OHIO LOCAL UPDATE OVERVIEW FOR THE BOARD

VOLUME 43 NUMBER 2

JANUARY 2025

BYLAWS AND POLICIES

Bylaw 0131.1 - Technical Corrections (Revised)

This bylaw has been revised to streamline the process of making technical corrections to policies and bylaws. The bylaw provides options for defining technical corrections and authorizes the Superintendent to make such corrections and provide a summary of the corrections to the Board for review. The key words in this are " and are of a non-substantive nature."

This revised bylaw should be adopted if the Board wishes to streamline the technical corrections process.

Bylaw 0171 - Review of Policy (Rescind)

It is suggested that this bylaw be rescinded (deleted) to avoid any conflict or inconsistency with Bylaw 0131.1 - Technical Corrections.

Policy 1422.01 - Drug-Free Workplace (New)

This policy has been added to include the same provisions in Policy 3122.01/4122.01 regarding Drug-Free Workplace for administrators that pertain to other district employees.

Policy 2271 - College Credit Plus Program (Revised)

This policy is revised to include the provisions of S.B. 104 (effective February 25, 2025). The bill revises the operations of the College Credit Plus ("CCP") Program, providing an option for a student or a student's parent to inform the school of the student's intent to participate in CCP in the next semester by November 1 preceding that semester. Such participation may only be approved for the next semester/term. The bill requires each Institution of Higher Education ("IHE") to provide CCP students with a mandatory orientation that meets guidelines issued by the Chancellor and the Department. Additionally, the district is required to use CCP forms developed by the Chancellor and the Department.

One of the biggest changes here is the mid-year meeting we need to have for students who did not do CCP in the fall but wish to in the 2nd semester.

Revisions to this policy reflect current provisions of state law and should be adopted.

Policy 2340 - Field and Other District-Sponsored Trips (Revised)

This policy is revised to include the overnight accommodations restrictions required by S.B. 104 (effective February 25, 2025). S.B. 104 mandates that students of the opposite biological sex may not share overnight accommodations.

Revisions to this policy reflect current provisions of state law and should be adopted.

Policy 2430.02 - Participation of Community/STEM School Students in Extra-Curricular Activities (Revised)Policy 2431 - Interscholastic Athletics (Revised)

Policy 2431 is revised to include the provisions of H.B. 47 regarding the mandatory informational meeting for students and parents and adding sudden cardiac arrest to training and restrictions required. Both policies are revised to include the athletic eligibility provisions of H.B. 147.

All of the relevant admins have been notified on this along with Dannelle. We did meet to look over some of this as well. The Adam Project being spearheaded by Dannelle will extend some of this to all staff and have trained teams in each building to react should we have a sudden cardiac arrest.

These revisions reflect current state law and should be adopted.

Policy 2460 - Special Education (Revised)

The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce ("DEW") recently released updated Special Education Model Policies and Procedures ("Model Policies") that are consistent with the 2023 Ohio Operating Standards for Ohio Educational Agencies Serving Children with Disabilities ("Operating Standards"). The Operating Standards require educational agencies to adopt written policies and procedures regarding the education of children with disabilities (3301-51-02). In addition, the Operating Standards allow educational agencies to choose which method they will use to determine the existence of a specific learning disability and require districts to develop written procedures for the implementation of their chosen method (3301-51-06). To fulfill the preceding requirements, school boards may either adopt the Model Policies or develop their own. This revised policy reflects this recent change. Given that the updated Model Policies reflect existing regulations and explain procedural mechanisms, Neola recommends that Boards adopt them. If, however, a board of education wants to enhance or expand upon the Model Policies to meet the needs of students and staff in their district, they may do so.

Policy 4120.08 - Employment of Personnel for Co-Curricular/Extra-Curricular Activities (Revised)

This policy has been revised to ensure personnel know to enroll in the state's Rapback System.

