice from a parent/eligible student that any or all direction information shall not be released will only be valid for that school year and must be re-issued each school year.

**Personally Identifiable Information.** "Personally identifiable information" is defined as data or information which makes the subject of a record known, including a student's name the student's or student's family's address; the name of the student's parent or other family members; a personal identifier such as a student's Social Security number; the student's date of birth, place of birth, or mother's maiden name; or other information that, alone or in combination, is linked or linkable to a specific student that would allow a reasonable person in the school community, who does not have personal knowledge of the relevant circumstances, to identify the student with a reasonable certainty or information requested by a person who the District reasonably believes knows the identity of the student to whom the education record relates.

**Annual Notification/Rights of Parents and Eligible Students.** Within the first four (4) weeks of each school year, the District will publish notice to parents and eligible students of their rights under State and Federal law and this policy. The District will send home with each student a notice listing these rights. The notice will include:

- (1) The rights of parents or eligible students to inspect and review the student's education records;
- (2) The intent of the District to limit the disclosure of information in a student's record, except:
  - (a) by the prior written consent of the parent or eligible student;
  - (b) as directory information; or
  - (c) under certain, limited circumstance, as permitted by law;
- (3) The right of a student's parents or an eligible student to seek to correct parts of the student's educational records which he/she believes to be inaccurate, misleading, or in violation of student rights; this includes a hearing to present evidence that the records should be changed if the District decides not to alter them according to the parent's or eligible student's request;
- (4) The right of any person to file a complaint with the United States Department of Education if the District violates FERPA; and
- (5) The procedure that a student's parents or an eligible student should follow to obtain copies of this policy.

**Procedure To Inspect Education Records.** Parents or eligible students may inspect and review education records which they are entitled to. In some circumstances, it may be more convenient for the record custodian to provide copies of records.

Since a student's records may be maintained in several locations, the school principal may offer to collect copies of records or the records themselves from locations other than a student's school, so that they may be inspected at one site. If parents and eligible students wish to inspect records where they are maintained, school principals will determine if a review at that site is reasonable.

Parents/eligible students should submit to the school principal a written request that identifies as precisely as possible the record or records that he/she wishes to inspect. The principal will contact the parents or the eligible student to discuss how access is best arranged for their inspection or review of the records (copies, records brought to a single site, etc.).

The principal will make the needed arrangements as soon as possible and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected. This procedure must be completed within 30 days or earlier after the principal's receipt of the request for access.

If for any valid reason such as working hours, distance between record location sites or health, a parent or eligible student cannot personally inspect and review a student's education records, the principal may arrange for the parent or eligible student to obtain copies of the records.

When records contain information about students other than a parent's child or the eligible student, the parent or eligible student may not inspect and review the records of the other students. If such records do contain the names of other students, the principal will seek consultation with the Superintendent and/or the District's attorney to determine how best to proceed.

**Procedures To Seek Correction of Education Records.** Parents of students or eligible students have a right to seek to change any part of the student's records which they believe is inaccurate, misleading or in violation of student rights. To establish an orderly process to review and correct the education records for a requester, following processes are established.

1. First-level decision. When a parent or eligible student finds an item in the student's education records that he/she believes is inaccurate, misleading or in violation of student rights, he/she should submit a written request asking the building principal to correct it. If the records are incorrect because of clear error and it is a simple matter to make the change, the principal should make the correction. If the records are changed to the parent's/eligible student's satisfaction, both parties shall sign a document/form stating the date the records were changed and that the parent/eligible student is satisfied with the correction.

If the principal believes that the record should not be changed, he/she shall:

1. Provide the requester a copy of the questioned records at no cost;
2. Ask the parent/eligible student to initiate a written request for the change, which will be forwarded to the Superintendent;
3. Forward the written request to the Superintendent; and
4. Inform the parents/eligible student that the matter has been forwarded to the Superintendent for subsequent processing.

2. Second-level decision. If the parent/eligible student wishes to challenge the principal's decision to not change the student record, he/she may appeal the matter to the Superintendent. The parent/eligible student shall submit a written request to the principal asking that the matter be appealed to the Superintendent. The principal will forward to the Superintendent the request.

