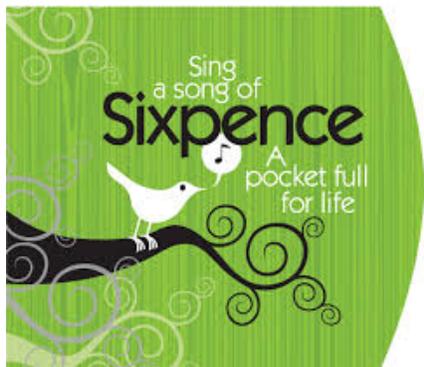




**Cass County Early Head Start/
Plattsmouth Sixpence
Birth to Three Programs**

2018-19

PARENT HANDBOOK



Plattsmouth Community School District Mission Statement

Working in partnership to ensure academic *achievement*, responsible *behavior*, and *civic engagement*.

Cass County/Plattsmouth Early Childhood Program Mission

To create a foundation for success through creative, interactive, and intentional experiences that build positive relationships, develop independent problem solvers, and foster each child's learning potential while displaying empathy, tolerance, and appreciation of differences.

Cass County/Plattsmouth Early Childhood Program Vision

Students who attend the Cass County/Plattsmouth Early Childhood program will have effective social skills that allow them to accept others, be cooperative, and appropriately accommodate individual needs and perspectives. Our students will be able to recognize problems as well as identify and persistently work towards solutions. They will be creative, flexible, and critical thinkers who inquire about the world around them. Students will be independent and dedicated to ongoing learning and recognize the importance of doing things to the best of their ability.

Cass County/Plattsmouth Early Childhood Program Beliefs

- Each child has the ability to learn and apply knowledge through new experiences to achieve success.
- Promoting independence through structure, as well as tools and materials that are based on children's interests, is essential for learning.
- Children learn by exploring with hands on learning activities that inspire curiosity.
- The cooperative efforts of students home, family, school, and community are essential for success.
- Children learn best through balanced comprehensive services including all aspects of the child; child led vs. teacher led instruction, health & nutrition, family & child.
- Children have a variety of languages in which to express ideas and need open-ended materials to express their languages.
- Children are capable of accommodating and accepting individual needs and perspectives while using social skills to solve problems.
- Providing structured opportunities that allow children to make discoveries, solve problems, and challenge creative thinking is essential to an effective early childhood learning experience.
- Intentional, aligned, and systematic learning opportunities provide an effective foundation for children.
- Monitoring of progress and differentiating instruction is important for developing individual students to their full potential.

Welcome

Welcome to our early childhood program! We hope that this handbook assists you in the policies and procedures that you need to follow in order to meet the requirements of Early Head Start or Sixpence and to provide your child with a complete early childhood experience. Our Birth to Three education programs offer many opportunities for children to develop socially, intellectually, physically and emotionally in a manner appropriate to their age and stage of development. Our programs provide an organized series of experiences that are designed to meet the individual needs of the children and families that we serve.

Our Birth to Three programs are unique from many other toddler or childcare settings. Early Head Start and Sixpence are comprehensive child development programs that serve children ages pre-natal to three and their families. Both programs are child-focused and family centered and provide a range of individualized services in the areas of education and early childhood development, medical, dental, mental health, nutrition, parent involvement, and disabilities.

Early Head Start programs are required to follow a set of performance standards. The Head Start Performance Standards are designed ensure that the Early Head Start goals and objectives are implemented successfully, that the Early Head Start philosophy continues to thrive, and that all grantees or delegate agencies maintain the highest possible quality in the provision of Early Head Start Services. The Plattsmouth Community School District is our grantee agency for Early Head Start which serves all of Cass County.

The Sixpence Early Learning Fund is Nebraska's signature effort to put our state's youngest and most vulnerable children on the path to success in school and life. Sixpence promotes high-quality early care and learning opportunities that help parents guide the healthy development of their infants and toddlers. As public-private collaboration at the state and local levels, Sixpence delivers efficiency, fiscal responsibility and measurable results for our investment in the next generation of Nebraska's citizens. The Plattsmouth Community School District is our grantee agency for Sixpence which serves families within the Plattsmouth school district boundaries.

Plattsmouth Board of Education Policies

Please note that the Plattsmouth Sixpence and Early Head Start programs are part of the Plattsmouth Community School District (PCSD) and, therefore, subject to all Plattsmouth Community School District policies as approved by the PCSD Board of Education. These policies are available on the PCSD website at www.pcsd.org under the Board of Education link under the About PCS tab and in the Policies files on the left side of the page.

Residence and Eligibility for Early Childhood Programs

Children/families are eligible for the Early Head Start program if their family resides in Cass County. Children who are eligible for special education services must be served by the school district in which they reside. Children with special education services may receive services outside their district **only** with the permission of their resident school district. Children/families are eligible for the Sixpence program if they are residents of the Plattsmouth School District. It is the responsibility of the family to immediately report any change of residence to their home visitor.

Early Childhood Program Contact Information

Plattsmouth Early Childhood Center (PECC)
902 Main Street, Plattsmouth, NE 68048
402-296-5250

Pam Dobrovolny, Early Childhood Director
Extension #2619

Early Childhood Staff

All the Early Childhood Home Visitors hold either a Nebraska teaching license (four year degree program) for Early Childhood Education and/or Early Childhood Special Education or a Bachelor's degree in nursing, child development, sociology, psychology, or social work. Other support staff may include a Family Support Advocate. Health and Nutrition services are monitored by a school nurse. Other staff members include: Speech Language Pathologist, Physical Therapist, Occupational Therapist, Vision Specialist, ELL support personnel, school Psychologist, and a Dietician for those children/families qualifying for services.

Curriculum, Home Visits, and Assessment Section

Curriculum (Head Start Performance Standard 1302.32(a))

The Plattsmouth Birth to Three program has chosen Parents as Teachers as our curriculum. The Parents as Teachers Evidence-Based Model is a comprehensive home-visiting, parent education model. The model provides services to families with children from prenatal through kindergarten. There are four components to the Parents as Teachers model:

- Personal Visits/Home Visits
- Group Connections/Play’N’Learns
- Resource Network
- Child Screening

Together, these four components form a cohesive package of services with four primary goals:

- Increase parent knowledge of early childhood development and improve parent practices
- Provide early detection of developmental delays and health issues
- Prevent child abuse and neglect
- Increase children’s school readiness and school success

We understand that experiences in the beginning years of children’s lives are an important foundation for school and life success, and that parents are their children’s first and most influential teachers. Our goal is to give parents the information and support they need to give their children the best possible start in life. Parents as Teachers emphasizes parent-child interaction, developmental centered parenting and family well-being. Parents are provided the opportunity to participate in play groups with their children at least twice a month and ongoing parent education programs that are schedule at least monthly. There is also a prenatal curriculum for pregnant women.

Parents as Teachers is a developmentally appropriate curriculum which aligns with the Head Start Performance Standards and other regulations including the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework: Ages Birth to Five and the Nebraska Early Learning Guidelines.

Home Visits

Home visits will follow a predictable sequence of events as outlined in the Parents as Teachers curriculum. This provides a structure for the visits which makes it easier for families and children to participate. Please be aware of the following expectations during a home visit:

- A home visit will occur each week for up to 1 ½ hours
- Parents/guardians are expected to actively participate during the home visit
- Parents/guardians will observe the home visitor demonstrate activities to support the child’s learning while playing together
- Parents/guardians will have the opportunity to practice the new activities with the child and receive feedback from the home visitor on ways to expand the child’s play
- Parents/guardians will have an opportunity to discuss any parenting concerns with the home visitor
- Parents/guardians will work with the home visitor to build on the strengths of the family in providing a healthy and nurturing environment for the child and family
- Videotaping will be used on visits to help parents/guardians develop their observation skills and to provide feedback
- Each visit will include:
 - a reflection on what has happened with the family since the last visit and an agreement on the plan for the current session
 - a parent-child interaction opportunity – usually around an activity
 - a development-centered parenting discussion – time for the parent/guardian to discuss concerns/issues and time for the home visitor to provide information on various family-centered topics
 - a reflection on the visit and time to make a plan together for the next visit

- For pregnant mothers enrolled in the program, the home visitor will visit at least twice monthly to explore together how to have a healthy pregnancy and prepare for baby's arrival

Attendance

Regular attendance at home visits is required for participation in the Birth to Three program. It is vital that the parent and child(ren) attend in order to receive the most value from the program. **We ask that you call home visitor at 402-296-5250 or another phone number provided by them as soon as you know you will be unable to keep an appointment for a home visit.** If the home visitor cancels a visit for any reason, it will be made up.

Excessive (5 or more) home visit cancellations (not related to illness) will be reviewed with families and may be considered for dismissal from the program depending on the reasons for the cancellations. Considerations will be made for any participants who wish to stay in the program and have made plans to re-schedule their missed visits. The Birth to Three program year operates from August 1st to July 31st.

Procedure for Missed Home Visits:

1. After five missed home visits, the home visitor or family support advocate (FSA) will discuss the situation with the parents(s). Efforts will be made to remedy the problem by determining specific conditions contributing to the attendance problem and developing a plan to address controllable conditions that may assist in alleviating the problem.
2. If absences continue after the initial meeting, the home visitor and family support advocate (FSA) will set up a meeting with the parents(s) to develop an attendance contract.
3. Families will be considered for dismissal from the Birth to Three program if more than three absences happen after the development of the attendance contract.

