

Southern Public Schools Little Raiders Preschool Handbook 2025-2026



3-Year-Old Preschool
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Blue Springs, NE 68318
Phone: 402.645.3359
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4-Year-Old Preschool
Southern Elementary School
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<http://www.southernschools.org>

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WELCOME

Dear Students and Parents:

On behalf of the faculty, administration, and board of education, we welcome you to another school year. We are looking forward to helping your children reach their learning potential and achieve their educational goals in the upcoming year.

Please read this handbook carefully. Students and their parents are responsible for knowing the rules, regulations, and procedures covered in this handbook. The student handbook is an extension of school policies and has the force and effect of board policy when approved by the board of education.

There are several forms at the end of this handbook that you must read, sign, and return no later than September 4, 2025.

This handbook contains information of value to every student and parent. It contains explanations of school regulations and procedures necessary for our school to run smoothly and efficiently. If you are ever in doubt about what is the right thing to do, ask a classroom teacher, speak with the building principal, or contact my office.

Sincerely,

Virginia Moon
Superintendent

Intent of Handbook

This handbook is intended to be used by students, parents, and staff as a guide to the rules, procedures, and general information about this school district. Students and their parents must become familiar with the handbook, and parents should use it as a resource and assist their children in following the rules contained in it. The use of the word “parents” refers to any adult who has the responsibility for making education-related decisions about a child, including, but not limited to biological parents, adoptive parents, legal guardians, and adults acting in loco parentis.

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

Notice of Nondiscrimination

The school district does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The school district prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity in any education program or activity that it operates.

Students who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their disability, or that have other related concerns or questions, should contact the following Section 504 Coordinator: Virginia Moon at 402-645-3326 (phone number), vmoon@southernschools.org (e-mail address) or in person at school.

Students who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their sex, or that have other related concerns or questions, should contact the Title IX Coordinator: Jeff Murphy at 402-645-3326 (phone number), jdmurphy@southernschools.org (e-mail

address), 115 South 11th Street, Wymore, NE 68466 (mailing address) or in person at school. The School District's specific Notice of Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex may be accessed at the following link: [https://www.southernschools.org/vimages/shared/vnews/stories/5bbe03911ca49/3053 Nondiscrimination.docx](https://www.southernschools.org/vimages/shared/vnews/stories/5bbe03911ca49/3053%20Nondiscrimination.docx)

Students who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their race, color, or national origin, or that have other related concerns or questions, should contact the following Title VI Coordinator: Virginia Moon at 402-645-3326 (phone number), vmoon@southernschools.org (e-mail address), 115 South 11th Street, Wymore, NE 68466 (mailing address) or in person at school.

Students who believe that they have been the subject of any other unlawful discrimination or harassment should contact the Superintendent at 402-645-3326 (phone number), vmoon@southernschools.org (e-mail address) or in person at school. Students may report discrimination or harassment to any staff member, who will then forward it on to the appropriate coordinator or administrator. The staff member will follow school district policies to respond to the report.

For additional prohibited discrimination and related information, please review school district Policy 3053: Nondiscrimination.

MISSION STATEMENT

Mission:

Southern School District; a small-school community with big opportunities, empowers and engages students in educational, extracurricular, and real-world experiences that develop responsible, respectful, and productive citizens.

Motto:

The Southern School District... a small-school community with big opportunities.

Belief Statements:

We believe all staff and students have the right to a learning environment that is conducive to high student achievement by ensuring everyone is emotionally, socially, and physically safe.

We believe in fostering the growth of our students in a technological world by integrating the tools of today to prepare them for the future.

We believe in helping students learn the value of leadership and how to become independent, problem-solving thinkers in society.

We believe in stewarding a growth mindset by supporting staff and students in becoming lifelong learners.

We believe our staff are valuable role models that empower our students to become responsible, respectful, and safe citizens.

SECTION ONE: BASIC SCHOOL RULES AND GENERAL PRACTICES

Who May Attend?

Children who are 3 years of age before July 31 of the enrollment year;
Children who are 4 years of age before July 31 of the enrollment year;
Children who are 5 years of age at the start of the enrollment year, so long as they do not turn 6 years of age prior to January 1 of that year (subject to the participation limitation). **For information on enrolling your child for preschool please call 402-645-3359.**

Times and Locations for Preschool

3-Year-Old Preschool Location:
313 West 1st Street
Blue Springs, NE 68318
(One Session – All Day)

4/5-Year-Old Preschool Location:
Southern Elementary School
315 West 2nd Street
Blue Springs, NE 68318
(One Session – All Day)

Children attend 8:13 a.m. - 3:33 p.m. 4 days a week, Monday through Thursday.

Arrival and Departure Procedures

To ensure the safety of all the children, parents are expected to park in the designated areas. Doors will open at 7:45 a.m. Students are not to enter the building before 7:45 a.m. in order to allow the teachers to prepare materials and curriculum for the day.

Children are to be picked up at the end of the preschool session on time, and parents are expected to park in the designated areas when picking up their child from preschool.

If your child is not picked up after class has been dismissed, efforts will be made to contact you and your emergency contacts that are on the child's information sheet. If no adult can be contacted, the police

may be contacted to help. Children will not be released to anyone not listed on the child's information form. If the person is unknown to the staff, they reserve the right to ask for identification. **It is very important that the preschool has current contact information for you and the emergency contacts, including updated addresses and phone numbers.**

Attendance

One of the key factors in making each child's school experience a success is regular school attendance. Thus, regular attendance is encouraged; however, attendance for our preschool program is not mandatory. In the case of absence or tardiness, a parent must contact Southern Elementary School at 402-645-3359.

Behavior Expectations

Our classroom is a small community where teamwork and good relationships are expected. We encourage children to be good friends and to be considerate of the feelings of others. The staff model appropriate social interactions and conflict resolutions for the children and practice these skills frequently. Staff members provide praise and immediate reinforcement for appropriate behavior, cooperation, and kindness. The staff also use a variety of strategies when children misbehave. For more specific information on how the staff addresses inappropriate behavior, please feel free to contact your child's teacher for more information.

Birthday Celebrations

Birthdays will be celebrated on or as close to the child's birthday as possible. Children with birthdays occurring in the summer months will be recognized for their half birthdays towards the end of the school year.

Bullying

Students are prohibited from engaging in any form of bullying. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defines bullying as "any unwanted aggressive behavior(s) by another youth or group of youths who are not siblings or current dating partners that involves an observed or perceived power imbalance and is repeated multiple times or is highly likely to be repeated." Nebraska statute defines bullying as "an ongoing

pattern of physical, verbal or electronic abuse.” The District’s administrators will consider these definitions when determining whether any specific situation constitutes bullying. Both of these definitions include both in-person and cyberbullying behaviors.

The disciplinary consequences for bullying will depend on the severity, frequency, duration, and effect of the behavior and may result in sanctions up to and including suspension or expulsion. Students who believe they are being bullied should immediately inform a teacher or the building principal.

Reporting Bullying

Students who experience or observe bullying behavior must immediately report what happened to a teacher or administrator. Students can use the district’s anonymous platform, Safe Schools Alert, to make this report. Students may always confer with their parents or guardians about bullying they experience or witness, but the students must also ultimately report the situation to a teacher or administrator.

Bullying Investigations

School district staff will investigate allegations of bullying using the same practices and procedures that the district observes for student disciplinary matters. In no circumstance will school district staff be deliberately indifferent to allegations of bullying.