Policy 5113 - Inter-District Open Enrollment (Revised)

Revisions to this policy update language to coincide with current Ohio Department of Education and Workforce ("DEW") provisions and to include the requirements of S.B. 208 (effective April 9, 2025) to permit a student who is not a native student of the district to open enroll in the district if the student's parent is an active duty member of the armed forces of the United States who is stationed in Ohio and who provides the district a copy of the parent's official written order verifying the parent's status as an active duty member of the armed forces. Additionally, the bill permits a student enrolled under a district's open enrollment policy exception for military children to continue to attend that district and receive transportation services for the remainder of the school year if the student's parent is discharged or released from active duty. The new military exception must be added to policies for districts that either entirely prohibit interdistrict open enrollment or only permit it for adjacent district students.

Policy 5120 - Assignment within District (Revised)

Revisions to this policy update language to coincide with current Ohio Department of Education and Workforce ("DEW") provisions.

Revisions to this policy should be adopted to maintain accurate policies, consistent with Department guidance.

Since we only have single buildings for students, this policy is not relevant.

Policy 5223 - Released Time for Religious Instruction (New/Revised)

This policy was originally released in 2014 and revised in 2016 as provided by statute as an option for districts. H.B. 8 (effective April 9, 2025) requires districts to adopt a policy authorizing students to be excused from school to attend a released time course in religious instruction. The bill requires school districts to collaborate with a sponsoring entity of a released time course in religious instruction to identify a time for the course to be offered during the school day. Further, the act permits a school district to require a sponsoring entity's instructors and volunteers undergo criminal records checks in a manner determined by the district.

Policy 5330 - Use of Medications (Revised)

This policy has been reviewed and modified to reflect the specific provisions of H.B. 70 (effective March 20, 2025) to allow districts to authorize specific employees to administer over-the-counter ("OTC") drugs to students. Options are provided to allow for structure and parental permission for this authorization. Further, the policy was revised to reflect the provisions of H.B. 206 (effective April 9, 2025) authorizing the storage and use of drugs used to treat seizures.

School drug administration policies do not affect a school district's ability to administer emergency care or treatment under existing law. School drug administration policies also do not restrict the possession or application of nonprescription topical ointments to prevent sunburn.

Revisions to this policy should be adopted if the district chooses to authorize employees to administer over-the-counter drugs to students and the required use of seizure medications.

Policy 5350 - Student Health, Wellbeing, and Suicide Prevention (Revised)

This policy is revised to include comprehensive mental health and wellness initiatives that promote the emotional and physical safety of students and staff. It also addresses training requirements for students and staff as prescribed in H.B. 33.

There are a number of new trainings required in the update. We will utilize Public School Works for some and our people for others. There are others that require additional trainings for kids. Our staff already do many of these kinds of trainings for kids

Revisions to this policy should be considered in order to comply with current provisions of law.

Policy 5460 - Graduation Requirements (Revised)

This policy is revised to include additional diploma seals that have been added by the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce ("DEW").

This revised policy should be adopted to include the most recent provisions put forth by the Department.

Policy 5610 - Removal, Suspension, Expulsion, and Permanent Exclusion of Students (Revised)

This policy has been revised to reflect the provisions of H.B. 206 (effective April 9, 2025) which permit a school district to establish a policy that authorizes the Superintendent to expel a student for not more than 180 school days for actions that pose "imminent and severe endangerment" to the health and safety of other students or school employees. The Superintendent must develop conditions for a student expelled for imminent and severe endangerment to satisfy before that student may be reinstated, one of which must be an assessment by a psychiatrist, licensed psychologist, or licensed school psychologist to determine whether the student poses a danger. The Board of Education is required to establish guidelines for appropriate conditions that the Superintendent may use. All determinations by the Superintendent are subject to the same notification requirements and appeals process as other types of expulsions under current law.

This revised policy reflects the provisions of current law and should be considered for adoption if the district chooses to exercise the expanded disciplinary procedures prescribed.

Below are the full language changes regarding new language – Imminent and Severe Endangerment to Health and Safety of Students or Employees.

