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# *Welcome*



It is a pleasure to welcome you to our school for the upcoming year. We hope that your child will find this year an enjoyable and rewarding one.

For those children attending school for the first time, this is a great adventure away from home. It is here that your child develops lasting attitudes about school, teachers and classmates. It is also here that the student learns to accept other children and to be accepted by them.

While this adjustment appears to be a rather natural one for us adults, it is not necessarily true for children. It takes place best when the ingredients of love, patience, and understanding are present in the home and at school. This is one of the reasons close cooperation between the teacher and parent is so very important. It is our wish that your child may come happily and willingly to school and make a comfortable transition to our school.

We feel extremely proud to be able to serve the patrons of the Dickinson School District who have traditionally been very supportive in their role as concerned parents.

We welcome each of our parents to visit school at any time. Please call us if you have a concern regarding anything school related. We will be happy to help you at any time, and our door is always open to you.



## Vision

### Empowering All Learners to Success

## Mission

Our mission, as a professional learning community, is to prepare all learners for lifelong success through a rigorous and innovative learning environment.

At Dickinson Public Schools we believe:

- \* Positive and respectful school environments are essential for learning.
- \* The quality of the school directly influences the quality of the community within which we live.
- \* The student shall be at the center of all educational decision.
- \* Every student can learn at high levels.
- \* It is the responsibility of the school district to prepare the learners for the 21st century.
- \* Effective teachers are the key to student success.

# 2016-2017 School Calendar

**July 2016**

					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

**January 2017 = 20 days**

	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 2016 = 6 Days**

	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 2017 = 19 days**

			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			

**September 2016 = 21 days**

				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

**March 2017 = 21 days**

			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	

Inservice (No School).....Aug. 22 & 23  
 First Day of School.....Aug. 24  
 Labor Day (No School).....Sept. 5  
 Inservice (No School).....Oct. 3  
 Instructional Conference (No School) Oct. 20 & 21  
 Veterans Day Observed (No School).....Nov. 11  
 Thanksgiving (No School).....Nov. 24  
 No School.....Nov. 25  
 Christmas Break Begins.....Dec. 23  
 School Resumes.....Jan. 3  
 Inservice/Martin Luther King Day (No School) Jan. 16  
 Presidents' Day Observed (No School).....Feb. 20  
 No School.....March 9  
 Parent/Teacher Conf Comp Day (No School) March 10  
 Storm Day (No School).....April 13  
 Good Friday (No School).....April 14  
 Parent/Teacher Conf. Comp. Day.....April 17  
 Last Day of School.....May 24  
 Storm Day (No School).....May 25  
 Teacher Work Day (No School).....May 26  
 Graduation.....May 28

**October 2016 = 18 days**

						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 2017 = 17 days**

						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					

Early Release Dates for Students (1:30 p.m. released)  
 \*These Wednesdays: September 21, November 30,  
 February 1, and March 22

**November 2016 = 19 days**

		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

**May 2017 = 18 days**

		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				

Student/Teacher Contact Days.....175 days  
 Inservice Days..... 4 days  
 Parent/Teacher Conference Compensatory days  
 (March 10 & April 17).....2 days  
 Holidays – Veterans Day (Nov. 11), Thanksgiving  
 (Nov. 24) & Good Friday (April 14)..... 3 days  
 Instructional Conference (Oct.)..... 2 days  
 Teacher Work Day (May 26)..... 1 day  
 Total Days..... 185 days

**December 2016 = 16 days**

				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

**June 2017**

				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	

See Individual Student Handbook for Parent/Teacher  
 Conference Schedules and Grading Periods

- 1 Student Contact Days
- 1 Parent/Teacher Conf. Comp Days
- 1 Prof. Dev. Days
- 1 Storm Days
- 1 Teacher Work Day
- 1 Holidays

Approved by the Dickinson Public School Board on 12/14/2015

## 2016-2017 SCHOOL CALENDAR

August 22 & 23	Inservice (No School)
August 24	First Day of School
September 5	Labor Day (No School)
October 3	Inservice (No School)
October 20 & 21	NDEA (No School)
November 11	Veteran's Day (No School)
November 24	Thanksgiving (No School)
November 25	(No School)
December 23	Christmas Break Begins (No School)
January 3	School Resumes
January 16	Inservice/Martin Luther King Day (No School)
February 20	President's Day (No School)
March 9	(No School)
March 10	P/T Conference Comp Day (No School)
April 13	Storm Day (No School)
April 14	Good Friday (No School)
April 17	P/T Conference Comp Day (No School)
May 24	Last Day of School
May 25	Storm Day (No School)
May 26	Teacher Work Day (No School)
May 28	Graduation

April 13 & May 25 will be used for storm make-up days

### 2016-2017 Elementary School Conference Schedules

#### All Elementary Schools

(Heart River, Jefferson, Lincoln, Prairie Rose, and Roosevelt)

Monday, November 7, 2016; 4:00–7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 8, 2016; 4:00–7:00 p.m.

Monday, February 6, 2017; 4:00–7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 7, 2017; 4:00–7:00 p.m.

#### Berg Elementary School

Monday, October 17, 2016; 4:00–7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 18, 2016; 4:00–7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 18, 2017; 4:00–7:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 19, 2017; 4:00–7:00 p.m.

#### Elementary School Day

Heart River, Prairie Rose and Roosevelt Elementary school day begins at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 3:15 p.m.

Jefferson Elementary school day begins 8:20 a.m. and ends at 3:05 p.m.

Lincoln Elementary school day begins at 8:15 a.m. and ends at 3:00 p.m.

Berg Elementary school day begins at 8:25 a.m. and ends at 3:15 p.m.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **Helpful Hints**

The following suggestions are included to develop the continuity of a home/school education. While the school's responsibility is the education of the child, this can best be successfully accomplished with the assistance of parents, both in a supportive role and in an independent role.

- \* Each child is unique. Accept the child's weaknesses and build upon the strengths.
- \* Criticism breaks down the individual, while praise builds up the individual.
- \* Take an active part in the education of your child by becoming familiar with the curriculum of the school.
- \* Sleep is important. Nine to ten hours of sleep is recommended for children in elementary school.
- \* Breakfast is an important meal for nutrition and health.
- \* Have your child read orally to you often. You can build upon comprehension skills by asking questions from the reading.
- \* Please label boots, mittens, caps, jackets, and other apparel and school supplies.
- \* Teach your child his/her full name, address, and telephone number.
- \* Ask to see some of the work done at school.

### **Enrollment**

Dickinson Public Schools enrollment requirements:

- \* Birth Certificate
- \* Up-to-date immunization requirements for the State of North Dakota
- \* To be enrolled in kindergarten, a child must be five years old before August first of the year of enrollment.

## Immunization

The 1979 North Dakota Health Immunization Law requires that no child will be admitted to kindergarten, elementary school, junior high school, or senior high school unless he/she has a certificate of immunization on file at the school or submits one prior to admission. The law, which became effective July 1, 1979, requires that the certificate be signed by a physician or local public health department representative and be presented to the school officials by the parent or guardian of the child. The Certificate of Immunization states that the child has been vaccinated against diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, measles, rubella, mumps, polio, hepatitis B and varicella (chicken pox) if applicable. ~~Beginning with the 2013-2014 school year,~~ Two doses of varicella vaccine are required for kindergarten through fifth grade. If a child has a reliable history of chickenpox disease, the child is exempt from the vaccine requirement. ~~For the 2013-2014 school year,~~ One dose of chickenpox vaccine is required of children attending sixth grade through ninth grade. If a child has a reliable history of chickenpox disease, the child is exempt from the vaccine requirement. ~~Also effective the 2008-2009 school year,~~ A student must receive meningococcal and tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (Tdap) vaccine before being admitted into any middle school, sixth or seventh grade. As per the North Dakota Dept. of Health, this requirement shall be implemented at the seventh grade level. ~~These new requirements are in addition to the previously required immunizations.~~ The law does allow exemptions for medical, philosophical, moral or religious beliefs. However, when there is a danger of an epidemic from any of the communicable diseases for which immunization is required, those children who are not adequately immunized, including children exempt, will be excluded from school until the danger of the epidemic is over.

## Attendance

For students to be successful in school, it is essential they attend school every day and be on time. Research supports attendance as the most important predictor of student success.

Excessive absences may result in the school referring the student to social services. After 20 absences a student may be retained in his/her current grade. Principals have the right to utilize their discretion on a case by case situation.

Please consult the school district's calendar prior to planning a family trip or vacation during the school year. If a family trip or vacation is planned during the school year, please contact the school in advance.

## **Absences**

North Dakota law contains compulsory attendance requirements. In order to comply with and enforce these requirements, the School Board established the following attendance policy:

### **Section I: Definitions**

A. For purposes of compulsory attendance reporting under NDCC 15.1-20-02.1 (1-2):

- \* *Excused absence* is an absence that the District will not use in determining if a compulsory attendance violation occurred. Any absence may be excused if it is supported by either a verbal or written excuse supplied by the student's parent, teacher, or school administrator.
- \* *Unexcused absence* is any absence not supported by the verbal or written excuse required for an excused absence.

B. For the purposes of taking disciplinary sanctions under Section III this policy as authorized by NDCC 15.1-20-02.1(3):

- \* *Approved absence* is an absence that the District believes is necessary and/or unavoidable and has received administrative approval. Necessary and/or unavoidable absences may be caused by illness, injury, family emergency, religious observance or instruction, suspension, participation in a school-related activity, court appearances when subpoenaed, or other reasons deemed necessary and/or unavoidable by the building principal or Superintendent. Students granted approved absences shall not be subject to the consequences contained in Section III of this policy. The Superintendent or designee shall develop criteria for requesting and granting an approved absence and shall establish make-up work requirements.
- \* *Unapproved absence* is defined as an absence that does not meet the above criteria for approved absences. If a student is absent for an unapproved reason, the parent/guardian shall still be responsible for calling the principal's office to explain the absence, and the student will be subject to the consequences contained in Section III of this policy.