The Superintendent shall, within ten business days after receiving notification of the request:

1. Review the request;
2. Discuss the request with other school officials;
3. Make a decision to comply or decline to comply with the request;
4. Schedule a meeting with the parents/eligible student if the Superintendent believes such a meeting would be necessary; and
5. Contact the parents/eligible student of his/her decision concern the request for amendment.

If the Superintendent determines the records should be amended, he/she will make the change and notify the parents/eligible student in writing that the change has been made. The letter stating the

change has been made will include an invitation for the parent/eligible student to inspect and review the records to verify that the records have been amended and the correction is satisfactory. If the records are changed to the parent's/eligible student's satisfaction, both parties shall sign a document/form stating the date the records were changed and that the parent/eligible student is satisfied with the correction.

If the Superintendent determines the records are will not be amended, he/she will notify the parents/eligible student in writing of his/her decision. Such letter will also notify the parents/eligible student of their right to an appeal hearing before the school board.

3. Third-level decision. If the parents or eligible student are not satisfied with the Superintendent's decision, they may submit a written request for a hearing before the School Board. The parents/eligible student shall submit the request for a hearing with the Superintendent within ten (10) business days of the Superintendent's written decision in level-two. The Superintendent will inform the school board of the request for a hearing and will work with the school board to schedule a hearing within 45 days of receipt of the request. Once the meeting is scheduled, the Superintendent will inform the parents in writing of the date, time and place of the hearing.

The hearing will be held in non-public session consistent with the provisions of RSA 91-A:3, unless the parent/eligible student requests that the hearing be held in public session, The school board will give the parent/eligible student a full and fair opportunity to present evidence relevant to the issues raised under their request/complaint. Parents/eligible students may be assisted or represented by one or more individuals of their own choice, including an attorney.

The school board will issue its final decision in writing within 30 days of the hearing, and will notify the parents/eligible student thereof via certified mail, return receipt requested. The school board will base its decision solely on the evidence presented at the hearing. The school board's written decision will include a summary of the evidence and the reasons for its decision.

If the school board determines that the student record should be changed or amended, it will direct the Superintendent to do so as soon as possible. The Superintendent will then contact the parents/eligible student for a meeting so they can review and inspect the records to verify that they have been changed or amended. At this meeting, both parties shall sign a document/form stating the date the records were changed and that the parent/eligible student is satisfied with the correction.

The school board's decision will be final.

**Disclosure of Student Records and Student Information.** In addition to directory information, the District may disclose student records and student information without consent to the following parties or under the following conditions.

1. School Officials With a Legitimate Educational Interest. School officials with a legitimate educational interest may access student records. "Legitimate education interest" refers to school officials or employees who need to know information in a student's education record in order to perform the employee's employment responsibilities and duties.
2. A school into which a student is transferring or enrolling or already enrolled, so long as the disclosure is for the purposes related to the student's enrollment or transfer.
3. Officials for audit or evaluation purposes.
4. Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid.



5. Organizations conducting certain studies for, or on behalf of the school district. Student records or student information will only be provided pursuant to this paragraph if the study is for the purpose of: developing, validating or administering predictive tests; administering student aid programs; or improving instruction.
6. Accrediting organizations.
7. Judicial orders or lawfully issued subpoenas.
8. Health and safety emergencies.

**Military Recruiters and Institutions of Higher Learning.** Military recruiters or institutions of higher learning shall have access to secondary school students' names, addresses, and telephone listings unless a secondary student or the parent of the student requests that such information not be released without prior written parental consent. The district shall notify parents of the option to make such a request and shall comply with any requests received.

The school administrator may make the determination of when the recruitment meetings are to take place and reserves the right to deny such meeting where the holding of such meeting will materially and substantially interfere with the proper and orderly operation of the school.

**Maintenance of Student Records and Data.** The principal of each building is responsible for record maintenance, access and destruction of all student records. All school district personnel having access to records shall place great emphasis upon privacy rights of students and parents.

All entries into student records must be dated and signed by the person accessing such records.

The principal will ensure that all records are maintained in accordance with application retention schedules as may be established by law.