Assessment (Head Start Performance Standard 1302.33(a))

The Birth to Three staff assess children's development with comprehensive observations rather than narrow tests, using the Teaching Strategies GOLD assessment. Observing a broad range of behaviors over several weeks or months gives us a more accurate picture of children's true capabilities than tests administered in one-time sessions. Home visitors will record anecdotes and collect information from caregivers describing what children do and say. Three times a year, teachers review these anecdotes and rate each child at the most accurate level he or she has demonstrated on the GOLD Developmental Continuum for more than 30 specific goals and objectives items in five areas of development: social/emotional, physical, language, cognitive, and literacy. Children's GOLD scores help home visitors design individualized learning opportunities tailored to their level of development. The Continuum follows ages birth-5 so that home visitors can build on the child's current stage of development throughout their time in the program. The GOLD is also used by home visitors to explain children's progress to parents at least three times a year.

School Readiness

The Cass County Head Start/Plattsmouth Early Childhood Program has established school readiness goals which are the expectations of children's status and progress across domains of language and literacy development, cognition and general knowledge, approaches to learning, physical well-being and motor development, and social and emotional development that will improve readiness for kindergarten goals. The school readiness goals are aligned with the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework: Ages Birth to Five (HSELOF, 2015) and the Nebraska Early Learning Guidelines for Ages Birth to 3.

The school readiness committee which consists of a parent representative from Policy Council/advisory committee, members of the leadership team, and teacher representatives meets at least three times a year to review data and update goals. The school readiness data is shared with Policy Council/advisory committee and the Board of Education at least three times a year. The information is also on the PECC website and in the Annual Report which is also posted on the PECC website.

Child Find

If you have or know a young child from birth to 5 years of age and you have concerns about his/her development, please call the Plattsmouth Early Childhood Center at 402-296-5250; Ext. 2618.

Developmental concerns may include:

Low birth weight
Multiple births
Hearing loss
Slow to walk or crawl

High medical needs
Feeding concerns
Blindness or vision impairment
Identified disabilities
Behavioral or emotional problem

Prematurity
Difficulty speaking
Physical disability
Developmental delay

Early Development Network: Free early childhood intervention support is available across Nebraska. Call toll free: 1-888-806-6287.

Family Involvement Section

**All families are unique and will be treated with respect and dignity.
Strict confidentiality will be maintained to ensure the privacy of each family.**

Parent Engagement

- Parents are given opportunities to volunteer. The options include Head Start/Early Head Start Policy Council (see below for more information) and the Sixpence Advisory Committee -- both of which allow you to have a voice in your child's education.
- Families work with the Family Support Advocate (FSA) to develop individualized Family Partnership Agreements based on each family's strengths and goals.
- Parent Groups are available that offer workshops on various topics throughout the year. Meetings are initially organized by the Home Visitor or FSA. These meetings are designed to be educational as well as provide opportunities for social interaction. Parents will also be given an opportunity to advise staff in developing and implementing local program policies, activities, and services to ensure they meet the needs of children and families. Parents involved with the parent events/parent committee will elect a representative/liason to the Policy Council to ensure ongoing communication between the two groups.

Play'N'Learns

Participation in Play'N'Learns is encouraged for all infants, toddlers, and their families. Play'N'Learns provide an opportunity for children and parents to enjoy activities in a setting other than their home. Children have the opportunity to play in small groups with other children their age. Families can meet and build friendships with other families enrolled in the Birth to Three Program.

Important Facts About Play'N'Learns

- Play'N'Learns are offered at least three times a month at various locations around the community.
- Healthy snacks are part of the fun.
- Play'N'Learns provide a setting with new learning opportunities and experiences. Children experience new sights, sounds, smells, and textures.
- Play'N'Learns provide access to large motor play equipment, crafts, school readiness skills, and new foods.
- Play'N'Learns provide infants and toddlers the chance to be with other infants and toddlers and learn new skills from their friends.
- Play'N'Learns help infants and toddlers develop a sense of trust and confidence as they share these new experiences their family members.
- Play'N'Learns offer opportunities for parents to socialize and learn new skills from one another.

Policy Council

Policy Council is a group of parents/guardians who are directly involved with the decision making process of the preschool program's planning and administration. Elections are held each year by secret ballot (one ballot per family) to obtain representation from each classroom and one from the Early Head Start program. Parents who have agreed to serve as representatives submit their names to be included in this election process. Training for members is provided throughout the school year. Meetings are held once a month (August through May) at a time most convenient to the majority of the members. The Policy Council is a federal requirement for all Head Start programs and the membership must consist of 51% parents/guardians who currently have enrolled children in the Head Start program. Parents of children enrolled in the tuition program are considered community representatives on the Policy Council.

Family Support Advocates (FSAs)

The Family Support Advocate staff will provide families with available resources for referrals or needs your family may have. All families have strengths and the FSA staff will assist all families enrolled in the Birth to Three program to develop family goals that capitalize on the family strengths. The FSA staff will be available to families on a regular basis and can also be accessed by asking the home visitor. Strict confidentiality is maintained with respect to family information. Please feel free to contact the center with requests or questions you may have at 402-296-5250.

School Social Worker

A school social worker is available to assist parents and staff with areas of concern. No appointment is necessary and a schedule will be distributed to parents/caregivers in the monthly newsletters. The school social worker is also available to assist parents and staff to understand mental health and to access mental health interventions, as needed. Information about local mental health resources are also available from Family Support Advocates, the school social worker, and home visitors.

Parent and Staff Responsibilities

The following are responsibilities for staff and parents/guardians involved in the **Cass County/Plattsmouth Early Childhood Birth to Three** program. If you have questions regarding this information, please ask a staff member.

Parent/Guardian Responsibilities:

- participating in year round home visits on a weekly basis for up to 1 ½ hours
- participating in parent events such as Play'N'Learns on a regular basis
- participating in the family involvement/support program which requires contacts in your home by the FSA staff and family goal setting
- ensuring that your child completes required immunizations and physical (well child checks), dental, and vision examinations
- providing copies of your child's immunization records, medical examinations and birth certificate in a timely manner
- reviewing the **Cass County/Plattsmouth Early Childhood Birth to Three** Parent Handbook

Cass County/Plattsmouth Early Childhood Birth to Three Staff Responsibilities:

- welcoming you, your family, and your child into the **Cass County/Plattsmouth Early Childhood Birth to Three** program
- being available to parents/guardians to answer questions and to listen to concerns/comments
- understanding and following policies/procedures that address non-attendance
- working with parents/guardians to plan developmentally appropriate activities that will interest and challenge your child
- providing parents with information regarding your child's development throughout the year
- encouraging parent/guardian involvement

Verification of Information

Parents/guardians are asked to provide information about their families and their child throughout the application and enrollment process. Cass County Early Head Start/Sixpence staff members rely on this information to determine eligibility for Early Head Start, which is a federally sponsored program, and Sixpence, which is a state/private funds sponsored program. Staff members meet with parents/guardians to verify information such as income, age of child, foster care participant, etc. Parents are required to provide accurate information and sign the application to certify that the information they have provided is true and accurate. If any provided information is found to be false, participation in Cass County Early Head Start/Sixpence's programs may be terminated and the parent/guardian may be subject to legal action.

General Information Section

Birth Certificate

State law requires that a certified copy of a child's birth certificate be used when enrolling a new child in school. If your child is registering with Plattsmouth Community Schools for the first time, you may obtain this document from the Bureau of Vital Statistics in the state in which your child was born. Assistance in obtaining birth certificates may be obtained from Health Records Management, P.O. Box 95065, Lincoln, NE 68509-5065. There is a fee per certificate.

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

If a birth certificate is unavailable, other reliable proof of a student's identity may be used. These documents could include naturalization or immigration documents showing date of birth or official hospital birth records, a passport, or a translation of a birth certificate from another country. The documents must be accompanied by an affidavit explaining the inability to produce a copy of the birth certificate.

Child Abuse/Neglect Reporting

When any Cass County/Plattsmouth Early Childhood staff member or volunteer has reasonable cause to believe that a child has been subjected to abuse or neglect, or observes a child(ren) being subjected to conditions or circumstances which would result in abuse or neglect, he/she shall report such incident or cause a report to be made as soon as possible to the proper law enforcement agency or to Health and Human Services (Neb. Rev. Stat. Section 28-710; 28-711, PCSD Policy 5402). Anyone participating in good faith in these procedures shall have immunity from any liability, civil or criminal. Law providing privileged communication shall not apply in cases of suspected child abuse or neglect.

Child Abuse/Neglect Hotline phone number for a report: **1-800-652-1999**

Closings/Inclement Weather

In the event that Plattsmouth Community School District (PCSD) is closed for the day, all Plattsmouth Early Childhood and Birth to Three programs will also be closed. The PCSD is part of a system that sends automated messages to families within the district. This system allows the district to contact parents in the event of school closings, late starts, emergencies, etc. Emergency contact numbers listed on your child's emergency card will be in the system. Text messaging is also available.

TV and radio stations will carry school closing messages as soon as any decision is made regarding school cancellation or dismissal early due to weather conditions and/or other emergencies. Announcements will be made over radio stations KFAB 1110AM, WOW 590AM, 94.1FM, and 89.7FM, and TV channels 7, 6, 3, and 42.

Please contact your home visitor or FSA with questions about your scheduled visit during inclement weather.

