Section A

The Board of Education of District #225 recognizes that some students may have a need for a shorter school day because of the need for work experiences outside of school or because of serious home obligations. The Board also understands that a few students may encounter difficulty in adjusting to a full day of school and can profit from a shortened school day. The Board, therefore, authorizes the school principal or designee to grant early dismissals or late arrivals to students when circumstances warrant, in accordance with Sections B, C, and D of this policy. The Board also authorizes the principal to make exceptions to Sections B, C, and D in extenuating circumstances.

Section B

Early dismissals or late arrivals may be granted on a daily basis or for a specified period of time not to exceed the end of the current school year. Renewals may be requested for subsequent school years.

Section C

At least one of the following circumstances must exist before an early dismissal or late arrival is granted on a long-range basis:

1. The student has a need for employment which requires a shortened school day.
2. The student has a family-related situation which requires the student's presence.
3. The student can profit from a shortened school day, in the judgment of the principal.
4. A shortened day is listed as an accommodation on an IEP or Section 504 accommodation plan.

Section D

Before granting an early dismissal or late arrival the principal shall determine that the following criteria have been fulfilled:

1. Receipt of a written request from the parent which indicates the specific need for a shortened school day and the specific time the student is to be released.
Section D (Continued)

2. Early release applications for employment require the signature of the employer stipulating that the student must begin work prior to the end of the school day.

3. Accomplishment of the early dismissal or late arrival with no more than a reasonable number of program changes in the student's schedule.

4. Approval of the request does not violate state attendance requirements for a full day of attendance.

5. Registration in at least 6 courses.

6. No student shall be released earlier than 50 minutes prior to the end of the school day for reasons of employment, other than those students enrolled in a school conducted work/study program.

7. No student shall be granted both a late arrival and an early release.

Approved: January 8, 1973
Revised: April 15, 1980
Revised: October 12, 1987
Revised: January 14, 2002