



NORTH
KANSAS CITY
SCHOOLS

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GASHLAND

E L E M E N T A R Y S C H O O L

PARENT HANDBOOK



Official Board of Education policies are available at
school offices and on the district website at
nkcschools.org.



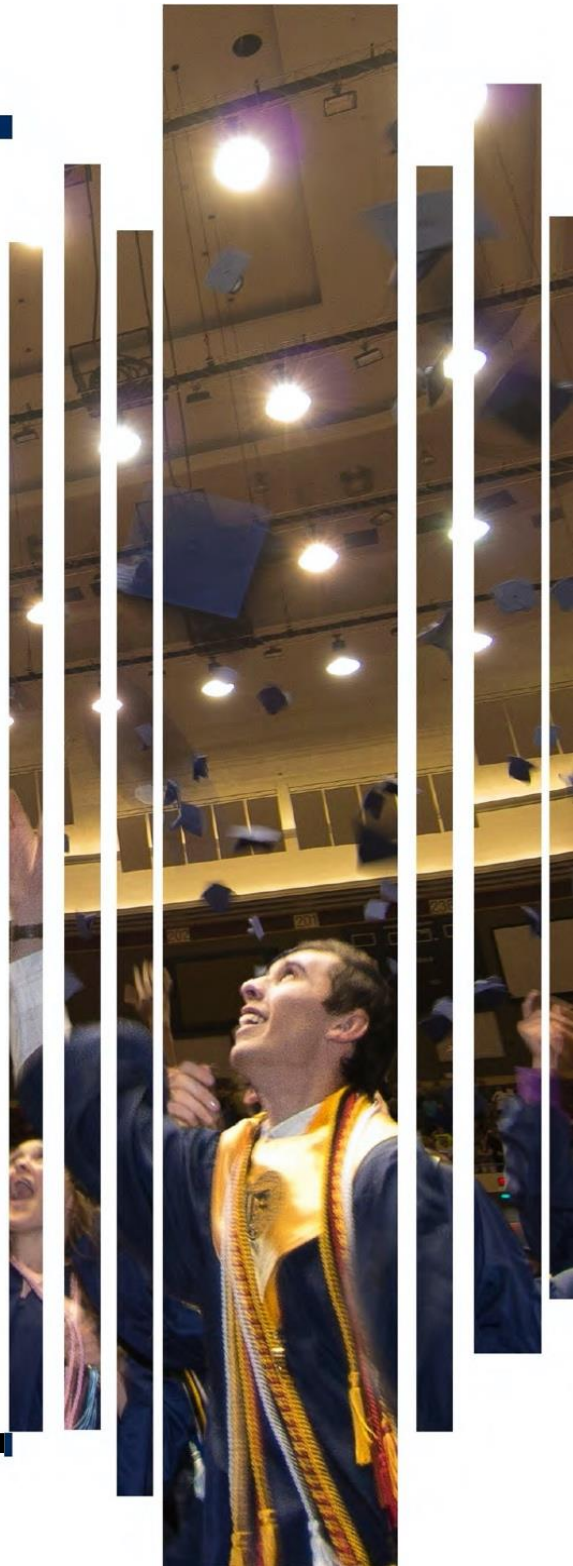
GASHLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

PARENT HANDBOOK



2024-25

FUTURE NORTHMEN



GASHLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**500 NE 83rd Street
Kansas City, Missouri
64118**

Main Number: (816) 321-5100

FAX: (816) 321-5101

Gashland Web Site: www.nkcschools.org/ga

District Web Site: www.nkcschools.org

Dr. Tarah Palmer, Principal

Ms. Glennae Cook, Administrative Assistant

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Attendance | 321-5102 |
| Cafeteria | 321-5104 |
| Counselor | 321-5782 |
| Library Media Center | 321-5106 |
| Nurse | 321-5103 |
| Office | 321-5100 |
| Adventure Club | 321-5017 |

Gashland Vision Statement

*Excellence in Primary
Education*

School Nickname

Gashland STARS

School Colors

Blue & White

Gashland Mission Statement

*The mission of Gashland/Clardy Schools,
two schools united as one in full commitment
to
excellence in elementary education, is to develop
each student's sense of agency as learner and
citizen by providing:*

- *Engaging, authentic experiences that nurture unique strengths;*
- *Meaningful partnerships among students, faculty, parents, and the community.*

Gashland Pledge

*Be the best that I can be.
Take care of my school family.
Get along with the neighbors I see.
Do what's right for my Gashland community.*

Gashland Rules

*The bottom line at Gashland:
It is never ok to be hurtful or
disruptive; But it is always ok,
To be respectful, responsible and be sa*

SCHOOL HOURS

8:30 a.m. Students enter classrooms

8:45 a.m. School begins

3:40 p.m. School dismissal

August 2024

Dear Gashland Families,

Welcome to the 2024-25 school year! I hope you had a wonderful summer and are ready to begin a new school year. On behalf of the entire staff at Gashland, I extend a warm welcome to you and your family. Educating today's young people requires us to go beyond what we have done in years past in order to prepare them for a bright and successful future. We believe in a team approach to learning and achieving and know that each individual in our school community can make a positive impact in the lives of our students. We highly value and appreciate the partnership we have with the parents of our students because we know that without it, we will have limited success with our students. It is our desire and responsibility to create a school environment in which everyone feels welcomed, included, important, safe, and successful.

We are excited to welcome our new kindergartners to Gashland. We will also be welcoming some new staff members. Although there are many things you do not know about the new staff, one thing you can count on is that each one supports and pledges to continue the historic tradition of "excellence in primary education" (our school motto) for our students. They bring new ideas to share and we look forward to getting to know them better.

I hope you will also join me in welcoming back our returning staff. We are very fortunate to have these excellent educators returning to join with the new staff in continuing to provide quality programming for all Gashland students. Their steadfast commitment to our Gashland community is invaluable in continuing the outstanding tradition of educational excellence.

In this handbook, you will find information specifically addressing our Gashland procedures as well as information common to all North Kansas City elementary schools. The Gashland information is found in the A section with district information offered in the B section of the handbook. Please take time to read through both sections and if you have any questions, feel free to call our office and we will get you the information you need.

This year at Gashland, we will continue our instruction of reading and writing through a workshop model. We will continue our goal of spending a significant amount of time reading, reflecting, writing, discussing, and understanding our thinking. By taking a holistic approach to reading and writing, we are developing higher-level thinking skills in children that will help them become college or career ready.

In math, students will continue to build on their mathematical abilities through Number Talks and make use of manipulatives to build conceptual knowledge. Students will also be encouraged to take risks with their thinking and participate in the "You do, We do, I do" model. This model asks students to do the thinking and

doing first. It requires them to connect what they have previously learned to a new problem and encourages them to think and process at higher levels. After students have taken time to process the information and work towards solutions, they may be asked to partner with another student, and the teacher will provide additional instruction.

I sincerely hope that this school year is filled with new and positive experiences, particularly for our new Kindergarten friends as they begin their educational careers. I look forward to seeing our returning Gashland students and their families. I’ve missed you! We are fortunate at Gashland to have many adult volunteers who tutor, help with room parties, chaperone field trips, and participate as lunch buddies through our Youth Friend’s program. We also have an extremely supportive and hard-working Booster Club. Please consider becoming a member of our Gashland/Clardy Booster organization and volunteer when and where you can. Research suggests that students who have parents who are involved in their child’s school have greater success. We welcome you and your child to Gashland and wish you the best year ever!

Sincerely,
Dr. Tarah Palmer Principal

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GASHLAND STAFF

Front Office Staff

| | | | | |
|------------------|------------------|--------|--|------|
| Principal | Tarah Palmer | Office | tarah.palmer@nkcschools.org | 5863 |
| Admin. Assistant | Glennae Cook | | glennae.cook@nkcschools.org | 5100 |
| Clerk | Mary Johnson | | mary.johnson@nkcschools.org | 5102 |
| | Sara Lisenbee | | sara.lisenbee@nkcschools.org | |
| Nurse | Theresa Keaveney | | theresa.keaveney@nkcschools.org | 5103 |

Instructional Staff

| | | | | |
|--------------|-------------------|----|--|------|
| Kindergarten | Peyton Campbell | 12 | peyton.campbell@nkcschools.org | 6912 |
| | Maddie Sill | 13 | maddie.sill@nkcschools.org | 6858 |
| | Olyvia Brinkmann | 14 | olyvia.brinkmann@nkcschools.org | 5743 |
| | Anna Fragel | 16 | anna.fragel@nkcschools.org | 6470 |
| | Megan Modzelewski | 19 | megan.modzelewski@nkcschools.org | 5845 |
| First Grade | Melissa Roddy | 1 | melissa.rodby@nkcschools.org | 4985 |
| | Mary Anello | 2 | mary.anello@nkcschools.org | 6931 |
| | Machelle Minter | 3 | machelle.minter@nkcschools.org | 5752 |
| | Leslie Miller | 4 | leslie.miller@nkcschools.org | 4504 |
| | Hannah Jury | 5 | hannah.jury@nkcschools.org | 3884 |

Instructional Support Staff

| | | | | |
|--------------|------------------|------|--|------|
| TLC | Heather Tate | LMC | heather.tate@nkcschools.org | 6255 |
| Resource | Margert Dice | 11 | margert.dice@nkcschools.org | |
| | Lauren Dela Cruz | | lauren.delacruz@nkcschools.org | 4844 |
| ELL | Rachael Sanchez | MP-A | rachael.sanchez@nkcschools.org | 5659 |
| | Linda Nuedorf | | linda.nuedorf@nkcschools.org | 6702 |
| Reading | Laura Swofford | MP-B | laura.swofford@nkcschools.org | 5760 |
| Building Sub | Nicole Lawson | | | |

ENCORE

| | | | | |
|---------------|-------------------|-----|--|------|
| PE/Health | Justice Shannon | Gym | justice.shannon@nkcschools.org | 4719 |
| | Dave Thomas | | dave.thomas@nkcschools.org | 6274 |
| Music | | 8 | | |
| Art | Jenn Kasserman | 9 | jenn.kasserman@nkcschools.org | 4928 |
| | Diane Settich | | diane.settich@nkcschools.org | 6112 |
| Library Media | Nicole Stephenson | 6 | nicole.stephenson@nkcschools.org | |
| | Cheryl Svoboda | | cheryl.svoboda@nkcschools.org | 4302 |
| Counselor | Colleen Nichols | 7 | colleen.nichols@nkcschools.org | |

Building Support Staff

| | | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------|----|--|------|
| Behavioral Interventionist | Cam Hawkins | 15 | cameron.hawkins@nkcschools.org | |
| School Psychologist | Natalie Koster | 7 | natalie.koster@nkcschools.org | 5899 |
| SCRS | Laura Crawford | | laura.crawford@nkcschools.org | |
| STRATEGOS Security | Chris Collins | | | 6528 |

Other Departments

| | | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|-------|--|------|
| Café | Angie Zils | Café | angie.zils@nkcschools.org | 5104 |
| | Thea Slimp | | thea.slimp@nkcschools.org | |
| | Jodie Blakemore | | jodie.blakemore@nkcschools.org | |
| Custodial | Bob Durbin | Cust. | robert.durbin@nkcschools.org | 6633 |
| | Marcial Ruiz | | marcial.ruiz@nkcschools.org | |
| Adventure Club | Tommie Jordan | CLES | tommie.jordan@nkcschools.org | |

Absences/Late Arrival/Early Departure

If your child will be absent or arriving late, please call the school attendance line at (321-5102) by 8:00 a.m. to notify school personnel. If your child arrives late, please bring them through the school office to sign them in. Students must enter the school and front office with an adult. Attendance is recorded from 8:45 a.m. to 3:40 p.m.

For early departures, please call the school office as soon as possible or send a note with your child to their teacher. If you need to pick up your child before dismissal, please come to the office, and your child will be called. The office must be notified if someone other than the individuals listed on your child's enrollment card is picking up your child. Be prepared to show identification upon request. If there is someone who should not pick up your child, please inform the school office personally. In cases of custody issues, provide documented court paperwork indicating visitation and/or custody rights. Note this on your child's enrollment card by checking the appropriate box. Remember, a "yes" check mark requires legal documentation.

For changes in transportation, please contact the school office before 3:00 p.m. Our office staff does not answer phones during dismissal to ensure the safe departure of students.

For information on before or after school day-care, contact the NKC School District Adventure Club Office at 321-5017. Supervision by Gashland faculty begins at 8:20 a.m. Students should not arrive before this time.

Accident Insurance

The school district has purchased a group accident insurance program that covers all students, grades K-12. This policy provides coverage for students while they are participating in school-scheduled, school-supervised, and school-funded activities during the regular school term. Students are also covered while traveling as a sponsored group in a school-assigned vehicle, such as a car, bus, or van, operated by a licensed driver over the age of 21, to and from the school and a covered event site. Please note that individual travel is not covered by this policy.

Age Requirements

In accordance with state law, a student is eligible for admission to attend the North Kansas City School District, and is eligible for admission to summer school the summer prior to entering kindergarten, if the student reaches the age of five (5) before August 1 of the school year in which he or she plans to enroll.

Children who do not meet the North Kansas City School District's entrance age requirements and whose parents request admission by transfer will be considered for admission under the following conditions as stated in the North Kansas City Policies and Regulations:

- The pupil must qualify as a resident of the North Kansas City School District.
- The pupil must have attended a public or state-accredited, privately-operated school.
- The pupil must be eligible for acceptance on the same level by the local public school where he resided immediately preceding his residency in the North Kansas City School District.
- Children who have enrolled in any other public school or privately-operated school while residents of the North Kansas City School District are **not** eligible for transfer but must meet entrance age requirements.

If you have a question about which school your child should attend or where your bus stop should be, call 321-5007 and ask for the transportation department.

Animals in the Classroom

Teachers are encouraged to pursue the study of life sciences through the possession and observation of living organisms, but precaution must be taken to protect children from animals that bite or scratch, and to protect children who have allergic reactions to animals. We therefore request that animals not be brought to school. This will keep our 4-legged and 2-legged friends safe. Thank you.



Attendance

Regular attendance is an important part of education. Absences and being tardy disrupt the learning process for your child. Gashland students will attend school every day from bell-to-bell, health permitting. Student attendance status is as follows:

| <u>Attendance Percentage</u> | <u>Attendance Status</u> |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 98% - 100% | Excellent |
| 95% - 97% | Satisfactory |
| 90% - 94% | Marginal |
| 89% and below | Unsatisfactory |

Each quarter, perfect attendance is calculated for students attending all sessions as designated by the school calendar from bell-to-bell daily. Students are recognized for perfect and excellent attendance. Perfect attendance means students are present at school for all days school is in session and all hours of the school day – bell to bell. We highly encourage families to take vacations and family trips during summer and not when school is in session.

Breakfast and Lunch Programs

Nutritious breakfasts and lunches are provided for all students. The cost of a complete breakfast and/or lunch, which includes milk, will be included in the first day packet sent home with your child. Applications for breakfast/lunch assistance are also available on Back-to-School Night and are available in the school office and online thereafter. Your child will need to pay for his/her breakfast and/or lunch until you have been notified that the application has been approved. Ten working days are allowed for this process.

The breakfast and lunch menus can be found on-line [here](#). The lunch menu includes a choice of a main dish, alternate dish, peanut butter/jelly, or yogurt. The fruits/vegetables are on a buffet table for children to serve themselves. Both breakfast and lunch will include milk.

Cash or a check payable to the NKC School Food Service may be given to the cashier when your child goes to breakfast/lunch. The cashier will record the amount paid using the CAFS (Computer Assisted Food Service) system. The CAFS System allows each student to enter his/her district identification number into a keypad at the buffet cart. The cashier will enter what food items the student has on his/her plate. This will be stored in the computer system. The computer also stores the amount of money each child brings to the cashier for breakfast and lunch and deducts meal costs only when the student enters the ID number for breakfast, lunch or both.

Questions regarding the school breakfast and/or lunch program may be answered by calling the school cafeteria manager between the hours of 7:45 AM and 1:00 PM daily. The NKC School District has Online Fee Payments for Food Service. You can access the following web site: www.MyPaymentsPlus.com. You can

view balances and put money into accounts electronically. All you need is an account number, which is your child's student ID number. If you have any questions, use the "contact us" button on the website.

In an effort to provide an enjoyable, safe atmosphere in the cafeteria, students are to follow the guidelines listed below:

Cafeteria Expectations

Move with body control

Always use both hands on tray

Nighbor voices

Notice and respond to staff directions

Eat your food only

Raise your hand for help

Stay seated in assigned seats

Parents are only able to have lunch with their student. Adults are always screened at our front office. If you wish to have lunch with a student, you must be on their enrollment card as an approved contact.

Business Partners

We are fortunate to have several business partners who support our school by providing resources and volunteers when needed. These include:

- Arvest Bank
- Danielle Kohler, Agency L.L.C.-American Family Insurance
- Friendly Bean Coffee Shop
- Gashland Baptist Church
- Gashland Presbyterian Church
- Gashland United Methodist Church
- Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral
- Hy-Vee Gladstone
- Price Chopper No. 21
- Reed Portrait Group

Cell Phones & Smart Watches

Some parents may want their child to have a cell phone or a smartwatch to ensure safety to and from school. In order to minimize possible disruptions to the educational process, the following procedures will be used regarding cell phones.

- Students wishing to bring a cell phone to school must have a permission form on file in the office. Please check with the office to receive this form.
- The phone must be powered off (not just silenced).
- The phone is to be kept in the student's backpack.
- The student will refrain from showing the phone or discussing it with peers. (For this reason, the phone should not be used on the bus.) While this will assist with security, as mentioned in the District portion of this handbook, the school is not responsible for lost or stolen phones.
- Students should have the parents listed under ICE (In Case of Emergency) in the contacts so that if a phone is lost, the owner can be easily identified.



- The school's policies and practices regarding children calling parents for forgotten school assignments, supplies, lunch, etc. will remain in effect. The mobile (cell) phone will not be used for these purposes.
- If a student does not comply with these guidelines, discipline measures and/or further phone restrictions may occur.

In regards to smartwatches, these should remain on student wrists and not be a distraction to the overall school day. Smartwatches should be silenced and students will not be allowed to use the watch to play games and communicate with family. If a smartwatch becomes an issue, the teacher or administrator will ask the student to place it in his or her school bag.