### **Section II: Documentation Requirements**

School administration may require applicable documentation to verify an excused or approved absence, including, but not limited to:

1. Medical documentation from an appropriate licensed healthcare provider;
2. A copy of a court summons or subpoena;
3. An obituary for funeral leave;
4. Verification of planned or executed family travel (e.g., a boarding pass);
5. A request from an official at the student's place of worship;
6. A request for an absence due to a curricular or extracurricular event submitted by the student's teacher, coach, or extracurricular advisor.

### **Section III: Accumulated Unapproved Absence**

The Board believes that unapproved absences are a form of misconduct and authorizes the Superintendent to establish grade-appropriate the disciplinary consequences. Students will be afforded appropriate due process rights based on the severity of disciplinary penalty that the District is considering imposing. Students shall be required to complete make-up work in accordance with administrative regulations or will receive no credit for incomplete work.



### **Compulsory Attendance Violations**

North Dakota law defines what constitutes a compulsory attendance violation. Suspected violations of the compulsory attendance law shall be reported to school administration and investigated in accordance with law. When a compulsory attendance violation is substantiated, the District shall comply with law enforcement reporting requirements under law.

### **Tardiness**

Students are expected to be in class on time. If a student has been tardy 10 days, a letter will be mailed home informing the parent/guardian of the tardiness concern. If a student has been tardy 20 days, the school will contact social services to develop a plan to ensure prompt attendance. A letter may be mailed home informing the parent/guardian that social services has been notified.

### **Retention/Promotion**

A student's achievement of the skills for the grade to which he/she is assigned and his/her readiness for work at the next grade level shall be considered before he/she is assigned to the higher grade.

In evaluating student achievement, each teacher shall make use of all available information, including results of teacher-made tests and other measures of skill and content mastery, standardized test results, teacher observation of student performance, and attendance records.

### **Conferences**

Parent/Teacher Conferences will be scheduled by each building. Conferences may be scheduled at any other times during the school year at the request of parents or teachers. Conferences are an important means of communication between home and school. See page 4 for individual school conference dates and times.

### **Parent Advisory Council (PAC)**

The Parent Advisory Council is a group, open to all parents with students in attendance, who meet regularly with the principal for several reasons: (1) to become updated and informed as to what is happening in the school program; (2) to provide feedback on parent concerns and questions; and (3) to keep the rest of the school population updated and informed.

This concept of a parent group adds a new dimension to the parent's role which includes: (1) the principal and staff have an obligation to keep parents notified; (2) parent opinion is important and will be considered; and (3) parents take on responsibility for disseminating information to the parent population.

### **Parent Volunteers**

We are happy to have parents serve as volunteers in the school. There are many tasks that could be handled by a parent volunteer that would be rewarding to both volunteer and students. ~~Lists of volunteer areas are available at the principal's office.~~ Criminal and Social Service background checks are required of all regularly scheduled volunteers.

### **Committees For Parental Involvement**

The Dickinson Public Schools encourage parental involvement in educational decision making. Parents are invited to call their child's school or the Central Administration Office (456-0002) if they are interested in being part of any of the following committees:

- \* Building Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)
- \* District Technology Committee
- \* District-wide Parent Advisory Committee
- \* District Calendar Committee
- \* District Wellness Committee
- \* School Improvement Leadership Team
- \* West Dakota Parent and Family Resource Center Advisory Board

### **Homework**

The school endorses purposeful homework. Homework requirements should be meaningful, and enhance and/or supplement classroom learning. Homework may be assigned in elementary grades and must be reasonable for each grade level. To be reasonable, such work should cover known processes or skills without involving special instructions.

### **School Visitations**

Adults are welcome to visit the school or a specific classroom. The visit must be scheduled with the principal. Please do not bring preschool children with you when visiting your child's classroom. Visitors are required to check in at the office when coming into the building. Visitors needing additional information regarding visitation should review or request a copy of school board policy KAAA-Visitors in the School.

### **Classroom Visitation by Non-District Students**

These visitations are considered to be distracting and generally are discouraged. If they are approved by the building principal, this visitation should be of short duration, not to exceed one-half day.

### **Animals**

Animals shall not be brought to school without prior approval from the principal and teacher. All animals must be vaccinated prior to bringing them to school. The parents must bring the animal to school and take it home immediately after showing his/her class. Proof of rabies vaccination will be required for dogs and cats.

### **Transfer of Students**

Please notify the teacher and the office if your children are transferring to another school out of the school district. If you wish to transfer within the district a transfer request form must be completed and submitted to the student's current school. Appropriate records, supplies, and materials will be sent to schools when a transfer occurs within the Dickinson Public School system. Transfers within the district must be approved by the Central Administration Staff and the building principal.

### **Positive Behavior Support**

School is important to a student's success in life; therefore, all people in a school should be treated with dignity and respect. The district has adopted a positive behavior support model to promote desired student behavior and believes the adults in a school bear the ultimate responsibility for making a school safe, civil, and productive. School personnel have high expectations for students and students should receive positive feedback on their behavioral efforts. Our schools are structured for student success and the classrooms are structured to promote positive behaviors. Firm and clear limits for students are established and directly taught to students. Student misbehavior is corrected calmly and consistently. Addressing chronic student misbehavior is a collaborative responsibility involving the entire staff and parents. Parents should be advised promptly when students begin to get into difficulty which might lead to suspension. Teachers design their own classroom management plans which conform to the positive behavior support model.

The Board recognizes that reasonable physical force may occasionally be necessary to guard the safety and well being of student or employees or to deliver a student to an administrator's office; however, the use of corporal punishment, defined as the willful infliction of physical pain on a students, is not allowed in the Dickinson Public Schools. Corporal punishment does not include action taken by an employee for self-defense, protection of persons or property, obtaining possession of a weapon or other dangerous object, to quell a verbal disturbance or for the preservation of order.

### **Suspension and Expulsion**

#### **Definitions**

For the purposes of this policy:

- *School property* is defined as all land within the perimeter of the school site and all school buildings, structures, facilities, and school vehicles, whether owned or leased by the District, and the site of any school-sponsored activity.
- *Suspension* includes out-of-school exclusion from school classes, buildings, grounds, and activities.

#### **Suspension/Expulsion Authority**

The Board hereby delegates to the Superintendent and each principal the authority to deal with disciplinary problems in his/her school, including suspension and recommendation for expulsion of a student. Suspension shall not be imposed beyond the maximum duration permitted by law.

The Board designates the Superintendent to serve as the hearing officer for expulsion hearings unless not qualified to serve as defined in board regulations. In such cases, the Board shall appoint an alternative hearing officer. The hearing officer may expel a student for conduct that violates this policy after providing notice and a hearing as set forth in board regulations. When the hearing officer is someone other than the Dickinson Public School Board, the student may seek a review of the hearing officer's expulsion decision by the Board based on the record of the hearing.

Expulsion shall not be imposed beyond the maximum duration permitted by law.

**Conduct Subject to Suspension/Expulsion**

Conduct, including but not limited to the following, exhibited while on school grounds, during a school-sponsored activity, or during a school-related activity is subject to suspension or expulsion:

1. Causing or attempting to cause damage to school property or stealing or attempting to steal school property.
2. Causing or attempting to cause damage to private property or stealing or attempting to steal private property;
3. Causing or attempting to cause physical injury to another person except in self-defense;
4. Possessing or transmitting any firearms, knives, explosives, or other dangerous objects or weapons;
5. Possessing, using, transmitting, or being under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant of any kind;
6. Disobedience or defiance of proper authority;
7. Behavior that is detrimental to the welfare, safety, or morals of other students;
8. Truancy;
9. Offensive and vulgar language, whether or not it is obscene, defamatory, or inciteful to violence, where it is disruptive of the educational process;
10. Threats of violence, bomb threats, or threats of injury to individuals or property;
11. Any student behavior that is detrimental or disruptive to the educational process, as determined by the principal.

Copies of these rules shall be posted in a prominent place in each school and shall be published in student handbooks.

**Suspension or Expulsion of Students with Disabilities**

Suspension or expulsion of students with disabilities must comply with the provisions of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

The District is not required to refer a regular education student who has been suspended for violation of school rules and/or district policy for special education assessment and evaluation to determine if such a student might have a disability. A suspended regular education student is not entitled to reinstatement to classroom and campus privileges pending any assessment and evaluation that is to be made during the term of the student's suspension.

## **Medication**

By law a student who has been diagnosed with asthma or anaphylaxis may possess and self-administer emergency medication for the treatment of such conditions provided the student's parent files with the school a document that is signed by the student's physician and which:

- \* Indicates that the student has been instructed in the self-administration of emergency medication for the treatment of asthma or anaphylaxis;
- \* Lists the name, dosage, and frequency of all medication prescribed to the student for use in the treatment of the student's asthma or anaphylaxis; and
- \* Includes guidelines for the treatment of the student in the case of an asthmatic episode or anaphylaxis.

Neither a school district nor any employee of the district is liable for civil damages incurred by a student who administers emergency medication to himself or herself, or an individual because a student was permitted to possess emergency medication.

Parents shall make every effort to have medication administration times set for time periods other than school hours. When this is not possible, the Dickinson Public School District staff may assist in the administration of medication during school hours. The Dickinson Public School District retains the right to refuse to administer medications or provide other medical treatments. In no case should a staff member recommend or prescribe, nor require medication nor require medication as a condition of attending school.