Complaint/Concern Procedure

When parents have a concern or complaint about the early childhood birth to three program, the following protocol should be followed:

1. Schedule a conference/meeting with the staff person most immediately or directly involved in the matter.
 - No matter the concern, address it with the person most directly involved first
 - It is appropriate to call for an appointment or to set up a time to meet with the staff person
 - When calling or setting up an appointment, it is courteous to let the person know the general nature of the concern
2. Address the concern to the Building/Program Administrator (Pam Dobrovolny at 402-296-5250) if the matter is not resolved at Step One.
 - Supervisory personnel will rarely have ready access to the information they need to be of immediate assistance and working through the issue will likely require additional time
3. Address the concern to the Superintendent if the matter is not resolved at Step Two.
 - When you believe you have taken the concern to the next level but still haven't achieved a satisfactory outcome, the Superintendent is the next person to involve
 - Keep in mind that a meeting with the Superintendent will likely require some advance planning
 - There is a specific complaint form to be used when a person has a complaint related to discrimination, harassment or retaliation on such bases in regard to employment or the programs and activities of the school district.
 - Refer to Board Policy 1200, 4003 and/or 5401 for the particulars of the complaint and grievance process.
 - The complaint form can be accessed on the PCSD website by choosing "About PCS" and then scrolling down and selecting "Board of Education". On the left hand side of the page choose the "Policies" tab, then select "1000 Community Relations." Select Policy 1200A for access to the form. Or use the following link: <https://www.pcsd.org/Page/20>
4. Address the concern to the Board of Education if the matter is not resolved at Step Three.
 - School Board members are elected to represent the interests of all parents and district residents and are available to hear the points of view of their constituents, however school board members do not have direct authority over day to day school operations and all authority is the result of official actions by a majority of the Board at meetings open to the public
 - Board members may be able to request that the Board review the specific policies that relate to the situation or propose new policies for the Board's consideration
 - Contact a Board member when a policy is being enforced that you believe results in bad consequences, when you believe a policy isn't being enforced, or when policies or procedures are not enforced fairly for all

Custody Agreements/Court Orders

If one parent has been given primary legal custody, **information about the child will not be released without the primary custodial parent's permission.** If parents have a joint custody agreement, information about the child will be released to both parents. It is a parents responsibility to submit any legal documents regarding custody or release of information to the home visitor or FSA. Once paperwork is received, program staff will comply with the court order.

Non-Discrimination on Basis of Race/Sex

It is a policy of the Plattsmouth Community Schools not to discriminate on the basis of sex, handicap, race, color, religion, marital status or national or ethnic origin in its educational programs, activities or employment policies. Inquiries regarding compliance with this policy may be directed to the Superintendent of Plattsmouth Community Schools, or to the Director of the Office for Civil Rights, Department of Health, Educational Welfare, Washington, D.C.

Parent Resource Library

There is a parent resource library located at PECC. Parents are able to check out resource materials and children's books and they can access pamphlets and brochures that address a number of issues such as toilet training, child discipline, etc. Check with personnel in the main office for assistance.

Program Fees

If fees are applicable to your program option, you will be notified. No fees will be charged for the regular preschool program for families that qualify for Early Head Start or Sixpence.

Publication of Child Pictures and Products

From time to time your child may have occasion to be photographed for the newspaper, television, the Cass County Head Start/PECC Facebook page, or PCSD Internet web pages. The news media will occasionally do stories on events occurring in school programs, presentations, and other newsworthy happenings. Teachers/home visitors may post pictures of classroom activities and field trips on PCSD Internet web pages.

Since pictures of your child are personally identifiable information, you have the opportunity to request that your child's picture not be used for the above purposes. **If you do not wish to have your child's picture or work available to the media or displayed on the Internet, please contact the main office at 402-296-5250 or your home visitor.** If we do not hear from you, we will assume that you agree to have your child's picture or work available to the media, on the Cass County Head Start/PECC Facebook page, or on the Internet should such an occasion arise.

Sex Offender Policy

As parents, you have entrusted your child to the Cass County Head Start/PECC staff to keep them safe from harm – physically and emotionally. We take your trust very seriously and do all we can to keep children safe. As a safeguard, anyone (e.g., volunteers, parents, family members, community members, etc.), whom we are aware is a registered sex offender will not be allowed in the PECC building, on school grounds, or to participate in a Play'N'Learn without prior written approval from the PCSD Superintendent of Schools. Please notify the main office if you have questions.

Student Record Data

The Plattsmouth Community Schools and the Early Childhood Programs are in compliance with HIPPA and FERPA guidelines. The HIPPA and FERPA policies are on file in the Elementary School office.

The Early Childhood Center collects and maintains records on each student in order to facilitate the instruction, guidance and educational progress of the student. The records contain information about the student and his/her education and may include but are not limited to the following types of records: identification data, attendance date, health and immunization records, records of achievement, family background data, assessment, educational plans, classroom observations and external agency reports. All books, papers, documents, reports, and records kept by the District may be retained as electronic records (BOE Policy #3560).

The records of each student are generally located in the building that he or she is attending. The persons responsible for maintenance of student records for each school building are the Home Visitors, FSAs, and the Health/Nutrition Manager.

The following persons, agencies and organizations may have restricted access to student records without proper written consent of the parent/guardian. Any other access to student records shall be only upon written consent or upon court order or legally issued subpoena.

1. School officials and teachers with legitimate educational interest
2. Representatives of state and local government when auditing and evaluating federal educational programs

3. Government officials to whom information is to be reported under state law
4. Organizations that process and evaluate standardized tests
5. Accrediting or organizations for accrediting purposes
6. Parents of dependent children, regardless of child's age
7. In connection with an emergency

Student records are reviewed when a student moves from the Early Childhood Program to the Elementary School and/or when a student transfers out of the District.

A procedure to be followed in exercising any of the rights under school policies or rules may be obtained from any building Principal or Director.

Those records not of a permanent nature are destroyed upon graduation or within three years of discontinued attendance in the district. Parents of students under the age of 18 may exercise the opportunity to review educational records of the student; to obtain copies of the records; to write a response to material in the records; to challenge the content of the record on the grounds of inappropriateness, inaccuracy, or an invasion of privacy; and to have the records explained.

The administrator of the program may release the following types of information to the public as he/she sees fit, keeping in mind the privacy of the student and the student's family: participation in officially recognized activities, dates of attendance, and awards received.

Any parent objecting to the public release of such information must sign a written form at the time of enrollment with the Early Childhood Program stating that the public does not have release of such information.

Transition

The Plattsmouth Early Childhood Birth to Three program assists families as they transition into and out of the various programs. Activities are planned throughout the year to assist families and children with these transitions.

Health Section

Child and Family Health Monitoring

Group	Health Requirements
Birth to age 3	Vision Screening – within 45 days of enrollment Hearing Screening – within 45 days of enrollment Developmental Screenings (EX: Ages & Stages & DECA, etc.) – twice a year
At 12 months of age	Lead Screening Hemoglobin Screening First Dental Exam
Birth to age 3	Documentation of well child checks are required at 2 weeks, 2, 4, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 24, & 36 months. Documentation of immunizations at 2, 4, 6, 12, 15, 18, & 24 months.
Pregnant Women	A History and Physical & Pregnancy Health Appraisal and CCEHS Health & Nutrition Questionnaire for Pregnant Women filled out by physician.

Illness Policy

In order to ensure the safety and health of your family and children and our staff, we require that the family should notify the home visitor as soon as possible to re-schedule the home visit if any family members have any of the following conditions:

- Temperature of 100 degrees or above
- Rash (if accompanied by a fever)
- Strep throat or the flu (unless on antibiotic for at least 24 hours)
- Live head lice (nits do not require exclusion)
- Severe or harsh cough accompanied by other symptoms such as fever, excessive fussing, and general discomfort
- Two or more episodes of diarrhea
- One or more episodes of vomiting (not associated with meal time)
- Red eyes with discharge
- Yellow eyes or jaundiced skin (requires immediate care)
- Impetigo, ringworm (if not able to cover)

Home visitors will plan to re-schedule your home visit if they are experiencing any of the above conditions in order to keep your family safe and healthy.

LOCATIONS AND TIMES OF AREA IMMUNIZATION CLINICS

SARPY/CASS COUNTY IMMUNIZATION CLINIC (P. 402-593-3222 F. 402-593-3034)

Free clinic – Donations Accepted

Eligible* children 0-18 years of age

*An eligible child is enrolled in Medicaid, uninsured, underinsured (has health insurance, but vaccines are not covered), or an American Indian/Alaskan Native.

Request an appointment online! Please visit CHIhealth.com/request-immunization-appointment

PAPILLION – Midlands Medical Building One

First Thursday of the month from 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Second and Fourth Thursdays from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

11109 South 84th Street, 5th Floor Suite 5800

Papillion, NE 68046

402-593-3222

AREA HEALTH CARE SERVICES:

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services: www.accessnebraska.ne.gov

Provides medical insurance benefits to residents of Cass County who are income eligible or have Medicaid

Cass Family Medicine

Provides sliding scale payment options for those uninsured or underinsured

122 S 6th Street

Plattsmouth, NE 68048

(402) 296-2345

WIC Clinic

Herold Hall (next to St. Luke's Episcopal Church)

3rd Street & Avenue A

Plattsmouth, NE 68048

(402) 335-2988 or 877-691-8381

First and Fourth Mondays By Appointment Only

Sarpy/Cass Health Department

701 Olson Drive, Suite 101

Papillion, NE 68046

(402) 339-4334

Toll Free: 800-645-0134

Fax: (402) 339-4235

After hours health emergencies: (402) 506-1553

Sarpycasshealthdepartment.org

Summary of the School Immunization Rules and Regulations

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

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

The School Rules & Regulations are available on the internet: http://dohhs.ne.gov/Pages/reg_1173.aspx (Title 173: Control of Communicable Diseases - Chapter 3; revised and implemented 2011)

Updated 01/26/2018

AREA HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

Dentistry

Louisville Family Dental
229 Main Street
Louisville, NE 68037
402-234-3000

Weeping Water Dental
105 West Eldora
Weeping Water, NE 68463
402-267-2325

McKnight Family Dental
2302 W 8th Ave Suite 2
Plattsmouth, NE 68048
402-296-2818

Caphart Family Dentistry
2110 Towne Centre Dr
Bellevue, NE 68123
402-885-8990

Main Street Family Dental and Orthodontics
619 Main St
Plattsmouth, NE 68048
402-296-2188