Classroom Visitors

We are eager to share student activities and projects with family members. However, visitors in a classroom can be disruptive to the learning environment. Therefore, the teacher and administrator will only approve visits to a classroom for a specific purpose. This is also important *before and after school* when teachers may have supervision responsibilities. Please remember that all visitors need to check in (and out) at the office and wear a visitor's badge while in the building.

Communication

It is very important that good communication be established between parents and the school. You can assist us with this communication by:

1. Reading ALL notices sent home from school.
2. Calling the teacher, sending a note, or e-mailing when questions or problems arise.
3. Attending Booster meetings, conferences, and open houses.
4. Closely reading the school newsletter sent home each month and weekly messages from the principal.

School efforts are most effective when there is cooperation between home and school. If you do have a concern, please use the following steps toward effective problem solving:

STEP ONE:

Try to resolve the issue first with the classroom teacher or the staff person involved.

STEP TWO:

Seek assistance from the principal if the issue has not been resolved.

The persons most directly involved usually resolve ninety-five percent of all differences. We recognize that from time to time, in working towards a common vision, differences arise. The following guidelines assist in communicating effectively:

- Always start with the person whose action has given rise to the concern or problem.
- All people's rights to confidentiality will be respected.
- Please remember that the child's need is the most important consideration.

Counselor

Elementary counselors in the North Kansas City District function in a position that is multifaceted with many different yet related roles. The guidance program is preventative, developmental, and services all students in the school. Classroom lessons are taught weekly to facilitate effective development in students. Developing problem-solving skills, effective and respectful communication skills, an understanding of behaviors as related to feelings, and personal responsibility are examples of some of the topics discussed in these lessons. In addition, students may be seen individually or in small groups as needed when students, staff members, or parents identify concerns. Please don't hesitate to telephone the school counselor if you have any questions or concerns.

Crisis Plan

A crisis plan is in place at Gashland. As part of that plan, all parents and other visitors need to report to the office, sign in, and receive a visitor's badge to wear while in the building. If someone is in the building, or on school grounds, not wearing the appropriate badge provided by the office, staff will immediately report there is a stranger on the premises.

If a potentially dangerous situation should occur, an emergency plan will be implemented immediately to keep children safe. The police or proper authorities will be called. Should an evacuation be necessary, students will be moved to either Gashland Baptist Church or Clardy Elementary, and a decision will be made there, if further measures need to be taken for the safety of all.

Discipline/Classroom Management

Research has shown that children learn best in an atmosphere where they feel safe and accepted. That is accomplished when expectations are clear and consistent and when everyone is encouraged to treat others with kindness and respect. Young learners, like ours at Gashland, understand these expectations better when they are simple and concrete.

Gashland currently uses the **Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS)** strategies to help our students learn to responsibly handle their own behavior. Our often quoted slogan is that "it is never okay to be hurtful or disruptive." Our goal is to help our students develop self-control and create an understanding of how our behavior affects our own learning and that of others. We are all responsible to create an atmosphere of respect and caring so everyone can learn.

To help establish the best possible learning environment and to teach our young students how to be responsible, we recite our expectations every morning in our morning pledge:

- ❖ The bottom line at Gashland.... it is never okay to be hurtful or disruptive. But it is always okay to be respectful, be responsible, and be safe.

Each class will be teaching and practicing these expectations in depth for the first month of school and reviewing them throughout the year. As a vital part of our school community, your support and reinforcement of these expectations will strengthen your child's learning. (See pgs. A23-24 for additional information).

B.I.S.T (Behavior Intervention Support Team)

The purpose of the BIST Model is to partner with students when they are struggling and help them be accountable for their actions to make changes in their life. BIST is designed to teach and protect students, via GRACE and ACCOUNTABILITY so that students can demonstrate the Goals for Life and make good choices.

Goals for My Life:

- I can make good choices, even if I am mad.
- I can be okay, even if others are not okay.
- I can do something, even if I don't want to.

Dress and Grooming

See Section B *Dressing and Grooming*

Emergency Procedures

To ensure the safety of students during school hours in the event of an emergency, Gashland will adhere to the policy in effect throughout the school district. This policy states that students are to be moved to designated “safety areas” and remain until an “all clear” is given. We practice fire, tornado, and lock down drills throughout the school year to familiarize students with the emergency procedures. A continuation of this policy is to keep students at school during any severe weather emergency. Children will not be permitted to leave or re-enter the building until normal conditions exist.

Family Information

The electronic enrollment/emergency data card is on file in the school office. This electronic card contains information such as a child’s legal name, address, date of birth, and parents’/guardians’ employment information. This card is utilized in many ways; therefore, it is important that the information listed is correct and up to date. It is especially important to know where working parents/guardians may be reached during the school day. We ask that you notify the school office if there is any change in the information listed on the card, particularly ensuring current phone numbers are included.

It is extremely helpful if copies of all legal papers that relate to custody issues (parent’s visiting rights, etc.) are provided to the school. Communication regarding these issues is essential; however, it is not the school’s responsibility to ensure custody schedules are followed. This is the parents’ responsibility.

Field Trips and Permission Slips

The student’s parent or guardian must sign the permission slip before the student will be allowed to participate in the activity.

Field trips are a valuable part of the total learning process. Whenever students participate in an activity outside of school, a permission slip will be sent home with the student that indicates the place, time, date, and means of transportation. Siblings may not be brought on field trips. We need our chaperones to be focused on our Gashland students for safety and assistance. **We appreciate your understanding and patience in reserving field trips for our Gashland children only.** All chaperones will have their ID’s scanned through our system prior to attending. A badge with their name clearly displayed should be worn at all times.

Gashland-Clardy Booster Club

The purpose of the GA/CL Booster Club is to support and enhance the educational experiences and environment for our staff, students, and families through volunteer and financial support. The objective of the Boosters shall be to support and raise money for Gashland and Clardy elementary schools, while promoting school spirit. The booster club website is www.gashlandclardybooster.com

To achieve this objective, the Booster Club will provide a program that encourages participation. All Directors, Officers and Members will support Gashland and Clardy Elementary Schools and their programs. In accordance with Section 501 (c) (3) of the Federal Internal Revenue Code, the Boosters shall operate exclusively as a non-profit organization.

- Crissy Juarez- President
- Lisa Myer- Vice President
- Jessica Tunstill- Treasurer
- Heather Branson- Secretary

Media Center

Gashland is dedicated to providing full media services to students and teachers. We want your child to have full access to books. A student may come to the Media Center before school or any other time during the day, as long as the student follows his or her teacher's procedure and the library is supervised. Each time students come in, they can check out two books, provided they have returned the two books they previously checked out. If only one book is returned, only one can be checked out. All books are checked out for one week, except reference books, which stay at school and are due back in the Media Center at the end of the school day. Most books can be renewed for another week; however, some very popular books cannot be renewed.

Media Center staff appreciate the time and effort that parents, and students make to get books back on time. We also understand that books will occasionally be overdue. It is important for your child to bring the overdue books back as soon as possible. This allows the child to continue checking out new books and keep reading.

"I can't find my book!" From time to time, books become lost. We want to help your child become responsible for returning his or her books. If the book is overdue for two weeks, we will send home a notice with the student alerting you that the book is overdue and asking you to help your child find the book. If the lost book does not turn up after three weeks, we will send home a note giving the title and replacement cost of the book, asking you to send payment back to the Media Center. If you find the book before the end of the school year, your payment will be refunded.

This is the age of information. We understand the importance of your child knowing how to learn the process of using books and technology resources. The media specialist coordinates with teachers to provide instruction in using media center materials, in doing research, and in enjoying various kinds of literature. Lessons will be planned throughout the year to emphasize the importance of reading for each grade level. We usually host a book fair in April as a fundraiser to help purchase new books. We welcome your support for these activities, as proceeds from these fundraisers are used to update and purchase items for the collection.

Money

Please avoid sending cash to school. During the 24-25 school year, Gashland is moving to cashless transactions. The only exception to this would be cash to pay for lunch or breakfast in the cafeteria. This will need to be in a sealed envelope clearly labeled café and with the child's name.

Parking

Visitors are requested to park on the west side parking lot for all activities. During school events, we will open the gates to the playground for additional parking.



Personal Belongings

Students should not bring toy guns, laser pointers, knives, radios, computer games, toys, etc., to school. No electronic devices will be allowed on the bus or at school. Parents desiring students to have cell phones will need to make prior arrangements with the student's classroom teacher. This school policy is for the safety and security of all our students. If these items are brought to school, the items will be confiscated and disciplinary actions may occur. The school is not responsible for replacing items if they are lost.

Play Equipment

Playground equipment is available for student play at recess. A routine check of the equipment/surroundings is made by the building custodian and recess clerk to ensure the equipment and physical environment are safe. If the equipment is determined unsafe, students will not be permitted on the equipment until a time when the equipment/environment is safely restored.

During the first week of school, students will review and practice equipment safety procedures. Students not using appropriate safety guidelines will be asked to refrain from equipment play. Students must also wear closed toed shoes to utilize the play equipment. This is for their safety.

Problem Solving Team (PST)

The Problem-Solving Team is a school-based team of teachers, the principal, the counselor, and other staff members. It is a team whose purpose is to provide a means to discuss issues related to the specific needs of teachers or students and to offer consultation and follow-up assistance to staff. By providing problem-specific support and assistance to individuals and groups, the team can help teachers and other professionals identify strategies and create a plan to help students be successful in school. Parents will be notified when their child needs additional support.

Reading Support

Each year, the Gashland Staff makes every effort to determine student academic needs. Students are screened three times per year (fall, winter, and spring) to determine program adjustments in the area of Communication Arts and Math. Students who show evidence of needing additional support may receive services in the Reading Support Program during the school day. All students who receive this additional service will also continue to receive reading instruction in their classroom. The Reading Support Program aligns with, and supports classroom instruction, while providing extra practice with essential skills and strategies to improve reading.

Recess

Gashland staff feel that all students need to be outside to participate in physical activity. Children, in the early years of learning, require an opportunity daily to exercise, relieve stress, and get fresh air. Physical activity outdoors allows students to develop gross motor skills and learn to play cooperatively together.

All students will go outside for recess unless the outdoor temperature falls below district standards (25 F. degrees wind-chill) or it is snowing or raining or if the temperature or heat index is above 95 degrees. Clouds, fog, or sprinkles are not considered rain. Students should participate in recess. Every effort will be made for students to have outdoor recess.

For security reasons, we cannot permit parents to go out on the playground during recess. Since the staff rotates taking recess duty, and because everyone does not know all our families, there are safety concerns if a parent on the playground is not recognized. If a staff member on duty does not know the adult, time is taken away from supervising children in order to confirm with the office the identity of the “stranger.” Additionally, we feel recess is a time for your child to develop social skills and peer relationships. Recess time is not utilized well if parents are with their children.

Note: Children wearing flip-flop type shoes will not be allowed on the playground equipment due to potential injuries. We request that children wear rubber-soled shoes for their personal safety.

Required Notes

Transportation - A note is necessary any time your child is to go home a different way than the usual. For instance, if instead of riding the bus, your child is to go home by car, he/she will need a note stating that he/she will be a car rider AND the name of the person who will be picking up your child.

Leaving school early – We will accept a signed permission note from a parent, if someone other than you will be signing out your child from school. You are also welcome to call our front office to share transportation changes. Please do so prior to 3:00 PM.

School Closing

In the event of possible school closings, please be sure to listen to the local radio and TV stations instead of calling your child’s school. Do not confuse the **North Kansas City School District** with the Kansas City School District. The **North Kansas City School District** is in Clay County and the Kansas City School District is in Jackson County. Again, remember you can also check the NKC School District Web Site at www.nkcschools.org or Facebook and Twitter. Additionally, you will receive a School Messenger phone call and email with closing information.

THE WEATHER IS MONITORED CONSTANTLY BY SCHOOL OFFICIALS

Whenever there is projected bad weather, making the decision to close schools begins as early as 4:00 AM when transportation department personnel begin assessing road and weather conditions. If conditions appear doubtful, or deteriorating, school administrators (including the Superintendent and Associate Superintendents) drive all quadrants of the district for a first-hand evaluation. They confer to make a final determination about closing schools. If the decision is to close, then radio and television stations are notified in time for the 6:00 and 6:30 AM newscasts.

Late Start Option

There may be times when district officials determine that school can occur if time is given for city personnel to clear streets. NKC Schools has a safe option for inclement weather days that could reduce the need for makeup days. The District has school and bus schedules to accommodate a **two-hour delayed start** for days when daylight and additional time to treat roads mean safe passage for students.

Essentially, the school day will be two hours shorter. **On a two-hour delay, all buses will pick up students two hours later than the regular pickup times, but the drop-off times will NOT change. All schools will end their day at the regular end time.**

Alternate stops for buses (aka snow routes) are often in effect when there is inclement weather. Transportation Services communicates directly with all families affected by alternate stops. (List of Alternate Bus Stops) NKC Schools will use a full complement of communication channels to announce two-hour delayed start days just as they do for school closings. Those include: School Messenger phone, email and text alerts; www.nkcschools.org website; Twitter; local radio and TV; and the District Information Line at (816)321-5000.

If weather turns bad after the start of the school day, there are generally two options that will be followed, if schools must be dismissed early.

- Option #1: Dismissal a half-day early. This option will be implemented when conditions worsen early in the day.
- Option #2: Dismissal one hour early. This option will be implemented when conditions worsen later in the day, and it becomes important to avoid having busses in rush hour traffic and to get children home before dark.

Also, be aware that when school is closed, **all activities are automatically canceled** unless the school makes special arrangements with the superintendent's office and transportation.

Signing In and Out



It is critical for the safety of our students that ALL visitors sign in at the office and take a visitor's badge to wear whenever volunteering, having a scheduled parent/teacher meeting, helping at parties, having lunch with a child, or observing a school program during school hours.

We also expect children to go to their classrooms by themselves. An exception is made on the first day of school so that parents/guardians may escort their children to their classrooms. However, after the first day, we feel it is in your child's best interest to become independent and go to class unaccompanied. There will be adults in the hall ready and willing to assist students. Parents are invited to visit for lunch any time; however, we request that a school visit not be made until after Labor Day. Parents are only able to have lunch with their student. Adults are always screened at our front office. If you wish to have lunch with a student, you must be on their enrollment card as an approved contact. Upon leaving the building, each visitor needs to sign out.

Student Placement

Student class assignments will be mailed just prior to the start of school. This is necessary to maximize flexibility when making decisions in regard to fluctuating enrollment, staff changes, and organizational building design.

When determining student class assignment, the goal is to attain a heterogeneous grouping by considering the special needs of the students, instructional levels, gender ratio and class size. Much time and deliberation is required to work through all educational considerations when developing classes. The complexity of instructional classroom design and the goal to provide a quality, balanced education to all students can make parental requests and outside influences very difficult to accommodate. Therefore, placement of students in individual classrooms is the joint responsibility of the principal and the instructional staff.

Student Recognitions

1. Home reading Program—Buzz Be A Reader

Awards will be given when students read 100 books. Subsequent awards will follow for each 100 books read.

2. Perfect Attendance-

Certificates per quarter and for the year

3. Awards assembly – end of

year Recognize perfect
attendance Buzz Be A Reader
recognition

4. Birthdays

Announced and birthday pencil from office

5. Student behavior support

(See Student Behavior Expectations – A20-21)

Technology

North Kansas City Schools believes that to more effectively prepare students for life, they must be engaged and learning at school in the same fashion that they are engaged and learning outside of school. Because technology pervades all aspects of today's society, this means being adaptable to innovation, digitally savvy, and virtually connected. All students K-8 will receive a district iPad. We encourage families to participate in the iPad risk management program offered to families. This program will help offset the cost of potential costly damage to your student's device.

Check out the NKC Instructional Technology YouTube channel. Here you will find helpful videos for both the MacBook (provided for all students in high school) and iPad. Another great resource would be the [Educational Technology page](#) on the district website (www.nkcschools.org). These communications will continue to be updated with new information. You may find [the iPad information video](#) and [Frequently Asked Questions](#) helpful, as well.

Transfer-In Requirements

Children who do not meet the North Kansas City School District's entrance age requirements and whose parents request admission by transfer will be considered for admission under the following conditions as stated in the North Kansas City Policies and Regulations:

- the pupil must qualify as a resident of the North Kansas City School District.
- the pupil must have attended a public or a state-accredited, privately-operated school.
- the pupil must be eligible for acceptance on the same level by the local public school where he/she resided immediately preceding residency in the North Kansas City School District.

- Children who were enrolled in any other public school or a privately-operated school while residents of the North Kansas City School District are **not** eligible for transfer but must meet entrance age requirements.
- Children who transfer from another school must meet the age requirements per NKCS D for each grade level.

Additionally, families must request a transfer on-line using the approved district form.

Transportation Procedures

Your child's safety is our highest priority; thus we ask that you read the following information carefully to ensure your child has a safe arrival and departure from school each day. Children that participate in the breakfast program are permitted to enter the building at 8:20 a.m. in order to eat and arrive at class on time when the school day begins at 8:45 a.m. All other children should not arrive any earlier than 15 minutes prior to the start of school (at 8:30 a.m.).

Children who walk to and from school will use the main entrance to the school. We request that students not ride bicycles, skates, roller blades, or skateboards to school. If your child is late for school, he/she must be accompanied by an adult into the office where the adult will sign in the student, and then be admitted to class for the day. Similarly, students who are leaving early need to be signed out in the office by a parent or individual listed on the emergency card.

Arrival by Car

If you are driving your child to school, please enter the parking lot on the west side of the school. We ask that you refrain from entering the parking lot until 8:20 AM. This ensures that all Gashland staff are able to enter our parking lot and proceed to their morning locations in a timely manner. It is also important to keep your child with you until you see a teacher on duty.

From our car rider line, we will begin unloading students at 8:20 a.m. This especially helps our students who participate in our school breakfast program. All other children should be dropped off beginning at 8:30, but no later than 8:45. If you arrive after 8:45, and there is no teacher on duty, please escort your child to the office, so he/she can be admitted for the day.