No prescriptive or non-prescriptive medicine will be allowed in school unless the stated procedures are followed:

- \* No prescription or nonprescription medication will be administered by school personnel unless authorized by parent/guardian or prescribed by a licensed prescriber, and an authorization form is signed by a parent or legal guardian and if required, a health care provider. (ACBD-E1, E2, E3, and E4)
- \* Prescription medication must be in a container with a label prepared by a pharmacist. Nonprescription medication must be in the original container labeled with the student's name and dosage. Prescription and nonprescription medications must be hand delivered to the school personnel by the parent/guardian.

- \* Medications are to be properly labeled with student's name, name of medication, dosage amount, frequency of administering, name and telephone number of pharmacy, prescription number, and doctor's name.
- \* School personnel will keep a separate record of administering medication, noting date, time and initials of person administering the medication.
- \* The parent is to make the school personnel aware of any side effects and who to notify in case of emergency.
- \* Any change in type or amount of medication must be approved by a parent (a new approval form must be signed and completed.)
- A form to authorize the administration of medication must be signed by parent or guardian and kept in the school office and updated annually.

### **Physical Education**

Proper athletic footwear is required. For safety purposes a secure, non-slip, non-marking shoe is preferred. One pair of shoes is sufficient as long as they are clean.

If girls wear a dress or skirt, a pair of shorts should be worn underneath.

If there is a good reason for a student not to participate in physical education class, a note signed by the parent or guardian should be sent to the physical education specialist. Extended excuses (5 consecutive days) must be signed by a doctor.

### **Rights of Custodial/Non-Custodial Parents**

Without a court order showing sole guardianship, the school will treat both the custodial and non-custodial parent in the same manner, with reference to viewing and receiving educational records or information, the right to know in which school the child is in attendance, and the right to talk to his/her child during the school day provided that privilege is accorded to the custodial parent.

With a court order, grandparent(s) will be entitled to the privileges mentioned above provided either of the natural parents, regardless of custodial rights, consents to the release of educational records, information and visiting privileges to the grandparent(s).

### **First Aid/Accidents**

In the event an accident occurs within the school, or a student or other individual becomes suddenly ill, the responsibility of the school personnel is to provide emergency care, notify parent or guardian and, in serious instances, summon necessary medical care.

In the event a child becomes acutely ill or is seriously injured during school hours, the school will inform the parents/guardian, who will make the decision whether to pick up the child at the school or meet the child at the hospital. If the school is unable to reach the parents or if they choose to meet the child at the hospital, the child may be transported by school personnel or by ambulance at the discretion of the principal or his/her designee. If the school is unable to reach the parents, an attempt will be made to contact the child's personal physician as designated on the student's record. The district's policy and regulations on concussion management shall supersede any district emergency response policies/regulations when the concussion management policy/regulations are applicable.

### **Allergy Aware School**

There are children attending Dickinson Public Schools who have life-threatening allergies to peanuts and tree nuts. The teachers and staff strive to provide a safe environment for all students. Therefore, your cooperation is requested to avoid exposure of these allergens to students. Parents are requested to avoid sending any snacks or items containing peanuts, peanut oils and/or tree nuts with your child to school. Parents should read labels before sending foods with their child to school. If your child has eaten peanuts/nuts before coming to school please be sure your child's hands and face have been thoroughly washed before entering school. Available at the school, and to parents upon request, is a list of healthy alternative snack suggestions.



## SAFETY

As a community, we are concerned about the safety of our children, Dickinson Public Schools and the Dickinson Police Department are requesting parents and children to please cooperate by teaching and adhering to the following safety tips:

- \* Select the safest route to school
- \* Teach safe walking habits
- \* Cross at crosswalks
- \* Avoid unsafe roadways
- \* Young children should not walk alone
- \* Set a good example
- \* Stay away from high-traffic areas
- \* **Pull over to the side of the street where the school is located for loading and unloading**
- \* **Do not double park when loading and unloading children**
- \* Safe bus behavior is good behavior
- \* Follow the rules of the road
- \* Choose a safe cycling route
- \* Park bikes in bike racks
- \* Stay a safe distance from the curb until the bus comes to a complete stop and the doors open
- \* Use student loading zones
- \* Schools will provide fire drill and tornado alert procedures
- \* Above all - obey all regulation signs

The importance of abiding by the rules, regulations, signs, and keeping safety in mind at all times cannot be overemphasized, as they are there for a purpose --THE SAFETY OF OUR CHILDREN AND MOTORISTS ALIKE

### Lock Downs

During a lock down no person, with the exception of an official, will be allowed to leave or enter a Dickinson Public School District Building. Lock downs are initiated to protect students and staff by limiting individuals with unknown intentions from entering the building. In some instances an outside threat may not be identifiable and allowing parents or the public into the building would place our students and staff at a risk. During a lock down administrative staff are engaged in protecting the building from possible inside or outside threats. Please do not attempt to contact the individual school or pick up your child during a lock down. We understand this may cause an inconvenience, but our hope is, you understand we have your child and hundreds more safety at interest.

## DICKINSON PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT PROGRAMS

### Curriculum

The following outline lists the curriculum and the textbooks used in each curricular area.

\* *Reading, Writing, Phonics, Spelling*

*Writing Workshop*

-Lucy Calkins Units of Study (Gr. K-5)

*Reading Workshop*

~~-Kathy Collins Growing Readers (Gr. K-2)~~

-Lucy Calkins Units of Study ~~(Gr. 3-5)~~ (Gr. K-5)

*Phonics* - Fountas and Pinnell Phonics (Gr. K-1)

*Word Study / Spelling* - Words Their Way (Gr. 2-5)

*Handwriting Without Tears* (Gr. K-4)

~~-Reader's Journey~~ (Gr. 6), Pearson

~~-Nancie Atwell's Lessons That Change Writers~~ (Gr. 6),  
Heinemann

\* *Mathematics*

- Investigations In Number, Data and Space (Gr K-5),  
Pearson

- Connected Mathematics 3 (Gr. 6), Pearson

- Connected Mathematics 3 (Gr. 6), Pearson

\* *Science / Health*

- Macmillan/McGraw-Hill, A Closer Look

- Community Developed Objectives, Resources and  
Materials

\* *Social Studies*

- Trade books and multiple resources (K-3)

- Harcourt Social Studies (Gr. 4-6)

- North Dakota Studies (Gr.4)

\* *Fine Arts*

- Music Play 2014

- Band (Gr. 5-6)

- Art

- \* *Technology*  
Technology will be integrated into the existing curriculum for all K-6 grade students.
- \* *Drug Prevention/Education Programs*  
These programs approach drug prevention through the areas of developing a positive self-concept, learning how to use value clarification, developing decision-making skills, developing a critical attitude towards drug usage, and increasing one's over-all knowledge of one's self and of drugs.
- \* *Gifted/Talented*  
The goal of Dickinson Public Schools' gifted and talented program is to provide a differentiated, enriched academic environment for students with advanced learning abilities through a Levels of Service model. This program will utilize instructional methods and materials designed to develop thinking processes that enhance independent study and personal effectiveness.
- \* *Changing Program*  
The Changing Program has been incorporated into the health program providing information about the physical and emotional changes children are or will be experiencing during puberty (Gr. 5-6). This program includes parental meetings.
- \* *Presidential Award for Educational Excellence.*  
An award given to sixth grade students who have attained an A-average in all academic subjects during their years in elementary school and who have scored at or above the 85th percentile in reading or math on standardized tests.
- \* *Project Northland*  
~~Project Northland is a program for sixth grade students that strives to reduce at-risk behaviors in preteen and early adolescent students.~~

## **Kindergarten**

The Dickinson Public School Board has established kindergarten in its schools according to law. Attendance is not compulsory but is highly encouraged. By law (NDCC 15-47-01), a child must have attained the age of five prior to August 1. An early entrance test may be scheduled for exceptional cases; however, in no case may a child enter if not five years old, prior to December 1 of the school year.

The Dickinson Public School District provides full day everyday Kindergarten.

### **Curriculum/Programs:**

- \* **Social/Emotional Growth**
  - Development of self-concept
  - Maturity
  
- \* **Cognitive Development**
  - Language experiences
  - Reading
  - Writing
  - Math skills
  - Science experiences
  
- \* **Physical Development**
  - Gross motor skills
  - Fine motor skills
  
- \* **Creativity**
  - Music
  - Drama
  - Art

## Student Progress

### Report Cards

Dickinson Public Schools is transitioning to a standards based report card in grades K-5. The language arts portion of the report card in grades K-5 and the mathematics portion for grades K-2 will be standards based. It is our intention to add additional content areas in the future.

Standards based report cards provide information to parents and students regarding the student's ability on specific learning targets or standards. The feedback on the report card indicates what the student has learned or is able to do. This provides a clearer picture on both what the expectations are for student learning and also how individual students are progressing during the year. Report cards are issued every nine-week period.

Parents and students in grades K through 6 can access student grades online through the Power School electronic student information system. For general information about using web access, visit the district wide website at [www.dickinson.k12.nd.us](http://www.dickinson.k12.nd.us) and click on the Power School Parent Access link.

### Grading

The following percentages will be used to determine letter grades in some subject areas, in grades three through six.

94 - 100	A
86 - 93	B
78 - 85	C
70 - 77	D
Below 70	Unsatisfactory

Grades will be recorded for each student's permanent school files and will be used for reporting to parents. School grades and other related personal information concerning a student are considered confidential. Only those who have a legal right to know such confidential information will have access to the school records.