OneWorld Dental

*sliding scale options available

Omaha
4920 S. 30th Street, 3rd Floor
Omaha, NE 68107
402-932-7204

Bellevue
2207 Georgia Ave
Bellevue, NE 68005
402-502-8855

Optometry - Eye Clinic

Dr. John Bateman
2380 W 8th Ave, Suite 4
Plattsmouth, NE 68048
402-296-2200

Shopko Eyecare Center
211 West 23rd St
Plattsmouth, NE 68048
402-296-6256

Physicians/Pediatricians

Methodist Physician's Clinic
203 Main St
Louisville, NE 68037
402-234-2500

Children's Physicians
1938 E Highway 34
Plattsmouth, NE 68048
402-955-7150

UNMC Physicians
1938 E Highway 34
Plattsmouth, NE 68048
402-296-6009

Cass Family Medicine/OneWorld
Plattsmouth
122 South 6th St
Plattsmouth, NE 68048
402-296-2345

Weeping Water Medical Clinic
204 North Randolph St
Weeping Water, NE 68463
402-267-5330

Applicable Board of Education Policies/Procedures

All Board of Education policies can be accessed at the following website or they can be accessed on the Plattsburgh Community Schools website (www.pcsd.org) by clicking on About PCS, scroll down and select Board of Education and then Policies. <https://www.pcsd.org/Page/19>

Student Records BOE Policy No. 5202

Notification of Rights Under FERPA

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age (“eligible students”) certain rights with respect to the student’s education records. They are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student’s education records within 45 days of the day the district receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal (or appropriate school official) a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The principal will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
2. The right to request the amendment of the student’s education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading. Parents or eligible students may ask the school district to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the district decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the district will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.
3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student’s education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception which permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the district as an administrator, supervisor, instructor or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the school board; a person or company with whom the District has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility and effectively provide the function or service for which they are responsible.

Contractors, consultants and volunteers are permitted to have access to education records where they are performing a function or service that would otherwise be done by a school employee. Their access is limited to education records in which they have a legitimate educational interest; which means records needed to effectively provide the function or service for which they are responsible.

The District forwards education records (may include academic, health and discipline records) to schools that have requested the records and in which the student seeks or intends to enroll, or where the student has already enrolled so long as the disclosure is for purposes related to the student’s enrollment or transfer.

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

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20202-4605

NOTICE CONCERNING DIRECTORY INFORMATION

The District may disclose directory information. The types of personally identifiable information that the district has designated as directory information are as follows: student’s name, address, telephone listing, electronic mail address, photograph, date of and place of birth, major fields of study, dates of attendance, grade level, enrollment status (e.g., full-time or part-time), participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, degrees, honors and awards received, and most recent previous school attended. A parent or eligible student has the right to refuse to let the District designate any or all of those types of information about the student as directory information. The period of time within which a parent or eligible student has to notify the District in writing that he or she does not want any or all of those types of information about the student designated as directory information is as follows: two weeks from the time this information is first received. The district may disclose information about former students without meeting the conditions in this section.

ADDITIONAL NOTICE CONCERNING DIRECTORY INFORMATION

The district’s policy is for education records to be kept confidential except as permitted by the FERPA law, and the district does not approve any practice which involves an unauthorized disclosure of education records. In some courses student work may be displayed or made available to others. Also, some teachers may have persons other than the teacher or school staff, such as volunteers or fellow students, assist with the task of grading student work and returning graded work to students. The District designates such student work as directory information and as non-education records. Each parent and eligible student shall be presumed to have accepted this designation in the absence of the parent or eligible student giving notification to the District in writing in the manner set forth above pertaining to the

designation of directory information. Consent will be presumed to have been given in the absence of such a notification from the parent or eligible student.

Anti-discrimination & Harassment Policy – BOE Policy No. 5401

Elimination of Discrimination. The Plattsmouth Community Schools hereby gives this statement of compliance and intent to comply with all state and federal laws prohibiting discrimination or harassment and requiring accommodations. This school district intends to take necessary measures to assure compliance with such laws against any prohibited form of discrimination.

The Plattsmouth Community Schools does not discriminate on the basis of sex, disability, race, color, religion, veteran status, national or ethnic origin, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, or other protected status in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

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

The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Students, Employees, and Others: Dr. Richard E. Hasty, Plattsmouth Community School District Superintendent/Special Education Director, 1912 E. Hwy. 34, Plattsmouth, NE 68048, (402) 296-3361, rhasty@pcsd.org

Complaints or concerns involving discrimination or needs for accommodation or access should be addressed to the appropriate Coordinator. For further information about anti-discrimination laws and regulations, or to file a complaint of discrimination with the Office for Civil Rights in the U.S. Department of Education (OCR), please contact the OCR at 601 East 12th Street, Room 353, Kansas City, Missouri 64106, (800) 368-1019 (voice), (816) 426- 3686 (fax) or (800) 537-7697 (telecommunications device for the deaf), or ocr.kansascity@ed.gov.

Preventing Harassment and Discrimination of Students.

Purpose: Plattsmouth Community Schools is committed to offering employment and educational opportunities to its employees and students in a climate free of discrimination. Accordingly, unlawful discrimination or harassment of any kind by administrators, teachers, co-workers, students or other persons is prohibited. In addition, the Plattsmouth Community Schools will try to protect employees and students from reported discrimination or harassment by non-employees or others in the work place and educational environment.

For purposes of this policy, discrimination or harassment based on a person's race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability or age is prohibited. The following are general definitions of what might constitute prohibited harassment.

- In general, ethnic or racial slurs or other verbal or physical conduct relating to a person's race, color, religion, disability or national origin constitute harassment when they unreasonably interfere with the person's work performance or create an intimidating work, instructional or educational environment.
- Age harassment (40 years of age and higher) has been defined by federal regulations as a form of age discrimination. It can consist of demeaning jokes, insults or intimidation based on a person's age.
- Sexual harassment is defined by federal and state regulations as a form of sex discrimination. It can consist of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or physical or verbal conduct of a sexual nature by supervisors or others in the work place, classroom or educational environment.
 - Sexual harassment may exist when:
 - Submission to such conduct is either an explicit or implicit term and condition of employment or of participation and enjoyment of the school's programs and activities;
 - Submission to or rejection of such conduct is used or threatened as a basis for employment related decisions, such as promotion, performance, evaluation, pay adjustment, discipline, work assignment, etc., or school program or activity decisions, such as admission, credits, grades, school assignments or playing time.
 - The conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or educational performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working, classroom or educational environment.
 - Sexual harassment may include explicit sexual propositions, sexual innuendo, suggestive comments, sexually oriented "kidding" or "teasing", "practical jokes", jokes about gender-specific traits, foul or obscene language or gestures, displays of foul or obscene printed or visual material, and physical contact, such as patting, pinching or brushing against another's body.

Complaint and Grievance Procedures:

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

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

District employees, supervisors and administrators must immediately report any complaints, reports, observations, or other information of alleged discrimination to the designated coordinator, even if that District employee is investigating the alleged discrimination as part of the District's student or employee disciplinary process, and provide the complainant with information for filing a complaint of discrimination, including a complaint form if requested, and contact information for the District's designated coordinator. If the District uses its disciplinary procedures to investigate and resolve an alleged discrimination complaint, those disciplinary procedures will comply with the District's standards for a prompt and equitable grievance procedure outlined in section B.2., below.

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

Multicultural Education BOE Policy No. 6370

Statement of Philosophy and Mission

The philosophy of the multicultural education program is that students will have improved ability to function as productive members of society when provided with: (a) an understanding of diverse cultures and races, the manner in which the existence of diverse cultures and races have affected the history of our Nation and the world, and of the contributions made by diverse cultures and races and (b) with the ability and skills to be sensitive toward and to study, work and live successively with persons of diverse cultures and races.

The mission of the multicultural education program is to prepare students to: (a) value and respect their own culture and race and cultures and races other than their own and (b) eliminate stereotypes and different treatment of others based on culture and race. The mission shall also include preparing students to eliminate stereotypes and discrimination or harassment of others based on ethnicity, religion, gender, socioeconomic status, age, or disability.

Notice to Parents of Rights Afforded by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

The following is a description of the rights granted to qualifying students with disabilities under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. The intent of the law is to keep you fully informed concerning the decisions about your child and to inform you of your rights if you disagree with any of these decisions. You have the right to:

1. Have your child take part in, and receive benefits from, public education programs without discrimination because of his/her disability.
2. Have the school district advise you of your rights under federal law.
3. Receive notice with respect to identification, evaluation or placement of your child.
4. Have your child receive a free appropriate public education.
5. Have your child receive services and be educated in facilities which are comparable to those provided to every student.
6. Have evaluation, educational and placement decisions made based on a variety of information sources and by persons who know the student and who are knowledgeable about the evaluation data and placement options.
7. Have transportation provided to and from an alternative placement setting (if the setting is a program not operated by the district) at no greater cost to you than would be incurred if the student were placed in a program operated by the district.
8. Have your child be given an equal opportunity to participate in nonacademic and extracurricular activities offered by the district.
9. Examine all relevant records relating to decisions regarding your child's identification, evaluation and placement.
10. Request mediation or an impartial due process hearing related to decisions or actions regarding your child's identification, evaluation, educational program or placement. (You and your child may take part in the hearing. Hearing requests are to be made to the Superintendent).
11. File a local grievance.

Return to Learn From Cancer – BOE Policy No. 6286

The Superintendent or designee shall make available training on how to recognize that students who have been treated for pediatric cancer and returned to school may need informal or formal accommodations, modifications of curriculum, and monitoring by medical or academic staff.

A 504 team meeting will be held, as appropriate, to develop individual return to learn accommodations and modifications.