4. **Imminent and Severe Endangerment to Health and Safety of Students or Employees**

The term "imminent and severe endangerment" means any of the following actions taken by a

student:

a. Bringing a firearm or a knife capable of causing severe bodily harm to a school operated by the Board or other property owned or controlled by the Board, or to any interscholastic competition, extra-curricular event, or any other program or activity sponsored by the School District or in which the District is participating;

b. Committing an act that is a criminal offense when committed by an adult and that results in serious physical harm to persons as defined in R.C. 2901.01(A)(5) or to property as defined in R.C. 2901.01(A)(6) while the student is at a school operated by the Board, on property owned or operated by the Board, or at any other program or activity that is sponsored by the District or in which the District is participating;

c. Making a bomb threat to a school building or to any premises at which a school activity is occurring at the time of the threat; or

d. Making an articulated or verbalized threat, including a hit list, threatening manifesto, or social media post, that would lead a reasonable person to conclude that the pupil poses a serious threat.

The Superintendent may expel a student for up to 180 school days for actions that the Superintendent determines pose imminent and severe endangerment to the health and safety of other students or school employees regardless of whether the actions qualify for permanent exclusion.

Upon expelling a student for actions that pose imminent and severe endangerment to others, the Superintendent will develop conditions that the student must satisfy before the student may be reinstated. A copy of the conditions will be provided to the Board, the student, and the student's parent/guardian at the beginning of the expulsion period. One of the conditions shall be an assessment that is performed by a licensed psychiatrist, psychologist, or school psychologist employed or contracted by the District to determine whether the student poses a danger to themselves, other students, and/or school employees. The District and the student's parent/guardian will mutually agree on the individual who will conduct the assessment. If the individual is not employed by the District, the cost of the assessment shall be referred for payment through the student's health insurance. Any remaining costs not covered by the student's insurance will be paid by the District. If the individual is employed or contracted by the District, the District will pay the full cost of the assessment. In addition to including a determination of whether the student poses a danger to themselves or others, the psychiatrist, psychologist, or school psychologist may also make recommendations for the contingent conditions for the student's reinstatement.

At the end of the initial expulsion term or any subsequent term, the Superintendent will determine whether the student has demonstrated sufficient rehabilitation to be reinstated to school. If the Superintendent determines the student has not demonstrated such rehabilitation, then the Superintendent may extend the expulsion for an unlimited number of additional periods of up to ninety (90) school days each. The Superintendent shall make

the determination about whether the student has demonstrated rehabilitation in consultation with a multidisciplinary team selected by the Superintendent. The Superintendent will take into consideration the assessment of the psychiatrist, psychologist, or school psychologist and whether or not the student met the conditions developed by the Superintendent at the beginning of the expulsion period. If the Superintendent extends the expulsion period, the Superintendent shall develop conditions for the pupil to satisfy prior to reinstatement. The conditions may be the same as those developed for the initial term of expulsion. A copy of the conditions shall be provided to the Board, the student, and the student's parent/guardian.

The Superintendent may extend the initial or subsequent term of expulsion into the next school year. The Superintendent may also reduce the expulsion as necessary on a case-by-case basis as specified below. The student need not be prosecuted or convicted of any criminal act to be expelled under this provision.

The Superintendent may, in their sole judgment and discretion, reduce such expulsion to a period of less than 180 school days for the initial term, or less than ninety (90) school days for any additional term, on a case-by-case basis, for the following reasons:

a. for students identified as disabled under the IDEA, ADA, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, upon recommendation from the group of persons knowledgeable of the student's educational needs; or

b. other extenuating circumstances including, but not limited to, the academic and disciplinary history of the student, including the student's response to the imposition of any prior discipline imposed for behavioral problems.

Prior to the end of the initial expulsion term or any extension, the student's parent/guardian may request that the Superintendent complete an early assessment of the student. The Superintendent will assess the student and make a determination of whether the student meets the requirements for reinstatement as outlined in this section. The Superintendent will rely on the reasons permitted for the reduction of an expulsion term outlined in this section to determine whether the student may be reinstated before the end of the current expulsion term. A parent/guardian may request an early assessment one (1) time for the initial, and one (1) time for any subsequent expulsion term.