1. To ease congestion with buses, 83rd St. is closed to through traffic between 8:15-8:45 a.m. and 3:15-3:45 p.m.
 2. If you are entering the school neighborhood on N. Kenwood (street east of Gashland Baptist Church), continue south past 83rd St. around the curve turning right on to Flagor Street.
 3. Proceed north on Flagor entering the parking lot via Flagor Street being careful to watch for buses turning onto Flagor. Please wait at the corner of Flagor and 83rd until the cars in the parking lot have moved sufficiently to allow more cars into the parking lot to avoid blocking 83rd Street.
 4. Upon entering the parking lot, please follow the arrows to circle the lot with the passenger side nearest the building. There will be staff on duty to assist your child into the building at that point.
 5. Please wait for the adult to signal that it is safe for your child to exit the car. It would be best, and safest, if your child would exit the car on the passenger side. This would reduce the need for them to walk around your vehicle.
1. After dropping off your child, please continue to circle around the parking lot and exit via Flagor Street. **Please do not turn left onto 83rd St.**

NO parking is allowed in the bus loading and unloading zone on either side of 83rd Street. We have many buses, and it is extremely dangerous to drop your child off in this zone or on the south side of the street.

If you need to come into the school with your child, please park in the parking lot and enter through the front door.

Departure by Car

All car riders will be dismissed at 3:40 p.m. Please be aware that you must arrive by 3:55 p.m. to pick up students in the west parking lot. If you arrive after 3:55, you will need to come into the office to pick up your child.

Parents/guardians need to follow the same procedure for morning drop off. Staff will be on duty to assist with afternoon loading.

1. Follow the same procedures as in steps **1, 2, 3** and **4** above.
2. Children will wait in a secure area until all cars have stopped. We will then allow children to walk to his/her car. As in the morning, it would be best, and safest, if your child could enter the car on the passenger side. You will be given a signal when it is safe for you to proceed to leave the parking lot.
3. Complete the circle to leave the parking lot and exit via Flagor Street. **Please do not turn left onto 83rd St.**

A card with a number assigned to the student will be given to the primary designated driver who should attach the card to the rearview mirror so that teachers on duty can easily see the name. These cards will be distributed during the first week of school.

If you are car-pooling, a list of individuals who can pick up your child is necessary. Also, please send a note to your child's classroom teacher if someone other than yourself or your designated person will be picking up your child. **We would appreciate it if all car riders would follow the above scheduled time and procedures. We request that parents not park and walk across the parking lot to pick up their child. This interrupts the dismissal procedure and distracts our staff that is trying to keep all students safe.** We certainly understand if you occasionally need to pick up your child early for a scheduled appointment. However, picking up children earlier interrupts instructional time or disrupts the flow of dismissal. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Bus Riders

Each bus rider will be given a tag with the child's route and stop listed on one side and his/her name, address, and phone number on the other side. These tags will be placed on your child's backpack the first day of school. Please leave this tag on the backpack for the entire school year. This identification helps us ensure that all children get on their correct bus and arrive at their appropriate bus stop. We appreciate your help in this procedure.



Bus Expectations

- Learn the bus safety rules.
- Obey the bus driver.
- Be on time at bus stop.
- Get on the bus and immediately be seated.
- Sit quietly in your seat.
- Do not stick hands or head out of the window.
- Stay seated until the bus comes to a complete stop.
- Move away from the bus quickly.
- Stay clear of rear wheels of the bus.
- Wait until driver signals you to cross. Double-check both ways before crossing the street.

Treats/Parties/Invitations – DISTRICT POLICY

- In an effort to promote equity and prevent dangerous situations due to many allergies and medical needs and to help bring the same level of party quality to all students regardless of their grade level or class, Booster Club will provide and coordinate refreshments with building administration and the school nurse in order to meet the Smart Snacks in School guidelines put out by the USDA. These refreshments and activities will be used for our fall, winter, and Friendship parties. If you are interested in helping with this, please contact a Booster Club officer.
- We believe it is important for the school to recognize students on their birthday. We announce our students' birthdays during morning announcements and each child is given a Gashland Birthday Pencil. However, for several reasons including increased food allergies, and student equity, we can no longer allow treats from home for birthdays, going-away parties, or other personal events. Parents may consider the following birthday recognition options for their child, if they wish:
 - Donate a book to his/her classroom library. It must be a book appropriate for school use. It can be a book that characterizes your child as a person or simply a favorite book. You may place his/her name, birthday, and year donated in the front of the book. The teacher will dedicate the selected book to your child, and it will remain a part of that classroom's library for years to come.
 - Students can also donate \$15.00 for a library book to be dedicated to the library with your child's name inside the front cover. This will become a part of the Gashland library collection. Please check with our librarian if this is something you would like to do.
 - You are welcome to send in pencils, bookmarks, or a variety of other items if you wish to celebrate with trinkets.
 - Also, due to safety hazards on the bus, balloons or flowers will not be allowed at school as well.
 - Families may contact our Café Manager, Angela Zils (816-321-5104) two weeks prior to a classroom birthday celebration to order treats from our café.

Home party invitations can be given out in the classroom ***only if*** invitations go to ***all*** students in the class. The only exception to this rule is if the party is gender specific (i.e. sleepover), then invitations may be given to all students in the classroom of one gender. Thank you for helping to keep our school a safe place for all students.

Volunteers and Youth Friends Program

The District YouthFriends Program connects students with caring adult volunteers. All volunteers are trained, interviewed and undergo a background check before working with students. Tutors who work with students in a one-to-one setting must be screened through the YouthFriends program.

Parents, grandparents, etc. who wish to serve as field trip chaperones, group tutoring, lunch buddies, and library assistants will also undergo a background check. The office will scan your government issued ID (i.e. – current Driver's License). Once the system completes the screening, it produces a photo nametag the volunteer must wear while in the building. All field trip volunteers must also be screened. If you have any additional questions about volunteering in the school environment or about the screening process, please contact Glenna Cook, YouthFriends/Volunteers Building Coordinator at 321-5100.

Weather

Please use the following guidelines to ensure that students are appropriately dressed and prepared for the weather: ***Heat*** – Gashland is air-conditioned. Some of our classrooms tend to be fairly cool when the air conditioning is running. We suggest that you send a sweater or sweatshirt with your child for him/her to be comfortable.

Cold – Please make sure your child comes dressed appropriately with a coat, hat, gloves, and boots if there is snow.

1. The temperature must be above 25 degrees with or without wind-chill for outdoor recess. Also the heat index must be below 95 degrees for outdoor recess.
2. The playground may not be clear of snow, so boots are necessary since we will have recess so that students can exercise and get fresh air.

Withdrawal From School

If at any time during the school year it becomes necessary for your child to transfer to another school, please notify the office when possible, at least **three days** prior to the withdrawal date. A copy of your child's/children's academic records will be sent to the receiving school upon their written request.

Z-Pass

In an effort to increase safety measures when transporting your child, the NKC School District has implemented a bus pass (ZPass) system for students. ZPass is a tool that will enable the district Transportation Department to increase the safety of your child by logging the time and where your child is being picked up and dropped off. If you ever have a question about whether or not your child got on the bus, got off the bus, etc, we will be able to give you that information immediately.

Below are ways you can be part of the successful implementation of the **ZPass Student Safety System**:

- The number printed on the ZPass card is assigned to your child and will be his or hers throughout your child's school years in the North Kansas City School District.
- The only expectation of your child is to always wear the backpack to which the ZPass card is attached. Attaching the card to his or her backpack will prevent your child from misplacing it. At no time will transportation be denied to a student for not having his/her ZPass should the child forget his/her backpack.
- If the ZPass card/backpack is lost, it should be reported to the school administrative assistant right away. Only a number is present on the ZPass to protect student identification information.
- Please assist your child to understand the safety features of the ZPass Student Safety System and the need to leave the ZPass card in place on your child's backpack.

Thank you for your help with this program. The safety of our students is a priority and this program will aid this endeavor. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the school.

STUDENT BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

Students are expected to ***do their best every day!*** Our goal is to help each child learn to make good choices and to take responsibility for his/her actions. We want each child to develop a positive self-image, feelings of personal dignity, and a sense of community contribution. The faculty is committed to helping each individual achieve these goals. We ask all students to follow our Star Traits:

- ❖ **Be Respectful**
- ❖ **Be Responsible**
- ❖ **Be Safe**

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

Teachers and students work together to organize a safe, inviting learning environment in the classroom and school as a whole. While reminders may be needed to keep students attentive and on task, the expectation is that all students will be able to follow classroom and school rules. For a few students, reminders may not be





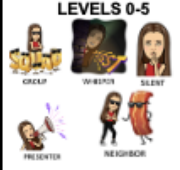
adequate in helping them be responsible, respectful learners and participants in school activities. For these students, additional plans and supports will be established.

PBIS

P.B.I.S. means Positive Behavior Interventions and Support. As a P.B.I.S. school, we teach building-wide expectations and provide positive reinforcement to recognize and encourage appropriate behavior. The following are our student expectations:

Gashland Stars Universal Expectations



| Expectations: | CAFETERIA – LEVEL 3  GROUP | HALLWAY – LEVEL 1  WHISPER | RECESS – LEVEL 5  OUTSIDE | RESTROOM – LEVEL 2  NEIGHBOR | CLASSROOM – LEVELS 0-5  GROUP WHISPER SILENT PRESENTER NEIGHBOR |
|-----------------------|---|---|--|---|---|
| Be Respectful | Eat only your food. Voices off when the lights are off. Use friendly words such as please and thank you. | Use a whisper voice and be polite. KAHFOOTY – Keep all hands, feet, other objects to yourself. | Be kind always with your actions and words. Be patient when playing and wait your turn. Include ALL and invite others to play. | Use a neighbor voice. KAHFOOTY – Keep all hands, feet, other objects to yourself. Put trash where it belongs. | Listen with attention Eyes watching, Ears Listening, Voices quiet Bodies still Use kind words to communicate. Be assertive and ask for help in a calm, firm, respectful way. |
| Be Responsible | Talk only to those next to or across from you in a soft voice. Be assertive and ask for help in a calm, firm, respectful way. Clean up my messes. | Look straight ahead. Go straight to your location and back to class. Stay in line order. Listen to teacher directions. | Follow the recess rules. When you hear the whistle, stop what you are doing, and walk quietly to line up. Put recess equipment away. | 3 downs of paper towels. 1 push of soap. Manage my own needs. | Follow your teachers directions the first time. Use your supplies appropriately. Clean up my messes and push in my chair. Do your best work. Use self-talk to stay on task and focus attention. |

Gashland Stars Universal Expectations

| | | | | | |
|----------------|---|---|---|---|--|
| Be Safe | Use walking feet. KAHFOOTY – Keep all hands, feet, other objects to yourself. Keep 2 hands on your tray. Stay in your assigned area. | Hands to yourself. Line to the right. Stop at designated spots. One step at a time on stairs. Walking feet. | Follow rules and expectations for equipment. Enter and exit the building slowly and quietly. Keep hands and feet to self. | Always wash your hands. Use water appropriately. | Stay in your assigned area. KAHFOOTY – Keep all hands, feet, other objects to yourself. |
|----------------|---|---|---|---|--|



Everyone at Gashland is a member of our PBIS and Behavior Intervention Strategies Team. We all work together to teach and reinforce positive student behaviors throughout the day throughout the building. Students and classes demonstrating appropriate “Star” behavior are recognized in the following ways:

- ❖ Super Star Award – classes who demonstrate “Star” behavior, can receive this award. Classes collect these awards and once they reach a specified class goal, they celebrate by enjoying a special treat or activity such as an extra recess, pajama day, popcorn party, etc.
- ❖ Shining Star Award – each week the teacher selects a student from the class that has consistently exhibited “Star” behavior throughout the week. These students are announced over the intercom at the end of the day

on Friday. Each Shining Star receives a certificate and the whole school sings the Gashland Shining Star song to them.

- ❖ Starbucks - Every day students are at school, they have the opportunity to earn “Starbucks” when they demonstrate our positive behaviors – BE RESPECTFUL, BE RESPONSIBLE, and BE SAFE. Students can receive Starbucks throughout their day – classroom, PE, Music, Library, Art, Counselor, and even lunch or recess. Students will keep their Starbucks they earn throughout the week. Then one day during the week, the classroom teacher will set aside a time for students to “shop” for fun prizes/experiences using their Starbucks. Your child will get to look at the “Starbucks” menu (see example) to see how much different items cost and decide what they can afford and what they would like to buy. This is a fun way for your child to not only be recognized for great behavior, but it is also a great way to teach counting, addition and subtraction skills.

STARBUCK MENU EXAMPLE

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------|---|-------------|--|-------------|--|-------------|--|-------------|
| Sticker  | \$10 | Hat Day  | \$15 | Reading Buddy  | \$20 | Read to a Class  | \$25 | Prize Box  | \$30 |
| Teacher for the Day  | \$40 | Eat lunch w/ principal  | \$50 | Weather Announcer  | \$60 | Joke of the Day  | \$7 | | |

Section B – Elementary

District Information / 2024-2025



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24-hour information

Additional information including all Board of Education Policies, staff e-mail, and telephone directories, and parent links are available on the North Kansas City Schools

Website: www.nkcschools.org



STRATEGIC PLAN

MISSION STATEMENT

As relentless champions for all students, North Kansas City Schools' mission is to develop self-aware, authentically empowered, future-ready learners through a rich array of purposeful learning opportunities in collaborative communities of belonging that are:

- culturally affirming
- academically challenging
- experiential and exploratory

for each student.

OBJECTIVES

Each student will access a comprehensive and cohesive preK-12 educational experience, as an agent of learning, to achieve personal success.

Each student will earn and value others' trust and respect by living with unwavering integrity, guided by authentic empathy.

Each student will communicate with clarity, conviction, and confidence, understanding the value of meaningful collaboration.

Each student will persevere as an agile learner, who uses multiple resources and divergent thought to develop creative responses.

STRATEGIES

Strategy I:

We will cultivate relevant learning opportunities that commit to high expectations, respond to student needs, and focus on life-ready skills.

Strategy II:

We will expand and strengthen our comprehensive systems of support to meet the individual needs of each student.

Strategy III:

We will ensure, develop, and support a healthy and highly capable workforce that is passionate about meeting the needs of each other and each student.

Strategy IV:

We will serve to unify our community.

Approved by the
North Kansas City Schools
Board of Education
May 10, 2022



DISTRICT PROFILE

Known for innovation and excellence, North Kansas City Schools serves over 21,500 students in suburban Clay County, Missouri. Established in 1913, the school district is rich in tradition with a heritage of active engagement with the 13 communities it serves. The district has 36 schools in Kansas City's "Northland" stretching from Briarcliff to the Staley neighborhoods.

As a state and nationally accredited district, recognized as a Champion for All Students, North Kansas City Schools prepares students to be successful in a rapidly changing, diverse world. Students are engaged through challenging, thought-provoking educational experiences to master skills and knowledge to maximize their unique potential.

All four high schools are designated "A+ Schools," allowing students who meet academic, attendance and citizenship criteria to receive two years of college tuition reimbursement from the State of Missouri. Each high school offers Distinguished Achievement Programs, which include the AP Capstone Diploma, Early College Academies (including MCC - Maple Woods Community College, Early College Academy, MCC – Advanced Technical Skills Institute Early College Academy, and the University of Missouri-Kansas City Early College Academy), and AP courses. Students also can elect to participate in highly specialized studies through International Baccalaureate or the International Baccalaureate Career Certificate program, Project Lead the Way, Northland Career Center, Northland Center for Advanced Professional Studies, as well as an Automotive Technology Program. In addition, all high school students in the district benefit from the College & Career Pathways program that takes each individual and moves them from learning about work to learning for work.

From birth, children in North Kansas City Schools can begin their path as learners through Parents As Teachers and district sponsored preschool programs. Students benefit from full-day kindergarten, gifted education, fifth grade strings, middle school extended-day programs, a summer enrichment program, and elementary before-and after-school childcare.

Although North Kansas City Schools is the second-largest public education system in Missouri, it is known for its neighborhood schools and sense of community. Teachers, support staff and educational leaders partner with parents and communities to ensure success for learners of all ages and abilities.

Active advisory committees and a thriving Education Foundation engage the greater community to inspire future successes. Through these ongoing partnerships, North Kansas City Schools ensures every student will have a solid academic foundation and will explore lifelong learning opportunities that lead to success beyond their formal education.

Board of Education – (816) 321-4361

| | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|--|
| Jan Kauk | President | jan.kauk@nkcschools.org |
| Jane Rinehart | Vice President | jane.rinehart@nkcschools.org |
| Karee Gleason-Miller | Treasurer | karee.gleasonmiller2@nkcschools.org |
| Susan Hines | Member | susan.hines2@nkcschools.org |
| Joe Jacobs | Member | Joe.jacobs@nkcschools.org |
| Laura Wagner | Member | laura.wagner@nkcschools.org |
| Dr. Terry Ward | Member | terry.ward@nkcschools.org |
| Dr. Rochel Daniels | Superintendent | superintendent@nkcschools.org |
| Peggy Cole | Secretary/Clerk | peggy.cole@nkcschools.org |

Most current Board information can be found on the district’s website at:

<https://www.nkcschools.org/district/board-of-education/members>

Additional Contacts

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| District Telephone | (816) 321-5000 |
| District Fax | (816) 321-5001 |
| District Website/Resources | www.nkcschools.org |
| School Violence Hotline Number | (816) 472-4665 (4SCHOOL) |

Equal Opportunity Statement

The North Kansas City School District No. 74, as an Equal Opportunity Employer, complies with applicable federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination. It is the policy of the North Kansas City School District not to discriminate in any term or condition of employment or of participation in any program or activity on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex or disability or other status protected by law. Any person having inquiries concerning compliance with the regulations implementing Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), or Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, may contact Dr. Eric Johnson, Assistant Superintendent of Compliance and Support, at 2000 NE 46th Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64116 (816-321-5000).

Nondiscrimination Statement

North Kansas City Schools, an Equal Opportunity Employer, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities. The following people have been designated to handle inquiries regarding nondiscrimination policies:

Dr. Janelle Porter
Assistant Superintendent of Student Services

Dr. Eric Johnson
Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources

2000 NE 46th Street, Kansas City, MO 64116

Information presented in this handbook is updated regularly. For the most updated information, please visit your school’s website or contact your school’s office.