### Assessments

- North Dakota State Assessment (Gr. 3-6)
- NWEA (Northwest Evaluation Association - Gr. K -6)
- NAEP Test (National Assessment of Student Progress - Gr. 4)
- ESGI-Kindergarten
- Benchmark Assessment (Gr. K-5)

### **Student Services**

Dickinson Public Schools offer a variety of special services to assist in the education of each individual child. Parents, teachers, administrators, and specialists meet to formulate educational plans that can best meet the needs of individual students.

Services include:

- Title I
- Special education services available for students with disabilities
- Counseling
- Enrichment for special talents
- Homebound/Hospital
- 504 Accommodations

## STUDENT RULES/REGULATIONS

### Building Regulations

- \* *Morning Entry* - The school building will be open for early admittance during inclement weather; however, the children must stay in the area assigned by the principal. It is desirable that children do not come before 7:45 a.m.
- \* *Supervision*—There is no supervision at the elementary buildings prior to 7:30 a.m. or 1/2 hour after school is released.
- \* *Running* - Running in the school building hallways and classrooms is prohibited.
- \* *Telephone* - Use of the school telephone will be restricted to calls deemed necessary by a teacher, the secretary, or principal. Children will be called out of classes only on an emergency basis. Permission to play at a friend's house should be arranged in advance. All cell phones must be turned off at all times and stored in the student's backpack and/or locker.
- \* *Food* - Students are not permitted to chew gum, eat candy, or sunflower seeds in the building or playground at any time during the school day without teacher permission.
- \* *Leaving the School* - Students may not leave the school building or playground during the school day, unless written permission has been given by the parents and/or principal.
- \* *Dismissal Time* - Unless otherwise informed, students are to leave the building and the school grounds at dismissal time.
- \* *Restrooms* - Loitering or inappropriate behavior in the restrooms is not allowed.
- \* *Bus Area* - No play or boisterous activities will be permitted in the bus loading areas.
- \* *Hard Play Items* - No hard baseballs, bats, softballs, golf balls, or superballs will be permitted at school.
- \* *Bicycles* - Bicycles are not to be ridden on the playground at any time. All bikes are to be walked on to the playground and parked in the bike racks, if space is available.
- \* *Throwing Objects* - Throwing snowballs, rocks or other hard objects is forbidden.

- \* *Leaving Playground* - Students who remain at school for the noon hour are not to leave the playground without written permission from home.
- \* *Dangerous Toys* - Items or toys deemed dangerous to students by a member of the staff will be collected and returned to the parents of the students.
- \* *Rollerblades, Heelys and Skateboards* - Are not allowed on the playground or school building at any time, unless prior permission is granted by the principal.
- \* *Profanity* - Profanity (swearing) on school property will result in disciplinary action as determined by the building level principal and/or the school discipline policy.
- \* *Undesirable Behavior* - including bullying / harassment will not be tolerated and will result in disciplinary action as determined by the building level principal and / or the school disciplinary policy.

#### **General Regulations**

- \* *Dress Code* - Students are expected to maintain an appearance that does not detract from the educational program. Student dress should be modest and age appropriate. Clothing that displays offensive graphics or lettering or illustrates illegal drugs, alcohol, or tobacco products has proven to be disruptive to the school environment and are not acceptable. Likewise, clothing that is too revealing and/or sexually provocative is neither modest nor age-appropriate and is not acceptable. Tops must completely cover the stomach/midriff area and all undergarments. Tennis shoes or other appropriate gym shoes are required for safety reasons during physical education classes.
- \* *Damage Fees* - Students will be required to pay for destruction, defacement, or loss of school property. Replacement cost and normal wear will be taken into consideration on the items being assessed.
- \* *After School* - All students who are staying after school longer than 15 minutes, will notify their parents/guardian of the delay.
- \* *Deliveries to Students* - The Dickinson School Board is committed to providing an effective educational environment which is conducive to learning at all levels. An essential ingredient of this environment is a minimizing of disruptions to the educational process during the school day.

As per ~~the~~ Board regulation, **it is** the philosophy of the Dickinson School Board not to permit the delivery of gifts to students in any school building during the normal school day.



## BULLYING PREVENTION POLICY (ACEA)

### Definitions

For the purposes of this policy:

Bullying – Definition. As used in sections 15.1-19-17 through 15.1-19-22:

“Bullying” means:

- a. Conduct that occurs in a public school, on school district premises, in a district owned or leased school bus or school vehicle, or at any public school or school district sanctioned or sponsored activity or event and which:
    1. Is so severe, pervasive, or objectively offensive that it substantially interferes with the student’s educational opportunities;
    2. Places the student in actual and reasonable fear of harm;
    3. Places the student in actual and reasonable fear of damage to property of the student; or
    4. Substantially disrupts the orderly operation of the public school; or
  - b. Conduct that is received by a student while the student is in a public school, on school district premises, in a district owned or leased school bus or school vehicle, or at any public school or school district
  - c. sanctioned or sponsored activity or event and which:
    1. Is so severe, pervasive, or objectively offensive that it substantially interferes with the student’s educational opportunities;
    2. Places the student in actual and reasonable fear of harm;
    3. Places the student in actual and reasonable fear of damage to property of the student; or
    4. Substantially disrupts the orderly operation of the public school.
- “Conduct” includes the use of technology or other electronic media.

~~\*Protected classes statuses are defined in the district’s Nondiscrimination and Anti-harassment policy (AAC) classifications/characteristics protected from discrimination by NDCC 14-02.4-01 and federal law. The following classes are protected: race, color, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry, age, disability (physical or mental), and status with regard to marriage or public assistance, or other status protected by law.~~

\*School property or the term *on-campus* refers to all property owned or leased by the District, school buses and other vehicles, or any school district sponsored or school-sanctioned activity.

\*School-sponsored activity is an activity that the District has approved through policy or other board action for inclusion in the district’s extra-curricular program and is controlled and funded primarily by the District.

*\*School-sanctioned activity* is defined as an activity that:

- a. Is not part of the district's curricular or extracurricular program; and
- b. Is established by a sponsor to serve in the absence of a district program; and
- c. Receives district support in multiple ways (i.e., not school facility use alone); and
- d. Sponsors of the activity have agreed to comply with this policy; and
- e. The District has officially recognized through board action as a school-sanctioned activity.

*\*School staff* shall include all employees of the Dickinson Public School District, school volunteers, and sponsors of school-sanctioned activities.

*\*True threat* is a statement that, in light of the circumstances, a reasonable person would perceive as a serious expression of intent to inflict harm.

### **Prohibitions**

While at a public school, on school district premises, in a district-owned or leased school bus or school vehicle, or at any public school or school district sanctioned or sponsored activity or event, a student, staff member or school volunteer may not:

1. Engage in bullying;
2. Engage in reprisal or retaliation against:
  - a. A victim of bullying;
  - b. An individual who witnesses an alleged act of bullying;
  - c. An individual who reports an alleged act of bullying; or
  - d. An individual who provides information/participates in an investigation about an alleged act of bullying.
3. Knowingly file a false bullying report with the District.

Off-campus bullying that is received on school property is also prohibited. The District has limited disciplinary authority to respond to such forms of bullying.

### **Reporting Procedures for Alleged Policy Violations**

1. Reporting requirements for school staff: Any school staff member with knowledge or suspicion of a violation of this policy or who has received an oral or written report of a violation of this policy from a student, community member, or anonymously shall contact the building principal to inform him/her as soon as possible. If the alleged violation implicates the building principal, the school staff member shall report it to the Superintendent. If the alleged violation implicates the Superintendent, the school staff member shall file it with the Board President. Should school administration determine that a school staff member knew of or suspected a violation of this policy and failed to report it in accordance with the procedure above, the staff member may be subject to disciplinary consequences or, for sponsors of school-sanctioned activities, other corrective measures.

2. Reporting options for students and community members: Students and community members (including parents) may report known or suspected violations of this policy using any of the following methods:
  - a. Completing a written complaint form: A complainant will have the option of including his/her name on this form or filing it anonymously. The District will place the form in a variety of locations throughout the school and should inform students and staff of these locations. The form may be returned to any school staff member or filed in a school building's main office.
  - b. Complete and submit an online complaint form. A complainant will have the option of including his/her name on the form or submitting it anonymously.
  - c. File an oral report with any school staff member.

A complaint filed anonymously may limit the district's ability to investigate and respond to the alleged violations.

#### **Reporting to Law Enforcement & Others Forms of Redress**

Anytime a school staff member has reasonable suspicion that a bullying incident constituted a crime, s/he shall report it to law enforcement. Also, nothing in this policy shall prevent a victim/his/her family from seeking redress under state and federal law.

#### **Documentation & Retention**

The District shall develop a form to report alleged violations of this policy. The form should be completed by school staff when they:

1. Initiate a report of an alleged violation of this policy; or
2. Receive an oral report of an alleged violation of this policy.

The form should be completed by an administrator when s/he:

1. Initiates a report of an alleged violation of this policy; or
2. Receives an oral report of an alleged violation of this policy.

All written reports of an alleged violation of this policy received by the District shall be forwarded to the appropriate school administrator for investigation and retention.

Report forms and all other documentation related to an investigation of an alleged violation of this policy shall be retained by the District for six years after a student turns 18 or graduates from high school, whichever is later. If a student does not graduate from the District, such reports and investigation material shall be retained for six years after the student turns 18.

#### **Investigation Procedures**

School administrators (i.e., a principal, an assistant superintendent, or the Superintendent) are required to investigate violations of this policy (as prescribed under "Prohibitions"), when in receipt of actual notice of an alleged violation. Actual notice of an alleged violation occurs when alleged bullying, reprisal, retaliation, or false reporting is reported using the applicable method(s) prescribed in the reporting section of this policy.

