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CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

5.1—EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

The Salem School District assumes the responsibility of providing students attending its schools a high quality education that challenges each student to achieve to their maximum potential. The District shall endeavor to create the environment within the schools necessary to attain this goal. The creation of the necessary climate shall be based on the following core beliefs:

1. The District's vision statement will be developed with input from students, parents, business leaders, and other community members.
2. All students can be successful learners.
3. Students learn at different rates and in different ways.
4. A primary goal shall be to give students the skills they need to be life-long learners.
5. The education of all citizens is basic to our community's well-being.
6. Student achievement is affected positively by the involvement of parents and the community in the schools.
7. The District is responsible for helping cultivate good citizenship skills in its students.
8. Students reflect the moral and ethical values of their environment.
9. All people have a right to a safe environment.
10. Each person is responsible for his/her own actions.
11. Innovation involves taking risks.
12. Schools are responsible for creating the conditions that promote success.
13. Each person is entitled to retain his/her dignity.
14. All people have the right to be treated with respect and the responsibility to treat others respectfully.
15. For teachers to succeed in cultivating high student achievement, they need to be given the materials, training, and environment necessary to produce such results.

Date Adopted: June 16, 2008

Last Revised: June 16, 2008

5.2—PLANNING FOR EDUCATIONAL IMPROVEMENT

Each school in the district shall develop a comprehensive school improvement plan to address deficiencies in student performance based on analysis of students' grade-level benchmark assessments and other relevant data. The purpose of each plan shall be to ensure that all students meet the state assessment standards established by the State Board of Education, as well as student achievement goals established by the District. A cumulative review of all academic improvement plans shall also be part of the data used to develop the comprehensive school improvement plan. Each plan shall be developed with administrator, teacher, other school staff, parent, community, and student (when appropriate) input and shall have as one of its components a plan for a parental involvement program. Professional development activities are to be designed to meet the needs identified in each school's plan. Each plan is to be reviewed annually and revised to meet the changing needs reflected in student data.

Any school in the district identified by the Arkansas Department of Education as failing to meet the established levels of academic achievement on the state's assessments shall revise its school improvement plan.

The district shall develop, with appropriate staff and community input, a comprehensive district improvement plan. The plan shall coordinate the actions of the various comprehensive school improvement plans within the district. The district plan shall align district resources to help ensure all of its students attain proficiency on the State assessments.⁴

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-15-404 (i)(1)
 A.C.A. § 6-15-404 (i)(2)(B)
 A.C.A. § 6-15-404 (i) (2)(A)(i)(ii)
 A.C.A. § 6-15-419(2)(B)(iii)
 A.C.A. § 6-15-419(9)
 A.C.A. § 6-15-419(12)
 ADE Rules Governing the ACTAAP and the Academic Distress Program 3.10, 3.16,
 8.0 – 8.04, and 9.04
 Arkansas Department of Education Rules for Governing Standards for Accreditation of
 Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts 7.0, 8.01, and 16.0 – 16.03.5 (The old
 Standards required the Student Services Plan be included in the ACSIP. While the new
 Standards do not specifically require it to be included in your ACSIP, prudence would
 still recommend it.)

Date Adopted: June 16, 2008

Last Revised: June 20, 2016

5.3 CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

Sequential curricula should be developed for each subject area. Curricula are to be aligned with the curriculum frameworks and used to plan instruction leading to student proficiency on Arkansas' content standards. Curricula should be in alignment with the District's vision, mission, goals, and educational philosophy. Student achievement is increased through an integrated curriculum that promotes continuity and a growth in skills and knowledge from grade to grade and from school to school. Therefore, the Board desires that unnecessary duplication of work among the various grades and schools be eliminated and that courses of study and their corresponding content guides be coordinated effectively.

The Board of Education is responsible for reviewing and approving all instructional programs offered by the District as well as approving significant changes to courses or course materials before they are implemented. The Superintendent is responsible for making curriculum recommendations.