Child Abuse

School employees will report suspected abuse or neglect of a child as required by state law and school policy. Nebraska law defines abuse or neglect as knowingly, intentionally, or negligently causing or permitting a minor child or an incompetent or disabled person to be (1) placed in a situation that endangers his or her life or physical or mental health; (2) cruelly confined or cruelly punished; (3) deprived of necessary food, clothing, shelter or care; (4) left unattended in a motor vehicle, if such child is six years of age or younger; (5) sexually abused; (6) placed in a situation to be sexually exploited through sex trafficking of a minor as defined in state law or by allowing, encouraging, or forcing such person to engage in debauchery, public indecency, or obscene or pornographic photography, films, or depictions; or (7) placed in a situation to be a trafficking victim as defined in state law.

Communication and Parent Involvement

Consistency in communication is vital to a child's development. To ensure consistency between the home and school communication, teachers may provide parents with communication notebooks, daily notes, monthly calendars, or other forms of information. It is helpful to the child's education if parents also share information about their child with the teacher.

Our annual preschool calendar is attached to the end of this handbook. This calendar is similar to the Southern Public Schools' calendar, but please note that there are some differences.

Parent/teacher conferences are held two times per year, along with two teacher home visits. At this time, your child's accomplishments, strengths, and overall progress will be discussed. Please feel free to schedule additional conferences at any time throughout the year as necessary.

Drug Free Schools

The board of education has adopted policies to comply with the Federal Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act. Students are prohibited from using, possessing, or selling any drug, alcohol, or tobacco while on school grounds, at a school activity, or in a school vehicle.

Any student who violates any school policy regarding drug, alcohol, and tobacco use will be disciplined, up to and including short-term suspension, long-term suspension, or expulsion from school and/or referral to appropriate authorities for criminal prosecution.

Enrollment Protocol

Little Raiders Preschool registration officially starts on January 1 and it runs until March 15 every school year. The district will hold a registration day during parent-teacher conferences at the Elementary School in the spring. The registration day will run from 3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. and it will be held at the Elementary School library. There will be Southern staff available to help potential parents/guardians fill out the Little Raiders Preschool application. Parents will also be notified of acceptance into Little Raiders Preschool by April 1.

Priority for enrollment into the Little Raiders Preschool program is

based on the following indicators in order of importance:

1. Children Living Within the District Boundaries,
2. Kindergarten Eligible,
 - a. Must be 3 on or before July 31st for all-day 3-year-old program in Blue Springs,
 - b. Must be 4 on or before July 31st for all-day 4-year-old program in Blue Springs,
 - c. Children who are 5 years of age at the start of the enrollment year, so long as they do not turn 6 years of age prior to January 1 of that year (subject to the participation limitation).
3. Income Eligibility,
4. Students with Disabilities,
5. English Learners, and
6. Date of Completion of the Preschool Application.

Please Note: A child is eligible for kindergarten if they turn 5-years-old on or before July 31.

There is a total of 20 spots for the all-day 4/5-year-old preschool program in Blue Springs, and there is a total of 10 spots for the all-day 3-year-old preschool program in Blue Springs because of capacity limitations. A total of 20 slots will be filled in the all-day 4/5-year-old program, and a total of 10 slots will be filled in the 3-year-old program. Movement into either the 3-year-old or 4/5-year-old program will occur throughout the school year. This includes children moving into the district and movement between programs based on age requirements.

Extra Clothing

Please supply an extra set of clothes for your child to leave at the center in case of accidents, milk spills, etc. If an accident occurs and there is no extra clothing in your child's bag, you will be contacted to bring clothing to the school.

Health and Wellness Policies

Health conditions that affect your child's safety and/or well-being can be shared with staff on a need-to-know basis. For example, health-related issues may include diabetes, allergies, seizures, and asthma,

or medications that may have side effects while the child is at school (drowsiness, behavioral changes).

In order to ensure the safety and health of our children and staff, children or adults that have the following conditions will be excluded from the school activities until either the condition subsides or we receive communication from the individual's medical provider that they are no longer contagious. Below is a list of conditions that may result in exclusion:

- Accident/Injury: In case of an accident during school, the child's parents/guardians will be notified.
- Fever: Temperature over 100°F. Students who have been absent due to an illness are to be fever-free for 24 hours, without the aid of medication, before returning to school.
- A painful, red throat, even if no fever is present.
- Difficulty breathing or wheezing.
- An unexplained rash.
- Vomiting (within the last 24 hours).
- Diarrhea (runny/watery stools).
- Thick green drainage from the nose along with sinus pressure, fever, or tiredness.
- Discharge from the eyes.
- Unusual coloring of the skin.
- Cuts or openings on the skin that are pus-filled or oozing (bring a note from the doctor and keep sores covered).
- Head lice: Students with head lice are excluded from school until treated and nit-free. The parent or guardian is notified of the need for treatment. Readmission to school is dependent on no visible signs of head lice, or nits, clean hair and scalp, the louse shampoo label, or a note from the doctor stating the treatment used, and a verified repeat treatment is needed 7-10 days following the initial treatment.
- A contagious disease.

Parents that feel their child is too ill to participate in outdoor activities are advised to keep their child home to ensure a complete recovery. If a chronic health condition limits participation in outdoor activities, please provide a note from a medical provider. If staff are unsure

about a child's condition or a child is brought to the site that they suspect is ill, parents may be asked to take their child home.

Meals and Snacks

All children will receive a healthy and nutritious breakfast and lunch every day. The quality and quantity of meals meet the USDA standards. The 3-year-old meals are served in a family-style setting in which conversation is shared and encouraged. Meal time is used as a learning experience so staff have the children help with set up, cleanup, and, at times, help with preparing food items. All 4/5-year-old students eat in the cafeteria with the kindergarten and first-grade students. An afternoon snack can be brought for the children attending all-day preschool, and snacks will be provided by each parent or guardian.

Medications

Over-the-counter medications will be given by the preschool staff or by the office staff. If your child needs over-the-counter medications, the parent or caregiver will need to fill out the form at the end of this handbook. Parents should also supply their son or daughter with their own sunscreen for health purposes.

Medications (Prescriptions)

The administration of prescription medication at school is strongly discouraged except when necessary for the student's health or education. The dosage intervals of many medications can be adjusted so that the times for taking medication come outside of school hours.

Prescription medications, which must be administered during school hours, may be administered when the following are on file at school:

- Parent/guardian must provide written authorization prior to the administration of medication. This written authorization should include the reason the child is taking the medication.
- The medication needs to be in its original packaging and labeled as dispensed by the prescriber or pharmacist. The label must name the child and identify the medication, administering physician, strength and dosage, time interval, and route to be administered.

If your child needs to take fever-reducing medication, staff ask that the child be kept at home for the duration of the time he/she needs fever-reducing medication.

All authorizations for prescription medication administration must be renewed annually and updated immediately if a change occurs.

Outdoor Play (Gross Motor Time)

Children play outdoors every day for approximately 30 minutes, with the exception of extremely bad weather. It is suggested that children wear clothing appropriate for outside play. For example, snow boots when there is snow on the ground and winter coats when it is cold outside. To ensure the safety of each child on the playground, sandals (including flip-flops) are discouraged even when it is warm outside.

Outings and Field Trips

Children will occasionally be taking in-town field trips throughout the year. These places may include, but are not limited to: McCandles Park, Arbor State Park, Pinecrest Tree Farm, and neighborhood walks. Parents will be asked to sign a permission form for these places.

School Closing Information

The Superintendent will occasionally announce an emergency early school dismissal, late start, or cancellation of school due to extreme heat, snow, or ice. School closings will be announced on KWBE, KOLN/KGIN-TV Channel 10, District Website & Social Media Pages, and Southern Public School's IRIS Alert system. Parents should assume that school is open and a regular schedule is being followed if there is no announcement concerning the school district. Please do not call the school or individual staff members to find out whether the school is being canceled. Parents who do not believe it is safe to transport their students to school may keep their students' home after contacting the district office.

If schools are closed due to severe weather conditions, all after-school activities will be canceled.