Notice Concerning Designation of Law Enforcement Unit:

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

Student Privacy Protection - Policy No. 5421

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

- A. Right of Parents to Inspect Surveys Funded or Administered by the United States Department of Education or Third Parties:** Parents shall have the right to inspect, upon the parent's request, survey created by and administered by either the United States Department of Education or a third party (a group or person other than the District) before the survey is administered or distributed by the school to the parent's child.
- B. Protection of Student Privacy in Regard to Surveys of Matters Deemed to be Sensitive:** The District will require, for any survey of students which contain one or more matters deemed to be sensitive (see section headed "Definition of Surveys of Matters Deemed to be Sensitive"), that suitable arrangements be made to protect student privacy (that is, the name or other identifying information about a particular student). For such surveys, the District will also follow the procedures set forth in the section entitled: "Notification of and Right to Opt-Out of Specific Events."

- C. Right of Parents to Inspect Instructional Materials:** Parents have the right to inspect, upon reasonable request, any instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum for their child. Reasonable requests for inspection of instructional materials shall be granted within a reasonable period of time after the request is received. Parents shall not have the right to access academic tests or academic assessments, as such are not within the meaning of the term "instructional materials" for purposes of this policy.

The procedures for making and granting a request to inspect instructional materials are as follows: the parent shall make the request, with reasonable specificity, directly to the building principal. The building principal, within five (5) school days, shall consult with the teacher or other educator responsible for the curriculum materials. In the event the request can be accommodated, the building principal shall make the materials available for inspection or review by the parent, at such reasonable times and place as will not interfere with the educator's intended use of the materials. In the event there is a question as to the nature of the curriculum materials requested or as to whether the materials are required to be provided, the building principal shall notify the parent of such concern, and assist the parent with forming a request which can reasonably be accommodated. If the parent does not formulate such a request, and continues to desire certain curriculum materials, the parent shall be asked to make their request to the Superintendent.

- D. Rights of Parents to be Notified of and to Opt-Out of Certain Physical Examinations or Screenings.** The general policy and practice of the District is to not administer physical examinations or screenings of students which require advance notice or parental opt-out rights under the applicable federal laws, for the reason that the physical examinations or screenings to be conducted by the District will usually fit into one of the following exceptions: (1) hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings; (2) physical examinations or screenings that are permitted or required by an applicable State law; and (3) surveys administered to students in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. For physical examinations or screenings which do not fit into the applicable exceptions, the District will follow the procedures set forth in the section entitled: "Notification of and Right to Opt-Out of Specific Events."
- E. Protection of Student Privacy in Regard to Personal Information Collected from Students:** The general policy and practice of the District is to not engage in the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information. The District will make reasonable arrangements to protect student privacy to the extent possible in the event of any such collection, disclosure, or use of personal information.

"Personal information" for purposes of this policy means individually identifiable information about a student including: a student or parent's first and last name, home address, telephone number, and social security number. The term "personal information," for purposes of this policy, does not include information collected from students for the exclusive purpose of developing, evaluating, or providing educational products or services for, or to, students or educational institutions. This exception includes the following examples: (i) college or postsecondary education recruitment, or military recruitment; (ii) book clubs, magazines, and programs providing access to low-cost literary products; (iii) curriculum and instructional materials used by elementary schools and secondary schools; (iv) tests and assessments used by elementary schools and secondary schools to provide cognitive, evaluative, diagnostic, clinical, aptitude, or achievement information about student, or to generate other statistically useful data for the purpose of securing such tests and assessments, and the subsequent analysis and public release of the aggregate data from such tests and assessments; (v) the sale by student of products or services to raise funds for school-related or education-related activities; (vi) student recognition programs.

- F. Parental Access to Instruments used in the Collection of Personal Information:** While the general practice of the District is to not engage in the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information, parents shall have the right to inspect, upon reasonable request, any instrument which may be administered or distributed to a student for such purposes. Reasonable requests for inspection shall be granted within a reasonable period of time after the request is received. The procedures for making and granting such a request are as follows: the parent shall make the request, with reasonable specificity, directly to the building principal and shall identify the specific act and the school staff member or program responsible for the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information from students for the purpose of marketing that information. The building principal, within five (5) school days, shall consult with the school staff member or person responsible for the program which has been reported by the parent to be responsible for the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information from students. In the event such collection, disclosure, or use of personal information is occurring or there is a plan for such to occur, the building principal shall consult with the Superintendent for determination of whether the action shall be allowed to continue. If not, the instrument for the collection of personal information shall not be given to any students. If it is to be allowed, such instrument shall be provided to the requesting parent as soon as such instrument can be reasonably obtained.

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

Notification to Parents of Dates of and Right to Opt-Out of Specific Events: The District will directly notify the parents of the affected children, at least annually at the beginning of the school year, of the specific or approximate dates during the school year when any of the following activities are scheduled, or are expected to be scheduled:

1. The collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information. (Note: the general practice of the District is to not engage in the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information).
2. Surveys of students involving one or more matters deemed to be sensitive in accordance with the law and this policy; and
3. Any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening that is required as a condition of attendance; administered by the school and scheduled by the school in advance; and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of the student or of other students. (Note: the general practice of the District is to not engage in physical examinations or

screenings which require advance notice, for the reason that the physical examinations or screenings to be conducted by the District will usually fit into one of the following exceptions to the advance notice requirement and parental opt-out right: (1) hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings; (2) physical examinations or screenings that are permitted or required by an applicable State law, and (3) surveys administered to students in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act).

Parents shall be offered an opportunity in advance to opt their child out of participation in any of the above listed activities. In the case of a student of an appropriate age (that is, a student who has reached the age of 18, or a legally emancipated student), the notice and opt-out right shall belong to the student.

Definition of Surveys of Matters Deemed to be Sensitive: Any survey containing one or more of the following matters shall be deemed to be “sensitive” for purposes of this policy:

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student’s parent;
2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or the student’s parent;
3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating or demeaning behavior;
5. Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom the student has close family relationships;
6. Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers;
7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the students or the student’s parent;
8. Income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program).

Mental Health Assessment or Service

The District shall obtain informed consent from the parent of each child who is under 18 years of age to participate in any mental-health assessment or service that is funded under the Every Student Succeeds Act (“ESSA”). Before obtaining the consent, the District shall provide the parent written notice describing in detail such mental health assessment or service, including the purpose for such assessment or service, the provider of such assessment or service, when such assessment or service will begin, and how long such assessment or service may last.

Homeless Students Policy - Policy No. 5417

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

A “homeless child” for purposes of this Policy is a child who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, as defined by applicable federal and state law related to homeless students. An “unaccompanied youth” is a child who is not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

- I. **Homeless Coordinator:** The District’s designated Homeless Coordinator is the Superintendent. The Homeless Coordinator may delegate the specified duties as the Homeless Coordinator determines to be appropriate. The Homeless Coordinator shall serve as the school liaison for homeless children and youth.
 - a. **Responsibilities.** The responsibilities of the Homeless Coordinator are to assist with identification, enrollment, and placement of homeless children and to provide staff development activities to all school personnel regarding the educational rights and needs of homeless children and youth. The Homeless Coordinator shall ensure that: (1) homeless children are identified by school personnel; (2) homeless children enroll in, and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed in, school; (3) homeless children and their families receive educational service for which they are eligible and referrals to health, dental, and mental health services and other appropriate services; (4) the parents or guardians of homeless children are informed of the educational and related opportunities available to their children and provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children; (5) public notice of the educational rights of homeless children is disseminated where such children receive services under the federal homeless children laws, such as schools, family shelters, and soup kitchens; (6) enrollment disputes are mediated in accordance with law; and (7) the parents or guardians of homeless children, and any unaccompanied youth, are fully informed of transportation services available under law.
 - b. **Coordination.** The Homeless Coordinator shall coordinate with State coordinators and community and school personnel responsible for the provisions of education and related services to homeless children. Coordination activities with area shelters and other homeless service providers are to be established by the Homeless Coordinator.
 - c. **Financial.** The Homeless Coordinator shall ensure that financial records are maintained to show expenditures are for authorized activities. Title I, Part A homeless set-aside funds are also to be used for services for homeless children. Materials and equipment purchased with grant funds are properly identified and inventoried.
 - d. **Program Activities.** The Homeless Coordinator shall design program activities to meet the greatest need as determined by the District and homeless service providers.
 - e. **Documentation.** The Homeless Coordinator shall document the number of homeless children and youth receiving services.
 - f. **Student Records.** The Homeless Coordinator shall ensure that any record ordinarily kept related to students, including immunization or medical records, academic records, birth certificates, guardianship records, and evaluations for special services or programs, are to be maintained so that the records of a homeless child are available, in a timely fashion, when the child enters a new school or school district and in a manner consistent with the Federal Education Rights and Privacy Act.
 - g. **Notice.** The District shall annually inform school personnel, service providers, advocates working with homeless families, parents and guardians of homeless children and youths, and homeless children and youths of the duties of