The Superintendent is authorized to develop contingent conditions for a student's reinstatement. The conditions may include the conditions developed for the original expulsion term as well as any recommendations made by the psychiatrist, psychologist, or school psychologist who assesses the student under this section. The Superintendent will establish a duration under which the student must meet the contingent conditions, which may extend to the student's graduation date. The Superintendent will provide a copy of these conditions to the Board, the student, and the student's parent/guardian when the Superintendent makes the decision to reinstate the student. If the student fails to adhere to the contingent conditions, the Superintendent may revoke the student's reinstatement and establish an extended expulsion period under the same process as outlined in this

section.

For students who do not have an individualized education plan ("IEP"), the Superintendent shall, in consultation with the student and parent/guardian, develop a plan for the continued education of the student. This may include education by the District in an alternative setting such as home instruction, enrollment in another district, enrollment in another type of public or nonpublic school, or any other form of instruction that complies with state law. The plan will be developed no later than fifteen (15) school days after the beginning of the original expulsion period or any extension. For students who have an IEP, the Superintendent will also consult with the student's IEP team in developing the plan, and the plan will be developed within ten (10) school days after the beginning of the original expulsion period or any extension.

The Board will provide the Department of Education and Workforce ("DEW") records of each expulsion issued under this section, as well as any changes to the student's expulsion status. The records will not include the name of the student, but will include the following:

a. the name of the student's school;

b. the reason(s) for the student's expulsion;

c. the duration of the student's expulsion and any extensions of the expulsion;

d. the total number of students expelled by the District in the school year as of the date of the report; and

e. the student's age, gender, race, and other demographic information requested by DEW.

The District will provide records of an expulsion issued under this section if requested by any other district or school to which the student transfers. These records may not be withheld due to any outstanding debt attributed to the student.

The Board will establish guidelines for appropriate conditions that the Superintendent may develop pursuant to this section.

The Superintendent will develop a list of alternative educational options for students who are expelled under this section.

Policy 5751 - Parental Status of Students (Revised)

This policy is revised to reflect the latest legislation and regulatory provisions put forth by Federal law to provide appropriate accommodations and protect pregnancy and parental rights of students.

Revisions to this policy should be adopted in order to comply with current law.

Policy 5780.01 - Parents' Bill of Rights (New)

This policy reflects the provisions of H.B. 8 (effective April 9, 2025), which requires public schools to adopt a policy (by July 1, 2025) that enacts the Parents' Bill of Rights to include parental notification on student health and well-being and

instructional materials with sexuality content. The district must establish a process under which the school must resolve written concerns submitted by parents about topics addressed in the bill.

This policy reflects current law and should be adopted to maintain current, compliant policies.

Policy 6151 - Insufficient Funds Checks (Revised)

This policy has been revised and allows for Treasurers to "take appropriate action". It also allows the district to seek any fees associated with the returned check.

These revisions should be considered for adoption.

Policy 7421 - Restrooms, Locker Rooms, Shower Rooms, and Changing Rooms (New)

This new policy (effective February 25, 2025) reflects the provisions of S.B 104, which require public schools and educational service centers ("ESCs") to designate specified facilities for the exclusive use by either the male biological sex or the female biological sex. The District shall prohibit use by any student, employee, or any other person of a facility designated for use by the opposite biological sex unless one of the statutory exceptions applies.

We will need to look at how we label locker rooms. A locker room could be used for males only during the school day, but may be used for girls during an athletic contest. The solution is temporary signage that must be put up and taken down. Or as some are doing, they are buying new signage that says what the facility is used for during the day and for events in the evening. I like that approach because we never have to remember to put something up and take it down.

This policy reflects the provisions of current law and must be implemented in order to comply with the state statute.

Policy 7440.01 Video Surveillance and Electronic Monitoring (Revised)

This policy is revised to add an option authorizing the use of Smart Sensor Monitoring Technology.

Here is what Gemini said about smart sensing tech in schools. We do not have any yet, but they may be on the horizon, especially vape and smoke detection.

Smart sensing technology in schools refers to the use of intelligent devices equipped with sensors to collect and analyze data, enabling enhanced safety, efficiency, and learning environments. These technologies leverage the Internet of Things (IoT), artificial intelligence (AI), and data analytics to provide real-time insights and automate responses within school facilities.