School Curriculum and Learning

At preschool, the staff encourage children to participate in activities that concentrate on areas of development, including cognitive

development, language development/communication skills, physical development (gross and fine motor), and social and emotional development. The staff use strategies to promote self-confidence and independence as the child learns and grows.

All activities are age-appropriate and follow the Nebraska Early Learning Guidelines. The staff measures each child's outcomes and progress using Teaching Strategies GOLD, an authentic measure that uses daily observations of each child's progress.

School Policies and Procedures

The Southern Public Schools policies and procedures, including the district's nondiscrimination and harassment policies, are available to review at the school district's website:

<http://www.southernschools.org>

Screenings

The Southern Public Schools nurse will be assessing all the children's heights and weights twice a year. The results will be shared with parents. A vision screening will also be completed. The exams do not take the place of a professional eye exam. If you have any concerns with your child's vision, please see a medical professional or an eye professional.

Sliding Fee Scale

The Little Raiders Preschool will offer enrollment to children according to the following tuition guidelines (Sliding Fee Scale):

Little Raiders Preschool Sliding Fee Scale (3-Year-Old Preschool):

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Special Education (IEP): | No Cost |
| Free Meal Program Eligibility: | No Cost |
| Reduced Meal Program Eligibility: | \$60.00/per month |
| Full Pay Meal Program Eligibility: | \$120.00/per month |

Little Raiders Preschool Sliding Fee Scale (4/5-Year-Old Preschool):

| | |
|--------------------------|---------|
| Special Education (IEP): | No Cost |
|--------------------------|---------|

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Free Meal Program Eligibility: | No Cost |
| Reduced Meal Program Eligibility: | \$60.00/per month |
| Full Pay Meal Program Eligibility: | \$120.00/per month |

Annual tuition is to be made in nine payments of \$60 or \$120 for Full Pay Meal Program eligibility. The first payment is due on or before August 21st and covers tuition for August and May combined. Subsequent payments are to be paid on the first of each month beginning September 1st. Other tuition payment options include advance quarterly, semester, and annual payments. Failure to remit payment for the program tuition for two straight months will result in the discontinuation of enrollment.

The Little Raiders Preschool will provide nutritionally balanced meals for participating children. The 3-year-old meals are served in a family-style setting in which conversation is shared and encouraged. Meal time is used as a learning experience so staff have the children help with set up, cleanup, and, at times, help with preparing food items. All 4/5-year-old students eat in the cafeteria with the kindergarten and first-grade students. All children can bring a daily snack, as well. If participation is chosen, the following are the meal program costs:

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Special Education (IEP): | No Cost |
| Free Meal Program Eligibility: | No Cost |
| Reduced Meal Program Eligibility: | \$60.00/per month |
| Full Pay Meal Program Eligibility: | \$120.00/per month |

Meal Program (4 Days Per Week):

The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) provides an alternative approach for offering school meals to Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) and schools in low-income areas, instead of collecting individual applications for free and reduced-price meals. The CEP allows schools that predominantly serve low-income children to offer free, nutritious school meals to all students through the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs. When a child's nutritional needs are met, the child is more attentive in class, has better attendance, and has fewer disciplinary problems. Families with tight food budgets can rest assured that their child is getting two nutritious meals at school,

reducing financial strain at home

Notice of Non-discrimination

In accordance with federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA. To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410
- (2) Fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) Email: program.intake@usda.gov

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the school district. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

Student Emergency Contact Form

These forms must be filled out completely, including the current phone numbers of the contacts. If your home, work, or cell number changes or any of your contact numbers change, please inform the teacher as soon as possible so that we can update our information in our files.

This is very important so that you can be located quickly in the event of an emergency.

Student Records

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA") provides parents certain rights with respect to their student's education records. These rights include the right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the date the school receives a request for

access; and the right to request the amendment of the student's education records that you believe to be inaccurate.

If parents believe one of their student's records is inaccurate, they should write to the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why they believe it is inaccurate. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested, it will notify the parents of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment.

Directory Information. FERPA and the Nebraska Public Records Law authorize school districts to make "directory information" available for review at the request of non-school individuals. These laws also give parents and guardians a voice in the decision-making process regarding the disclosure of directory information regarding their children. The school district has designated the following as directory information:

name and grade, name of parent and/or guardian, address, telephone number, including the student's cell phone number, e-mail address, date and place of birth, dates of attendance, the image or likeness of students in pictures, videotape, film or other medium, major field of study, participation in activities and sports, degrees and awards received, social media usernames and handles, weight and height of members of athletic teams, most recent previous school attended, certain class work which may be published onto the Internet, classroom assignment and/or home room teacher, student ID number, user ID, or other unique personal identifier used by the student for purposes of accessing or communicating in electronic systems (but only if the identifier 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 the authorized user). Directory information does not include a student's Social Security number.

Directory information about students may be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that market or manufacture class rings, sell student photographs, or publish student yearbooks.

Federal law requires school districts to provide military recruiters and institutions of higher education with the names, addresses, and telephone listings of high school students unless parents have notified the school district in writing that they do not want this information disclosed without prior written parental consent. Military recruiters will be granted the same access to a student in a high school grade as is provided to postsecondary educational institutions or to prospective employers of such students.

Parents who **OBJECT** to the disclosure of any directory information about their student should write a letter to the principal. This letter should specify the particular categories of directory information that the parents do not wish to have released about their child or the particular types of outside organizations to which they do not wish directory information to be released. This letter must be received by the school district no later than September 1 of each year.

Non-Directory Information

All of the other personally identifiable information about students that is maintained in the school district's education records will generally not be disclosed to anyone outside the school system except under one of two circumstances: (1) in accordance with the provisions of the FERPA statutes and related administrative regulations, or (2) in accordance with the parent's written instructions.

One FERPA exception permits disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests without consent. A school official includes, but is not necessarily limited to, a teacher or other educator, administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); school board member; volunteer; contractor or consultant who, while not employed by the school, performs an institutional service or function for

which the school would otherwise use its own employees and who is under the direct control of the school with respect to the use and maintenance of PII from education records, such as an attorney, representative of the district's insurance providers, auditor, medical consultant, therapist, or a third-party website operator who has contracted with the school district or its agent to offer online programs for the benefit of students and/or the district; members of law enforcement acting on behalf of the school district; a parent or student volunteering to serve on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee; or a parent, student, or other volunteer assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official typically has a "legitimate educational interest" if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill a school-related professional, contractual, statutory, or regulatory responsibility.

The district will share information with the Department of Education necessary to comply with the requirement of state law that all third-year high school students take a college entrance exam. Any redisclosure of information related to the administration of this exam shall be governed by the agreement between the Nebraska Department of Education and the third-party testing company.

Transfer of Records Upon Student Enrollment

Upon request, the school discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll. The school is not obligated to inform parents when it makes a disclosure under this provision.

Complaints

Individuals who wish to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the School to comply with the requirements of FERPA may contact the Office that administers FERPA:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-4605

Supplies

Parents will need to provide the necessary supplies for the children to attend preschool. Your child is encouraged to bring a backpack to hold their school supplies. Parents are asked to supply a blanket for nap time for their preschooler. If you would like to donate supplies to the preschool, please let the staff know, and they will direct you regarding what additional items are needed in the preschool classroom. Along with supplies, volunteering at both preschools may be necessary throughout the school year.

Transportation

The district will provide transportation via school bus to all 3-year-old and 4/5-year-old preschool students for both the morning routes and the afternoon routes that do not reside in Blue Springs.

Transportation or mileage reimbursement may also be offered to children who are verified with a specific disability.

Transition Plan (Kindergarten)

The preschool staff integrates pre-academic skills into the preschool curriculum throughout the school year. These skills include writing, alphabet knowledge, literacy skills, and math skills. The staff also facilitates the development of independence, problem-solving, and social skills.