Student and Parent Rights

Diversity Statement

North Kansas City Schools fosters respect and understanding among all cultures and individuals who learn and work in our school community. We are committed to drawing strength from our differences and building on our similarities to:

- Create a positive environment.
- Empower all people to reach their full potential.
- Remove barriers of bigotry and prejudice that infringe upon individual freedom, respect, and progress.
- Attract talent that reflects our community.

Anti-Harassment/Discrimination/Retaliation Policy

North Kansas City Schools is committed to providing a school environment that is free from all forms of harassment. In keeping with this commitment, the district maintains a strict policy prohibiting any type of harassment, discrimination or retaliation based on a protected classification by any student, staff member, agent of the district, or vendor. Harassment can include, but not limited to, verbal abuse, physical threats, and visual displays. Violation of this policy will result in disciplinary action. A parent conference with the school principal is mandatory in any substantiated incident. Any individual who reports prohibited harassment, discrimination or retaliation will not be retaliated against. Complaints will be handled as quickly as possible. Forms for reporting incidents are available at the school or at the district office.

The Reporting Form may be found by following the link: Policy AC

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/ePolicy/policy.aspx?PC=AC&Sch=110&S=110&C=&RevNo=1.41&T=A&Z=P&St=ADOPTED&PG=6&SN=true>

Sexual Harassment Policy

North Kansas City Schools strives to create an optimal learning environment for its students. The district does not condone and will not tolerate the sexual harassment of students or staff, or a school or classroom environment which promotes or encourages sexual harassment. Sexual harassment is defined as the creation of a sexually hostile or offensive school or classroom environment occasioned by or due to the sexual advances or verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. This may include sexual touching, offensive jokes, insults, innuendos, gestures or disparaging remarks whether written or verbal. A student who feels that he or she has experienced or observed sexual harassment should report such incidences to a classroom teacher, student counselor, school principal or district compliance officer. The student is assured that the matter will be investigated, and appropriate action taken.

The Harassment Form may be found by following the link: Policy AC

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/ePolicy/policy.aspx?PC=AC&Sch=110&S=110&C=&RevNo=1.41&T=A&Z=P&St=ADOPTED&PG=6&SN=true>

Public Concerns and Complaints

Parents need to discuss concerns with the teacher and/or principal first. If parents feel that these efforts have not resolved the issue, the District has a formal process for a parent to request a review of services.

The Review of Services Form may be found by following the link:

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/ePolicy/Policy.aspx?S=110&Sch=110&PC=KL&Z=P&revNo=1.11&srch=complaint&ktype=Any&encu=xa9jwu0EeqNJP1lMR8zErI2Eu9hM2yurtmPs7R4uWoGx8Ahi06plusLzAy8g1tPrKI2cq0QcCe9BGslshNaALXXJplusjW9RTEwCaPwzE4gyFfT7PTxUqsslsH2cN82pluskKslshOQBJosLqFo4slhgl4vRofnx68OZZP7J3cvPLye0WeewUWBUBwMWCLwQG5Va7YA62t3slshDslshgeFh>

In-District Transfer Procedures

Students are expected to attend the school that serves the area of their residence. An exception may be granted, on a space-available basis, for reasons which meet the Board of Education policy. Parents need to complete a Transfer Request form annually. The form is electronic and can be found on the district website by [clicking here](#) and is reviewed by the Executive Director of Student Services. As a general rule, parents must provide transportation for their children that attend a school approved by a transfer request.

Transfer Procedures

If it becomes necessary for your child to transfer, please notify the school office as soon as possible. If you are moving within the North Kansas City School District, your child's records will be sent to the receiving school automatically. If you are moving outside the District, a copy of the records will be sent to the receiving school upon its request.

Parents' Rights to Records

Parents or legal guardians of students in the North Kansas City Schools may, upon written request, examine their child's permanent record. Arrangements should be made with the principal.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a Federal law designed to protect the privacy of a student's education records. The law applies to all schools, which receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's education records. These rights transfer to the student, or former student, who has reached the age of 18 or is attending any school beyond the high school level. Students and former students to whom the rights have transferred are called eligible students.

- Parents or eligible students have the right to inspect and review all of the student's education records maintained by the school. Schools are not required to provide copies of materials in education records unless, for reasons such as great distance, it is impossible for parents or eligible students to inspect the records. Schools may charge a fee for copies.
- Parents and eligible students have the right to request that a school correct records believed to be inaccurate or misleading. If the school decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student then has the right to a formal hearing. After the hearing, if the school still decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student has the right to place a statement with the record commenting on the contested information in the record.
- Generally, schools must have written permission from the parent or eligible student before releasing any information from a student's record. However, the law allows schools to disclose records, without consent, to the following parties:
 - School employees who have a need to know;
 - Other schools to which a student is transferring;
 - Certain government officials in order to carry out lawful functions;
 - Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student;
 - Organizations conducting certain studies for the school;
 - Accrediting organizations;
 - Individuals who have obtained court orders or subpoenas;
 - Persons who need to know in cases of health and safety emergencies; and State and local authorities, within a juvenile justice system, pursuant to specific State law.

Schools may also disclose, without consent, "directory" type information such as a student's name, date of birth, parents' names, grade level, honors and awards and dates of attendance. However, schools must tell parents and eligible students about directory information and allow parents and eligible students a

reasonable amount of time to request that the school not disclose directory information about them. Schools must notify parents and eligible students annually of their rights under FERPA. The actual means of notification (special letter, inclusion in a PTA bulletin, student handbook or newspaper article) is left to the discretion of each school.

The FERPA Form may be found by following the link: [FERPA Release Form](#)

Visitor Policy

All visitors are required to report to the Main Office upon arrival at school and check-in using our Raptor school check-in system. This will require the visitor to provide a state issued identification, driver's license or other acceptable official identification with a picture. Parents are invited to visit the school regularly and to be involved in all school activities. In order to ensure student safety and to preserve the integrity of the instructional day, visitors should not proceed beyond the office during school hours without authorization and without being checked in through the Raptor System. Student visitors from other locations will not be allowed to visit during instructional time or at functions after school. If, in the judgment of school administration, the visit is inappropriate, the visitor(s) will be asked to leave. We expect all visitors to act in a courteous and respectful manner.

Smoking and Vaping Policy

Smoking and vaping are not permitted on school district property or at any school-sponsored event.

Voter Information

The Clay County Election Board phone number is 415-8683 (415-VOTE).

Change of Address/Name

Fill out the Voter Registration Application Card to make name or address changes. If your address has changed and you do not update your information with the election board prior to the election, you may still vote by going to your new polling place on Election Day. Missouri voter registration cards are available in the school office.

Absentee Voting Procedures

In Person – Absentee voting by the voter in person may be done approximately five weeks prior to the election. The Election Board is located at 100 West Mississippi in Liberty and the Clay County Annex is located at 1909 NE 48th Street in Kansas City. Call the Election Board for hours at 415-8683.

By Mail – Absentee voting may be done by requesting an application. Include the following information: voter's legal name, voter's home address, address where ballot is to be mailed (if different from home address), reason for voting absent (illness, out of town, etc.) and signature of person requesting ballot.

The completed ballot must be notarized before it is returned to the Election Board. The ballot may be returned in person or by mail.

Requests for Absentee Ballots may be made for each election, but no later than 5:00 PM the Wednesday preceding the election.

Inclement Weather and School Cancellations

School Cancellation Policy

Our school closing policy has one aim — to ensure the safety of your child. School may start two hours late; students may be released early; or classes may be canceled entirely due to inclement weather. Please be familiar with the following information sources in the event of school cancellations, early release or late start.

Communication Channels:

North Kansas City Schools provides several ways for you to get the latest information on district school closings, including early release or a two-hour delayed start on days when weather looks hazardous:

1. **District Website:** www.nkcschools.org provides the first notification of school closings and other cancellations within minutes of a decision.
2. **School Messenger:** Phone, email and optional text messages are sent to school families when classes are canceled, delayed or students are released early. To opt-in, text “YES” to 67587.
3. **Social Media:** We will post information at facebook.com/NKCSchools and twitter.com/NKCSchools.
4. **Radio & TV:** Local stations share announcements on-air and on their websites.

Two-Hour Delayed Start Option:

NKC Schools has another option for inclement weather days to reduce the need for makeup days. The two-hour delayed start will be used for days when daylight and additional time to treat roads mean safe passage is possible for students.

Essentially, the school day will begin two hours later. On a two-hour delayed start day, all buses will pick up students two hours later than the regular pickup times, but the drop-off times will NOT change. All schools will end their day at the regular end time with one exception. On Thursdays, high schools, middle schools and elementary schools observe an early release schedule. If the district activates the two-hour delayed start, the early release would be canceled.

Alternate stops for buses will be in effect on two-hour delayed start days. Transportation Services communicates directly with all families affected by alternate stops.

Early Release or Cancellation:

- There will be **no evening activities** including Community Education classes. **Exceptions will be posted** on the district website at: www.nkcschools.org
- **District Athletes** should refer to the Inclement Weather Guidelines for Athletics, posted on the district website at: www.nkcschools.org/winter-weather
- **Adventure Club** will operate on snow days, but at their **combined snow day sites**. Hours of operation will be 7:15 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Two-Hour Delayed Start:

- When the district follows a two-hour delayed start, **Adventure Club** will be open at ALL SITES from 7:15 a.m. to 6 p.m.

If school is OPEN on a wintry day:

- Dress your child to protect against wind and cold.
- Buses may be a few minutes late. Please wait as we try to run every route.
- **Alternate bus stops** may be in effect due to road conditions. Bus riders on alternate routes are notified directly by Transportation Services via School Messenger. To see the current list of alternate bus stops, visit the district website at: www.nkcschools.org

We respect your decision to keep your child home when the weather is questionable.

Recess during Extreme Temperatures

Students should come prepared to go outside for recess. However, as a general guideline, if the temperature/wind chill is 25 degrees (or less), students may have a shortened outdoor recess period or recess will be held indoors. When the heat index is 95 degrees or greater, students may have a shortened outdoor recess period or recess will be held indoors.

School Age Child Care

Adventure Club

Adventure Club is a before and after-school childcare program offered through the Community Education department. Childcare is available from 6:45 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Full and half-day care is provided on some teacher in-service days. Fall enrollment is in the spring, but children are accepted for the current school year on a space available basis. On Inclement Weather days when school is closed Adventure Club will operate at the combined Snow Day sites and will be open from 7:15am to 6:00 pm. For further information, including fees, please call the School Age Child Care office at 321-5017.

Student Accident Insurance

Accident Insurance

The school district has purchased a group accident insurance program covering all students, grades K-12. Students are covered by the accident policy while they are participating in school schedules; school supervised and school funded activities, during the regular school term. Students also are covered while they are traveling as a sponsored group in a school assigned car, bus or van operated by a licensed driver over the age of 21 to and from the school and to a covered event site. Individual travel is not covered by the policy. If students have other insurance coverage, a claim must be filed with that insurance source first. The district policy is designed to consider payment of eligible expenses not covered by other insurance sources. Questions regarding this policy should be addressed to L.E. Smith & Associates, Inc., PO Box 411216, St. Louis, MO 63141, or toll free 1-800-325-1350.

Enrollment Requirements

Requirements for Admission to School

Students must reside in the district, meet the age requirement, and have proper immunizations to enroll in school. Students entering kindergarten must be five by August 1, and first graders must be six by August 1 of the year they are entering the respective grade. A birth certificate from the state where the child was born is requested for proof of age.

The state requires the following immunizations:

| Immunization | State Requirement |
|-------------------------------|--|
| DTaP/DTP/DT/Td | 4 doses, with the last one on or after the fourth birthday |
| Polio | 3 doses, with the last one on or after the fourth birthday |
| Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR) | 2 doses, one on or after the first birthday, second dose at least four weeks from first dose. |
| Hepatitis B | 3 doses, given at ACIP recommended intervals |
| Varicella | 2 doses, one on or after the first birthday, second dose at least four weeks from first dose, or verification signed by an MD or DO that the child has had the disease |

Per state law, students are not permitted to enroll or attend until they are in compliance with immunizations, properly exempted, or current with an “in progress” schedule.

Student Health Examinations

It is recommended that students receive a thorough medical and dental examination before they enter school. Subsequent examinations should be received as often as indicated by the physician and/or dentist.

District Transportation

Free Transportation

Transportation is provided free for students living more than one mile from their attendance center. In addition, transportation for students residing less than one mile from school is available only in areas that the Board has determined to be unreasonably hazardous.

Paid Transportation

Paid transportation is available on scheduled routes on a “space-available” basis for students residing less than one mile from school. Bus routes cannot be altered for paid riders. Application for paid transportation must be submitted each year. Paid transportation forms are available at the school or on the district website.

Routing

The Transportation Routing Department works diligently to provide the closest and safest bus stop for every student designated as a bus rider, utilizing DESE guidelines.

- State regulations discourage the routing of school buses into dead-end streets and cul-de-sacs.
- Scheduled bus stop times are provided as a guide. Actual stop time may be up to five minutes earlier or later than the scheduled time under normal driving conditions. During inclement weather, the bus may be further delayed.

- Should a student's mode of transportation to and from school change, the parent should inform the school in writing.
- Only students enrolled in North Kansas City Schools, who are bus eligible, may ride the district buses. The district is not licensed by the state to transport adults. Parents may ride on district buses only while acting as chaperones on activity trips.
- For more information about bus schedules and routes, contact your school or Transportation Services at (816) 321-5007.

Special Education Routing

Every student with a Special Education requirement will be routed and transported appropriately, in strict compliance to their IEP or 504. Door to Door, Curb to Curb, and Safest/Closest (Safest Location Assessable by Bus) bus stop locations will be approved by Transportation, as defined by DESE guidelines, prior to routing being completed.

Definitions for Door to Door and Curb to Curb:

- Door-to-door services would indicate that district personnel will be accompanying the child in the mornings from the door of home onto the bus and then to the door of the school. In the afternoons, district personnel would accompany the child from the door of the school onto the bus and then to the door of the home in the afternoon. Door to door should rarely be used except in extreme cases where district personnel are required to assist the student from the school on to the bus and from the bus stop to door of the home-in conjunction with an appointed adult.
- Curb-to-curb indicates that the student will be picked-up and dropped-off at the curb of the students' home or alternate address—if address is not accessible by a bus, alternate transportation will be arranged. The student will be received by school staff at school in the morning and taken to their bus by school staff in the afternoon. An approved adult is required to be present at the door of the bus at pick up and drop off, unless otherwise denoted in their IEP or 504.

Assigned Bus Stops

Each student is assigned a designated bus stop. Students are permitted to ride a different route only after a "Request for Alternate Transportation" form has been submitted and approved, this form can be found at the school or on the district website. When an alternate route request is approved, service on the original route is discontinued. This alternate route would now be the student's permanent route on all school days—the student will not be able to ride the "original route" unless the alternate route is discontinued or altered.

On rare occasions, parents request that their children be permitted to board or disembark the school bus at some place other than their designated stop. The school district policy and Missouri state law for these special situations is as follows:

1. These exceptions will be made only for students who are already authorized transportation. Students who are not authorized riders cannot be transported.
2. Written permission from the student's parent or guardian must be received and approved by the building principal-the student will be given a signed "Transportation Bus Pass" to present to the Driver upon boarding the bus.
3. The stop requested must be a designated stop on an existing route.
4. If the request involves the students' riding another bus, the request will be granted only if there is adequate room for the additional rider.
5. Special requests will be approved only for emergency childcare purposes. Permission will not be granted for transportation to jobs, scouts, parties, etc.

Walking Distances

School bus routes are designed to comply with guidelines established by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Walking distances to bus stops are based on one block being equal to one-tenth of a mile, or 528 feet. Students walk to central pickup locations.

We observe the following guidelines for walk distance to a bus stop:

- Elementary students (K-5), not more than three blocks.
- Middle School students (6-8), not more than four blocks.
- High School students (9-12), not more than five blocks.

Bus Regulations

The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and North Kansas City Schools use the following rules:

1. The Bus Driver shall be in charge of all passengers at all times and shall have authority to assign seats. Students shall not stand in the traveled portion of the roadway while waiting for the bus.
2. Students should conduct themselves in a safe manner while waiting for the bus, away from the traveled portion of the roadway.
3. When it is necessary for students to cross the street, board or disembark the bus, they must cross a minimum of ten feet in front of the bus on the signal of the driver, NEVER behind the bus.
4. Students shall remain seated, facing the front of the bus. No portion of their body should be extended in the aisle or out of the bus window.
5. The following items are not permitted on the bus: tobacco products of any type, alcohol, drugs, any illegal or controlled substance, weapons of any type, including guns, knives or gun or knife look-alikes, any object that may harm another student, explosive devices, fireworks, matches, lighters, animals or insects of any type.
6. Students shall not throw items inside the bus, or out of the bus windows.
7. The aisles and exits shall be clear at all times. Students may not open or close any door except in an emergency.
8. Vandalizing the bus or any of its equipment is prohibited and restitution may be required to repair/replace said vandalism.
9. Students may not eat or drink on the bus.
10. Items too large to be held safely while students remain seated may be stored in a designated area. If that cannot be done safely, the student must make other arrangements for transporting these items. Many large instruments are not transportable on the bus, please see your school's instrument teacher, or click [here](#) for a complete list.
11. Electronic devices are to be used in a courteous, responsible, and appropriate fashion; when listening to any of these devices, the student MUST have earbuds or headphones. If these electronic devices cause any type of disruption or distraction, they may be taken by the bus driver/aide for the duration of their bus ride, but will be returned at the students stop.

Bus Behavior

Transportation is provided free for students living more than one mile from their attendance center. No student is required to ride the school bus in order to attend school. Riding the bus is a privilege, which is earned by obeying safety and behavior rules. Our first concern is safety. We provide supervision during the loading and unloading of buses and while students are on the buses, this is limited to some degree as drivers must be watchful of traffic and road conditions. While driving, a bus driver must rely on the cooperation of students in order to maintain a safe and orderly bus. Thus, we depend on our students to practice responsible self-discipline while riding the buses. Each student is expected to conform to a reasonable standard of conduct that will not jeopardize fellow students, the driver, or the equipment. If a

student chooses to misbehave or disobey bus rules, appropriate consequences will be administered which may include suspension of Transportation Services.