- the Homeless Coordinator, and shall annually provide to NDE the identity of the District's Homeless Coordinator.
2. Enrollment of and Services to Homeless Children: The enrollment and placement of homeless children shall be in compliance with federal and state law.
 - a. Enrollment. A homeless child shall be immediately enrolled even if the child is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment. Lack of previous school records, immunization and medical records, birth certificate, or other documentation from the previous school will not delay the enrollment of a homeless child or youth. Guardianship issues, uniform or dress code requirements, and residency requirements will not be obstacles to delay or deny enrollment. The District may nonetheless require the parent or guardian of the homeless child to submit contact information.
 - b. Obtaining Records. The District shall immediately contact the school last attended by the homeless child to obtain relevant academic and other records. If the homeless child needs to obtain immunizations or medical records, the District shall immediately refer the parent or guardian of the homeless child to the Homeless Coordinator, who shall assist in obtaining necessary immunizations or medical records.
 - c. Placement. Placement decisions for a homeless child shall be made according to the District's determination of the child's best interests.
 - i. The placement shall be at either:
 1. The child's "school of origin" which is the school that the child attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child was last enrolled; or
 2. The school of the attendance area in which the child is actually living.
 - ii. If placed in the school of origin, the placement shall continue for the duration of the child's homelessness. If the child becomes permanently housed (no longer homeless) during the school year, the placement in the school of origin will be continued for the remainder of that school year.
 - iii. To the extent feasible the placement shall be in the school of origin except when such is contrary to the wishes of the homeless child's parent or legal guardian. If the placement is not in the school of origin or a school requested by the homeless child's parent or legal guardian, the District shall provide a written explanation of the placement decision and a statement of appeal rights to the parent or guardian.
 - iv. If the homeless child is an unaccompanied youth, the Homeless Coordinator shall assist in the placement decision, consider the views of the unaccompanied youth, and provide the unaccompanied youth with notice of the right to appeal.
 - v. The grade placement for the homeless child will be the appropriate grade level as determined by the building principal or designee using the same procedures that are used for placing non-homeless children attending that school.
 3. Educational Services and Stigmatization or Segregation: It is the District's policy that homeless children not be stigmatized or segregated on the basis of their status as homeless. Homeless children will be provided the same free, appropriate public education as other students. Homeless students will be provided services comparable to services offered to other students in the school in which the homeless child has been placed, including the following: transportation services, educational services for which the student meets the eligibility criteria, such as services provided under Title I, educational programs for children with disabilities, and educational programs for students with limited English proficiency, programs in vocational and technical education, programs for gifted and talented students, and school nutrition programs.
 4. Transportation: Transportation will be provided to homeless students, to the extent required by law.
 - a. Comparable Service. Transportation will be provided to a homeless student comparable to that provided to students who are not homeless.
 - b. School of Origin. When the homeless student attends the school of origin, transportation will be provided to and from the school of origin upon request of the parent or guardian of the homeless child, or upon request of the Homeless Coordinator in the case of an unaccompanied youth. If the homeless child relocates out of the District but continues to be enrolled in this School District based on it being the school of origin, this School District will negotiate with the school district in which the child is residing to develop a method to apportion the responsibility and costs for providing the child with transportation to and from the school of origin. If agreement is not reached, the responsibility and cost for transportation shall be shared equally.
 - c. Eliminate Barriers. Transportation will be provided when necessary to eliminate barriers to school enrollment and the retention of students experiencing homelessness.
 5. Dispute Resolution Process. The process to resolve disputes concerning the enrollment or placement of a child or youth experiencing homelessness is as follows:
 - a. The child and the parent, guardian or other person having legal or actual charge or control of the child shall be referred to the Homeless Coordinator. The Homeless Coordinator shall carry out the dispute resolution process as expeditiously as possible after receiving notice of the dispute within not less than thirty (30) calendar days. The dispute resolution process is as follows:
 - i. The child or parent/guardian will notify the Homeless Coordinator. The District's Dispute Resolution Form shall be used if such is available.
 - ii. When it is determined that additional information would be helpful, the Homeless Coordinator will schedule a meeting within 10 days, or such time as practicable, at which the child and parent/guardian will be given the opportunity to provide information in support of their position.
 - iii. The Homeless Coordinator will contact school officials and others as determined appropriate to obtain information to corroborate the information provided in support of the positions of the child and parent/guardian and the District.
 - iv. The Homeless Coordinator will provide a written response and explanation of a decision regarding the dispute within 30 calendar days after receiving the dispute statement.

- v. The written response and explanation of the decision will include a notice of the right to appeal using the appeal process provided for in the Nebraska Department of Education Rule 19.
 - b. In the case of an unaccompanied youth, the District liaison will ensure that the youth is enrolled immediately in the school in which enrollment is sought pending resolution of the dispute;
 - c. The District will ensure the immediate enrollment of the child in the school in which enrollment is sought pending resolution of the dispute; and
 - d. The District's written response will include a notice of the right to appeal as provided in Nebraska Department of Education Rule 19, Section 005.03.
6. Right to Appeal.
- a. Any parent, guardian or other person having legal or actual charge or control of a homeless child or youth or an unaccompanied youth that is dissatisfied with the decision of the District after the dispute resolution process may file a written appeal with the Nebraska Commissioner of Education within thirty (30) calendar days of receipt of the decision. Refer to NDE, Rule 19, Section 005.03 for further details.
 - b. A party may appeal the decision of the Commissioner or designee by filing a Petition with the State Board of Education within thirty (30) calendar days of the receipt of the decision. Refer to NDE, Rule 19, Section 005.03C for further details.

Breakfast and Lunch Programs

The District has agreed to participate in the National School Lunch Program and accepts responsibility for providing free and reduced price meals to eligible children in the schools under its jurisdiction. The District provides the United States Department of Agriculture's required nondiscrimination statement:

Non-Discrimination Statement for Meal Programs:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.)

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov

Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339 or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

As stated above, all protected bases do not apply to all programs. The first six protected bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability and sex are the six protected bases for all applicants and recipients of the Child Nutrition Programs.

The school food authority assures the State Department of Education that the school system will uniformly implement the following policy to determine children's eligibility for free and reduced price meals in all National School Lunch Programs. In fulfilling its responsibilities the school food authority:

1. Agrees to serve meals free to children from families whose income meets eligibility guidelines.
2. Agrees to serve meals at a reduced price to children from families whose income falls between free meal scale and the poverty guidelines.
3. Agrees to provide these benefits to any child whose family's income falls within the criteria in Attachment A after deductions are made for the following special hardship conditions which could not reasonably be anticipated or controlled by the household: Unusually high medical expenses; shelter costs in excess of 30 percent of reported income; special education expenses due to the mental or physical condition of a child; disaster or casualty losses.
4. In addition, agrees to provide these benefits to children from families who are experiencing strikes, layoffs and unemployment which cause the family income to fall within the criteria set forth in federal guidelines.
5. Agrees there will be no physical segregation of, nor any other discrimination against, any child because of his inability to pay the full price of the meal. The names of the children eligible to receive free and reduced price meals shall not be published, posted or announced in any manner and there shall be no overt identification of any such children by use of special tokens or tickets or any other means. Further assurance is given that children eligible for free or reduced price meals shall not be required to: Work for their meals; use a separate lunch room; go through a separate serving line; enter the lunchroom through a separate entrance; eat meals at a different time; or eat a meal different from the one sold to children paying the full price.
6. Agrees in the operation of child nutrition programs, no child shall be discriminated against because of race, sex, color, or national origin.
7. Agrees to establish and use a fair hearing procedure for parental appeals to the school's decisions on applications and for school officials' challenges to the correctness of information contained in an application or to be continued eligibility of any child for free or reduced price meals. During the appeal and hearing the child will continue to receive free or reduced priced meals. A record of all such appeals and challenges and their dispositions shall be retained for three (3) years. Prior to initiating the hearing procedures, the parent or local school official may request a conference

to provide an opportunity for the parent and school official to discuss the situation, present information, and obtain an explanation of data submitted in the application and decisions rendered. Such a conference shall not in any way prejudice or diminish the right to a fair hearing. The hearing procedure shall provide the following:

- A publicly-announced, simple method for making an oral or written request for a hearing.
 - An opportunity to be assisted or represented by an attorney or other person.
 - An opportunity to examine, prior to and during the hearing, the documents and records presented to support the decision under appeal.
 - Reasonable promptness and convenience in scheduling a hearing and adequate notice as to the time and place of the hearing.
 - An opportunity to present oral or documentary evidence and arguments supporting a position without undue interference.
 - An opportunity to question or refute any testimony or other evidence and to confront and cross-examine any adverse witnesses.
 - The hearing be conducted and the decision made by a hearing official who did not participate in the decision under appeal or in any previous conference.
 - The parties concerned and any designated representative thereof be notified in writing of the decision of the hearing official.
8. Agrees to designate the Superintendent to review applications and make determinations of eligibility. This official will use the criteria outlined in this policy to determine which individual children are eligible for free or reduced price meals.
9. Agrees to develop and send to each child's parent or guardian a letter as outlined by State Department of Education including an application form for free or reduced price meals at the beginning of each school year. Applications may be filed at any time during the year. All children from a family will receive the same benefits.