All children attending kindergarten the following year participate in planned transition activities such as:

- meeting elementary staff and touring the building,
- participating in planned activities with elementary staff/children, and
- Kindergarten roundup.

Parents are encouraged to participate and give ideas and suggestions to teachers to add to the transition plan information to help the child have a successful transition into the elementary school. This is invaluable information for your child's kindergarten teacher.

Parents are encouraged to attend Kindergarten Orientation and the End of the Year Celebration. Information on these events will be sent

out as the time draws closer. All student information, including likes, dislikes, behaviors, allergies, academic skills, classroom supports/adaptations, strategies, etc., is shared with the future teachers and service providers. Should any meetings need to occur before the child enters kindergarten, all future staff and teachers will be included in the invitation to the meeting.

Thanks for sharing your preschool child with the staff at Little Raiders Preschool. Please congratulate yourself and your child on how well your child does and look at all the fantastic things she/he can do! We will be focusing on those great abilities and look forward to a wonderful year.

SECTION TWO: STUDENT DISCIPLINE

General Discipline Philosophy

The school district has the authority to discipline students who behave inappropriately on the way to school, at school, during lunch, on the way home, and at all school activities (home and away or any time while on school or district property).

The school district's discipline is guided by the following principles:

1. The school district's discipline policy is intended to ensure that students take responsibility for their behavior.
2. Behavior expectations and the consequences for failing to meet those expectations will be clearly communicated to all students and their parents.
3. The severity of consequences for violating behavior expectations will generally be progressive in nature. That is, sanctions will increase with each instance of misconduct; however, each instance will be assessed on its own facts, and sanctions will be imposed based on the severity of the misconduct.
4. Parents play a vital role in supporting and reinforcing the school district's expectations of their students.
5. Behavior expectations apply to all students; consequences are enforced consistently without regard to a student's academic record or achievement.

Extracurricular activities including athletics, cheerleading, band, chorus, and club activities, are governed by the Student Activity Handbook. Students who are involved in extracurricular activities may face consequences related to the activity in addition to the consequences discussed in this handbook.

The school district reserves the right to refer to the appropriate non-school agency any act or conduct of its students which may constitute a crime under federal, state, county, or local law. The administration will cooperate with these agencies in their investigations.

Forms of School Discipline

Administrative and teaching personnel may take actions regarding student behavior that are reasonably necessary to aid the student, further school purposes, or prevent interference with the educational process. Such actions may include, but need not be limited to, counseling of students, parent conferences, rearrangement of schedules, requirements that a student remain in school after regular hours to do additional work, restriction of extracurricular activity, or requirements that a student receive counseling, psychological evaluation, or psychiatric evaluation upon the written consent of a parent or guardian to such counseling or evaluation. The actions may also include in-school suspensions during the day or mandatory attendance at Saturday school. When in-school suspensions, after-school assignments, Saturday School, or other disciplinary measures are assigned, the student is responsible for complying with such disciplinary measures; a failure to serve such assigned discipline as directed will serve as grounds for further discipline, up to expulsion from school. District administrators may develop building-specific protocols for the imposition of student discipline.

In this section, references to "Principal" shall include building principals, the principal's designee, or other appropriate school district administrators.

Any statement, notice, recommendation, determination, or similar action specified in this section shall be effectively given at the time written evidence thereof is delivered personally to or upon receipt of certified or registered mail or upon actual knowledge by a student or his or her parent or guardian.

Any student who is suspended or expelled from school pursuant to this section may not participate in any school activity during the duration of that exclusion, including adjacent school holidays and weekends. The student activity eligibility of a student who is mandatorily reassigned shall be determined on a case-by-case basis by the principal of the building to which the student is reassigned.

After School Sessions and Detentions

Teachers and administrators may require students to stay after school or to serve a detention when the student violates any of the rules contained in this handbook or violates classroom-specific conduct rules set by individual teachers.

Students who ride the bus home from school will be given a 24-hour notice of after-school time or a detention so that the parents may make plans to pick up the student the following day.

- After-school sessions will not exceed 30 minutes from the time of dismissal and are to be served in the teacher's room. A student who

fails to attend an after-school session may be given a detention by the teacher or may face additional disciplinary consequences up to and including long-term suspension and/or expulsion. A student who has a conflict with an after-school session is responsible for working it out with the teacher.

- Detentions are 30 minutes, served in the central office or the detention room designated by the building principal.

In-School Suspension

The building administrator may require a student to serve an in-school suspension. Students may be required to attend up to six hours per day of school-sponsored suspension at a designated location where they will study and participate in campus clean-up. There will be zero tolerance for behavior problems from students placed in in-school suspension. Students not completing their In-School Suspension will face further disciplinary action.

Emergency Exclusion

Students may be emergency excluded from school pursuant to the board's separate policy on emergency exclusion or state law.

Short-Term Suspension

The Principal or the Principal's designee may exclude a student from school or any school function for a period of up to five school days (short-term suspension) on the following grounds:

1. Conduct constituting grounds for expulsion as hereinafter set forth; or
2. Other violations of rules and standards of behavior adopted by the board of education or the administrative or teaching staff of the school, which occur on or off school grounds, if such conduct interferes with school purposes or there is a nexus between such conduct and school.

The following process will apply to short-term suspensions:

1. The Principal shall make a reasonable investigation of the facts and circumstances. Short-term suspension shall be imposed only after a determination that the suspension is necessary to help any student, to further school purposes, or to prevent an interference with school purposes.
2. Prior to commencement of the short-term suspension, the student will be given oral or written notice of the charges against the student. The student will be advised of what he/she is accused of having done, an explanation

of the evidence the authorities have, and an opportunity to explain his/her version of the facts.

3. Within 24 hours or such additional time as is reasonably necessary following the suspension, the Principal will send a written statement to the student and the student's parent or guardian, describing the student's conduct, misconduct, or violation of the rule or standard and the reasons for the action taken. An opportunity will be given to the student and the student's parent or guardian to have a conference with the Principal ordering the short-term suspension before or at the time the student returns to school. The Principal shall determine who, in addition to the parent or guardian, is to attend the conference.
4. Students who are short-term suspended will be given the opportunity to complete classwork, including but not limited to examinations, under the following conditions: determined per incident.

Firearms. No student may bring, possess, handle, or transmit a firearm on school grounds, in a school-owned vehicle, or at a school activity or event off school grounds, except as permitted by this policy.

Definition of Firearm. The term "firearm, as defined in 18 U.S.C. 921, means any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive, the frame or receiver of any such weapon, any firearm muffler or firearm silencer, or any destructive device (excluding an antique firearm).

Exceptions Regarding Firearms. The only exceptions for a student to bring or possess a weapon, including a firearm, are as follows:

1. The issuance of firearms to or possession of firearms by members of the Reserve Officers Training Corps when training or
2. Firearms which may lawfully be possessed by the person receiving instruction under the immediate supervision of an adult instructor who may lawfully possess firearms.

Consequences - Firearm. Any student who brings a firearm, as that term is defined in 18 United States Code 921, to school will be expelled from school for one calendar year. The superintendent of schools and the board of education shall have the authority to modify the expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis.

Long-Term Suspension

Students may be excluded by the Principal from school or any school function for a period of more than five school days but less than twenty school days (long-term suspension) for any conduct constituting grounds for expulsion as hereinafter set forth. The process for long-term suspension is set forth below.

Pre-Kindergarten through Second Grade Students

An elementary school shall not suspend a student in pre-kindergarten through second grade unless the student brings a deadly weapon as defined in section 28-109 on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose or in a vehicle being driven for a school purpose by a school employee or his or her designee, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event. As an alternative to suspension, the school district may take any action authorized by law, including those provided in section 79-258.