Bus Expectations (The Basics)

1. Students are expected to be at the bus stop five (5) minutes prior to the scheduled bus stop time.
2. Every Middle and Elementary School student will be assigned a seat on the bus, that seat will be noted on a seating chart. All seating charts are filed electronically for the Administrator's reference. Changing seating arrangements are the driver's prerogative, dependent upon behavior and the best/safest location for a given student. Students are expected to stay in their assigned seat, sitting properly, for the duration of the ride.
3. Every student will be expected to talk in a classroom voice while riding the bus.
4. Every student will be expected to keep their hands and feet to themselves.
5. As every bus is an extension of the classroom, any behavior or action that is not permissible in class or school, also will not be permissible on the bus.
6. Every Elementary School student must have an ID tag and we encourage having a Zpass card (Optout form on Transportation page of District Web site) while riding the bus. If a student has a Zpass card, they are expected to scan their card, getting on and off the bus at their stop location - for their safety and protection.

Note: The Zpass card creates an electronic record of when the student enters and exits the bus. If a student loses either of these two items or changes backpacks—please have them report to the school office for replacements.

Bus Disciplinary Procedures

Students, parents, bus drivers and administrators must work together to ensure that North Kansas City Schools provides safe, timely and efficient student transportation. As each student is expected to conform to a reasonable standard of conduct, should a student choose to misbehave or to jeopardize the general welfare of those on the bus, the following procedures may be followed.

1. Every effort will be made by the Driver to improve disruptive and/or unsafe behavior prior to writing a bus discipline referral. The driver/aide will exhaust three specific redirected steps, denoted on the Bus Discipline referral form.
2. Upon the next occurrence of disruptive and/or unsafe behavior, the Driver will write a "Bus discipline Referral" for the student(s) involved, to be delivered to Transportation Administrator and the Building Administrator. The Building Administrator will determine what disciplinary action should be taken. Copies of the referral will be sent to the parents for their signature and to Transportation Services;
3. If the unsafe behavior continues, a second referral may be issued. The Building Administrator may request a conference with the student and/or parent to begin the investigation. Should additional referrals be issued, and the Administrator has completed a thorough investigation and processing of prior referrals, the next Administrative action may result in, but not be limited to, suspension of bus riding privileges in the following discretionary sequence:
 - (a) The third referral—ONE-day suspension*
 - (b) The fourth referral—THREE-day suspension*
 - (c) The fifth referral—TEN-day suspension*
 - (d) If after a series of suspensions and the disruptive, inappropriate, or unsafe behavior continues—bus riding privileges may be terminated for the remainder of the school year.
*Upon returning from any bus suspension, the administrator may require a conference with the student, parent, and Transportation Administration as a part of the conditions for restoring transportation privileges."

Severe student behavior that endangers the health and safety of other passengers or the Driver will be deemed a “serious offense” and may result in an immediate suspension of bus riding privileges. In this case, the Building Administrator will notify the students’ parents when an immediate suspension is necessary by phone and/or referral response.

Note: If any bus suspension is deemed necessary, it is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to ensure that the student is in attendance at school.

Harassment on the School Bus

Each child should experience a safe ride to school free from threats or intimidation. Sexual comments, gestures, or actions by students to other students will be considered sexual harassment and a violation of district policy. Racial/ethnic harassment is a violation of district policy. Harassment of any kind will not be tolerated. Confirmed violations will be referred to a Building Administrator for action. Your child should enjoy safety and respect in school and on the bus. You can help by reminding your child about appropriate behavior. If your child is experiencing harassment, please have them report it to the bus driver, school administrator, and/or Transportation.

Bus Cameras

In an effort to maintain order and discipline, buses are equipped with video and audio surveillance systems. Due to confidentiality, parents will not be allowed to view the video without prior approval from the Superintendent and signed waivers from all students’ parents within view.

Damaged, Lost or Stolen Items

Reasonable efforts will be made to remind students to secure and gather belongings while on the school bus during the off-loading process, however the District is not responsible for damaged, lost or stolen items brought onto the bus.

Vandalism

Vandalism on the bus, if severe, may result in monetary restitution payable back to the district. Video and pictorial evidence will be supplied to support the allegation.

Special Services

Transportation service is available for students with disabilities. For information, call the Department of Special Education at 321-3848.

Student Safety

Safe and Respectful Schools

We believe that our number one priority, safe and respectful schools, is a prerequisite for learning. Thorough supervision of hallways, lunchroom, and outside grounds before and after school is important in keeping our school safe and respectful. To help ensure a safe environment, all doors will be locked from the outside except for the front foyer.

Urgent Communication

If events at school require urgent communication home to families, please know NKC Schools will always do its best to be as timely as possible. The speed of texting and social media often means news breaks quickly, not allowing the district an opportunity to inform families and staff before local media has it online or on TV. Our first priority is always to ensure students and staff are safe. Once we know the people in our buildings are okay, our next priority is informing families of the situation as we know it, and that all is well.

We often work in partnership with local law enforcement in these types of situations. When law enforcement is involved, the district follows their lead and releases information at their direction. We will always share as much information as we can, as quickly as we can. However, at times this is not always possible. Ideally the first details families receive would come from the school and/or district, but our need to provide accurate information often means Facebook, Twitter, local media and text messages will be sharing the news before district communications has gone out. Thank you for understanding any perceived delay in notifying families as we work through our processes and procedures.

Emergency/Crisis Plan

Each district site has an Emergency/Crisis Plan in place to address specific emergencies. To facilitate preparedness students will participate in various drills throughout the school year.

Tornado Safety

When the National Weather Service issues a **Tornado Warning** that affects NKC Schools, sites included in the warning will take appropriate measures to shelter students, staff and visitors. How and where students are sheltered may vary from site to site due to differences in building configurations. If a Tornado Warning occurs during a release time, students and their bus drivers will remain in the school until the warning has been lifted and an "all clear" has been given by the Superintendent or his designee. Parents, waiting in cars to pick up their children when warning sirens are activated, will be encouraged to seek safe shelter inside the school building.

Earthquake Safety

Information regarding earthquake safety procedures may be found by following the link:
<http://sema.dps.mo.gov/docs/earthquake/Schools.pdf>



Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act

In 1986, the United States Congress passed the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA), which required the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to establish Federal regulations that safeguard our Nation's school children and employees from asbestos exposure in school buildings. The initial inspection of buildings in North Kansas City Schools was completed in 1988 by accredited asbestos inspectors. Based on the results of this inspection, an Asbestos Management Plan was written for each building owned or leased by North Kansas City Schools. A master copy of the Asbestos Management Plan is available at the main Administrative Center, 2000 NE 46th Street, Kansas City, Missouri and an individual copy specific to the building is available at each respective building. Mr. Mark Graviett, Assistant Director of Project Management, is the district's designated Asbestos Program Manager. For information or inquiries please email Mark Graviett, mark.graviett@nkcschools.org.

AHERA regulations also require these buildings to be re-inspected every three years. The latest reinspection was completed in August 2013. A master copy of these re-inspections is available at the main Administrative Center, 2000 NE 46th Street, Kansas City, Missouri and an individual copy specific to the building is available at each respective building.

Please be assured that the district will continue to take whatever steps necessary to ensure a safe environment for its students, staff and visitors.

Who May Pick Up Students from School

The school will not allow students to leave with someone other than a parent unless directed to do so by a parent. In the event that a biological parent has had his/her rights restricted by a court, such documentation must be on file in the school office. Parents are responsible for keeping the office informed of any changes in addresses, phone number, emergency contact information, or court orders throughout the school year. The school may require the person who is picking up a student to show valid photo identification.

Change in Mode of Transportation

Should a student's mode of transportation to and from school change, the parent must inform the school in writing.

Drug Free Schools

The North Kansas City School District is concerned with the health, welfare and safety of its students. Therefore, use, sale, transfer, distribution, possession or being under the influence of unauthorized prescription drugs, alcohol, narcotic substances, unauthorized inhalants, controlled substances, illegal

drugs, counterfeit substances and imitation controlled substances is prohibited on any district property, in any district-owned vehicle or in any other district-approved vehicle used to transport students to and from school or district activities. This prohibition also applies to any district-sponsored or district-approved activity, event or function, such as a field trip or athletic event, where students are under the supervision of the school district. The use, sale, transfer or possession of drug-related paraphernalia is also prohibited. For further information, please refer to school district policies and regulations by following the link: <https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/ePolicy/Policy.aspx?S=110&Sch=110&PC=JFCH&Z=P&revNo=1.01&srch=drug&ktype=Exact&encu=xa9jwu0EeqNJP1IMR8zErI2Eu9hM2yurtmPs7R4uWoHCbyslshKIreadvE9AujLplusemFjpMOFK6wyKeQw3K1GsYvoU0kSMLZ9O86XGiYdcMTkWtIQEFoOWlwfE2gjijiSumLSCFSslshdxXlshJY3QrOMrWmKReG5FIBDEWsvlvplusg5ifg=>

Drug Detection Dog

North Kansas City Schools will work in conjunction with local law enforcement agencies to employ the use of drug detection dog periodically throughout the school year. The purpose of the district's efforts is to create a zone around our schools that is free from the menace of drugs and at the same time respectful of the privacy of our students. The scope of the operation is:

- There will be no prior notice to the students of the visit of the drug detection dog.
- The building will be subject to periodic rechecks throughout the school year at the discretion of the administration and local law enforcement.
- The drug detection dog will be used to sniff classrooms, unattended objects, and unoccupied areas of the building or campus.
- At no time will the dog be intentionally used to physically sniff students. The presence of the dog around students will be minimized as much as possible.
- Only certified narcotic canines will be utilized.

Safe Schools Act – Acts of Violence

What is an Act of School Violence?

The use of physical force is considered an act of school violence if it occurs on school property, including a school bus in service on behalf of the district, or while involved in school activities. An act of school violence is the exertion of physical force by a student with the intent to do physical injury to another person that creates a substantial risk of death or that causes disfigurement or protracted loss or impairment of the function of any part of the body.

Reporting Acts of Violence

School district administrators are required to report acts of school violence to teachers and other school employees who have direct responsibility for the child's education or who interact with the student on a professional basis within the scope of their assigned duties.

Reporting to Law Enforcement Officials

School administrators are required to report to law enforcement officials, as soon as reasonably practical, any felony or other serious criminal act committed on school property, including but not limited to such acts committed on any school bus in service on behalf of the district or while involved in school activities.

Removal of Students

District administrators may immediately remove students posing a threat to themselves or others. Prior disciplinary action may not be the sole basis for such removal. Removal of a student with a disability is subject to state and federal procedural rights.

Administrator Rights

The administration retains the right and privilege to issue penalties for acts of discipline not specifically stated herein and to alter any penalties as he/she considers necessary. Furthermore, the administration reserves the right to amend any provision in this handbook, which he/she deems to be in the best interest of the education process.

Weapons in School

The Board of Education recognizes the importance of preserving a safe educational environment for students, employees and patrons of the district. In order to maintain the safety of the educational community, the district will strictly enforce the necessary disciplinary consequences resulting from the use or possession of weapons on school property, buses or school activities. No student may possess a weapon on school property at any time, except as specifically authorized during a school-sponsored or school-sanctioned activity permitting weapons. School property is defined as: Property utilized, supervised, rented, leased, or controlled by the school district including but not limited to school playgrounds, parking lots and school buses, and any property on which any school activity takes place.

A weapon is defined to mean one or more of the following:

1. A firearm as defined in 18 U.S.C. 921.
2. A blackjack, a concealable firearm, firearm, firearm silencer, explosive weapon, gas gun, knife (any dagger, dirk, stiletto, or bladed hand instrument that is readily capable of inflicting serious physical injury or death by cutting or stabbing a person. "Knife" does not include any ordinary pocketknife with no blade more than four inches in length), knuckles, machine gun, projectile weapon, rifle, shotgun, spring gun, switchblade knife, as these terms defined in 571.010, RSMo.
3. A dangerous weapon as defined in 18 U.S.C. 930 (g) (2).
4. All knives and any other instrument or device used or designed to be used to threaten or assault, whether for attack or defense.
5. Any object designed to look like or imitate a device as described in 1-4.

Mandatory Discipline for Weapons Violation

In accordance to current law, any student who brings or possesses a weapon as defined in #1 or #2 above on school property will be suspended from school for at least one (1) calendar year or expelled and will be referred to the appropriate legal authorities. The suspension or expulsion may be modified on a case-by-case basis upon recommendation by the superintendent to the Board of Education. Students who bring or possess weapons as defined in #3, #4, and #5 and not otherwise included in #1 and #2, will also be subject to suspension and/or expulsion from school and may be referred to the appropriate legal authorities.

Bullying/Cyberbullying

Bullying/Cyberbullying are prohibited by Board Policy JFCF. Bullying is intimidation, unwanted aggressive behavior, or harassment that is repetitive or substantially likely to be repeated and causes a reasonable student to fear for his or her safety or property, that substantially interferes with the educational performance, opportunities, or benefits of any student without exception, or that substantially disrupts the orderly operation of the school. It is crucial that any act/s of bullying be reported to the building administration immediately.

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/ePolicy/policy.aspx?PC=JFCF&Sch=110&S=110&C=&RevNo=1.11&T=A&Z=P&St=ADOPTED&PG=6&SN=true>

Hazing

For purposes of this policy, hazing is defined as any willful activity, on or off school grounds, that recklessly, intentionally, or knowingly endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for

the purposes of initiation or admission into or continued membership in any student organization. Hazing also includes activities that put another in a ridiculous, humiliating, or disconcerting position. Hazing occurs even when all students involved are willing participants.

North Kansas City Schools prohibits any form of hazing, including but not limited to initiation rituals and harassment. In North Kansas City Schools, hazing is unacceptable conduct and can result in disciplinary action. Disciplinary action may include, but is not limited to, a student's suspension or expulsion from school or the termination of an employee's employment with the District. No student, coach, teacher, sponsor, volunteer, nor district employee shall plan, direct, encourage, assist, engage, or participate in any hazing activity. Administrators, coaches, teachers, sponsors, volunteers, and district employees shall not permit, condone, or tolerate any form of hazing. Students who have been subjected to hazing are instructed to promptly report such incidents to a school official.

Hazing Complaint Procedure

When a student has been or believes that he/she has been subjected to a hazing incident, the student shall promptly report the incident, orally or in writing, to the building principal or his/her designee.

The principal or his/her designee shall conduct a timely and thorough investigation of the alleged hazing incident. The principal or his/her designee shall prepare a written report summarizing the investigation and recommending disposition of the complaint.

If the investigation results in a substantiated finding of hazing, the principal or his/her designee shall impose appropriate disciplinary action, as circumstances warrant, in accordance with other school policies. Additionally, a student found to have engaged in hazing may be subject to disciplinary action by an administrator, coach, teacher, or sponsor of any activity up to and including removal from any or all activities.

Recklessly Endangering Mental Health

Recklessly endangering the mental health of a student includes those actions that subject a student to extreme mental stress, including, but not limited to, sleep deprivation, physical confinement, forced conduct which could result in extreme embarrassment, or any other extreme stress-inducing activity.

Recklessly Endangering Physical Health or Safety

Recklessly endangering the physical health or safety of a student includes, but is not limited to, acts of physical brutality, whipping, beating, branding, exposing to the elements, forced consumption of any food, liquor, drug, or other substance; forced smoking or chewing of tobacco products; or any other forced physical activity that could adversely affect the physical health or safety of an individual.

Delegation of Responsibility

District administrators shall promptly investigate all complaints of hazing and shall administer appropriate discipline to all individuals who violate this policy. Students, administrators, coaches, teachers, sponsors, volunteers, and district employees shall be alert to incidents of hazing and shall report such conduct to the building principal or his/her designee. Annually, the District shall inform students, parents, coaches, teachers, sponsors, volunteers, and district staff that hazing of district students is prohibited and may inform such persons by means of: (1) distribution of a written policy, (2) publication in handbooks, (3) presentations at assemblies, (4) verbal instructions by the coach or sponsor at the start of the season or program, and/or (5) posting of notices and/or signs.

Student Behavior and Accountability

Principles of Behavior

- Students will be respectful and courteous.
- Students will be prepared for class.
- Students will treat others as they wish to be treated.
- Students will try their best at all times.

School Regulations/ School Expectations

The primary objective of requiring appropriate student behavior and self-discipline is to produce a positive and safe learning atmosphere. All students will assume personal responsibility for their behavior and actions, develop appropriate self-control, exhibit self-discipline, and accept the responsibility and consequences of any inappropriate behavior. To accomplish this objective requires a cooperative effort from students, staff and parents. Expectations are:

Student Conduct Associated with the School Day, School Transportation, and School Activities

The school district believes in a proactive approach to student safety and well-being involving the parents and all associated with the activities of the school day and school events. Students are responsible for following school rules and regulations anytime students are involved in activities associated with the school. This includes, from the time students leave their home, throughout the school day, until they arrive at home after the school day or school activities. This student responsibility applies to any school district property, school field trips, school sponsored activities, walking to and from school or when participating in school transportation. School transportation includes between home and the bus stop, while at the bus stop and when riding on the school bus.

Student Conduct

North Kansas City Schools considers unacceptable, any conduct which is prejudicial to good order and discipline in the schools or which tends to impair the morale or good conduct of students. As the result of such conduct, students may be subjected to more severe disciplinary action, including suspension or expulsion from school and/or school activities. This applies to conduct in all school buildings on or about school grounds, at all school activities, or activities involving North Kansas City Schools, or in any vehicle when that vehicle is used to transport students for the school district.

This extends to conduct that aids, abets, counsels, procures or causes any act, deemed unacceptable. This also extends to conduct which assists an offender in preventing the student's punishment.

For further information, please refer to district policies and regulations at

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/ePolicy/Policy.aspx?S=110&Sch=110&PC=JG&Z=P&revNo=1.11&srch=discipline&ktype=Exact&encu=xa9jwu0EeqNJP1IMR8zErI2Eu9hM2yurtmPs7R4uWoEOBfqvmzKiojslshU52slsh2slshM9V88NmFE8qxWZD1XMr6pRvRtp0dx6SsT5Xndb7tllLrk01wzvn6rdLcQkeSsLVn2ldTvgovYQz4ge1eav7VKKk29wJOxwcsIshd1zlpIvKkuIgplusPmMH8xmVMSqoceU72pla0jZ>

Discipline Policy

The safety and well-being of our students and staff are paramount. North Kansas City Schools Board of Education supports the development of effective programs that change behavior so students leave with skills that allow them to function successfully. A safe and respectful learning environment is accomplished by working together. This means:

1. Commitment from home and school to hold students responsible for their behavior.
2. Comprehensive staff development programs that promote excellent teaching and effective classroom management.
3. Provision of a comprehensive series of support programs that recognize the diverse strengths and learning styles of students.