Each school shall review each curriculum area annually to address the continued relevancy, adequacy, and cost effectiveness of individual courses and instructional programs and to ensure each area is aligned with the current curriculum frameworks and course content standards approved by the State Board of Education.¹ Each school's administration shall implement a monitoring process to ensure that the instructional content of each course offered is consistent with the content standards and curriculum frameworks approved by the State Board of Education.²

Notes: ¹ A.C.A. § 6-15-101 requires school boards to adopt and implement the academic standards and expected outcomes that have been defined by the State Board. The Standards Checklist requires the adoption be noted in the district's board minutes.

² A.C.A. § 6-15-1505(b) requires each district's superintendent to submit a letter of assurance to ADE by October 1 of each year that the content of each class and subject area is aligned to the content standards and curriculum frameworks developed by the state board under its plan developed pursuant to A.C.A. § 6-15-1502(a).

Legal References: Standards for Accreditation 9.01.2, 7.04.2
 A.C.A. § 6-15-101
 A.C.A. § 6-15-1505(a)
 A.C.A. § 6-15-2906

Date Adopted: June 16, 2008

Last Revised: June 19, 2017

5.5—SELECTION/INSPECTION OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

The use of instructional materials beyond those approved as part of the curriculum/textbook program must be compatible with school and district policies. If there is uncertainty concerning the appropriateness of supplemental materials, the personnel desiring to use the materials shall get approval from the schools principal prior to putting the materials into use.

All instructional materials used as part of the educational curriculum of a student shall be available for inspection by the parents or guardians of the student. For the purposes of this policy, instructional materials is defined as instructional content provided to the student regardless of its format, including printed or representational materials, audio-visual materials, and materials in electronic or digital formats. The term does not include academic tests or academic assessments.

Parents or guardians wishing to inspect instructional materials used as part of the educational curriculum for their child may schedule an appointment with the student’s teacher at a mutually agreeable time. Parents/guardians wishing to challenge the appropriateness of any instructional materials shall follow the procedures outlined in Policy 5.6—CHALLENGE OF INSTRUCTIONAL/SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS.

The rights provided to parents under this policy transfer to the student when he/she turns 18 years old.

Legal Reference: 20 USC § 1232h (a), (b), (c) [NCLB Act of 2001, Part F, Section 1061 (c) (1)(C)(i)(ii), (2)(A)(i), (5)(B), (6)(A)(C)]

Date Adopted: June 16, 2008

Last Revised: June 16, 2008

5.6—CHALLENGE OF INSTRUCTIONAL/SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

Instructional and supplemental materials are selected for their compatibility with the District's educational program and their ability to help fulfill the District's educational goals and objectives. Individuals wishing to challenge or express concerns about instructional or supplemental materials may do so by scheduling a meeting with the building principal.

Date Adopted: June 16, 2008

Last Revised: June 16, 2008

5.7—SELECTION OF LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER MATERIALS

The ultimate authority for the selection and retention of materials for the schools' media centers rests with the Board of Education which shall serve as a final arbiter in resolving a challenge to any media center materials. Licensed media center personnel shall make the initial selections in consultation with school and district licensed staff. Materials selected shall be in accordance with the guidelines of this policy.

The purpose of the schools' libraries/media centers is to supplement and enrich the curriculum and instruction offered by the District. Promoting the dialogue characteristic of a healthy democracy necessitates the maintenance of a broad range of materials and information representing varied points of view on current and historical issues. In the selection of the materials and resources to be available in each library/media center consideration will be given to their age appropriateness. Materials should be available to challenge the different interests, learning styles, and reading levels of the school's students and that will help them attain the District's educational goals.