Expulsion

1. **Meaning of Expulsion.** Expulsion means exclusion from attendance in all schools, grounds and activities of or within the system for a period not to exceed the remainder of the semester in which it took effect unless the misconduct occurred (a) within ten school days prior to the end of the first semester, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect through the second semester, or (b) within ten school days prior to the end of the second semester, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect for summer school and the first semester of the following school year, or (c) unless the expulsion is for conduct specified in these rules or in law as permitting or requiring a longer removal, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect for the period specified therein. Such action may be modified or terminated by the school district at any time during the expulsion period.
2. **Summer Review.** Any expulsion that will remain in effect during the first semester of the following school year will be automatically scheduled for review before the beginning of the school year. The review will be conducted by the hearing officer who conducted the initial expulsion hearing, or a hearing officer appointed by the Superintendent in the event no hearing was previously held or the initial hearing officer is no longer available or willing to serve, after the hearing officer has given notice of the review to the student and the student's parent or guardian. This review shall be limited to newly discovered evidence or evidence of changes in the student's circumstances occurring since the original hearing. This review may lead to a recommendation by the hearing officer that the student be readmitted for the upcoming school year. If the school board or board of education or a committee of such board took the final action to expel the

student, the student may be readmitted only by action of the board. Otherwise, the student may be readmitted by action of the Superintendent.

3. **Suspension of Enforcement of an Expulsion:** Enforcement of an expulsion action may be suspended (i.e., "stayed") for a period of not more than one full semester in addition to the balance of the semester in which the expulsion takes effect, and as a condition of such suspended action, the student may be assigned to a school, class, or program/plan and to such other consequences which the school district deems appropriate.
4. **Alternative School or Pre-expulsion Procedures.** The school shall provide either an alternative school, class or educational program for expelled students or shall follow the pre-expulsion procedures outlined in Neb. Rev. Stat. 79-266.

Grounds for Long-Term Suspension, Expulsion, or Mandatory Reassignment:

The following conduct constitutes grounds for long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment, subject to the procedural provisions of the Student Discipline Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-254 through 79-296, when such activity occurs on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose or in a vehicle being driven for a school purpose by a school employee or by his or her designee, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event:

1. Use of violence, force, coercion, threat, intimidation, or similar conduct in a manner that constitutes a substantial interference with school purposes. The board has determined that the use of synthetic media such as deepfakes may constitute "similar conduct.";
2. Willfully causing or attempting to cause substantial damage to property, stealing or attempting to steal property of substantial value, or repeated damage or theft involving property;
3. Causing or attempting to cause personal injury to a school employee, to a school volunteer, or to any student. Personal injury caused by accident, self-defense, or other action undertaken on the reasonable belief that it was necessary to protect some other person shall not constitute a violation of this subdivision;
4. Threatening or intimidating any student for the purpose of or with the intent of obtaining money or anything of value from such student;
5. Knowingly possessing, handling, or transmitting any object or material that is ordinarily or generally considered a weapon (*see also board policy on weapons and firearms*);
6. Engaging in the unlawful possession, selling, dispensing, or use of a controlled substance or an imitation controlled substance, as defined in

section 28-401, a substance represented to be a controlled substance, or alcoholic liquor as defined in section 53-103.02 or being under the influence of a controlled substance or alcoholic liquor (*note: the term "under the influence" for school purposes has a less strict meaning than it does under criminal law; for school purposes, the term means any level of impairment and includes even the odor of alcohol on the breath or person of a student; also, it includes being impaired by reason of the abuse of any material used as a stimulant*);

7. Public indecency as defined in section 28-806, except that this prohibition shall apply only to students at least twelve years of age but less than nineteen years of age;
8. Engaging in bullying as defined in section 79-2,137 and in these policies;
9. Sexually assaulting or attempting to sexually assault any person if a complaint has been filed by a prosecutor in a court of competent jurisdiction alleging that the student has sexually assaulted or attempted to sexually assault any person, including sexual assaults or attempted sexual assaults that occur off school grounds not at a school function, activity, or event. For purposes of this subdivision, sexual assault means sexual assault in the first degree as defined in section 28-319, sexual assault in the second degree as defined in section 28-320, sexual assault of a child in the second or third degree as defined in section 28-320.01, or sexual assault of a child in the first degree as defined in section 28-319.01, as such sections now provide or may hereafter from time to time be amended;
10. Engaging in any other activity forbidden by the laws of the State of Nebraska which activity constitutes a danger to other students or interferes with school purposes; or
11. A repeated violation of any of the following rules, or a single violation if the conduct amounts to a criminal act, if such violations constitute a substantial interference with school purposes:
 - a. The use of language, written or oral, or conduct, including gestures, which is profane or abusive to students or staff members. Profane or abusive language or conduct includes, but is not limited to, that which is commonly understood and intended to be derogatory toward a group or individual based upon race, sex, national origin, or religion;
 - b. Dressing or grooming in a manner which violates the school district's dress code and/or is dangerous to the student's health and safety, a danger to the health and safety of others, or which is disruptive, distracting or indecent to the extent that it interferes with the learning and educational process;
 - c. Violating school bus rules as set by the school district or district staff;

- d. Possessing, using, selling, or dispensing tobacco, drug paraphernalia, an electronic nicotine delivery system, or a tobacco imitation substance or packaging, regardless of form, including cigars, cigarettes, chewing tobacco, and any other form of tobacco, tobacco derivative product or imitation, or electronic cigarettes, vapor pens, etc.;
- e. Possessing, using, selling, or dispensing any drug paraphernalia or imitation of a controlled substance regardless of whether the actual substance possessed is a controlled substance by Nebraska law;
- f. Possession of pornography, including creation, possession, dissemination, accessing, sale, or any other use of synthetic media, such as deepfakes;
- g. Sexting or the possession of sexting images (a combination of sex and texting - the act of sending sexually explicit messages or photos electronically), including creation, possession, dissemination, accessing, sale, or any other use of synthetic media, such as deepfakes;
- h. Engaging in initiations, defined as any ritualistic expectations, requirements, or activities placed upon new members of a school organization for the purpose of admission into the organization, even if those activities do not rise to the level of "hazing" as defined below. Initiations are prohibited except by permission of the superintendent.
- i. Engaging in hazing as defined by state law and this policy. Hazing is defined as any activity by which a person intentionally or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health or safety of an individual for the purpose of initiation into, admission into, affiliation with, or continued membership in any school organization. Under state criminal law, hazing activities include, but are not limited to, whipping, beating, branding, an act of sexual penetration, an exposure of the genitals of the body done with the intent to affront or alarm any person, a lewd fondling or caressing of the body of another person, forced and prolonged calisthenics, prolonged exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug, or harmful substance not generally intended for human consumption, prolonged sleep deprivation, or any brutal treatment or the performance of any unlawful act that endangers the physical or mental health or safety of any person. For purposes of school rules, hazing also includes any activity expected of someone joining a group, team, or activity that humiliates, degrades or risks emotional and/or physical harm, regardless of the person's willingness to participate; personal servitude; restrictions on

- personal hygiene; yelling, swearing and insulting new members/rookies; being forced to wear embarrassing or humiliating attire in public; consumption of vile substances or smearing of such on one's skin; binge drinking and drinking games; sexual simulation and sexual assault;
- j. Bullying which shall include cyber-bullying, defined as the use of the internet, including but not limited to social networking sites such as Facebook, cell phones or other devices to send, post or text message images and material intended to hurt or embarrass another person. This may include, but is not limited to; continuing to send e-mail to someone who has said they want no further contact with the sender; sending or posting threats, sexual remarks or pejorative labels (i.e., hate speech); ganging up on victims by making them the subject of ridicule in forums, and posting false statements as fact intended to humiliate the victim; disclosure of personal data, such as the victim's real name, address, or school at websites or forums; posing as the identity of the victim for the purpose of publishing material in their name that defames or ridicules them; sending threatening and harassing text, instant messages or emails to the victims; and posting or sending rumors or gossip to instigate others to dislike and gang up on the target;
 - k. Violation of the district's computer acceptable computer use policy are subject to discipline, up to and including expulsion;
 - l. Knowingly possessing, handling, or transmitting any object or material that is ordinarily or generally considered a simulated or "look-a-like" weapon;
 - m. Using any object to simulate possession of a weapon;
 - n. Knowingly making a false statement or knowingly submitting false information during the Title IX grievance process or any other school investigation or making a materially false statement in bad faith in the course of a Title IX grievance proceeding or any other school investigation; and
 - o. Any other violation of a rule or regulation established by a school district staff member pursuant to authority delegated by the board.