Upon receipt of a report of an alleged policy violation, the designated administrator shall first determine if the alleged policy violation is based on a protected **class status**—whether actual or perceived. Reports involving a protected **class status** shall be investigated in accordance with the district's harassment/discrimination policy, including the timelines contained therein.

In all other cases, administration shall determine the level of investigation necessary based on the nature of the alleged violation of this policy after considering factors such as, but not limited to: the identity of the reporter and his/her relationship to the victim/alleged perpetrator; the ages of the parties involved; the detail, content, and context of the report; whether this report is the first of its type filed against the alleged perpetrator. Based on the level of investigation the administrator deems necessary, investigations may include any or all of the following steps or any other investigatory steps that the administrator deems necessary:

1. Identification and collection of necessary and obtainable physical evidence  
(NOTE: In some cases physical evidence may be unobtainable, e.g., a private social networking profile);
2. Interviews with the complainant, the victim, and/or the alleged perpetrator. At no time during an investigation under this policy shall the victim/complainant be required to meet with the alleged perpetrator;
3. Interviews with any identified witnesses;
4. A review of any mitigating or extenuating circumstances;
5. Final analysis and issuance of findings in writing to the victim and bully and, if applicable, implementation of victim protection measures and disciplinary measures under this or other applicable policies.

Investigations shall be completed within 60 days unless the administrator documents good cause for extending this deadline. Such documentation should be sent to victim and alleged perpetrator during the investigation.

#### **Disciplinary & Corrective Measures**

Students that the District has found to have violated this policy shall be subject to disciplinary consequences and/or corrective measures. When determining the appropriate response to violations of this policy, administration shall take into account the totality of circumstances surrounding the violation. Measures that may be imposed include, but are not limited to:

1. Require the student to attend detention;
2. Impose in or out-of-school suspension or recommend expulsion. Due process procedures contained in the district's suspension and expulsion policy shall be followed;
3. Recommend alternative placement. This recommendation shall be submitted to the Superintendent for approval or denial. The Superintendent may approve such recommendations only if the student has been given notice of the charges against him/her and an opportunity to respond;
4. Create a behavioral adjustment plan;
5. Refer the student to a school counselor;
6. Hold a conference with the student's parent/guardian and classroom teacher(s), and other applicable school staff;
7. Modify the perpetrator's schedule and take other appropriate measures (e.g., moving locker) to minimize contact with the victim;
8. If applicable, contact the administrator of the website on which the bullying occurred to report it.

If the misconduct does not meet this policy's definition of bullying, it may be addressed under other district disciplinary policies.

For bullying initiated off campus and received on campus (e.g. cyberbullying), the District only has authority to impose disciplinary measures if the bullying substantially disrupted the educational environment or posed a true threat. In all other cases of off campus bullying received on campus, the District may only take corrective measures as described in items five through eight above.

If the perpetrator is a school staff member, the District shall take appropriate disciplinary action including, but not limited to: a reprimand, modification of duties (only if allowed by applicable policy, the negotiated agreement, and/or the individual's contract), suspension, or a recommendation for termination/discharge in accordance with any applicable law.

#### **Victim Protection Strategies**

When the District confirms that a violation of this policy has occurred, it should notify the victim's parents and shall implement victim protection strategies. These strategies shall be developed on a case-by-case basis after administration has reviewed the totality of the circumstances surrounding the bullying incident(s) or other violations of this policy. Strategies may include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Additional training for all students and applicable staff on implementation of this policy and/or bullying prevention.
2. Notice to the victim's teachers and other staff to monitor the victim and his/her interaction with peers and/or the assignment of a staff member to escort the student between classes.
3. Assignment of district staff to monitor, more frequently, areas in the school where bullying has occurred.
4. Referral to counseling services for the victim and perpetrator.
5. Modification of the perpetrator's schedule and other appropriate measures imposed on the perpetrator (not the victim) to minimize the perpetrator's contact with the victim.

#### **Prevention Programs & Professional Development Activities**

In accordance with law, the District shall develop and implement bullying prevention programs for all students and staff professional development activities.

## SCHOOL LUNCH/BREAKFAST/MILK PROGRAMS

The school lunch/breakfast program will serve well-balanced meals for students who wish to eat at school. Weekly menus will be published in The Dickinson Press. Any amount of money can be credited to a child's meal account. The Accu-Scan will deduct the cost of the meal whenever the child eats. Students who bring their lunch from home will eat with their class in the cafeteria.

Free/reduced price lunch applications are available in the school office.

Lunch menus are designed to contain the following items:

Meat or Meat Alternate - minimum daily required amounts are one ounce for grades K-8.

Whole Grain Bread or Bread Alternate - minimum daily required amounts are one ounce for K-8.

Milk - 8 oz. per day.

Fruit daily amount required to be offered is 1/2 cup for grades K-8.

Vegetable daily amount required to be offered is 3/4 cup for K-8.

All five required food components are offered to all students **to meet recommended calories at each grade level.**

**The student must select at least a 1/2 cup of fruit or vegetable or a mixture.**

Students must take at least three of the five food items that are offered, in order for the meal to be counted as a reimbursable meal.

Breakfast is available to students in all elementary schools.

**Breakfast menus contain:- Students are offered:**

Milk - 8 oz. per day.

Fruit - 1 cup per day.

Bread (whole grain) - minimum of 1 oz. per day.

**Students must take three food items and one food item must be at least 1/2 cup fruit to be counted as a reimbursable meal.**

A milk break program is available to all students at a cost based on current rates. Check with the school office for payment method. Participating students receive 1 cup of milk daily. The milk program is not covered by the free/reduced lunch application.

## HEALTH

Good health is an important factor in a child's educational development. A healthy child will have better attendance, avoid lost instructional time, and be more receptive and alert in the classroom. A daily schedule that provides regular and adequate rest and diet is perhaps the major contribution that can be made to maintain a child's health.

Proper clothing, especially during the winter season, is also an important factor in maintaining good health.

## TRANSPORTATION

Parents with children riding rural buses must sign a written contract prior to the start of bus service. Interested parents are responsible for a **monthly** busing fee. Contact the Central Administration Office at 701-456-0002.

**A-shuttle In town** bus service is **provided available** for some students who reside within the city limits **for a fee**. Students who qualify for this service are:

- Students who live north of Interstate 94.
- Students who live east of 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue East.
- Students who live west of State Avenue.
- Students who live south of the railroad tracks.

Parents of children who are not eligible for the **shuttle in town** bus service, nor rural transportation services, are responsible for transporting their child (ren) to and from school. An exception may be for certain situations involving special education children when they are placed outside their neighborhood school. Specific services and legal obligations are available through the Director of Student Services office by calling 701-456-0002.

## BUS LIMITS/ROUTES/FEEES

Transportation on school district buses or family transportation payments will be offered to all students who live outside incorporated city limits but within Dickinson Public School District boundaries. Details and policies are available by contacting the Administrative Assistant for Transportation at 701-456-0002.

The school bus routes and bus fees are established by the School Board to help cover the cost of the total busing program.

## EMERGENCY CLOSING PROCEDURE

If there is any doubt about school being open or closed, parents/guardians are asked to listen to radio stations KDIX 1230 AM, KLTC 1460 AM, KDXN 105.7 FM, and KCAD 99.1 FM and KXDI 94 FM. The district Alert Solutions message (automated telephone message) will be activated should weather conditions warrant the closing of schools or early dismissal. Residents are requested not to telephone the school office or central office when weather is bad. Too many calls tie up vital phone lines, making it difficult to keep everything running smoothly.

In the event of other emergencies not related to weather that might require the schools to close or be evacuated during the school day, all district staff will follow the steps outlined in the district Emergency Procedures Manual to ensure the safety and well-being of all children in the schools.

## **HOME BOUND/HOSPITAL INSTRUCTION**

The Dickinson Public School District will provide one hour per day home bound or hospital instruction if a student is out of school for a week or longer. It is required that a parent, or other adult arranged for by the parent, be present in the home while home bound instruction is being provided. Home bound or hospital instruction will be considered in the following situations:

- \* A child has an operation or condition which requires home bound instruction for longer than a week;
- \* A student's condition relapses requiring periodic excused absences from school. Arrangements will be made to match home instruction to the needs of the student;
- \* If a student is hospitalized in another North Dakota city or out of state, arrangements will be made with the school district where the hospital is located to provide hospital instruction. This instruction will be paid by the Dickinson Public School District.

In order to receive home bound or hospital instruction, a statement from a physician must accompany the request. The statement from the physician must indicate the medical condition that warrants home bound/hospital instruction and the length of time that the student will need to be home bound/hospitalized. If the medical condition is long-term, an updated statement from the physician must be submitted to the building administrator each school quarter in order for the home bound/hospital instruction to continue. This updated statement must indicate the continuation of the medical condition and continued need for home bound/hospital instruction.

A parent should contact the building principal to give needed information regarding the student's condition. The principal will contact the Director of Student Services who will make arrangements for the home bound or hospital instructional program. The final approval of this service will be made by the Director. Please contact the Director of Student Services at the Central Administration Office with any questions (701-456-0002).



## **Model Notification of Rights under FERPA for Elementary and Secondary Schools (FGAE2)**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students who are 18 years of age or older ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days after the day the school receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal, or appropriate school official, a written request that identifies the records they wish to inspect. The school official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected in accordance with board regulation FGA-BR.
2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA. Parents or eligible students who wish to ask the school to amend a record should write the school principal, or appropriate school official, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it should be changed. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the school will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.
3. The right to provide written consent before the school discloses personally identifiable information (PII) from the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. **(See complete list on pp. 3-4 of this document).**

One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the school as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel), or a person serving on the school board. A school official also may include a volunteer or contractor outside of the school who 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, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist; or 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 has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

Upon request, the school discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll, or is already enrolled if the disclosure is for purposes of the student's enrollment or transfer.

