

## **Operation of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS/Drones)**

### **Purpose**

The Bismarck School Board recognizes that unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), also known as drones, may be used to support educational and operational purposes. The Board also recognizes the need to ensure such use is conducted safely and in compliance with applicable laws and regulations. The purpose of this policy is to establish requirements governing the use of UAS by students, staff, and third parties.

### **Definitions**

- *Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS)/Drone* means an aircraft operated without the possibility of direct human intervention from within or on the aircraft and weighing less than 55 pounds.
- *Educational Use* means use of a UAS in connection with a district-approved curricular or co-curricular activity.
- *Remote Pilot Certificate* means a certificate issued by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) under 14 CFR Part 107.

### **Authorized Use**

Use of UAS on or over district property or in connection with district-sponsored activities is prohibited unless authorized in accordance with this policy.

#### **1. Educational Use**

- a. The use is approved in advance by a building administrator or designee;
- b. The use is directly related to a district-approved activity; and
- c. All requirements of this policy and applicable laws are met.

#### **2. Staff Use**

District staff may operate UAS for instructional or operational purposes when authorized in accordance with this policy and applicable law.

#### **3. Third-Party Use**

Third-party use of UAS on district property or at district-sponsored events is prohibited unless approved in advance by the Superintendent or designee. Approved third-party operators must provide:

- a. Proof of liability insurance meeting district requirements;
- b. Proof of FAA registration and authorization, when required; and
- c. A signed agreement holding the District harmless from claims arising from UAS operations.

The District reserves the right to deny or revoke approval at any time.

### **Approval Requirements**

Prior to any UAS operation, the requesting staff member shall submit a request to a building administrator or designee. The request must include:

- a. The purpose of the operation;

- b. The proposed location;
- c. Safety considerations; and
- d. Documentation of compliance with FAA requirements, when applicable.

**Operational Requirements**

All UAS operations shall comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws, including FAA regulations. Unless otherwise authorized by law:

- a. UAS shall be operated in accordance with 14 CFR Part 107 or other applicable FAA rules;
- b. Operations in controlled airspace require prior FAA authorization;
- c. UAS shall be operated within the visual line of sight of the operator;
- d. UAS shall not exceed 400 feet above ground level;
- e. UAS shall yield the right of way to all manned aircraft; and
- f. UAS shall not be operated in a reckless or hazardous manner.

**Safety Restrictions**

UAS shall not be operated:

- a. Over individuals, crowds, or moving vehicles;
- b. In a manner that creates a safety risk to persons or property;
- c. In restricted areas or under unsafe weather conditions; or
- d. In any manner that interferes with school operations or emergency response activities.

Indoor use must occur only under controlled conditions with appropriate safety measures in place.

**Student Supervision**

Students shall not operate UAS except under the supervision of a district staff member. The supervising staff member is responsible for ensuring compliance with this policy and all applicable requirements.

**Data and Privacy**

All data collected through UAS use, including photographs, video, and audio recordings, shall be maintained and disclosed in accordance with applicable law and district policy, including Policy FGA. UAS shall not be used to capture or record images of individuals in areas where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy.

**Incident Reporting**

Any injury, property damage, or incident involving UAS operation shall be reported immediately to a building administrator or designee. UAS operations shall be suspended pending review and approval to resume use.

**Purchasing and Equipment**

All UAS purchases shall be approved in accordance with district purchasing procedures. District-owned UAS shall be maintained and used in accordance with this policy.

**Off-Campus Use**

Use of district-owned UAS off district property requires prior approval from a building administrator or designee and the property owner. All provisions of this policy apply to off-campus use.

**Violations**

Failure to comply with this policy may result in disciplinary action in accordance with applicable district policies and law, including suspension or revocation of UAS use privileges.

**Training**

The District may provide training to staff responsible for UAS operations. Staff are responsible for understanding and complying with applicable FAA regulations and district requirements.

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