The length of any suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment shall be as provided or allowed by law.

Reporting Requirement to Law Enforcement

Violations of this section will result in a report to law enforcement if:

1. The violation includes possession of a firearm;
2. The violation results in child abuse;
3. It is a violation of the Nebraska Criminal Code that the administration believes cannot be adequately addressed by discipline from the school district;
4. It is a violation of the Nebraska Criminal Code that endangers the health and welfare of staff or students; or
5. It is a violation of the Nebraska Criminal Code that interferes with school purposes.

Due Process Afforded to Students Facing Long-term Suspension or Expulsion

The following procedures shall be followed regarding any long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment:

1. The decision to recommend discipline shall be made within two school days after learning of the alleged student misconduct. On the date of the decision to discipline, the Principal shall file with the Superintendent a written charge and a summary of the evidence supporting such charge.
2. The Principal shall serve the student and the student's parents or guardian with a written notice by registered or certified mail or personal service within two school days of the date of the decision to recommend long-term suspension or expulsion. The notice shall include the following:
 - a. The rule or standard of conduct allegedly violated and the acts of the student alleged to constitute a cause for long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment, including a summary of the evidence to be presented against the student;
 - b. The penalty, if any, which the principal has recommended in the charge and any other penalty to which the student may be subject;
 - c. A statement that, before long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment can be invoked, the student has a right to a hearing, upon request, and that if the student is suspended pending the outcome of the hearing, the student may complete classwork and homework, including, but not limited to, examinations, missed during the period of suspension pursuant to district guidelines which shall not require the student to attend the school district's alternative programs for expelled students in order to complete classwork or;

- d. A description of the hearing procedures provided by the act, along with procedures for appealing any decision rendered at the hearing;
 - e. A statement that the principal, legal counsel for the school, the student, the student's parent, or the student's representative or guardian has the right (i) to examine the student's academic and disciplinary records and any affidavits to be used at the hearing concerning the alleged misconduct and (ii) to know the identity of the witnesses to appear at the hearing and the substance of their testimony; and
 - f. A form on which the student, the student's parent, or the student's guardian may request a hearing, to be signed by such parties and delivered to the principal or superintendent in person or by registered or certified mail to the address provided on the form.
- 3. When a notice of intent to discipline a student by long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment is filed with the superintendent, the student may be suspended by the principal until the date the long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment takes effect, if the principal determines that the student must be suspended immediately to prevent or substantially reduce the risk of (a) interference with an educational function or school purpose or (b) a personal injury to the student himself or herself, other students, school employees, or school volunteers.
- 4. Nothing in this policy shall preclude the student, student's parents, guardian or representative from discussing and settling the matter with appropriate school personnel prior to the time the long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment takes effect.
- 5. If a hearing is requested within five days after receipt of the notice, the Superintendent shall recommend appointment of a hearing examiner within two school days after receipt of the hearing request. The student or the student's parent or guardian may request designation of a hearing examiner other than the hearing examiner recommended by the superintendent if notice of the request is given to the superintendent within two school days after receipt of the superintendent's recommended appointment. Upon receiving such request, the superintendent must provide one alternative hearing examiner who is not an employee of the school district or otherwise currently under contract with the school district and whose impartiality may not otherwise be reasonably questioned. The student or the student's parent or guardian must, within five school days, select a hearing examiner to conduct the hearing who was recommended or provided as an alternative hearing examiner, and shall notify the superintendent in

writing of the selection. The superintendent must appoint the selected hearing examiner upon receipt of such notice.

6. The hearing examiner must, within two school days after being appointed, give written notice to the principal, the student, and the student's parent or guardian of the time and place for the hearing.
7. The hearing shall be held within a period of five school days after appointment of the hearing examiner, but such time may be changed by the hearing examiner for good cause with consent of the parties. No hearing shall be held upon less than two school days' actual notice to the principal, the student, and the student's parent or guardian, except with the consent of all the parties.
8. The principal or legal counsel for the school, the student, and the student's parent, guardian, or representative have the right to receive a copy of all records and written statements referred to in the Student Discipline Act as well as the statement of any witness in the possession of the school board or board of education no later than forty-eight hours prior to the hearing.
9. If a hearing is requested more than five school days following the receipt of the written notice, but not more than thirty calendar days after receipt, the Superintendent shall appoint a hearing examiner. The hearing will be held according to the requirements of section 79-269. The student shall be entitled to a hearing but the consequence imposed may continue in effect pending final determination.
10. If a request for hearing is not received within thirty calendar days following the mailing or delivery of the written notice, the student shall not be entitled to a hearing.

In the event a hearing is requested, the hearing, hearing procedures, the student's rights and any appeals or judicial review permitted by law shall be governed by the applicable provisions of the Nebraska Student Discipline Act (NEB. REV. STAT. § 79-254 to 79-294).

SECTION THREE: STAFF DIRECTORY

Members of the Board of Education:

David Zimmerman..... President
Dana Dorn..... Vice President
Debra Schlake..... Secretary
Betsy Frerichs..... Board Member
Jared McKeever..... Board Member
Jeff Argo..... Board Member

Administrative Staff:

Virginia Moon..... Superintendent
Kane Hookstra..... Elementary Principal
Jeff Murphy..... Jr./Sr. High School Principal

Office Staff:

Taylor Schmidt..... Bookkeeper
Sara Sturm..... Elementary Secretary
Dawn Rakes..... Elementary Secretary
Karen Maguire..... Jr./Sr. High Principal's Secretary
Audrey Whitwer..... Superintendent Secretary, AD Secretary, & Data Steward
Dyan Allington..... School Nurse
Cody Sabey..... Technology Director

Elementary School Teaching Staff:

Annie Manley..... 3-Year-Old Preschool Teacher
Amanda Freese..... 4/5-Year-Old Preschool Teacher

Child Nutrition Program:

Naomi Pharr..... Head Food Service Provider
Bonnie Creek..... Food Service Provider
Kim McMurray..... Food Service Provider
Sue Davis..... Food Service Staff

Maintenance:

John Eisenhower..... Head Maintenance
Anthony Shepardson.....Maintenance Staff
Brenden Salts.....Maintenance Staff
Dave Kaster.....Maintenance Staff
Tammy Meints.....Maintenance Staff

Support Staff:

Jodi Meints.....3-Year-Old Preschool Paraeducator

Transportation Department:

Gavin Nielson/Bonnie Creek..... Route Driver
Devin Riggs..... Route Driver
Steve Whitwer..... Route Driver

SECTION FOUR:

POLICY

Policy 5052: Wellness Policy

The school district is committed to providing a school environment that enhances learning and the development of lifelong wellness. The goals outlined in this policy were determined and selected after reviewing and considering evidence-based strategies.