Here's a breakdown of what smart sensing technology entails in schools:

Key Applications and Examples:

- **Safety and Security:**
  - **Vape and Smoke Detection:** Sensors can identify vaping and smoking in areas like restrooms and locker rooms, alerting staff in real-time. Some advanced sensors can even detect THC.
  - **Gunshot Detection:** Utilizing audio analytics, sensors can instantly detect gunshots and alert school personnel and law enforcement, potentially reducing response times.
  - **Aggression Detection:** Audio analytics can identify unusual sounds indicative of aggressive behavior or distress, enabling timely intervention.

- **Chemical and Gas Detection:** Sensors can monitor for hazardous gases or chemical spills in science labs or storage areas, ensuring a safe environment.
- **Intruder Detection and Access Control:** Motion sensors and smart locks can monitor unauthorized access to buildings or restricted areas.
- **Emergency Alerts:** Some sensors have keyword detection capabilities (e.g., recognizing "help") to alert staff to medical or other emergencies.
- **Occupancy Monitoring:** Sensors can track the number of people in specific areas, aiding in emergency evacuations and informing security responses.

This policy language should be included if the district is using this monitoring technology.

Policy 8142 - Criminal History Record Check for Contracted School Services (Revised)

This policy was revised to include the requirements of H.B. 33 for individuals providing contracted school services to enroll in Rapback if they have routine interaction with a student or regular responsibility for the care, custody, and control of a student. This applies to ESC staff, but most have to have a permit which would enter them into Rapback.

This policy reflects current Ohio law and should be adopted to maintain accurate and compliant policies and practices.

Policy 8452 - Automated External Defibrillators ("AED") and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (Revised)

This policy has been revised to reflect the requirements of H.B. 47, effective October 24, 2024. The act requires all school districts to place an AED in each school and sports/recreation area under its control. The act requires each school district and school to provide training in the use of AEDs to teachers, principals, administrative employees, coaches, athletic trainers, other personnel who supervise interscholastic athletics, and any other employee subject to in-service training requirements. Each district and school must adopt an emergency action plan for the use of AEDs. Additionally, the district must hold informational meetings regarding the symptoms and warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest for all ages of student or youth athletes before the start of each athletic season.

We have met on this policy and training will be provided on Opening Day. Dannelle is working to get some help from Troy and Pemberville FDP.

This revised policy reflects the current requirements of law and should be adopted.

Policy 8500 - Food Services (Revised)

This policy has been revised to include the option from H.B. 8 to provide a school lunch for students participating in Released Time for Religious Instruction ("RTRI") during the lunch period. Additional language and options regarding "bad debt" and dietary modifications have been included at the request of clients due to audits.

These revisions should be considered for adoption.

Policy 1613, 3213, and 4213,– Student Supervision and Welfare (Revised)

This policy has been revised due to changes on R.C. 2907.071 adding language that defines “grooming”.

Here is the new language:

"For purposes of Policy 1613, “grooming” involves:

1. **A person who is eighteen (18) years of age or older engaging in a pattern of conduct with a minor who is less than sixteen (16) years of age and who is four (4) or more years younger than the person, when the pattern of conduct would cause a reasonable adult person to believe that the person is communicating with the minor with the purpose to do either of the following:**

    a. **Entice, coerce, or solicit the minor to engage in sexual activity, and when the person's purpose in engaging in the pattern of conduct is to entice, coerce, or solicit the minor to engage in sexual activity with the person or a third person; or**

    b. **Prepare the minor to engage in sexual activity, and when the person's purpose in engaging in the pattern of conduct is to prepare the minor to engage in sexual activity with the person or a third person, that would be a violation of R.C. 2907.02, 2907.03, 2907.04, 2907.05, 2907.06, or 2907.07.**