Student Discipline Responsibility

North Kansas City Schools Board of Education has the legal authority to make all needed policies, rules and regulations for organizing and governing the school district. This includes the power to suspend or expel a student for conduct, which is prejudicial to good order and discipline in the schools or impairs the morale or good conduct of the students. These policies, rules and regulations will apply to all students in attendance in the district instructional and support programs, as well as school-sponsored activities and events. Students who have been charged, convicted, or pleaded guilty in a court of general jurisdiction for commission of a felony may be suspended in accordance with law.

The Board of Education assigns the responsibility to the Superintendent (or designee) to work with the district's professional staff in the implementation of this policy and the preparation of related rules and regulations. Building principals are responsible for the development of rules and regulations regarding student conduct needed to maintain proper behavior in schools under their supervision. In addition, teachers shall have the authority to make and enforce necessary rules for the internal governance in the classroom, subject to review by the building principal. The Board expects each teacher to maintain a satisfactory standard of conduct in the classroom.

All employees of the North Kansas City Schools shall annually receive instruction related to the specific contents of the district's discipline policy in the course of their duties. The training includes, but is not limited to, approved methods of dealing with acts of school violence, disciplining students with disabilities, and instruction in the necessity and requirements for confidentiality.

Corporal Punishment

Corporal punishment shall not be used in the North Kansas City Schools. A staff member may, however, use reasonable physical force against a student without notice to the principal, if it is essential for self-defense, the preservation of order, or for the protection of other persons or the property of the school district.

In-School Suspension

Detention or an in-school suspension program provides principals with additional alternatives for dealing with disciplinary problems. The principal, or principal's designee, will determine the time and length of the detention or in-school suspension.

Student Suspension and Expulsion

North Kansas City Schools Board of Education believes that the right of a child to attend free public schools carries with it the responsibility of the child to attend school regularly and to comply with the school district's lawful policies, regulations, and rules. This observance of school policies, rules and regulations is essential for permitting all students to learn at school.

Therefore, the administrative prerogative to exclude a student from school because of willful violation of school rules and regulations, willful conduct which materially or substantially disrupts the rights of others

to an education, or willful conduct which endangers the student, other students, or the property of the school, is permitted, provided such action is taken in accordance with due process and with due regard for the welfare of both the student and the school.

The term “suspension” refers to an expulsion from school that will not exceed a specific period of time. The term “expulsion” refers to exclusion for an indefinite period.

Suspensions for More than 180 Days and Expulsions

Where suspension for a period greater than 180 school days, or expulsion is recommended or required by Board policy, the student and the student’s parents or others having custodial care of the student shall be notified orally and in writing stating the nature of charges and the action proposed to be taken. The Board, or the committee of the Board, shall have a hearing on the charges preferred.

The student and student’s parents, or others having custodial care of the student, shall be provided notice of the hearing, and shall be notified in writing of the time and place of the Board hearing. If, in the judgment of the Superintendent, the student’s presence poses a continuing danger to persons or property, or an ongoing threat of disrupting the academic process, the superintendent may temporarily suspend the student for a period not to exceed 10 days or until a hearing is held, whichever comes first.

At any requested or required hearing before the Board the student and the student’s parents or others having custodial care of the student may be represented by counsel and will have the opportunity to examine witnesses and present evidence on their own behalf. The president of the Board may appoint a committee of board members to hear such matters with full authority to act for the Board. At any hearing before the Board, as set forth in this policy, the Board may consider the student’s record of past disciplinary actions, criminal court records or juvenile court records consistent with the law, or the actions of the student which would constitute a criminal offense.

The Board will make a good faith effort to have the student’s parents or others having custodial care present at any requested or required hearing before the Board.

Remedial Conference

Prior to the readmission or enrollment of any student who has been suspended out of school or expelled in accordance with this policy, a conference must be held to review the student’s conduct that resulted in the suspension or expulsion and any remedial actions needed to prevent future occurrences of such conduct or related conduct. The conference shall include the appropriate school officials including any teacher directly involved with the conduct that resulted in the suspension or expulsion of the student, and the parent or guardian of the student or any agency having legal jurisdiction, care, custody or control of the student. The Board of Education shall notify, in writing, the parents or guardians and all other parties of the time, place and agenda of any such conference. Failure of any party to attend this conference shall not preclude holding the conference.

Children with Disabilities

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act 2001 provides specific disciplinary actions for the change in a student’s placement or removal of students with disabilities who violate the Safe Schools Act – including 10-day and 45-day suspensions.

Student Health

General Health Guidelines

Attendance is very important and every effort needs to be made to have your child in school each day. We understand that sometimes an illness will occur that will cause your child to be absent. Please follow the guidelines below when determining whether to keep your child at home.

1. Keep all children home for a full 24 hours after symptoms of illness have subsided. Children must be symptom free (no fever, no diarrhea, no vomiting) for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications, or anti-diarrheal medications before returning to school.
2. If your child has a temperature of 100.4 degrees or above, vomits, or has diarrhea during the evening or at night, please do not send him/her to school. Even if the child says that he/she feels better, it has been our experience that the symptoms usually return and the child needs to go home.

School Nurse and Health Room

We are making a special effort to help students establish good health habits and stay healthy. The success of our efforts, however, depends on parental follow-through at home. Students should not come to school when they are ill or when they have an elevated temperature or a suspected contagious condition. This is for their protection as well as for others in the classroom. A registered nurse or a licensed practical nurse, is on duty daily in the health room.

The nurse duties include:

- ☐ Providing first aid and assistance in case of an injury.
- ☐ Providing nurse's assessments for students who experience symptoms of illness.
- ☐ Conducting regular vision screenings.
- ☐ Formulating individual health plans for students with special medical needs.
- ☐ Keeping student medical records and verifying compliance with state immunization requirements.
- ☐ Supervising the taking of medication as authorized by a parent or guardian under the provisions stated below.

In the absence of the nurse, a designated district staff member may provide first aid, assistance in case of an emergency and supervise the taking of oral medication as authorized by a parent or guardian.

Screenings

School nurses will provide vision screenings for students in grades K, 1, and 3. Speech-Language Pathologists conduct hearing screenings. Parents will be notified if a problem is detected. A registered hygienist from Clay County Health Department conducts dental inspections for students PreK-5 at some building locations.

School Health Records

Health records are an important part of your child's permanent school records. Informing the school when your child has had a serious illness, accident, operation, or contagious disease can help in meeting any special physical or emotional need after your child returns to school.

Medication Guidelines

When possible, we encourage medication be administered at home using a schedule that will not require doses during school hours. However, a child's health care provider may deem it necessary for medication to be taken during the school hours.

All prescribed medication must be accompanied by written permission from the parent to follow the physician or nurse practitioner's orders.

All prescription medication must be in the original container with the prescription label for that student, and the label contains the required details for administration direction.

Expired medications cannot be accepted.

The Medication Policy may be found here: <https://www.nkcschools.org/Domain/146>

Medication should never be sent with students on the bus. Parents should give medication to the nurse or office clerk in the health room, and then pick up any remaining medication when the illness is concluded.

Any over-the-counter/non-prescribed medication must be brought to school in the original container labeled with the child's name and accompanied by written permission from the parent to give the medication. Only the instructions on the container will be followed unless the physician or nurse practitioner provides alternative written orders. If a question arises, the school nurse will have the right to refuse administration of the medication until further clarification is received and documented from the physician or nurse practitioner. Any change in the time or dosage of the medication must be accompanied by a written request from the physician and parent.

It is the student's responsibility to come to the health room for assistance in taking medication.

Both the Prescription Medication Authorization and the Over-the-Counter Medication Authorization forms may be found here: <https://www.nkcschools.org/Domain/146>

Students Staying Inside from Recess or Excused from PE

Parents may request that their child be permitted to remain inside during recess or excused from gym class following a recent illness or injury for up to three days. **If it is necessary for the student to be excluded for longer than three days, a note from your child's physician will be required.** A note from a doctor limiting physical activity will apply to both PE and recess.

Emergency Medications

All student-occupied buildings in this district are equipped with diphenhydramine (Brand name: Benadryl), prefilled epinephrine auto syringes, asthma-related rescue medications, and naloxone. The school nurse or another employee trained and supervised by the school nurse may administer these medications when they believe, based on training, that a student is having a serious or life-threatening reaction or episode. A prescription or written permission from a parent/ guardian is not necessary to administer the epinephrine or naloxone in an emergency situation.

Epinephrine and naloxone medications will be administered only in accordance with written protocols provided by an authorized prescriber. Naloxone (brand name: Narcan) will be administered by the nurses or other trained employees to students suspected of having an opioid-related drug overdose. If available, the board will obtain an adequate supply of prefilled epinephrine auto syringes, asthma-related rescue medications, and naloxone based on the recommendation of the school nurse, who will be responsible for maintaining adequate supplies based on previous use levels and replacing expired syringes and medications.

Parental authorization is required in order for the nurse to administer the Benadryl in an emergency situation. Please mark "Yes" or "No" on the back page of the health form (or also found at the bottom of the health form when enrolling online) and provide a parent/guardian signature. Note: the Benadryl supplied may contain red food dye.

Criteria for Being Sent Home/Emergencies

In case of an accident or illness at school, parents will be contacted. Current phone numbers for home and work for both parents are very important. Names and telephone numbers of relatives and/or friends who can assume temporary responsibility for your child until a parent can be reached need to be provided to the school. No seriously ill or injured child will be sent home alone. The telephone number of your child's doctor and dentist are necessary in case of an emergency when a family member cannot be reached and immediate instructions are needed.

Parents will be notified to pick up their child in the event of illness or serious injury. General criteria for sending an ill child home will be a temperature of 100.4 degrees, vomiting, diarrhea, severe coughing, and suspicion of a communicable disease or the inability to participate in normal classroom activity. Students must be symptom free (no fever, no diarrhea, no vomiting) for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications, or anti-diarrheal medications before returning to school.

The school nurse cannot assume the responsibility for any emergency treatment beyond first aid. The nurse is not permitted to diagnose and cannot be expected to treat an illness or injury that occurred away from school. A child who is ill (ex: fever, severe cold, vomiting, diarrhea) should be kept home.

Communicable Diseases

The North Kansas City School District School Board recognizes its responsibility to protect the health of students and employees from the risks posed by communicable diseases. The Board also has a responsibility to protect individual privacy, educate all students regardless of medical condition and treat students and employees in a nondiscriminatory manner.

It is important that the school be notified if your child develops one of the following diseases:

| Disease | Incubation | Exclusion from school if necessary |
|-------------------------------|--|---|
| Chicken Pox | 10-21 days | Students may be readmitted when skin is clear OR all lesions are crusted |
| Impetigo | 1-10 days | Until skin sores are healed, or until 24 hours after medical treatment has been identified and condition is improving. |
| Pink Eye | 24-72 hours | Until there is no longer eye discharge or until treatment by a physician and condition is improving, usually 1-2 days |
| Ringworm | 4-10 days | Until effective treatment is started. Severe cases may require prescription medication. Area must be covered with a band aid. |
| Scabies | 2-6 weeks before onset of itching in primary infections; for recurrences, 1-4 days | Until the day after adequate treatment with an effective preparation which kills the mites |
| Scarlet Fever Strep Throat | 1-3 days | 24 hours after starting antibiotic and 24 hours fever free |
| Measles (Rubeola) | 7-18 days | Minimum of 4 days after the appearance of the rash |
| Measles (Rubella) | 14-23 days | Minimum of 7 days after the appearance of the rash |
| Mumps | 12-25 days | Minimum of 9 days from the onset or until the swelling is gone |
| Whooping Cough | 6-20 days | From time of diagnosis until 3 weeks after the development of cough. If treated with erythromycin, exclude 5 days after onset of therapy. |

For further information, please refer to school district policies and regulations by following the link: Policy EBB

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/ePolicy/Policy.aspx?S=110&Sch=110&PC=EBB&Z=P&revNo=1.01&srch=medical&ktype=Exact&encu=xa9jwu0EeqNJP1IMR8zErI2Eu9hM2yurtmPs7R4uWoHWgjY6vnVKIE00sII7aOvayaG6HeSLLyoilPc861dIDs0zQjzzePtSepyXNeWOK85No4plusqY001hPLgjbvthjLEEO0SLQYBLuVmplusaFGslshfslshENEADd33g0JnfZCjthud1cq8nKuFZhghgplusouvslshqJTcOjgL>

Food and Nutrition Services

Food and Nutrition Services

Breakfast and lunch is available to all students and staff. Prices for the current school year may be found on the monthly menu on the District's website. Lunch times will depend on each student's schedule. Students who are eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch are also eligible for free or reduced-priced breakfast. Free/reduced-priced meal applications need to be turned in to the school before school starts and **a new application must be submitted each year**. You are responsible for paying for all meals until your application has been approved. Applications may be obtained during enrollment, at the Main School Office or completed online on the District's website at <http://www.schoolnutritionandfitness.com/index.php?sid=0306152235285801&page=lunchapps>

Students should bring their lunch money in an envelope marked with their **first and last name, teacher's name, ID# and room number**. If paying for more than one child per check, write each ID# and students' names on the check and indicate how the money should be distributed. **Please make checks payable to the SCHOOL and add FNS** to indicate Food and Nutrition Services (for example, Clardy-FNS, Lakewood-FNS). Money can also be added to a student's meal account online via a credit card at <https://www.mypaymentsplus.com/welcome>. The student's meal account is then debited as the student makes food purchases. Parents are welcome to have lunch with their children.

Parties/Treats

In order to prevent life-threatening situations due to many severe food allergies and medical needs and to comply with the District's current Board Policy (ADF), all foods and beverages provided and available to students during the school day must meet the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Smart Snack Guidelines. This includes, but is not limited to, foods and beverages provided or made available to students for celebrations, classroom parties and birthdays, regardless of the source of the food. As defined by the District's Board Policy ADF: **"the school day is the time period from the midnight before to 30 minutes after the official school day"**.

Non-food celebration ideas are welcomed and encouraged. Please contact your building principal for questions regarding non-food celebration ideas.

Board Policy ADF may be found here:

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/Policy/ViewPolicy.aspx?S=110&revid=3ahgpEZEKuQsRKUDm2c4ng==&PG=6&st=wellness&mt=Exact>

The Food and Nutrition Department is offering parents the option of ordering birthday treats for their children from the school cafeteria. Parents may select from a variety of kid-friendly treats (view the school Website). Order your birthday treats two weeks in advance of your child's birthday from your cafeteria manager and the treats will be delivered to the classroom the day of the party.

Special Diets/Food Allergies

If your student requires a special diet or needs the school meal to be modified due to a medical condition, including food allergies, please complete the Medical Statement for Student's Requiring Special Meals. USDA regulation 7 CFR Part 15b requires a statement signed by a licensed physician and a parent signature to allow any changes or substitutions to the standard school meal. Only a MD, DO, PA or NP is authorized to sign the medical statement.

Please complete the Medical Statement for Students Requiring Special Meals form and give to your school nurse or fax to (816) 321-5447. Feel free to contact Hannah Broockerd at (816) 321-5008 or at hannah.broockerd@nkcschools.org for more information on how we can better meet the special diet needs of your student.

If your student's diet changes for any reason, a new Medical Statement must be filed before any changes are made to the student's diet. Only the current Medical Statement will be followed by the Food and Nutrition Services Department. You can request allergies be removed with an email or a written statement signed by the parent/guardian.

The Medical Statement for Students Requiring Special Meals Forms may be found by following the link: [Medical Statement for Students Special Meals Form](#)

Parents/guardians are responsible for sending meals from home for their student until the medical form is turned in and the school has had enough time to prepare a special menu and order in special foods (about two weeks). Per program regulations, no substitutions or modifications are allowed without the medical form completed and on file.

Lunch Fees

| Elementary: | Secondary: | Adult/Teacher: | Milk \$.70 |
|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Breakfast \$1.85 | Breakfast \$1.90 | Breakfast \$2.40 | |
| Lunch \$3.10 | Lunch \$3.35 | Lunch \$4.40 | |

USDA Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

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

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form (AD-3027) of found at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call 866-632-9992.

Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington,
D.C. 20250-9410;

(2) fax: 202-690-7442; or

(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Instruction and Assessment

The Elementary Instructional Program

The basic instructional program in kindergarten through grade five consists of communication arts (reading, writing, speaking, and listening), math, science, and social studies. Technology is used as an instructional resource as well as a tool to access information. Additionally, computers will be used in a classroom or lab setting for a variety of instructional activities.

Students also will receive the following encore instruction during a five-day rotation:

- One 60-minute period of visual arts.
- Two 30-minute periods of music.
- Two 30-minute periods of physical education.
- One 30-minute period of counseling every other five-day rotation.
- Two 30-minute periods of instrumental music are optional for fifth graders.
- One 30-minute period of health.

District Assessment

The District has a comprehensive testing program K-12. Results are used to provide feedback regarding individual student performance, inform instruction designed to meet student learning needs, determine student placement in support programs, and evaluate district curriculum and educational programming. In addition to classroom assessments, the following assessments are administered to all elementary students:

- Kindergarten through fifth grade students participate in performance assessments, reading level assessments, as well as reading and math comprehension and skill tests
- English Language Learners participate in the state WiDA/ACCESS language fluency assessments mid-year.
- The purpose of the **MAP (Missouri Assessment Program)** would allow more classroom instruction time by assessments in English Language Arts and Mathematics rather than a full seven hours of testing for grades 3 and 4. Students in grade 5 – the transition grade – would continue to take the full tests in English Language Arts and Math, as well as the current science assessment. MAP Grade Level Assessments are augmented norm referenced tests delivered annually each spring. District accreditation is partially based on these scores.
- The state Physical Fitness assessments
- Middle School Math Placement tests each spring

Progress Reports

Students receive progress reports four times per year. The purpose of these reports is to keep parents informed regarding a child's progress. **Parents are asked to review the electronic report card each grading period.** Directions for accessing the electronic grade card will be provided by your child's school each quarter. Following are the specific dates that the electronic report cards will be available for viewing. If you would like a printed copy of your child's report card, that request can be made with your child's teacher.

| Elementary Grading Timeline 2023-24 | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| | Electronic Parent Viewing Window Begins |
| 1 st Quarter | October 27 |
| 2 nd Quarter | January 5 |
| 3 rd Quarter | March 22 |
| 4 th Quarter | May 24 |

Early Intervention

North Kansas City Schools has adopted a process to frequently monitor student progress and intervene early with students who are not making satisfactory progress in the curriculum. Development of behavior which promotes success in school is part of the focus. The process is facilitated by a problem solving team at each school site. These teams use data about individual student progress to guide classroom interventions, and use of support services within the general education program. Parents may also refer students to the team. Contact your child's teacher, counselor or the school principal if you believe your child is not making satisfactory progress.