**Disclosures Made From Education Records.** The District will maintain an accurate record of all requests for it to disclose information from, or to permit access to, a student's education records and of information it discloses and access it permits, with some exceptions listed below. This record is kept with, but is not a part of, each student's cumulative school records. It is available only to the record custodian, the eligible student, the parent(s) of the student or to federal, state or local officials for the purpose of auditing or enforcing federally supported educational programs.

The record includes:

1. The name of the person who or agency which made the request;
2. The interest which the person or agency has in the information;
3. The date on which the person or agency made the request;
4. Whether the request was granted and, if it was, the date access was permitted or the disclosure was made and
5. In the event of a health and safety emergency, the articulable and significant threat to the health or safety of a student or other individuals that formed the basis for the disclosure; and the parties to whom the agency or institution disclosed the information.

The District will maintain this record as long as it maintains the student's education record. The records do not include requests for access or information relative to access which has been granted to parent(s) of the student or to an eligible student, requests for access or access granted to officials of the District who have a legitimate educational interest in the student; requests for, or disclosures of, information contained in the student's education records if the request is accompanied by the prior written consent of a parent(s)

or eligible student or if the disclosure is authorized by such prior consent or for requests for, or disclosures of, directory information designated for that student.

**Legal References:**

*RSA 91-A:5,III, Exemptions, Pupil Records*

*RSA 189:1-e, Directory Information*

*20 U.S.C. §1232g, Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act*

*34 C.F.R. Part 99, Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act Regulations*

*§9528 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)*

Board Approval of Revision: 11/17/14

**KB-TITLE I FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

The School Board endorses the family and community engagement goals of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and encourages collaboration between family members, community members, and school leadership. The education of children is viewed as a cooperative effort among the parents, school, community and other family members involved in supporting the child's development and education.

Pursuant to federal law, the District will develop jointly with and distribute to parents of children participating in the Title I program a written family and community engagement policy.

The goal of this policy is to:

- (1) Honor and recognize families' funds of knowledge,
- (2) Connect family engagement to student learning,
- (3) Create welcoming, inviting cultures, and
- (4) Develop the capacity of families to negotiate the roles of supporters, advocates, and collaborators.

The District will implement at least one annual meeting that is available to all families of students attending Title I schools and/or for families that include a student who receives Title I services (Targeted Schools). These meeting will provide parents and family members opportunities to participate in the design, development, operation and evaluation of the program for the next school year. Additional meetings may be held at the will of the Superintendent or school board.

These meetings shall be used to:

1. Involve parents in the joint development of the Title I program plan, the process of reviewing the implementation of the plan, and suggesting overall school improvements goals.
2. Provide the coordination, technical assistance and other support necessary to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective family and community engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance.
3. Build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong family and community engagement.
4. Coordinate and integrate Title I family and community engagement strategies with those of other educational programs.
5. Conduct, with the involvement of families, an annual evaluation of the content of the family engagement involvement policy and its effectiveness in improving the academic quality of the schools served. This will include identifying barriers to greater participation by families in activities authorized by law, particularly by parents who are economically disadvantaged, have disabilities, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic

minority background. The district will use the findings of such evaluation to design strategies for more effective family engagement and to revise, if necessary, the family engagement policies.

6. Involve families in the activities of the schools served.

Title I funding, if sufficient, may be used to facilitate parent attendance at meetings through payment of transportation and childcare costs, food for the event, and academic based supplies and activities during the event. In targeted assistance programs, the families of children identified to participate in Title I programs will receive from the school Principal and Title I staff an explanation of the reasons supporting each child's selection for the program, a set of objectives to be addressed, and a description of the services to be provided. Opportunities will be provided for the parents to meet with the classroom and Title I teachers to discuss their child's progress. Parents will also receive guidance as to how they can assist in the education of their children at home.

**Legal References:**

*20 U.S.C. §6318, Title I - Parental Involvement  
Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)*

Board Approval: 11/7/16

**The Hillsboro-Deering School District Policy Manual in its entirety can be accessed at**  
[http://www.hdsd.org/pages/Hillsboro\\_Deering\\_SD\\_34/Policies/Hillsboro-Deering\\_School Distr](http://www.hdsd.org/pages/Hillsboro_Deering_SD_34/Policies/Hillsboro-Deering_School_Distr)