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

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

Also, federal law permits a school district to identify certain information as “directory information” which may be released publicly without permission of the parents/guardians. The district identified this information as the following: student’s name, address, telephone listing, photographs, date and place of birth, major field of study, dates of attendance, grade level, electronic personal identifier, institutional electronic mail address, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of athletes, degrees, honors and awards received, and the most recent educational institution attended. If you do not want this information released, please contact the school principal within five school days from the date this student handbook is received.

#### **Disclosure of PII without Consent**

FERPA permits the disclosure of PII from students’ education records, without consent of the parent or eligible student, if the disclosure meets certain conditions found in §99.31 of the FERPA regulations. Except for disclosures to school officials, disclosures related to some judicial orders or lawfully issued subpoenas, disclosures of directory information, and disclosures to the parent or eligible student, §99.32 of the FERPA regulations requires the school to record the disclosure. Parents and eligible students have a right to inspect and review the record of disclosures. A school may disclose PII from the education records of a student without obtaining prior written consent of the parents or the eligible student:

1. To other school officials, as defined in #3 above, within the educational agency or institution whom the school has determined to have legitimate educational interests. This may include contractors, consultants, volunteers, or other parties to whom the school has outsourced institutional services or functions, provided that the conditions listed in §99.31(a)(1)(i)(B)(1) - (a)(1)(i)(B)(2) are met. (§99.31(a)(1))
2. To officials of another school, school system, or institution of postsecondary education where the student seeks or intends to enroll, or where the student is already enrolled if the disclosure is for purposes related to the student’s enrollment or transfer, subject to the requirements of §99.34. (§99.31(a)(2))
3. To authorized representatives of the U. S. Comptroller General, the U. S. Attorney General, the U.S. Secretary of Education, or State and local educational authorities, such as the State educational agency in the parent or eligible student’s State (SEA). Disclosures under this

provision may be made, subject to the requirements of §99.35, in connection with an audit or evaluation of Federal- or State-supported education programs, or for the enforcement of or compliance with Federal legal requirements that relate to those programs. These entities may make further disclosures of PII to outside entities that are designated by them as their authorized representatives to conduct any audit, evaluation, or enforcement or compliance activity on their behalf. (§§99.31(a)(3) and 99.35)

4. In connection with financial aid for which the student has applied or which the student has received, if the information is necessary to determine eligibility for the aid, determine the amount of the aid, determine the conditions of the aid, or enforce the terms and conditions of the aid. (§99.31(a)(4))
5. To state and local officials or authorities to whom information is specifically allowed to be reported or disclosed by a state statute that concerns the juvenile justice system and the system's ability to effectively serve, prior to adjudication, the student whose records were released, subject to §99.38. (§99.31(a)(5))
6. To organizations conducting studies for, or on behalf of, the school, in order to: develop, validate, or administer predictive tests; administer student aid programs; or improve instruction. (§99.31(a)(6))
7. To accrediting organizations to carry out their accrediting functions. (§99.31(a)(7))
8. To parents of an eligible student if the student is a dependent for IRS tax purposes. (§99.31(a)(8))
9. To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena. (§99.31(a)(9))
10. To appropriate officials in connection with a health or safety emergency, subject to §99.36. (§99.31(a)(10))
11. Information the school has designated as "directory information" under §99.37. (§99.31(a)(11))

#### NOTICE OF DIRECTORY INFORMATION (FGA-E)

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), a Federal law, requires that Dickinson School District, with certain exceptions, obtain your written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child's education records. However, Dickinson School District may disclose appropriately designated "directory information" without written consent, unless you have advised the District to the contrary in accordance with district procedures.

The primary purpose of directory information is to allow the Dickinson School District to include this type of information from your child's education records in certain school publications. Examples include:

1. A playbill, showing your student's role in a drama production;
2. The annual yearbook;
3. Honor roll or other recognition lists;
4. Graduation programs; and
5. Sports activity sheets, such as for wrestling, showing weight and height of team members.

Directory information, which is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks. In addition, two federal laws require school districts receiving assistance under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) to provide military recruiters, upon request, with three directory information categories--names, addresses and telephone listings--unless parents have advised the School District that they do not want their student's information disclosed without their prior written consent.

If you do not want Dickinson School District to disclose directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the school/District in writing **within two weeks of the first day child is enrolled**. Dickinson School District has designated the following information as directory information: *Note: an LEA may, but does not have to, include all the information listed below.*

1. Address
2. Date and place of birth
3. Dates of attendance
4. Degrees, honors, and awards received
5. Electronic personal identifier
6. Grade level
7. Institutional electronic mail address
8. Major field of study
9. Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
10. Photograph
11. Student's name
12. Telephone listing
13. Weight and height of members of athletic teams
14. Most recent educational agency or institution attended.

An opt out request form is available at any of the schools and also the Dickinson Public Schools website (FGA-Exhibit).

## **Student Education Records Access and Amendment Procedure (FGA-BR)**

### **Reviewing an Educational Record**

The District will comply with a parent/guardian/eligible student's right to inspect educational records. This right will be granted using the following procedure:

- A request to view an educational record shall be granted by the deadline in law (45 days).
- A request may be made in writing to the building principal.
- The principal shall notify the parent/guardian/eligible student of the time and place when a record may be inspected.
- **The building principal shall require the requestor to submit/show a form of state or federally-issued identification to verify the identity of the requestor if the requestor is unknown to the principal.**
- The principal or designee shall be present when the parent/guardian/eligible student reviews the record.
- If circumstances prevent a parent/guardian/eligible student from reviewing the educational record at the school office, the District shall prepare and mail a copy of the record or make alternative arrangements for the parent/guardian/eligible student to review the record. Any expense incurred from copying and/or mailing a record may be charged to the parent/guardian/eligible student at state rates, except as prohibited by law.

### **Amending an Educational Record**

A parent/guardian/eligible student has the right to request an amendment to any portion of the educational record s/he believes to be inaccurate, misleading, or in violation of the student's right to privacy. A parent/guardian/eligible student shall use the following procedure to dispute or request an amendment to an educational record. This procedure shall not be used to dispute a grade, disciplinary decision, or opinions/reflections of a school official contained in an educational record.

- Any request to amend an educational record shall be made in writing and submitted to the building principal.
- The principal shall review the request within a reasonable time and approve or deny it. The principal's decision shall be submitted to the parent/guardian/eligible student. If the principal denies the amendment request, s/he shall inform the parent/guardian/eligible student of his/her right to request an appeals hearing.
- Requests for an appeals hearing shall be submitted to the Superintendent. The hearing shall be held within a reasonable time after the appeal request has been made.
- The Superintendent shall serve as the hearing officer. A representative of the parent/guardian/eligible student's choosing may accompany the parent/guardian/eligible student at the parent/guardian/eligible student's expense. The parent/guardian/eligible student shall have a full and fair opportunity to present evidence related to the amendment request.

- The Superintendent's decision is final and binding and shall be submitted to the parent/guardian/eligible student at a reasonable time after the hearing.
- If the Superintendent denies the amendment request, s/he will notify the parent/guardian/eligible student within a reasonable time of his/her right to submit a written response commenting on the contested material and/or explaining the disagreement with the hearing officer's decision. This written response shall be retained and, when applicable, disseminated in accordance with law.

### **PARENTS' RIGHT TO KNOW**

Through federal education law, parents have the right to request information on the professional qualifications of the teachers and paraprofessionals educating their children. If you are interested in receiving this information, please contact the Central Administration Office at 701-456-0002. Upon this request, you will receive a detailed explanation of the licensing and educational qualifications of each of your children's teachers. You will also receive the names and qualifications of the paraprofessionals working with your children.

### **ASBESTOS NOTICE**

The Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) requires that all public school buildings be inspected or reinspected for the presence of asbestos every three years after a management plan is in effect. The same statute also required initial and annual notifications of the availability of a management plan which outlines the steps to be taken to eliminate any hazards.

The Dickinson Public School District has a very limited amount of asbestos containing materials in the school buildings and it is being managed in strict compliance with all pertinent federal regulations. A copy of the inspection report which details the locations of these materials and the proper management procedures is available for public inspection during normal working hours in the Central Administration Office.

## **NORTH DAKOTA'S COMPREHENSIVE MODEL SCHOOL POLICY FOR TOBACCO USE**

### **Definitions**

For purposes of this policy, "tobacco" is defined to include any product that contains tobacco, is manufactured from tobacco, or contains nicotine, **cigarettes, electronic smoking devices, or other smoking devices**. This excludes any FDA-approved nicotine replacement therapy.

### **Rationale for Regulating Possession & Use**

The health hazards of tobacco use have been well established. This policy is established to:

Reduce the high incidence of tobacco use in North Dakota.

Protect the health and safety of all students, employees, and the general public.

Set a non-tobacco-use example by adults.

Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death and disability in North Dakota. To support and model a healthy lifestyle for our students, the Dickinson Public School District School Board establishes the following tobacco-free policy.

### **Use & Possession Prohibitions**

**Students:** Possession and/or use of tobacco products by students on district property, in district vehicles, and at school-sponsored events (whether on or off district property) is prohibited at all times.

**Staff/Visitors:** The use of tobacco products by all school employees and visitors on district property, in district vehicles, and at school-sponsored events (whether on or off district property) is prohibited.

This policy includes all events sponsored by the school and all events on school property that are not sponsored by, or associated with, the school.

**Additional:** The District will not allow advertising of tobacco products in school buildings, on school property, at school functions, on district property, or in any school publications. This includes clothing that advertises tobacco products.