1. Goals for Nutrition Promotion and Education

- a. The district will promote healthy food and beverage choices for all students, as well as encourage participation in school meal programs by such methods as implementing evidence-based healthy food promotion techniques through the school meal programs and promoting foods and beverages that meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.
- b. The health curriculum will include information on good nutrition and healthy living habits.
- c. Teachers will incorporate information on nutrition and wellness into the classroom curriculum as appropriate.
- d. The district will collaborate with public and private entities to promote student wellness.
- e. Water will be made available to students throughout the school day.

2. Goals for Physical Activity

- a. The school district's curriculums shall include instruction on physical activity and habits for healthy living.
- b. Students will be encouraged to engage in physical activities throughout the school day and will be provided with opportunities to do so.
- c. The district encourages parents and guardians to support their children's participation in physical activity, to be physically active role models, and to include physical activity in family events.

3. Goals for Other School-Based Activities Designed to Promote Student Wellness

- a. The district will participate in state and federal child nutrition programs as appropriate.
- b. The district will provide professional development, support, and resources for staff about student wellness.
- c. Students will be provided sufficient time in which to eat school-provided meals.
- d. The district's lunchrooms will be attractive and well-lighted.
- e. The district will allow other health-related entities to use school facilities for activities such as health clinics and screenings so long as the activities meet the district's requirements and criteria for the use of facilities.
- f. The district may partner with other individuals or entities in the community to support the implementation of this policy.
- g. The district will strive to provide physical activity breaks for all students, recess for elementary students, and before and after school activities, as well as encourage students to use active transport (walking, biking, etc.)
- h. The district will use evidence-based strategies to develop, structure, and support student wellness.

4. Standards and Nutrition Guidelines for All Foods and Beverages Sold to Students on the School Campus and During the School Day

- a. The district will ensure that student access to foods and beverages meet federal, state, and local laws and guidelines, including, but not limited to:
 - i. USDA National School Lunch and School Breakfast nutrition standards

- ii. USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.
- b. The district will offer students a variety of age-appropriate, healthy food and beverage selections with plenty of fruits, vegetables, and whole grains aimed at meeting the nutrition needs of students within their calorie requirements in order to promote student health and reduce childhood obesity.

5. Standards for All Foods and Beverages Provided, But Not Sold to Students During the School Day

The district may provide a list of healthy party ideas or food and beverage alternatives to parents, teachers, and students for classroom parties, rewards and incentives, or classroom snacks. The district discourages the use of food and beverages as a reward or incentive for performance or behavior.

6. Food and Beverage Marketing

Marketing and advertising is only allowed on school grounds or at school activities for foods and beverages that meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards, except as follows:

- a. This requirement does not apply to marketing that occurs at events outside of school hours such as after school sporting or any other events, including school fundraising events.
- b. The district will not immediately replace menu boards, coolers, tray liners, beverage cups, and other food service equipment with depictions of noncompliant products or logos to comply with the new USDA Smart Snacks in Schools nutrition requirements. All previously purchased products will be used, and all existing contracts honored.
- c. All equipment that currently displays noncompliant marketing materials will not be removed or replaced (e.g., a score board with a Coca-Cola logo). However, as the district reviews and considers new contracts, and as scoreboards or other such durable equipment are replaced or updated over time, any products that are marketed and advertised will meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards

7. Public Participation

Parents, students, representatives of the school food authority, teachers, school health professionals, board members, school administrators, and members of the general public shall be allowed to provide their input to the school district during the wellness policy adoption and review process.

8. Competitive Foods (Includes Food and Beverages Sold in Vending Machines, School Stores, and Fundraisers)

- a. Definitions. "Competitive food" means all food and beverages other than meals reimbursed under programs authorized by the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 available for sale to students on the school campus during the school day. For the purpose of competitive food standards implementation, "school day" means the period from the midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day.
- b. Applicability. Except as otherwise allowed by the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) or applicable law, all competitive food sold during the school day must meet the USDA Smart Snacks Standards and the nutrition standards found in 7 CFR § 210.11. The competitive food restrictions do not apply to food sold during non-school day hours, weekends, and off-campus fundraising events such as concessions during after-school sporting events, school plays or concerts, or to bulk food items that are sold for consumption at home. (Ex: frozen pizzas, cookie dough tubs, etc.)
- c. Fundraiser Exemptions. A special exemption is allowed for the sale of food and/or beverages that do not meet the competitive food standards as required in this section for the purpose of conducting an infrequent school-sponsored fundraiser. The specially exempted fundraisers must not take place more than the frequency specified by NDE during such periods that schools are in session. No specially exempted fundraiser foods or beverages may be sold in competition with school meals in the food service area during the meal service.
- d. Other Exemptions. The only other nutrition exemptions from the competitive food requirements are those found in 7 CFR § 210.11.
- e. Other Limitations. No competitive food can be sold to children anywhere on school premises beginning one half hour before breakfast and/or lunch service until one half hour after meal

service unless all proceeds earned during these time periods go to the school nutrition program.

9. Triennial Assessment

The school board shall assess and review this policy at least every three years to determine:

- a. Compliance with this policy;
- b. How this policy compares to NDE model wellness policies;
- c. Progress made in attaining the goals of this policy.

The school board will update or modify this policy as appropriate.

10. Public Notice

In addition to identifying the topic on its meeting agenda as required by the Open Meetings Act, the school district will provide notice of this policy at least annually to the public and other stakeholders identified in this policy by one or more of the following methods: on its webpage, in its newsletter, in the student and employee handbooks, newspaper advertisements, direct mailings, electronic mail, and public postings.

In addition to identifying the topic on its meeting agenda as required by the Open Meetings Act, the school district will provide notice of the Triennial Assessment and progress reports towards meeting the goals in this policy using one or more of those same methods.

11. Recordkeeping

The District will retain records to document compliance with the requirements of the wellness policy at its central office.

12. Operational Responsibility

The superintendent is responsible for coordinating the implementation of this policy and for monitoring the district's progress in meeting the goals

established by this policy. The superintendent will periodically report to the board on the district's progress in implementing this policy.

* These strategies include, but are not necessarily limited to, those cited in the Alliance for a Healthier Generation's Model Wellness Policy (Updated June 2020 to Reflect the USDA Final Rule) found at <https://api.healthiergeneration.org/resource/2>.

SECTION FIVE: FORMS

This section contains forms that students and their parents must complete and return to the school office **NO LATER THAN September 4, 2025.**

RECEIPT

This Student Handbook is distributed in accordance with Nebraska State Law, Section 79-262, paragraph three which states in part: "Rules and Standards which form the basis for discipline shall be distributed to students and parents at the beginning of each school year or at the time of enrollment..."

Parents (or guardians) and students are required to sign & return the receipt form below before September 4, 2025.

PARENT/STUDENT AGREEMENT

I have received and read the Student Handbook that describes the Southern School District's discipline policies, regulations, rules, and expectations to be followed by students enrolled in the Southern Public Schools, including the Drug Free School Policy. My child and I have discussed these policies and understand that we must comply with them.

RECOGNITION OF POTENTIAL AMENDMENTS OR SUPPLEMENTS

The rules and information provided in this handbook may be supplemented or amended by the School District's administration at any time, consistent with applicable law and board policy. All parents shall be provided notice of any such changes by the district's regular means of contact. By signing below, you agree that you will read any such information and communications, discuss them with your child, and recognize that you must comply with all rules, procedures, and requirements as they apply at that time.