2. **A person who is eighteen (18) years of age or older engaging in a pattern of conduct with a minor if the person and the minor are in any of the relationships described in R.C. 2907.03(A)(5) to (13) (e.g., the person is a teacher, administrator, coach, or other person in authority employed by or serving in the District, the minor is enrolled in or attends this District, and the person is not enrolled in and does not attend this District; the person is the minor’s athletic or other type of coach, is the minor’s instructor, or is a person with temporary or occasional disciplinary control over the minor), when the pattern of conduct would cause a reasonable adult person to believe that the person is communicating with the minor with the purpose to do either of the following:**

    a. **Entice, coerce, or solicit the minor to engage in sexual activity, and when the person's purpose in engaging in the pattern of conduct is to entice, coerce, or solicit the minor to engage in sexual activity with the person or a third person; or**

    b. **Prepare the minor to engage in sexual activity, and when the person's purpose in engaging in the pattern of conduct is to prepare the minor to engage in sexual activity with the person or a third person, that would be a violation of R.C. 2907.02, 2907.03, 2907.04, 2907.05, 2907.06, or 2907.07.**

3. **A “pattern of conduct” involves two (2) or more actions or incidents closely related in time. The actions or incidents may involve the posting of messages, use of intentionally written or verbal graphic gestures, or receipt of information or data through the use of any form of written communication or an electronic method of remotely transferring information, including, but not limited to, a computer, computer network, computer program, computer system, or telecommunications device.**

4. **"Sexual activity" means sexual conduct or sexual contact, or both.**

    a. **( ) "Sexual conduct" means vaginal intercourse between a male and female; anal intercourse, fellatio, and cunnilingus between persons regardless of sex; and, without privilege to do so, the insertion, however slight, of any part of the body or any instrument, apparatus, or other object into the vaginal or anal opening of another. Penetration, however slight, is sufficient to complete vaginal or anal intercourse.**

    b. **( ) "Sexual contact" means any touching of an erogenous zone of another, including without limitation the thigh, genitals, buttock, pubic region, or, if the person is a female, a breast, for the purpose of sexually arousing or gratifying either person."]**

It is recommended that we approve these changes to be consistent with ORC. These changes occur in three different areas to apply to administrators, professional staff, and classified staff.

A policy for your consideration.

We get comments and requests to do Crowdfunding – GoFundMe for example. The Boosters do it for sports teams but the line gets fuzzy on that however. Do we want to reconsider allowing this. When it first came up, we decided to not allow it. There were concerns about the message that it sends. People may get tired of people always asking for money and equate it to the Board when levy time comes. Accountability.

6605 – **CROWDFUNDING -**

This policy applies to the use of any form of crowdfunding utilizing an online service or website-based platform for the financial benefit or gain of the District – be it a specific classroom, grade level, department, school, or curricular or extracurricular activity.

"Crowdfunding" is defined as the solicitation of resources from individuals and/or organizations to support identified activities or projects that enhance the educational program or a specific cause approved by the District. The solicitation is typically from a large number of individuals/organizations utilizing internet-based technologies.

~~**[DRAFTING NOTE: SELECT OPTION #1 or OPTION #2]**~~

~~**[ ] OPTION #1]**~~

~~The Board of Education does not permit or sanction the use of crowdfunding for District or specific school programs or activities, including co-curricular or extracurricular activities.~~

~~**[END OF OPTION #1; END OF POLICY]**~~

OR

[ ] [OPTION #2]

Crowdfunding activities aimed at raising funds for a specific classroom or school activity, including extracurricular activity, or to obtain supplemental resources (e.g., supplies or equipment) that are not required to provide a free appropriate public education to any students in the classroom may be permitted, but only with the specific approval

( ) of the Superintendent.

OR

( ) of the Board upon the recommendation of the Superintendent.

All approved crowdfunding activities shall protect the privacy of students, children, and young adults in accordance with District policies and administrative guidelines and applicable State and Federal law, including FERPA and IDEIA.

Materials, supplies, equipment, and other proceeds of the crowdfunding activity shall become property of the District or school. Cash or equivalent payment to District personnel is prohibited. All fiscal transactions shall comply with appropriate District policies.

All crowdfunding activities are subject to AG 6605.

~~**[END OF OPTION #2; END OF POLICY]**~~