The District will not accept any gifts (such as curriculum, book covers, speakers, etc.) or funds from the tobacco industry.

### **Communicating to Students, Staff, & Public**

This policy will be printed in employee and the student handbooks. The District shall comply with all smoking prohibition posting requirements in NDCC 23-12-10.4

### **Responsibility for Violations**

All individuals on the district's premises share in the responsibility for adhering to and enforcing this policy. The Superintendent shall develop regulations for the enforcement and implementation of this policy.

### **Tobacco Cessation Services**

Individuals requesting assistance with tobacco cessation services will be referred to NDQuits, the North Dakota Department of Health multi-media

## **STUDENT ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG USE**

### **Philosophy**

The Dickinson Public Schools shall strive to provide a learning environment that is safe, drug free, and conducive to learning. This policy is designed to help eradicate the influence of drugs and alcohol within the school environment, promote awareness and health, and protect students in the school environment by imposing consequences for drug and alcohol related violations.

### **Prohibited Activities**

It shall be against school policy for any student to:

1. Sell, deliver, or give, or attempt to sell, deliver, or give to any person any of the substances listed in this policy or sell, deliver, or give, or attempt to sell, deliver, or give to any person substances the student represents or believes to be a substance(s) listed in this policy.
2. Possess, procure, purchase, or receive, or to attempt to possess, procure, purchase or receive the substances listed in this policy or what is represented by or to the student to be any of the substances listed in this policy or what the student believes is any of the substances in this policy. A student will be determined to be "in possession" when the substance is on the student's person or in the student's locker, car, handbag, or when s/he owns it completely or partially.
3. Be under the influence of (legal intoxication not required), use, consume or attempt to use or consume the substances listed in this policy or what is represented by or to the student to be any of the substances listed in this policy or what the student believes is any of the substances in this policy.
4. Knowingly or intentionally aiding or abetting in any of the above activities.

This policy applies to any student who is on school property, who is in attendance at school or at a school-sponsored activity or whose off-campus conduct is reasonably predicted to substantially disrupt the operations of the school district, district safety, or welfare of students or employees.

### **Prohibited Substances**

1. Alcohol or any alcoholic beverage;
2. Any controlled substance or dangerous drug as defined by NDCC Sections 19-03.1-05 through 19-03.1-13 and 19-03.1-26 (paraphernalia) or as defined by Section 812, Schedules I-V, of Title 21, United States Code, Section 801, et seq., including but not limited to marijuana, any narcotic drug, any hallucinogen, any stimulant or depressant, and all other illicit drugs;
3. Any glue, aerosol paint, or any other chemical substance used for inhalation;
4. Any prescription or non-prescription drug, medicine, vitamin or other chemical including, but not limited to aspirin, other pain relievers,



stimulants, diet pills, multiple or other type vitamins, pep pills, "no-doze" pills, cough medicines and syrups, cold medicines, laxatives, stomach or digestive remedies, depressants, sports or muscle-building supplements, and sleeping pills not administered and/or taken with appropriate consent and authorization from parents, school administration, and, if applicable, a health care provider.

The District has a separate policy dealing with tobacco use.

#### **Reporting Violations**

A student or staff member that has reason to believe that a student has violated this policy should notify a school official (i.e., a teacher or administrator if the reporter is a student; a school administrator if the reporter is a district staff member). Except in limited circumstances under law.<sup>1</sup> A teacher is required to report known or suspected violations of this policy to the school principal.

#### **Violation**

When a principal/Superintendent has reasonable suspicion that a student has violated this policy, s/he may search the student in accordance with the district's policy on searches of students' personal property.

Such searches shall not include referral for mandatory alcohol/drug testing.

Disciplinary sanctions will be imposed on and additional actions may be taken (as listed below) in response to, any violation of this policy. These sanctions may include suspension or expulsion, intervention (as described below), and notification of proper authorities for prosecution. Prohibited substances will be confiscated and illegal substances will be turned over to law enforcement authorities.

Any student who is observed to be under the influence of a prohibited substance will be taken immediately to the principal's office. The student's parents will be notified and asked to pick up the student. If there appears to be imminent danger to other students, school personnel, and/or the student involved, the principal may have the student removed from the school by school, medical, or law enforcement personnel.

#### **Intervention**

It is acknowledged that the public school has neither the authority nor the responsibility to make medical or health determinations regarding chemical dependency; however, when observed behavior indicates that a problem exists which may affect the student's ability to learn or the educational climate of the school, the school has a right and a responsibility to refer the student for a formal chemical dependency diagnosis. The Superintendent shall develop a procedure for chemical dependency identification and referral for treatment.

Referral for treatment shall be a constructive not punitive action; however, use

<sup>1</sup>When a teacher/principal participates in a juvenile court program and receives confidential information about a student.

of the treatment program shall not override or prohibit the District from taking disciplinary action for violations of this policy.

The school will make a reasonable effort to cooperate with a therapy program if one is recommended for the student. The Board believes that if a student is involved in a chemical dependency program and is successfully addressing his/her harmful involvement with chemicals, s/he may continue in the regular school setting and continue to participate in any extracurricular program unless participation is in conflict with rules and regulations set forth by the Board and the North Dakota High School Activities Association and/or the student has been suspended or expelled as a result of a district policy violation.

The school may, through the use of available resources, provide follow-up counseling and supportive assistance to those students who return after successfully completing a therapeutic regimen, realizing that the student may need assistance in dealing with other environmental factors beyond the school's control which may remain unchanged.

#### **Confidentiality**

The District shall maintain the confidentiality of students referred for counseling and chemical dependency treatment in accordance with the district's policy on counseling records.

#### **Education**

The District will teach about drugs and alcohol in an age appropriate developmentally based education and prevention program in every grade in accordance with law. This program will include information about drug and alcohol counseling and rehabilitation programs available to the students

In addition, the District will conduct staff orientation and training on drug and alcohol prevention, including a periodic overview of this policy and its procedures for implementation. The District will also provide parent and community education on the topic of drug and alcohol prevention.

#### **Policy Implementation**

Student handbooks shall contain a statement of sanctions required concerning the possession, use, or distribution of drugs and/or alcohol.

The Dickinson Public Schools will review this policy and its implementation periodically to ensure that disciplinary sanctions are consistently applied and to determine the effectiveness of the program for the prevention of alcohol and other drug use/abuse.

## **TITLE IX, TITLE VI, and ADA**

**YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED** that the Dickinson Public School District #1 does not discriminate on a basis of ~~gender, ancestry, race, religion, marital status, age, disabilities, national origin or color~~ race, color, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry, disability, age, marital status, and other status protected by law in its educational programs/ activities and employment practices. It is required by Title IX and Part 86 of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare regulations and not to discriminate in such a manner.

You are further notified that inquires concerning the application of Title IX and part 86 may be referred to the Director of Personnel, Central Administration Office, who has been designated as the person responsible for coordinating the efforts of Dickinson Public School District #1 to comply with and carry out its responsibilities under Title IX and Part 86, including any investigation of complaints alleging noncompliance.

**YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED** that inquiries concerning the application of Title IX, Title VI, ADA or other issues of equal opportunity may be referred to the Personnel Director at 444 4th St. West; 701-456-0002 and the Director of Student Services for 504 at the same address and phone number. These are designated as the persons responsible for coordinating the efforts of the Dickinson Public School District #1 to comply with and carry out these responsibilities, including any investigation of complaints alleging noncompliance of practices, and violation of law or school board policy.

## **STUDENT ACCESS TO INTERNET & COMPUTER NETWORK POLICY**

One of the major purposes of the Internet is to support research and education in academic institutions in the United States by providing access to unique resources. The use of the Internet in the Dickinson Public School District must be in support of educational goals and consistent with the stated objective of the school district. Use of other networks or computing resources must comply with the rules appropriate for that network. The Dickinson Public School District is bound by the Acceptable User Policy of its current Internet Service Provider.

Transmission of any material in violation of any federal or state law or regulation is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, copyrighted material, threatening, harassing, or obscene material, or material protected by trade secrets. Use for commercial activities by for-profit institutions is generally not acceptable. Use for product advertisement is also prohibited. Illegal activities are strictly prohibited.

The use of the Internet for any use other than required curriculum activities is a privilege, not a right. Inappropriate use may result in cancellation of those privileges. This cancellation of privileges may be up to 12 months and includes all available computers in the Dickinson Public School system. Based upon acceptable use guidelines outlined in this document, faculty and administrators will determine what constitutes inappropriate use and their decision is final.

Users are expected to abide by generally accepted rules of network etiquette. These include, but are not limited to the following:

- \* Be polite. Do not write or send abusive messages to others. Do not post anonymous messages.
- \* Use appropriate language. Do not swear, use vulgarities or any other inappropriate language.
- \* Do not reveal the personal home address or phone numbers of students or colleagues.
- \* Note that electronic mail (email) is not guaranteed to be private. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities may be reported to the authorities.

- \* Do not use the Internet in such a way that would disrupt the use of the Internet or the network by other users (e.g. downloading large files during prime time, sending chain letters or mass email messages, annoying other users).
- \* Do not post personal communications without the original author's consent.

Users who identify a security problem on the network must not communicate the problem to other users and must promptly notify the system administrator. Users must not use another individual's account nor give their password to others. Logging into the network with another's login will result in a cancellation of user privileges. Attempts to login to the network as a system administrator will result in cancellation of user privileges. Any user identified as a security risk or having a history of inappropriate use of the network or Internet may be denied access.