The following information will be available in the office of the Superintendent:

- Eligibility criteria for free and reduced meals
- Parent letter and application
- Public release
- Collection procedures

Student Privacy Protection – BOE Policy #5421

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

- A. Right of Parents to Inspect Surveys Funded or Administered by the United States Department of Education or Third Parties
Parents shall have the right to inspect, upon the parent's request, a survey created by and administered by either the United States Department of Education or a third party (a group or person other than the District) before the survey is administered or distributed by the school to the parent's child.
- B. Protection of Student Privacy in Regard to Surveys of Matters Deemed to be Sensitive
The District will require, for any survey of students which contain one or more matters deemed to be sensitive (see section headed Definition of Surveys of Matters Deemed to be Sensitive), that suitable arrangements be made to protect student privacy (that is, the name or other identifying information about a particular student). For such surveys, the District will also follow the procedures set forth in the section entitled: Notification of and Right to Opt-Out of Specific Events.
- C. Right of Parents to Inspect Instructional Materials
Parents shall have the right to inspect, upon reasonable request, any instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum for their child. Reasonable requests for inspection of instructional materials shall be granted within a reasonable period of time after the request is received. Parents shall not have the right to access academic tests or academic assessments, as such are not within the meaning of the term instructional materials for purposes of this policy.
- The procedures for making and granting a request to inspect instructional materials are as follows: the parent shall make the request, with reasonable specificity, directly to the building principal. The building principal, within five school days, shall consult with the teacher or other educator responsible for the curriculum materials. In the event the request can be accommodated, the building principal shall make the materials available for inspection or review by the parent, at such reasonable times and place as will not interfere with the educator's intended use of the materials. In the event there is a question as to the nature of the curriculum materials requested or as to whether the materials are required to be provided, the building principal shall notify the parent of such concern, and assist the parent with forming a request which can reasonably be accommodated. If the parent does not formulate such a request, and continues to desire certain curriculum materials, the parent shall be asked to make their request to the Superintendent.
- D. Rights of Parents to be Notified of and to Opt-Out of Certain Physical Examinations or Screenings
The general policy and practice of the District is to not administer physical examinations or screenings of students which require advance notice or parent opt-out rights under the applicable federal laws, for the reason that the physical examinations or screenings to be conducted by the District will usually fit into one of the following exceptions: (1) hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings; (2) physical examinations or screenings that are permitted or required by an applicable State law; and (3) surveys administered to students in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities

Education Act. For physical examinations or screenings which do not fit into the applicable exceptions, the District will follow the procedures set forth in the section entitled: A Notification of and Right to Opt-Out of Specific Events.

E. Protection of Student Privacy in Regard to Personal Information Collected from Students

The general policy and practice of the District is to not engage in the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information. The District will make reasonable arrangements to protect student privacy to the extent possible in the event of any such collection, disclosure, or use of personal information.

Personal information for purposes of this policy means individually identifiable information about a student including: (1) a student or parent's first and last name, (2) home address, (3) telephone number, and (4) social security number. The term personal information, for purposes of this policy, does not include information collected from students for the exclusive purpose of developing, evaluating, or providing educational products or services for, or to, students or educational institutions. This exception includes the following examples: (i) college or postsecondary education recruitment, or military recruitment; (ii) book clubs, magazines, and programs providing access to low-cost literary products; (iii) curriculum and instructional materials used by elementary schools and secondary schools; (iv) tests and assessments used by elementary schools and secondary schools to provide cognitive, evaluative, diagnostic, clinical, aptitude, or achievement information about student, or to generate other statistically useful data for the purpose of securing such tests and assessments, and the subsequent analysis and public release of the aggregate data from such tests and assessments; (v) the sale by student of products or services to raise funds for school-related or education-related activities; (vi) student recognition programs.

F. Parent Access to Instruments used in the Collection of Personal Information

While the general practice of the District is to not engage in the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information, parents shall have the right to inspect, upon reasonable request, any instrument which may be administered or distributed to a student for such purposes. Reasonable requests for inspection shall be granted within a reasonable period of time after the request is received.

The procedures for making and granting such a request are as follows: the parent shall make the request, with reasonable specificity, directly to the building principal and shall identify the specific act and the school staff member or program responsible for the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information from students for the purpose of marketing that information. The building principal, within five school days, shall consult with the school staff member or person responsible for the program which has been reported by the parent to be responsible for the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information from students. In the event such collection, disclosure, or use of personal information is occurring or there is a plan for such to occur, the building principal shall consult with the Superintendent for determination of whether the action shall be allowed to continue. If not, the instrument for the collection of personal information shall not be given to any students. If it is to be allowed, such instrument shall be provided to the requesting parent as soon as such instrument can be reasonably obtained.

Annual Parental Notification of Student Privacy Protection Policy

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

Notification to Parents of Dates of and Right to Opt-Out of Specific Events

The District shall directly notify the parents of the affected children, at least annually at the beginning of the school year, of the specific or approximate dates during the school year when any of the following activities are scheduled, or are expected to be scheduled:

1. The collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information. (Note: the general practice of the District is to not engage in the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information);
2. Surveys of students involving one or more matters deemed to be sensitive in accordance with the law and this policy; and
3. Any nonemergency, invasive physical examination or screening that is required as a condition of attendance; administered by the school and scheduled by the school in advance; and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of the student or of other students. (Note: the general practice of the District is to not engage in physical examinations or screenings which require advance notice, for the reason that the physical examinations or screenings to be conducted by the District will usually fit into one of the following exceptions to the advance notice requirement and parent opt-out right: (1) hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings; (2) physical examinations or screenings that are permitted or required by an applicable State law, and (3) surveys administered to students in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act).

Parents shall be offered an opportunity in advance to opt their child out of participation in any of the above listed activities. In the case of a student of an appropriate age (that is, a student who has reached the age of 18, or a legally emancipated student), the notice and opt-out right shall belong to the student.

Definition of Surveys of Matters Deemed to be Sensitive

Any survey containing one or more of the following matters shall be deemed to be sensitive for purposes of this policy:

1. political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent;
2. mental or psychological problems of the student or the student's parent;
3. sex behavior or attitudes;

4. illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating or demeaning behavior;
5. critical appraisals of other individuals with whom the student has close family relationships;
6. legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers; or
7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the students or the student's parent;
8. income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program).

Mental Health Assessment or Service

The District shall obtain informed consent from the parent of each child who is under 18 years of age to participate in any mental-health assessment or service that is funded under the Every Student Succeeds Act ("ESSA"). Before obtaining the consent, the District shall provide the parent written notice describing in detail such mental health assessment or service, including the purpose for such assessment or service, the provider of such assessment or service, when such assessment or service will begin, and how long such assessment or service may last.

Confidentiality of Student Records.

Student files and other education records shall not be released or divulged except in compliance with state and federal law.

School officials may have access to only those education records in which they have a legitimate educational interest, unless the parent has given written and dated consent for the access. A school official who violates this restriction shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination.

A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility and effectively provide the function or service for which they are responsible.

A school official for purposes of access to education records is a person employed by the District as an administrator, supervisor, instructor or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the school board; a person or company with whom the District has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.

To the extent permitted by law, contractors, consultants and volunteers may be permitted to have access to education records where they are performing a function or service that would otherwise be done by a school employee. Their access is limited to education records in which they have a legitimate educational interest; which means records needed to effectively provide the function or service for which they are responsible.

Student and Parent Access to Student Records.

A parent or guardian of a student or former student, and a student or former student who is eighteen (18) years of age or older, shall be given the opportunity upon request to inspect and review the education records of the student or former student. Non-custodial parents will be provided full and equal access to the education records of his or her child unless there is a court order to the contrary.

Maintenance and Destruction.

Student files or records shall be so maintained so as to separate academic and disciplinary matters. All disciplinary material in a student's file shall be removed and destroyed after the student's continuous absence from the school for a period of three (3) years.

Amendment of Student Records.

Parents and eligible students (a student who has reached 18 years of age or is attending an institution of postsecondary education) have the right to challenge any information contained in the records that they believe is inaccurate, misleading or violates the privacy rights of the student. Such a challenge may be made by making a written request to the Principal to amend the records. If a decision is made not to amend the education records in accordance with the request, the Principal shall so inform the parents of the student and the Superintendent. The parent shall be advised of the right to a hearing.

If a hearing is requested, the Superintendent shall conduct a hearing (or delegate the role to another school official who does not have a direct interest in the outcome of the hearing) and provide the parent or eligible student a full and fair opportunity to present evidence relevant to the issues raised in conformance with applicable law.

Safe Pupil Transportation Plan -- Policy No. 5306

This Safe Pupil Transportation Plan sets forth the District's plan for providing safe transportation to students being transported in pupil transportation vehicles.

- I. **Weapons-** Upon becoming aware of a weapon aboard a pupil transportation vehicle, the driver will make every attempt to:
 - A. Radio transportation dispatch and notify them of the situation **if possible**. If not possible, the driver will make every attempt to telephone dispatch from a cellular telephone or from the nearest safe haven location. Examples of a safe haven include, but are not limited to, any school building site, emergency service station (law enforcement or fire department), community service agency, etc.
 - B. Pull vehicle over to safe and secure area.
 - C. Confiscate weapon (if it doesn't jeopardize student or driver safety).
 - D. Give description of weapon and participating parties to dispatch.
 - E. Dispatch will immediately notify appropriate law enforcement agencies and school administration.

2. Pupil behavior- Students are expected to follow student conduct rules while in a pupil transportation vehicle. The pupil transportation driver is responsible for controlling behavior which affects safety and for reporting rule violations to school administration. In the event a student's behavior jeopardizes safety, the driver will make every attempt to:

- A. First seek to resolve incident through discussion with the student(s) involved.
- B. Radio transportation dispatch and notify them of situation **if possible**. If not possible, the driver will make every attempt to telephone dispatch from a cellular telephone or from the nearest safe haven location.
- C. Activate emergency flashers.
- D. Bring vehicle to a safe stop. Seek to resolve the incident, using physical force only as necessary to protect students or yourself.
- E. Report and document discipline problems to the school administrator on a Bus Conduct Report/Incident Form.

3. Terrorist threats- A person commits a terroristic threat if the person threatens to commit a crime of violence with the intent to terrorize another or with the intent of causing evacuation of a building, place of assembly or facility of public transportation or in reckless disregard of the risk of causing such terror or evacuation. Upon becoming aware of a terroristic threat relating to a pupil transportation vehicle, the driver will make every attempt to:

- A. Radio transportation dispatch and notify them of situation **if possible**. If not possible, the driver will make every attempt to telephone dispatch from a cellular telephone or from the nearest safe haven location.
- B. Make every attempt to keep passengers calm (this may mean complying with the terrorist).
- C. Dispatch will immediately notify appropriate law enforcement agencies and school administration.
- D. Driver should wait for instructions from dispatch **if possible**.