Parent/Guardian's Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian's Signature

Date

Student's Signature

Date

Student's Signature

Date

Student's Signature

Date

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Student's Name

Parent/Guardian's Name(s)

Mailing Address

Home Phone

Father's Employer

Business Phone

Mother's Employer

Business Phone

Other Person Who May Be Contacted in Case of Emergency

Phone

Choice of Doctor

Phone

**PARENTAL AUTHORIZATION AND RELEASE FORM
ADMINISTRATION OF NON-PRESCRIPTION DRUGS TO STUDENTS**

While the administration of medications to students should be scheduled outside of school hours whenever possible, occasionally it may be necessary for school personnel to administer nonprescription drugs to a student as authorized by the student's parents, guardians, or medical professionals and state law. School personnel will only dispense those nonprescription drugs which have been approved by state and federal law for use as a drug and meet the definition of nonprescription drugs in Nebraska's Medication Aide law which states:

Nonprescription drugs means nonnarcotic medicines or drugs which may be sold without a medical order and which are prepackaged for use by the consumer and labeled in accordance with the requirements of the laws and regulations of this state and the federal government.

In order for students to be administered nonprescription medication by school personnel, a parent or guardian must:

- Complete and return this authorization form.
- Provide the district with any nonprescription drugs you wish to be administered in its original container from the manufacturer, which must include legible, unadulterated manufacturer instructions. The container must be labeled with the student's name.
- Provide the district with specific written instructions regarding the requested nonprescription drug's administration, including the date(s) the student is to be administered the drug, the dosage to be administered, the frequency of administration, and any other details or conditions relevant to administration.

School personnel will not administer nonprescription drugs in a manner inconsistent with the manufacturer instructions or state law. School personnel will not administer non-prescription drugs that is expired.

The undersigned are the parent(s), guardian(s), or person(s) in charge of

(name of the student)

I authorize and request school personnel to administer nonprescription drugs to my student. I release the school district, its officials, and employees from any and all liability concerning the administration of nonprescription drugs to my student.

DATED this _____ day of _____, 20__.

Parent/Guardian

Child's Name: _____

To be completed by parent/guardian:

I hereby authorize any person or persons designated by the principal to assist my child to take the following medications at school:

| MEDICATION | DOSE | START DATE / STOP DATE | TIME | DIRECTIONS |
|------------|-------|---------------------------|-------|------------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

Diagnosis or reason for medication:

DATED this _____ day of _____, 20__.

Parent/Guardian

All medications must be delivered to school AND picked up from the school by the parent/guardian. The medications will be stored in the school office (with the exception of inhalers as permitted by the physician).

**PARENTAL AUTHORIZATION AND RELEASE FORM
ADMINISTRATION OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS TO STUDENTS**

The undersigned are the parent(s), guardian(s), or person(s) in charge of

(name of the student)

It is necessary that the student receive (name of drug) _____, a physician-prescribed drug, during school intervals beginning on (date) _____ and continuing through _____. (date)

I hereby request that the School District, or its authorized representative, administer the drug named above to my child named above, in accordance with the prescribing physician's instructions, and agree to:

1. Submit this request to the office.
2. Make certain the Physician's Request for the Administration of Prescription Medication by School Personnel is submitted to the office.
3. Make sure personally that the drug is received by the office, in the container in which it was dispensed by the prescribing physician or licensed pharmacist.
4. Make sure personally that the container in which the drug is dispensed is marked with the drug name, dosage, interval dosage, and date after which no administration should be given.
5. Submit a REVISED STATEMENT signed by the physician prescribing the drug to the office IF ANY OF THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE PHYSICIAN CHANGES.
6. Release the School District and the Board of Education of the School District and all employees, agents, and the representatives of the School District from any liability concerning the giving or non-giving of the drug to the student.

DATED this _____ day of _____, 20__.

Parent/Guardian

**ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION TO STUDENTS
PHYSICIAN'S REQUEST FOR ADMINISTRATION OF PRESCRIPTION
MEDICATIONS BY SCHOOL PERSONNEL**

DATE _____

CHILD'S FULL NAME _____ is under
my care and must take medication which I have prescribed during the school
day.

Name of medication (as it appears on container in which the drug is stored)

Dosage and time _____

Date administration of drug is to begin

Possible adverse reactions to be reported to physician _____

Special instructions for the administration and storage of the drug _____

I or my designee(s) have trained school personnel or approved alternative
training as adequate to administer the medication, have evaluated the
situation, the general administration plan and if applicable, the self-
administration plan or emergency care plan, and deemed each to be safe and
appropriate, and if applicable authorize the use of hypodermic syringes and
needles or similar medical terms.

Name of Physician and Designee

Print or Type

Primary Phone Number

Secondary Phone Number

Signature of Physician

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Southern Public Schools 2025-2026 Preschool Calendar

| July—2025 | | | | | | |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | T | 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 | | |

| August—2025 | | | | | | |
|-------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----|---------------|----|
| S | M | T | W | T | 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 | | | | | | |

| September—2025 | | | | | | |
|----------------|----|----|----|----|---------------|----|
| S | M | T | W | T | 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 | | | | |

| October—2025 | | | | | | |
|--------------|---------------|-----|----|----------|---------------|----|
| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
| | | | 1 | <u>2</u> | <u>3</u> | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9] | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | [14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |

| November—2025 | | | | | | |
|---------------|----|----|---------------|---------------|---------------|----|
| S | M | T | W | T | 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 | | | | | | |

| December—2025 | | | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----|
| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | <u>23</u> | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |

Note: Any/all mechanical or weather related loss of school time will be made up at the discretion of the Board of Education and/or the Superintendent.

Student Instructional Days **146**
Teacher Contract Days **182**

| August—2025 | |
|-------------|---|
| 18-20 | Teacher In-Service (No School) |
| 21 | First Day of Classes |

| September—2025 | |
|----------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | Labor Day (No School) |

| October—2025 | |
|--------------|--|
| 2 | Early Dismissal (<u>1:20/1:30 p.m.</u>) Parent Teacher Conferences (3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.) |
| 3 | Fall Break (No School) |
| 9 | End of First Quarter (29 Days) |
| 13 | Teacher In-Service (No School) |
| 14 | Second Quarter Begins |

| November—2025 | |
|---------------|---|
| 2 | Standard Time Begins |
| 26-28 | Thanksgiving Break (No School) |

| December—2025 | |
|---------------|--|
| 23 | Early Dismissal (<u>1:20/1:30 p.m.</u>) End of Second Quarter (39 Days) |
| 24-31 | Winter Break (No School) |

| January—2026 | |
|--------------|---|
| 1-5 | Winter Break (No School) |
| 6 | Teacher In-Service (No School) |
| 7 | First Day of Third Quarter |

| February—2026 | |
|---------------|--|
| 19 | Early Dismissal (<u>1:20/1:30 p.m.</u>) Parent Teacher Conferences (3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.) |

| March—2026 | |
|------------|--------------------------------|
| 8 | Daylight Savings Begins |
| 12 | End of Third Quarter (39 Days) |
| 16 | Fourth Quarter Begins |

| April—2026 | |
|------------|-----------------------------------|
| 6 | Spring Break (No School) |

| May—2026 | |
|----------|--|
| 21 | Early Dismissal (<u>1:20/1:30 p.m.</u>) End of Fourth Quarter (39 Days) |

| January—2026 | | | | | | |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|----|----|---------------|----|
| S | M | T | W | T | 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—2026 | | | | | | |
|---------------|----|----|----|-----------|---------------|----|
| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | <u>19</u> | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | |

| March—2026 | | | | | | |
|------------|-----|----|----|-----|---------------|----|
| S | M | T | W | T | 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—2026 | | | | | | |
|------------|--------------|----|----|----|---------------|----|
| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
| | | | 1 | 2 | <u>3</u> | 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—2026 | | | | | | |
|----------|----|----|----|-----------|---------------|----|
| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | <u>21</u> | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 | | | | | | |

| June—2026 | | | | | | |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | T | 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 | | | | |

Key: Blue Font (Single Underline)
= Late Start or Early Dismissal
Red Font = **Holidays/Non-Contract Days (No School)**
Red Font (Strikethrough) = ~~Teacher In-Service (No School)~~
[] = First/Last Day of the Quarter