Vandalism will result in cancellation of privileges. Vandalism is defined as any attempt to harm or destroy data of another user and/or any workstation or network hardware, software or cabling that is part of the network. This includes but is not limited to uploading, downloading, creating computer viruses, damaging computers, computer systems, computer networks, or intentionally wasting resources.

Obscene, abusive or otherwise offensive language may appear on the Internet, as well as sexually explicit, racially biased, or other offensive materials. Dickinson Public Schools, while providing access to the seemingly limitless resources on the Internet, will attempt to protect students from the location of questionable materials. This will be accomplished by educating parents and students about the Internet and by controlling access when appropriate and feasible. It is the responsibility of all students to access only appropriate servers and sites on the Internet. The Dickinson Public School District is in compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act, which mandates that the Internet be filtered in educational institutions.

To gain access to email and the Internet, all students under the age of 18 must obtain parental permission. Parents desiring their children to have access must sign and return the proper form. A new form will be signed when a student is first registered in the school district and upon entering the junior high and high school levels.

## **CHILDREN'S INTERNET PROTECTION ACT (CIPA)**

Schools applying for e-rate funds must have a technology protection measure in place that blocks or filters Internet access. This filter may be disabled for bona fide research for adults. The policy must include monitoring the on-line activities of minors.

The Internet safety policy must address:

- \* access by minors to inappropriate matter
- \* safety and security with email, chatting on the internet, etc.
- \* unauthorized access
- \* unauthorized disclosure
- \* measures to restrict minors' access to materials that are harmful to minors

This measure is necessary for e-rate funding and Title III of the ESEA and Library Services and Technology Act funds.

Sendit Technology Services (STS), our Internet service provider, provides filtering to our school district with 8e6 Technologies Hardware (formerly X-Stop). The URL database is updated daily. This filter prevents students from accessing web sites that are not consistent with K-12 curriculum.

The categories blocked are: alcohol, anarchy, chat, criminal skills, cults, drugs, gambling, hate groups, obscene and tasteless sites, personal ads, pornography and public web proxies. The filtering policy can be found on the STS web site: <http://www.sendit.nodak.edu>

## NONDISCRIMINATION & ANTI-HARASSMENT POLICY

### General Prohibitions

The Dickinson Public Schools is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment free from discrimination and harassment in all employment and educational programs, activities, and facilities. The District prohibits discrimination and harassment based on a student and/or employee's race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, **sexual orientation**, national origin, ancestry, disability, age, marital status, or other status protected by law.

It shall be a violation of this policy for any district student or employee to harass or discriminate against another district student or employee based on any status protected by law. The District will not tolerate harassment or discrimination of a district student or employee by a third party. The District also prohibits aiding, abetting, inciting, compelling, or coercing discrimination or harassment; discriminating against or harassing any person affiliated with a person protected by this policy and/or law; knowingly making a false discrimination and/or harassment report; and retaliation against individuals who report and/or participate in a discrimination and/or harassment investigation, including instances when a complaint is not substantiated.

The District shall promptly investigate any harassment or discrimination complaint and act on findings as appropriate, which may include disciplinary measures such as, but not limited to, termination of employment or expulsion in accordance with board policy, law, and, when applicable, the negotiated agreement. Students and employees are expected to fully cooperate in the investigation process.

### Definitions

- \* *Complainant* is the individual filing the complaint. When the complainant is not the victim of the alleged harassment/discrimination, the victim will be afforded the same rights as the complainant under this policy and regulation AAC-BR.
- \* *Disability* is defined in accordance with NDCC 14-02.4-02 (5).
- \* *Discrimination* means failure to treat a person equally due to a protected status. ~~Protected status is defined in applicable state (NDCC 14-02.4-02 (6)) and federal laws.~~
- \* *Protected status* shall include the statuses identified above, along with any other status protected by applicable state and federal laws.
- \* *Employee* is defined in accordance with NDCC 14-02.4-02 (7).
- \* *Harassment* is a specific type of discrimination based on a protected status. It occurs under the following conditions:
  - a. For employees when enduring the offensive conduct becomes a condition of continued employment, or the conduct is severe or pervasive enough to create a work environment that a reasonable person would consider intimidating, hostile, or abusive
  - b. For students when the conduct is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive to limit a student's ability to participate in or benefit from the education program or to create a hostile or abusive education environment.

- \* *Sexual harassment* is a form of harassment based on sex, **sexual orientation**, or gender identity. It is defined as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and/or other verbal, written, or physical conduct or communication of a sexual nature when:
  - a. It is quid pro quo, meaning submission to such conduct or communication is made a term or condition, either explicitly or implicitly, of the basis for employment decisions or educational decisions or benefits for students (e.g., receiving a grade).
  - b. It creates a hostile environment meaning unwelcome sexual conduct or communication that is sufficiently serious to deny or limit a student's ability to participate in or benefit from the school's program(s). For employees a hostile environment is created when submission to unwelcome sexual conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment.
  
- \* *Sexual harassment examples* may include, but are not limited to:
  - a. **sexual** or "dirty" jokes;
  - b. **unwelcome sexual advances**;
  - c. **requests for sexual favors**;
  - d. **sexually motivated physical conduct** or other verbal or physical conduct or communication of a sexual nature, including unwelcome touching, such as patting, pinching, or constant brushing against another's body;
  - e. **displaying or distributing of sexually explicit drawings, pictures, and written materials**;
  - f. **graffiti of a sexual nature**;
  - g. **sexual gestures**;
  - h. **touching oneself sexually or talking about one's sexual activity in front of others**;
  - i. **spreading rumors about or rating other's sexual activity or performance**;
  - j. **remarks about a person's sexual orientation**; **or**
  - k. **sexual violence including, but not limited to, rape, sexual battery, sexual abuse, and sexual coercion.**

#### **Complaint Filing Procedure**

The Board shall create an informal and formal harassment and discrimination complaint filing procedure in board regulations. Nothing in this policy or in the harassment/discrimination grievance procedure shall prevent an individual from pursuing redress through state and/or federal law.

#### **Confidentiality**

An individual wishing to file an anonymous harassment and/or discrimination complaint shall be advised that confidentiality will limit the district's ability to fully respond to the complaint and that retaliation is prohibited. The Title IX Coordinator shall perform a confidentiality analysis to determine when a request for confidentiality cannot be honored due to safety reasons or the district's obligation to maintain a nondiscriminatory educational environment. A harassment or discrimination investigation report is subject to the open records law after 60 days or when the investigation is complete (whichever comes first), with limited exceptions such as when the record is protected by FERPA.



**Responsible Employees**

The Superintendent shall identify school employees responsible for receiving and reporting discrimination and harassment incidents and complaints. These individuals shall be listed in student handbooks and shall receive appropriate training on their reporting duties.

**Policy Training and Dissemination**

The Board authorizes the Superintendent to develop harassment and discrimination awareness training for students and employees. In addition, the Superintendent shall display this policy and complementary grievance procedure in a prominent place in each district building and publish it in student and employee handbooks.

**Title IX and Nondiscrimination Coordinator**

The Board designates the assistant superintendent as the Title IX and Nondiscrimination Coordinator. The assistant superintendent may be contacted at: 444 4<sup>th</sup> Street West, Dickinson, ND (701) 456-0002. The Title IX and Nondiscrimination Coordinator and any other school official responsible for investigation of discrimination complaints shall receive appropriate training.

## **STUDENT CONDUCT & DISCIPLINE (FF)**

### **Conduct Standards**

Students will conduct themselves in a manner fitting their age level and maturity and students will not impede on the orderly conduct of district schools. Additionally, students will respect the rights of others on district property, including, but not limited to, district owned/leased/chartered vehicles, at school-sponsored events, and off-campus when student conduct has, or is reasonably predicted to have, a substantially disruptive effect on district operations and/or the educational environment.

### **Disciplinary Standards**

Consequences for misconduct will be fair and developmentally appropriate in light of the circumstances. The Superintendent shall develop age-appropriate disciplinary standards in consultation with principals and other applicable district personnel. In addition, the Superintendent shall develop administrative regulations to assist administrators/their designees with investigating potential conduct violations.

Disciplinary policies, procedures, and guidelines need not be identical in content district wide but must:

1. Be identical in content for all district elementary schools;
2. Be identical in content for all district middle schools;
3. Be identical in content for all district high schools.

### **Disciplinary Standards for Special Education Students**

District employees are required to comply with the Individuals with Disabilities Act when responding to violations of student conduct standards by special education students.

### **Prohibited Disciplinary Actions**

The Board recognizes that reasonable physical force may occasionally be necessary to guard the safety and well being of students or employees or to deliver a student to an administrator's office; however, the use of corporal punishment, defined as the willful infliction of physical pain on a student, is not allowed in the Dickinson Public Schools Public School District. Corporal punishment does not include action taken by an employee for self-defense, protection of persons or property, obtaining possession of a weapon or other dangerous object, to quell a verbal disturbance, for the preservation of order, or pain or discomfort caused by athletic competition or recreational activities voluntarily engaged in by a student.

Complaints alleging that a district employee inflicted corporal punishment will be dealt with in accordance with school board policy on personnel complaints.

### **Disciplinary Authority**

Regulations on disciplinary standards and investigation procedures shall delineate the degree of disciplinary authority that the district shall grant to teachers and principals.

Other school personnel shall be granted disciplinary authority by the principal on a case-by-case basis based on the nature and scope of the employee's duties. Personnel granted such authority shall be required to comply with this policy and any disciplinary authority limits established by regulations. Employees unauthorized to administer student discipline shall report student misconduct to the appropriate school authority.

Any district employee who acts outside the scope of his/her assigned level of disciplinary authority may be subject to disciplinary action, including but not limited to, discharge from/termination of employment in accordance with law and/or the negotiated agreement.