4. Severe weather- Upon becoming aware of severe weather while aboard a pupil transportation vehicle, the driver will make every attempt to:

- A. Radio transportation dispatch and notify them of situation if possible. If not possible, the driver will make every attempt to telephone dispatch from a cellular telephone or from the nearest safe haven location.
- B. Return to the school if less than five minutes away and follow the directions of the school administrator.
- C. If more than five minutes away from school, go to the nearest school and follow the directions of the school administrator.
- D. If more than five minutes away from the nearest school or there is immediate danger, get to the nearest basement or underground shelter with all students.
- E. If there is no shelter and there is immediate danger the driver and passengers are to follow evacuation procedures and get everyone off the vehicle into the nearest ditch or culvert at least 100 feet away from the vehicle.

5. Hazardous materials- Upon becoming aware of a hazardous material aboard a pupil transportation vehicle, the driver will make every attempt to:

- A. Radio transportation dispatch and notify them of situation **if possible**. If not possible, the driver will make every attempt to telephone dispatch from a cellular telephone or from the nearest safe haven location.
- B. Pull vehicle over to safe and secure area.
- C. Give description of hazardous materials in question to dispatch.
- D. Dispatch will immediately notify appropriate law enforcement and school administration.
- E. Driver should wait for instructions from dispatch **if possible**.

6. Medical emergencies- Upon becoming aware of a medical emergency aboard a pupil transportation vehicle, the driver will make every attempt to:

- A. Radio transportation dispatch and notify them of situation **if possible**. If not possible, the driver will make every attempt to telephone dispatch from a cellular telephone or from the nearest safe haven location.
- B. Dispatch will immediately notify appropriate medical agencies and school administration.
- C. Driver should follow instructions from dispatch, school officials, and parents when such information can be obtained quickly enough. If not available, follow emergency first aid procedures.
- D. **Only if necessary**, the driver should move passengers only enough to get them out of danger of traffic or fire. If moved, the driver and aide are to keep them where placed until a medical agency arrives, unless a parent has taken charge of their child.
- E. Driver should try to keep student passengers as calm as possible.

7. Procedures in the event of mechanical breakdowns of the vehicle- Upon becoming aware of a mechanical breakdown aboard a Pupil transportation vehicle, the driver will make every attempt to:

- A. Pull vehicle over to safe and secure area if possible
- B. Radio transportation dispatch and notify them of situation if possible. If not possible, the driver will make every attempt to telephone dispatch from a cellular telephone or from the nearest safe haven location.
- C. Activate emergency flashers and place warning flares/reflectors in accordance with safety guidelines, if not in secure area.
- D. Driver should try to keep student passengers as calm as possible.
- E. Dispatch will arrange for assistance and a relief vehicle if needed.

8. Procedures in the event the drop-off location is uncertain or appears unsafe to leave students. In the event the drop-off location is uncertain or appears unsafe to leave students, the driver will make every attempt to:

- A. Radio transportation or otherwise communicate with dispatch to notify them of the situation if possible.
- B. Release children only if an adult responsible for the children is present. If not, keep children who are to be released in the vehicle, continue with route, and return children who were to be released to the school.
- C. Dispatch will notify appropriate law enforcement agencies and school administration if appropriate given the circumstances.

9. Documentation under Safe Pupil Transportation Plan. Each pupil transportation driver is required to complete and submit to the school administration a bus conduct report or incident report involving the pupil transportation vehicle operated by the driver or any pupils transported in it. Documentation is to include the occurrence of any of the following events: weapons, student behavior which affects safety, terroristic threats, severe weather, hazardous materials, or medical emergencies. Documentation of such events shall be completed and submitted as soon as practicable after the incident.

10. Transportation of Unsafe Items. Drivers shall not permit pupil transportation vehicles to transport any items, animals, materials, weapons or look-a-like weapons or equipment which in any way would endanger the lives, health or safety of the children or other passengers and the driver. Look-a-like weapons associated with a school sponsored or approved activity may be transported only with written permission of a school administrator. Any items that would break or could produce injury if tossed about inside the pupil transportation vehicle when involved in an accident or sudden stop shall be secured.

11. Supplemental Information. A copy of this plan shall be placed in each pupil transportation vehicle, kept at each school building, and made available upon request. Supplemental information with respect to operational and procedural guidelines used to administer this plan can be found in the District's safety and security plan adopted pursuant to 92 NAC10 and in the Nebraska Department of Education Pupil Transportation Guide.

Anti-discrimination – Policy No. 1200

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

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

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

Tobacco Policy

Plattsmouth Community Schools are tobacco free.

The use of tobacco products is prohibited in all school buildings and all school vehicles. Smoking shall also be prohibited in any area where school staff, students or members of the public may be present or may be affected by smoke, including without limitation the stands and bleachers of outdoor athletic fields and near the entry of school buildings. For purposes of this policy, tobacco means any tobacco product (including but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, and chewing tobacco), vapor products (such as e-cigarettes), alternative nicotine products, tobacco product look-alikes, and products intended to replicate tobacco products either by appearance or effect.

Drug and Substance Use and Prevention – Policy No. 5104

Drug-Free Schools

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

Education and Prevention

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

Standards of Conduct; Notice to Students and Parents

Students are to be provided a copy of the standards of conduct for student behavior in the District which prohibit the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol on school premises or as a part of any of the school's activities. It shall be the further policy of the District to keep a file showing receipt of standards of conduct and a statement of disciplinary sanctions that may be taken for violations of such standards of conduct. The receipt shall be signed by both student and parent or guardian and returned to the respective Principal. It shall contain in prominent letters the following language:

"RECEIPT SHALL SERVE TO DEMONSTRATE THAT YOU AS PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF A STUDENT ATTENDING PLATTSMOUTH COMMUNITY SCHOOLS HAVE RECEIVED NOTICE OF THE STANDARDS OF CONDUCT OF THIS DISTRICT EXPECTED OF STUDENTS CONCERNING THE ABSOLUTE PROHIBITION AGAINST THE UNLAWFUL POSSESSION, USE, OR DISTRIBUTION OF ILLICIT DRUGS AND ALCOHOL ON SCHOOL PREMISES OR AS A PART OF ANY OF THE SCHOOL'S ACTIVITIES AS DESCRIBED IN BOARD POLICY OR ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION. THIS NOTICE IS BEING PROVIDED TO YOU PURSUANT TO P.L. 101-226 AND 34 C.F.R. PART 86, BOTH FEDERAL LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DISTRICT TO OBTAIN ANY FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. YOUR SIGNATURE ON THIS RECEIPT ACKNOWLEDGES THAT YOU AND YOUR CHILD OR CHILDREN WHO ARE STUDENTS ATTENDING THIS DISTRICT FULLY UNDERSTAND THE DISTRICT'S POSITION ABSOLUTELY PROHIBITING THE UNLAWFUL POSSESSION, USE, OR DISTRIBUTION OF ILLICIT DRUGS AND ALCOHOL ON SCHOOL PREMISES OR AS A PART OF THE SCHOOL'S

ACTIVITIES AS HEREIN ABOVE DESCRIBED AND THAT COMPLIANCE WITH THESE STANDARDS IS MANDATORY. ANY NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THESE STANDARDS CAN AND WILL RESULT IN PUNITIVE MEASURES BEING TAKEN AGAINST ANY STUDENT FAILING TO COMPLY WITH THESE STANDARDS.”

Drug and Alcohol Education and Prevention Program of the District Pursuant to the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Laws and Regulations

Students are to be provided an age appropriate, developmentally based drug and alcohol education and prevention program. The program educates on the adverse effects of the use of illicit drugs and alcohol, with the primary objective being the prevention of illicit drug and alcohol use by students.

Drug and Alcohol Counseling, Rehabilitation and Re-entry Programs

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

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

Safe and Drug-Free Schools-- Parental Notice of Right to Withdraw

Parents will be notified that, if upon receipt of information regarding the content of safe and drug free school programs and activities other than classroom instruction a parent objects to the participation of their child in such programs and activities, the parent may notify the School District of such objection in writing. Upon the receipt of such notice the student will be withdrawn from the program or activity to which parental objection has been made.

Standards of Student Conduct Pertaining to the Possession, Use, or Distribution of Illicit Drugs, Alcohol or Tobacco.

These standards are in addition to standards of student conduct elsewhere adopted by board policy or administrative regulation. The District's standards prohibit the possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs, alcohol or tobacco on school premises, in school vehicles, or as a part of any of the school's activities on or off school premises. Conduct prohibited at places and activities as hereinabove described shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Possession, use distribution or being under the influence of any controlled substance, including but not limited to marijuana, any narcotic drug, any hallucinogen, any stimulant, or any depressant.
2. Possession of any prescription drug in an unlawful fashion.
3. Possession, use, distribution or being under the influence of alcohol.
4. Possession, use, distribution, or being under the influence of any abusable glue or aerosol paint or any other chemical substance for inhalation, including but not limited to lighter fluid, whiteout, and reproduction fluid, when such activity constitutes a substantial interference with school purposes.
5. Possession, use, or distribution of any look-alike drug or look-alike controlled substance when such activity constitutes a substantial interference with school purposes.
6. Possession, use or distribution of any tobacco product.

Disciplinary Sanctions

Violation of any of the above prohibited acts will result in disciplinary sanction being taken within the bounds of applicable law, up to and including short term suspension, long term suspension, expulsion, and referral to appropriate authorities for criminal prosecution. In particular, students should be aware that:

1. Violation of these standards may result in suspension or expulsion.
2. Prohibited substances will be confiscated and turned over to law enforcement
3. The student may be referred for counseling or treatment.
4. Parents or legal guardian will be notified.
5. Law enforcement will be notified.
6. If it appears there is imminent danger to the student, other students, school authorities, personnel, or students involved, emergency medical services will be contacted.

Intervention

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

Administration

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