Student Placement

When determining student class assignments, the goal is to attain a heterogeneous grouping by considering the special needs of individual students, instructional levels, boy/girl ratio, and class size. Much time and deliberation are required to work through all educational considerations when creating classes. The complexity of instructional classroom design and the goal to provide a quality, balanced education to all students make parental requests and outside influences difficult to accommodate. Therefore, final placement of students in individual classrooms is the joint responsibility of the principal and the instructional staff.

Promotion and Retention of Students

North Kansas City Schools is committed to the continuous development of students enrolled in the district's schools and to student achievement of the skills for the current grade assignment for promotion to a higher grade. In evaluating student achievement, each teacher will make use of all available information including results of teacher-made tests, other measures of skill and content mastery, standardized test results, and teacher observation of student performance. Students will normally progress annually from grade to grade when, in the judgment of the professional staff, it is in the best interest of the student involved. However, retention may be considered when, in the judgment of the professional staff, it is in the best interest of the student. The final decision to promote or retain a student rests with the school administration.

Summer School

The summer school program offers both core and encore classes and is available to all District students at no charge. However, a fee may be charged for transportation. Brochures are sent home in early spring. If your child's teacher recommends the summer program, you are strongly encouraged to enroll your child in order to reinforce grade level math and reading skills.

Homework Philosophy and Guidelines

Homework Objectives

Homework is an important part of a student's learning experience. It provides opportunities for students to practice skills and improve their understanding. It also provides additional time for students to complete work, conduct follow-up studies and develop good study habits. In North Kansas City Schools, teachers assign homework to achieve the following objectives:

- Provide independent practice of learned concepts and/or skills.
- Assist students in developing good independent work/study habits.
- Promote student responsibility, time management, and self-discipline.
- Encourage independent research skills.
- Promote positive interaction between students and parents.

Responsibilities

To promote homework as an extension of classroom experiences, the following guidelines have been developed to assist those working with students.

Student Responsibilities

- Records, completes and returns assigned work on time.
- Assumes responsibility for completing work when absent from school.
- Establishes a time and location at home for work to be done.
- Communicates homework assignments with parents/guardians.
- Strives to complete work to the best of his/her ability.

Parent/Guardian Responsibilities

- Works with the student to develop an appropriate time and location to complete work and develop into a routine.
- Provides an environment conducive to completion of homework.
- Encourages and motivates the student but does not do the student's homework.
- Communicates with the teachers if concerns arise.
- Holds student accountable for completing work.

Teacher Responsibilities

- Provides meaningful tasks that support work introduced during class time.
- Acknowledges the activities and responsibilities of students outside of school and accepts that extenuating circumstances could arise that prevent students from completing work.
- Communicates with parents if concerns arise.
- Monitors homework assignments and provides feedback to students.
- Coordinates homework with other teachers/teams to avoid excessive homework on particular nights.
- Differentiates homework based on individual needs when appropriate.

Counselor Responsibilities

- Provides support groups when necessary to assist students in developing good study habits and effective time management practices.
- Assists the building support team in monitoring students in need of assistance.

- Helps students establish realistic goals and provide necessary support.
- Offers study-skills groups for selected students when needed.

Principal Responsibilities

- Communicates and monitors the district's homework guidelines.
- Individualizes the guidelines according to the school's/student's needs.
- Provides leadership for building support team to assist students when needed.

Time Allocation for Elementary Students

Suggested guidelines for daily homework are ten minutes as a maximum for first grade students and 50 minutes for fifth grade students. Keep in mind that some of this time may be utilized for reading.

Parent/Teacher Interactions

Parent/Teacher Conferences

We desire parental involvement and encourage parents to call the school to schedule a conference with teachers throughout the school year if they have concerns, questions or comments. A conference can be arranged with an administrator, counselor or an individual teacher. In order to protect instructional time and the learning environment, we ask that parents arrange to meet with the staff ahead of time and check in with the receptionist in the Main Office. Parent/Teacher conferences will be held following the end of the first grading period. We encourage all of our parents to take advantage of this opportunity.

Contacting Teachers

School efforts are most effective when there is cooperation between home and school. Parents are encouraged to call the child's teacher to discuss concerns. You may phone anytime during the school day and leave a message for a teacher. Telephones will not ring in the classroom during school hours, but you may leave a message and the teacher will return your call. You may also contact the teacher via e-mail and or Seesaw.

Visits to Classrooms and District Events

The North Kansas City Board of Education encourages parents to be actively involved in their child's education. The District is also committed to maintaining an instructional climate that is conducive to student success. Visitors are asked to schedule visits in advance so as not to interfere with the instructional program. Visitors must check in at the office upon arrival and wear a visitor's badge.

Classroom observations are subject to several conditions outlined in board policy KK-AF. Third party observations are permitted if the observation is: legally required, in the best interest of the child or is otherwise designed to improve the district's educational program. Parents who wish a third-party observation must complete district form KK-AF to the principal. Parents will be notified if their request has been approved.

District events are a vital part of the total educational program and should be used as a means for developing wholesome attitudes, positive social interaction, good sportsmanship and appropriate behavior. Patrons are encouraged to attend and exhibit good sportsmanship, citizenship, ethics and integrity at all district events. Consequences for not adhering to appropriate behavior are outlined in district policy KK-AP. Student visitors from other locations will not be allowed during school hours.

Student Attendance and Accountability

Attendance

Regular attendance is essential for a quality education. Parents are encouraged to schedule medical/dental appointments outside of the school day to provide students with as much learning time as possible. The principal is obligated to address unsatisfactory attendance. Action will be taken by the attendance staff, including contact with the parents, when chronic or multiple absences occur. Excessive absences may result in referral to the legal authorities. Student attendance status is as follows:

| Attendance Percentage | Attendance Status |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 98%-100% | Excellent |
| 95%-97% | Satisfactory |
| 90%-94% | Marginal |
| 89% and below | Unsatisfactory |

The Missouri Compulsory Attendance Act lists the following as acceptable reasons for an absence from school (School may request written verification):

- ☐ Personal illness
- ☐ Doctor/dental appointments
- ☐ Serious illness or death of a member of the family or close friend
- ☐ Emergencies at home such as fire or flood
- ☐ Religious holidays
- ☐ Professional appointments that cannot be scheduled outside the school day

These absences will affect your child's attendance percentage.

Reporting Absences

All schools have a 24-hour attendance line. In the event that an illness or other reasonable circumstance prevents your child from attending, please inform the school. If your child will miss several days, you only need to call the first day. If no contact is made by 9:00 a.m. for early schools and 9:30 a.m. for late schools, every attempt will be made to reach a parent or emergency contact to verify the reason for the absence. Our intent with the requirement for verification of absences, late arrivals, and early departures is that parents and school personnel always know where every student is during school hours.

Late to School Procedure

When a student arrives late, he/she must check in with the administrative assistant to obtain a pass to class. For the safety of the student and to verify the reason for the late arrival, parents must sign in their child in the office. Tardiness/late arrival will affect your child's attendance percentage.

Early to Leave Procedure

For the safety of the student and to verify the reason for leaving, parents must sign out their child in the office. The parent must notify the office in advance if someone other than the parent is picking up the child. Leaving early will affect your child's attendance percentage.

Makeup Work Due to Absences

If a student wants his/her "makeup" work when he/she is ill, the parent should call before 9:30 a.m. and not plan to pick up the work in the office until after 3:00 p.m.

Planned Extended Absences

The instructional program is designed for interaction between the teacher and student that is not possible when students are absent for extended periods of time. Parents are encouraged to plan vacations/trips during times when school is not in session. Schools will provide instructional materials/assignments for up to five (5) school days of consecutive absence with 48 hours prior notice. Due to state attendance reporting guidelines, the absence will be "excused absent" and will negatively affect the child's attendance percentage.

Textbooks and Supplies

The district will provide necessary textbooks in all basic instructional areas. Additional resources are available from the Library Media Center and teachers. Students will be charged replacement costs for any resources lost or damaged.

Dress and Grooming

The primary responsibility for a student's school dress and grooming rests with the student's parents/guardians. Proper dress or grooming will ensure your child can participate in the total school program. This includes clothing suited for outdoor play as well as gym shoes for PE. The Board of Education expects student dress and grooming to be neat, clean and in good taste so that each student may share in promoting a positive, healthy and safe atmosphere within the school district. Student dress and grooming will be the responsibility of the individual and parents/guardian, within the following guidelines:

- ☐ Dress that promotes the use of drugs, alcohol, tobacco, criminal, or sexual activity will be prohibited.
- ☐ No see-through clothing or underclothing worn as an outer garment.
- ☐ Boxer shorts, biker pants, overly tight or short garments are not allowed.
- ☐ No bare backs or midriffs.
- ☐ Tank tops open below the armpit must be worn with an undershirt.
- ☐ Hats, head scarves, caps and sunglasses are not allowed to be worn inside the building. The district may make an exception to this provision if the student must wear head garb as a basic tenant of the student's religion.
- ☐ Dress and grooming will not disrupt the educational environment.

Human Sexuality Instruction

The Board of Education recognizes that parents/guardians are the primary source of sexuality education for their children. The Board also recognizes that effective sexuality education, taught in concert with parents/guardians, helps students avoid risks to their health and academic success and prepares them to make informed decisions as adults. Therefore, pursuant to requirements of state law, if the district chooses to use any course materials and instruction relating to human sexuality

and sexually transmitted diseases the materials and instruction shall be medically and factually accurate. For further information please refer to district policies and regulations by following the link:

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/ePolicy/Policy.aspx?S=110&Sch=110&PC=IGAEB&Z=P&revNo=1.11&srch=sexuality&ktype=Exact&encu=xa9jwu0EeqNJP1IMR8zErI2Eu9hM2yurtmPs7R4uWoGGjTef44Fe0IFZlhp8siHml77y1xcwpplus6EwH2ovuEjEBslshDZvDmkWGpZMjh0v3eXIngjjw4KXmbGehxrAmYj06cyDIGfsAHHLnUa6o1slshzvGxirdj30hoR6wi0re0UrbHY8JGWvz2plusnDQg9nRcCp1oiG>

Public Notice for Parents of Students with Disabilities

All responsible public agencies are required to locate, evaluate, and identify children with disabilities who are under the jurisdiction of the agency, regardless of the severity of the disability, including children attending private schools, highly mobile children, such as migrant and homeless children, and children who are suspected of having a disability and in need of special education even though they are advancing from grade to grade.

North Kansas City Schools assures that it will provide a free, appropriate education (FAPE) to all eligible children with disabilities between the ages of 3 and 21 under its jurisdiction. Disabilities include autism, visual impairment/blindness, emotional disorders, hearing impairment and deafness, mental retardation, multiple disabilities, orthopedic impairment, other health impairments, specific learning disabilities, speech or language impairment, traumatic brain injury, and young children with a developmental delay.

North Kansas City Schools assures that it will provide information and referral services necessary to assist the State in the implementation of early intervention services for infants and toddlers eligible for the Missouri First Steps program.

North Kansas City Schools assures that personally identifiable information collected, used, or maintained by the agency for the purposes of identification, evaluation, placement, or provision of FAPE of children with disabilities may be inspected and/or reviewed by their parents/guardians. Parents/guardians may request amendment to the educational record if the parent/guardian believes the record is inaccurate, misleading, or violates the privacy and/or other rights of their child. Parents have the right to file complaints with the U.S. Department of Education or the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education concerning alleged failures by the district to meet the requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

North Kansas City Schools have developed a Local Compliance Plan for the implementation of State Regulations for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This plan contains the agency's policies and procedures regarding storage, disclosure to third parties, retention and destruction of personally identifiable information and the agency's assurances that services are provided in compliance with the General Education Provision Act (GEPA). This plan may be reviewed at Special Education/Doolin Center in the District Administrative Center, 2000 NE 46th Street, Kansas City, MO 64116, from 9:00 AM to 4:00 P.M. on days that school is in session.

Local school districts in the State of Missouri are required to conduct an annual census of all children with disabilities or suspected disabilities from birth to age twenty-one (21) that reside in the district. This census must be compiled by December 1 of each year. This information is treated as confidential and must include: the name of the child; parent/legal guardian's name and address; birth date and age of the child; the child's disability; and the services provided to the child. If you have a child with a disability or know of a child with a disability who is not attending the public

school, please contact the Director of Special Education, at (816)321-6352. This notice will be provided in native languages as appropriate.

Specially Trained Teachers

Specially trained teachers are available for students who qualify for services in reading, special education, gifted education (SAGE), and English Language Learners (ELL). In addition to delivering class lessons on personal and social development, the counselor is available to meet with individuals, small groups, and parents upon request. Parents of students who receive these services will be notified.

Field Trips

The Board believes that field trips often enhance the program of instruction and add much to the education of a student. Trips may be authorized by the superintendent or delegated representative when the activities contribute substantially to the achievement of desirable educational goals. All field trips should be planned with an educational purpose and in relation to a unit of study. To be educationally beneficial, a field trip requires thoughtful selection, careful advance preparation of the class and opportunities for students to assimilate the experience during and at the conclusion of the trip. To this end, teachers and principals will be expected to consider the following factors in the selection of field trips:

- Value of the activity to the particular class group or class groups.
- Relationship of the field trip activity to a particular aspect of classroom instruction.
- Suitability of the activity and distance traveled in terms of the age level of students.
- Mode and availability of transportation.
- Cost of field trip.

Due to the increased cost of transportation, all field trips should be carefully scrutinized by the administration.

All parents of students who are eligible to participate in the field trip shall be notified of the activity.

Library Media Center (LMC)

The LMC is a vital aspect of the elementary program. Each week elementary students will have a check-out time in the Library Media Center. Students have access to a variety of resources including books, magazines, newspapers, and electronic resources. (Parents can access electronic information from home by visiting the district Web page at www.nkcschools.org). Additionally, students will be visiting the LMC regularly as the media specialist and classroom teacher work collaboratively to provide experiences in accessing, evaluating, and using information.

Reading/Senate Bill 319

Senate Bill 319 (SB319) was enacted to ensure that by the end of the third-grade year every student is able to read well, and that the schools develop plans to assist students who have reading difficulties. Third graders reading more than a year below grade level must be identified. A Personalized Reading Education Plan (PREP) would be developed for the fourth-grade year. The PREP would include instruction from the reading specialist as well as instruction outside the regular school day for remediation. After this intervention, students still determined to be more than a year below grade level must be retained in the fourth grade. Some students are exempt from the requirements of the law due to identified special needs including English Language Learners (ELL), special education students, students who already have written plans addressing reading (504 plans),

and students who have been identified to have low cognitive abilities that prevent them from reading at grade level.

IEP Information

Any portion of a student's individualized education program (IEP) that is related to, demonstrated or potentially violent behavior shall be provided to any teacher or other school district employees who are directly responsible for the student's education or who otherwise interact with the student on an educational basis while acting within the scope of their assigned duties.

Technology

Technology Usage

The North Kansas City School District's technology exists for the purpose of maximizing the educational opportunities and achievement of district students. Research shows that students who have access to technology improve achievement. In addition, technology assists with the professional enrichment of the staff and Board and increases engagement of students' families and other patrons of the district, all of which positively impact student achievement. The district will periodically conduct a technology census to ensure that instructional resources and equipment that support and extend the curriculum are readily available to teachers and students.

The purpose of this policy is to facilitate access to district technology and to create a safe environment in which to use that technology.

Definitions

For the purposes of this policy and related procedures and forms, the following terms are defined:

Technology Resources – Technologies, devices and resources used to access, process, store or communicate information. This definition includes, but is not limited to: computers, modems, printers, scanners, fax machines and transmissions, telephonic equipment, audio-visual equipment, Internet, electronic mail, electronic communications devices and services, multi-media resources, hardware and software.

User – Any person who is permitted by the district to utilize any portion of the district's technology resources including, but not limited to, students, employees, School Board members and agents of the school district.

User Identification (ID) – Any identifier that would allow a user access to the district's technology resources or to any program including, but not limited to, e-mail and Internet access.

Password – A unique word, phrase or combination of alphabetic, numeric and non-alphanumeric characters used to authenticate a user ID as belonging to a user.

Authorized Users

The district's technology resources may be used by authorized students, employees, School Board members and other persons such as consultants, legal counsel and independent contractors. All users must agree to follow the district's policies and procedures. Use of the district's technology resources is a privilege, not a right. No potential user will be given an ID, password or other access to district technology if he or she is considered a security risk by the superintendent or designee.

User Privacy

A user does not have a legal expectation of privacy in the user's electronic communications or other activities involving the district's technology resources, including e-mail and access to the Internet or network drives. By using the district's network and technology resources, all users are consenting to having their electronic communications and all other use monitored by the district. A user ID with email access will only be provided to authorized users on condition that the user consents to interception of or access to all communications accessed, sent, received, or stored using district technology.

Electronic communications, downloaded material and all data stored on the district's technology resources, including files deleted from a user's account, may be intercepted, accessed or searched by district administrators or designees at any time in the regular course of business to protect users and district equipment. Any such search, access or interception will be reasonable in inception and scope and shall comply with all applicable laws.

Technology Administration

The Board directs the superintendent or designee to create procedures governing technology usage and to assign trained personnel to maintain the district's technology in a manner that will protect the district from liability and will protect confidential student and employee information retained on or accessible through district technology resources.

Administrators of computer resources may suspend access to and/or availability of the district's technology resources to diagnose and investigate network problems or potential violations of the law or district policies and procedures. All district technology resources are considered district property. The district may maintain or improve technology resources at any time. The district may remove, change or exchange hardware or other technology between buildings, classrooms or users at any time without prior notice. Authorized district personnel may install or remove new programs or information, install new equipment, upgrade any system or enter any system to correct problems at any time.

Content Filtering and Monitoring

The district will monitor the online activities of minors and operate a technology protection measure ("filtering/blocking device") on the network and/or all computers with Internet access, as required by law. The filtering/blocking device will be used to protect against access to visual depictions that are obscene or harmful to minors or are child pornography, as required by law. Filtering/Blocking devices are not foolproof, and the district cannot guarantee that users will never be able to access offensive materials using district equipment. Evasion or disabling, or attempting to evade or disable, a filtering/blocking device installed by the district is prohibited.

The superintendent, designee or the district's technology administrator may disable the district's filtering/blocking device to enable a non-student user access for bona fide research or for other lawful purposes. In making decisions to disable the district's filtering/blocking device, the administrator shall consider whether the use will serve a legitimate educational purpose or otherwise benefit the district.

Closed Forum

The district's technology resources are not a public forum for expression of any kind and are to be considered a closed forum to the extent allowed by law. The district's web page will provide information about the school district, but will not be used as an open forum.

All expressive activities involving district technology resources that students, parents/guardians and members of the public might reasonably perceive to bear the imprimatur of the district and that are designed to impart particular knowledge or skills to student participants and audiences are considered curricular publications. All curricular publications are subject to reasonable prior restraint, editing and deletion on behalf of the school district for legitimate pedagogical reasons. All other expressive activities involving the district's technology are subject to reasonable prior restraint and subject matter restrictions as allowed by law and Board policies.

Records Retention

Trained personnel shall establish a retention schedule for the regular archiving or deletion of data stored on district technology resources that complies with the *Public School District Records Retention Manual* as well as the *General Records Retention Manual* published by the Missouri Secretary of State. In the case of pending or threatened litigation, the district's attorney will issue a litigation hold directive to the superintendent or designee.

The litigation hold directive will override any records retention schedule that may have otherwise called for the transfer, disposal or destruction of relevant documents until the hold has been lifted by the district's attorney. E-mail and computer accounts of separated employees that have been placed on a litigation hold will be maintained by the district's information technology department until the hold is released. No employee who has been so notified of a litigation hold may alter or delete any electronic record that falls within the scope of the hold. Violation of the hold may subject the individual to disciplinary actions, up to and including termination of employment, as well as personal liability for civil and/or criminal sanctions by the courts or law enforcement agencies.

Violations of Technology Usage Policies and Procedures

Use of technology resources in a disruptive, manifestly inappropriate or illegal manner impairs the district's mission, squanders resources and shall not be tolerated. Therefore, a consistently high level of personal responsibility is expected of all users granted access to the district's technology resources. Any violation of district policies or procedures regarding technology usage may result in temporary, long-term or permanent suspension of user privileges. User privileges may be suspended pending investigation into the use of the district's technology resources.

Employees may be disciplined or terminated, and students suspended or expelled, for violating the district's technology policies and procedures. Any attempted violation of the district's technology policies or procedures, regardless of the success or failure of the attempt, may result in the same discipline or suspension of privileges as that of an actual violation.

Damages

All damages incurred by the district due to a user's intentional or negligent misuse of the district's technology resources, including loss of property and staff time, will be charged to the user. District administrators have the authority to sign any criminal complaint regarding damage to district technology.

No Warranty/No Endorsement

The district makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the services, products or access it provides. The district's technology resources are available on an "as is, as available" basis.

The district is not responsible for loss of data, delays, non-deliveries, mis-deliveries or service interruptions. The district does not endorse the content nor guarantee the accuracy or quality of information obtained using the district's technology resources.

Student Users

Students will be given access to the district's technology resources and upon logging in agree to abide by the district usage policy and procedures.

General Rules and Responsibilities

The following rules and responsibilities will apply to all users of the district's technology resources:

1. Applying for a user ID under false pretenses or using another person's ID or password is prohibited.
2. Sharing user IDs or passwords with others is prohibited and users will be responsible for using the ID or password. A user will not be responsible for theft of passwords and IDs, but may be responsible if the theft was the result of user negligence.
3. Deleting, examining, copying or modifying files or data belonging to other users without their prior consent is prohibited.
4. Mass consumption of technology resources that inhibits use by others is prohibited.
5. Use of district technology, including the telephone system, for soliciting, advertising, fundraising, commercial purposes or for financial gain is prohibited, unless authorized by the district.
6. Accessing fee services without permission from an administrator is prohibited. A user who accesses such services without permission is solely responsible for all charges incurred.
7. Users are required to obey all laws, including criminal, copyright, privacy, defamation and obscenity laws. The school district will render all reasonable assistance to local, state or federal officials for the investigation and prosecution of persons using district technology in violation of any law.
8. The district prohibits the use of district technology resources to access, view or disseminate information that is pornographic, obscene, child pornography, harmful to minors, obscene to minors, libelous, pervasively indecent or vulgar, or advertising any product or service not permitted to minors.
9. Accessing, viewing or disseminating information on any product or service not permitted to minors is prohibited unless under the direction and supervision of district staff for curriculum-related purposes.
10. The district prohibits the use of district technology resources to access, view or disseminate information that constitutes insulting or fighting words, the very expression of which injures or harasses other people (e.g., threats of violence, defamation of character or of a person's race, religion or ethnic origin); presents a clear and present likelihood that, because of their content or their manner of distribution, they will cause a material and substantial disruption of the proper and orderly operation and discipline of the school or school activities; or will cause the commission of unlawful acts or the violation of lawful district policies and procedures.
11. The district prohibits any use that violates any person's rights under applicable laws, and specifically prohibits any use that has the purpose or effect of discriminating or harassing any person on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, disability, age, pregnancy or use of leave protected by the Family and Medical Leave Act.

12. The district prohibits any unauthorized intentional or negligent action that damages or disrupts technology, alters its normal performance or causes it to malfunction. The district will hold users responsible for such damage and will seek both criminal and civil remedies, as necessary.
13. Users may only install and use properly licensed software, audio or video media purchased by the district or approved for use by the district. All users will adhere to the limitations of the district's technology licenses. Copying for home use is prohibited unless permitted by the district's license and approved by the district.
14. At no time will district technology or software be removed from the district premises, unless authorized by the district.
15. All users will use the district's property as it was intended. Technology resources will not be moved or relocated without permission from an administrator. All users will be held accountable for any damage they cause to district technology resources.

Electronic Devices

Possession of beepers, pagers, radios, MP3, iPod, CD players, laser pointers, portable game players, etc., are not appropriate in a school setting. The school is not responsible for damaged, lost or stolen items.

Cell Phones

We recognize that parents may want their student to have a mobile phone for safety reasons. However, mobile phones do present possible disruptions to the educational process. Therefore, appropriate steps must be taken to prevent disruptions.

In general, the following guidelines will be used:

- ☐ The mobile phone will be the child's and parent/guardian's responsibility at all times.
- ☐ The school is not responsible for damaged, lost or stolen mobile phones.
- ☐ The mobile phone will be turned off during the instructional school day.
- ☐ If guidelines are violated, the privilege of the mobile phone may be revoked.

Security and Unauthorized Access

All users shall immediately report any security problems or misuse of the district's technology resources to a teacher or administrator.

No person will be given access to district technology if he or she is considered a security risk by the superintendent or designee.

1. Use of district technology resources in attempting to gain or gaining unauthorized access to any technology system or the files of another is prohibited.
2. Use of district technology to connect to other systems, in evasion of the physical limitations of the remote system, is prohibited.
3. The unauthorized copying of system files is prohibited.
4. Intentional or negligent attempts, whether successful or unsuccessful, to interfere with the ability of others to utilize any district technology are prohibited.
5. Any attempts to secure a higher level of privilege on the technology resources without authorization are prohibited.
6. The introduction of computer viruses, hacking tools or other disruptive or destructive programs into a district computer, network or any external networks is prohibited.

Online Safety, Disclosure, Use and Dissemination of Personal Information

1. All students will be instructed on the dangers of sharing personal information about themselves or others over the Internet.
2. Student users are prohibited from sharing personal information about themselves or others over the Internet, unless authorized by the district.
3. Student users shall not agree to meet with someone they have met online without parental approval.
4. A student user shall promptly disclose to his or her teacher or another school employee any message the user receives that is inappropriate or makes the user feel uncomfortable.
5. Users shall receive or transmit communications using only district-approved and district managed communication systems. For example, users may not use web-based e-mail, messaging, videoconferencing or chat services, except in special cases where arrangements have been made in advance and approved by the district.
6. All district employees will abide by state and federal law, Board policies and district rules including, but not limited to, policy JO and regulation JO-R when communicating information about personally identifiable students.
7. Employees shall not transmit confidential student information using district technology, unless designated for that use. Employees will take precautions to prevent negligent disclosure of student information or student records.
8. No curricular or non-curricular publication distributed using district technology will include the address, phone number or e-mail address of any student without permission.

Electronic Mail (Email)

A user is responsible for all e-mail originating from the user's e-mail account.

1. Forgery or attempted forgery of e-mail messages is illegal and is prohibited.
2. Unauthorized attempts to read, delete, copy or modify e-mail of other users are prohibited.
3. All users must adhere to the same standards for communicating electronically that are expected in the classroom and that are consistent with district policies and procedures.
4. Users must obtain permission from the superintendent or designee before sending any district wide e-mail messages.

Exceptions

Exceptions to district rules will be made for district employees or agents conducting an investigation of a use that potentially violates the law, district policies or procedures. Exceptions will also be made for technology administrators who need access to district technology resources to maintain the district's resources or examine and delete data stored on district computers as allowed by the district's retention policy.

Waiver

Any user who believes he or she has a legitimate educational purpose for using the district's technology in a manner that may violate any of the district's policies or procedures may request a waiver from the building principal, superintendent or their designees. In making the decision to grant a waiver to a student, the administrator shall consider the purpose, age, maturity and level of supervision involved.

Social Media Guidelines for Students

All student social media accounts (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, etc.) will be PERSONAL accounts. School related pages should be created by school personnel such as an activities sponsor, coach, teacher or administrator.

- Be aware of what you post online. Social media venues are very public. What you contribute leaves a digital footprint for all to see. Do not post anything you wouldn't want friends, enemies, parents, teachers, or a future employer to see.
- Follow the school's code of conduct when writing online. It is acceptable to disagree with someone else's opinions, however, do it in a respectful way. Make sure that criticism is constructive and not hurtful. What is inappropriate in the classroom is inappropriate online.
- Be safe online. Never give out personal information, including, but not limited to, last names, phone numbers, addresses, exact birthdates, and pictures. Do not share your password with anyone besides your teachers and parents.
- Linking to other Websites to support your thoughts and ideas is recommended. However, be sure to read the entire article prior to linking to ensure that all information is appropriate for a school setting.
- Do your own work! Do not use other people's intellectual property without their permission. Be aware that it is a violation of copyright law to copy and paste other's thoughts. It is good practice to hyperlink to your sources.
- Be aware that pictures may also be protected under copyright laws. Verify you have permission to use the image.
- How you represent yourself online is an extension of yourself. Do not misrepresent yourself by using someone else's identity.
- Blog and wiki posts should be well written. Follow writing conventions including proper grammar, capitalization, and punctuation. If you edit someone else's work, be sure it is in the spirit of improving the writing.
- If you run across inappropriate material that makes you feel uncomfortable, or is not respectful, tell a parent or teacher right away.
- Students who do not abide by these terms and conditions may lose their opportunity to take part in the project and/or access to future use of online tools. Please reference the district's Acceptable Use Policy online at: Policy EHB
<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/ePolicy/policy.aspx?PC=EHB&Sch=110&S=110&C=&RevNo=1.01&T=A&Z=P&St=ADOPTED&PG=6&SN=true>

Also, please refer to Board policy regarding Student Discipline addressing the consequences, including suspension or expulsion, for students whose conduct is prejudicial to good order and discipline in the schools or impairs the morale or good conduct of other students.

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/ePolicy/policy.aspx?PC=JG-R1&Sch=110&S=110&C=&RevNo=1.11&T=A&Z=A&St=ADOPTED&PG=6&SN=true>

Social Media Guidelines for Parents

Classroom blogs and other social media are powerful tools. They create communication and collaboration opportunities between students, parents, teachers and other district personnel, and can have a positive impact on learning. North Kansas City Schools encourages parents to view and participate by adding comments on district/school/teacher sponsored social media sites when appropriate (including Facebook, Twitter, Canvas and SeeSaw).

Parents are asked to adhere to the following guidelines:

- Parents will receive communication from teachers prior to their child's involvement in any project using online social media applications, i.e., blogs, wikis, podcast, etc.
- Parents should not attempt to destroy or harm any information online.
- Parents should not use classroom social media sites for any illegal activity, including violation of data privacy laws.
- Parents are highly encouraged to read and/or participate in social media.
- Parents should not distribute information that might be deemed personal about other students via social media.
- Parents should not upload or include any information that does not also meet the **Student Guidelines**.
- Parents experiencing concerns with their student's education, school environment, school activities and/or interaction with a teacher or administrator are encouraged to speak to school and/or District Leadership BEFORE turning to outside sources such as the media for resolution. Please work through District channels first.

For additional information on the district's Acceptable Use Policy, visit:

<https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/ePolicy/policy.aspx?PC=JG-R1&Sch=110&S=110&C=&RevNo=1.11&T=A&Z=A&St=ADOPTED&PG=6&SN=true>

Be a responsible digital citizen and remember to **THINK** before sharing on social media!

T – Is it **TRUE**?

H – Is it **HELPFUL**?

I – Is it **INSPIRING**?

N – Is it **NECESSARY**?

K – Is it **KIND**?



Parents As Teachers

Parents as Teachers (PAT) is a FREE nationally recognized early childhood home visiting program for all families with children ages prenatal - not yet in kindergarten in the North Kansas City School District.

PAT empowers parents and caregivers to be their child's first and best teacher. Our evidence-based program is built on the belief that every child deserves the opportunity to reach their full potential, and every family can support their child's learning and development.

PAT supports families through

- Home Visits: Certified parent educators provide personalized guidance, support, and encouragement to families in the comfort of their own homes. Through regular visits we work collaboratively with you to set goals, address concerns, and celebrate milestones.
- Developmental Screenings: Annual comprehensive developmental screenings monitor your child's progress and ensure they are reaching important milestones.
- Group Connections: Join us for engaging group connections where you can connect with other families.
- Community Resources: Parent educators have a diverse network of resources they can connect families with.

To learn more about Parents as Teachers and enroll in the program, please signup online at <https://www.nkcschools.org/district/dept/parents-as-teachers> or call 816-321-5453.

We look forward to partnering with you and supporting your family every step of the way!

**Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA)
COMPLAINT PROCEDURES**

This guide explains how to file a complaint about any of the programs¹ that are administered by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (the Department) under the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA)².

| Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Complaint Procedures for ESSA Programs Table of Contents | |
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| General Information 1. What is a complaint under ESSA? 2. Who may file a complaint? 3. How can a complaint be filed? | |
| Complaints filed with LEA 4. How will a complaint filed with the LEA be investigated? 5. What happens if a complaint is not resolved at the local level (LEA)? | Complaints filed with the Department 6. How can a complaint be filed with the Department? 7. How will a complaint filed with the Department be investigated? 8. How are complaints related to equitable services to nonpublic school children handled differently? |
| Appeals 9. How will appeals to the Department be investigated? 10. What happens if the complaint is not resolved at the state level (the Department)? | |

1. What is a complaint?

For these purposes, a complaint is a written allegation that a local education agency (LEA) or the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (the Department) has violated a federal statute or regulation that applies to a program under ESSA.

2. Who may file a complaint?

Any individual or organization may file a complaint.

3. How can a complaint be filed?

Complaints can be filed with the LEA or with the Department.

4. How will a complaint filed with the LEA be investigated?

Complaints filed with the LEA are to be investigated and attempted to be resolved according to the locally developed and adopted procedures.

5. What happens if a complaint is not resolved at the local level (LEA)?

A complaint not resolved at the local level may be appealed to the Department.

¹ Programs include Title I, A, B, C, D, Title II, Title III, Title IV-A, Title V

² In compliance with ESSA Title VIII-Part C, Sec. 8304(a)(3)(C)

6. How can a complaint be filed with the Department?

A complaint filed with the Department must be a written, signed statement that includes:

1. A statement that a requirement that applies to an ESSA program has been violated by the LEA or the Department, and
2. The facts on which the statement is based and the specific requirement allegedly violated.

7. How will a complaint filed with the Department be investigated?

The investigation and complaint resolution proceedings will be completed within a time limit of forty-five calendar days. That time limit can be extended by the agreement of all parties.

The following activities will occur in the investigation:

1. **Record.** A written record of the investigation will be kept.
2. **Notification of LEA.** The LEA will be notified of the complaint within five days of the complaint being filed.
3. **Resolution at LEA.** The LEA will then initiate its local complaint procedures in an effort to first resolve the complaint at the local level.
4. **Report by LEA.** Within thirty-five days of the complaint being filed, the LEA will submit a written summary of the LEA investigation and complaint resolution. This report is considered public record and may be made available to parents, teachers, and other members of the general public.
5. **Verification.** Within five days of receiving the written summary of a complaint resolution, the Department will verify the resolution of the complaint through an on-site visit, letter, or telephone call(s).
6. **Appeal.** The complainant or the LEA may appeal the decision of the Department to the U.S. Department of Education.

8. How are complaints related to equitable services to nonpublic school children handled differently?

In addition to the procedures listed in number 7 above, complaints related to equitable services will also be filed with the U.S. Department of Education, and they will receive all information related to the investigation and resolution of the complaint. Also, appeals to the United States Department of Education must be filed no longer than thirty days following the Department's resolution of the complaint (or its failure to resolve the complaint).

9. How will appeals to the Department be investigated?

The Department will initiate an investigation within ten days, which will be concluded within thirty days from the day of the appeal. This investigation may be continued beyond the thirty day limit at the discretion of the Department. At the conclusion of the investigation, the Department will communicate the decision and reasons for the decision to the complainant and the LEA. Recommendations and details of the decision are to be implemented within fifteen days of the decision being delivered to the LEA.

10. What happens if a complaint is not resolved at the state level (the Department)?

The complainant or the LEA may appeal the decision of the Department to the United States Department of Education.