Selection Criteria

The criteria used in the selection of media center materials shall be that the materials:

1. Support and enhance the curricular and educational goals of the district;
2. Are appropriate for the ages, learning styles, interests, and maturity of the schools' students, or parents in the case of parenting literature;
3. Contribute to the examination of issues from varying points of view and help to broaden students understanding of their rights and responsibilities in our society;
4. Help develop critical thinking skills;
5. Are factually and/or historically accurate, in the case of non-fiction works and/or serve a pedagogical purpose;
6. Have literary merit as perceived by the educational community; and
7. Are technically well produced, physically sound (to the extent appropriate), and represent a reasonably sound economic value.

Retention and Continuous Evaluation

Media center materials shall be reviewed regularly to ensure the continued appropriateness of the center's collection to the school's curriculum and to maintain the collection in good repair. Those materials no longer meeting the selection criteria, have not been used for a long period of time, or are too worn to be economically repaired shall be withdrawn from the collection and disposed of. A record of withdrawn media materials including the manner of their disposal shall be maintained for a period of three years.

Gifts

Gifts to the media centers shall be evaluated to determine their appropriateness before they are placed in any media center. The evaluation shall use the same criteria as for all other materials considered for inclusion in the media centers. Any items determined to be unacceptable shall be returned to the donor or disposed of at the discretion of the media specialist. The media centers shall have a list of desired items to give to prospective donors to aid them in their selection of materials to donate.

Challenges:

The parent of a student affected by a media selection, or a District employee of the district may formally challenge the appropriateness of a media center selection by following the procedure outlined in this policy. The challenged material shall remain available throughout the challenge process.

Before any formal challenge can be filed, the individual contesting (hereinafter complainant) the appropriateness of the specified item shall request a conference through the principal's office with a licensed media center employee. The complainant shall be given a copy of this policy and the *Request for Formal Reconsideration Form* prior to the conference. The meeting shall take place at the earliest possible time of mutual convenience, but in no case later than five (5) working days from the date of the request unless it is by the choice of the complainant.

In the meeting, the media specialist shall explain the selection criteria and how the challenged material fits the criteria. The complainant shall explain his/her reasons for objecting to the selected material. If, at the completion of the meeting, the complainant wishes to make a formal challenge to the selected material, he/she may do so by completing the *Request for Formal Reconsideration Form* and submitting it to the principal's office.

To review the contested media, the principal shall select a committee of five (5) or seven (7) licensed personnel consisting of the principal as chair and at least one media specialist. The remaining committee members shall be personnel with curriculum knowledge appropriate for the material being contested and representative of diverse viewpoints. The task of the committee shall be to determine if the challenged material meets the criteria of selection. No material shall be withdrawn solely for the viewpoints expressed within it and shall be reviewed in its entirety and not selected portions taken out of context.

The principal shall convene a meeting after a reasonable time for the committee members to adequately review the contested material and the *Request for Formal Reconsideration Form* submitted by the complainant. The complainant shall be allowed to present the complaint to the committee after which time the committee shall meet privately to discuss the material. The committee shall vote by secret ballot to determine whether the contested material shall be removed from the media center's collection. A member from the voting majority shall write a summary of the reasons for their decision. A notice of the committee's decision and the summary shall be given (by hand or certified mail) to the complainant.

If the decision is to not remove the material, the complainant may appeal the committee's decision to the district Board of Directors by filing a written appeal to the Superintendent within 5 working days of the committee's decision or of written receipt of the decision. The Superintendent shall present the original complaint and the committee's decision along with the summary of its reasons for its position plus a recommendation of the administration, if so desired, to the Board within 15 days of the committee's decision. The Board shall review the material submitted to them by the Superintendent and make a decision within thirty (30) days of receipt of the information. The Board's decision is final.

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 6-25-101 et seq.

Date Adopted: June 16, 2008

Last Revised: June 23, 2009

5.7F—REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER MATERIALS

Name: _____

Date submitted: _____

Media Center material being contested:

Reasons for contesting the material. (Be specific about why you believe the material does not meet the selection criteria listed in policy 5.7—*Selection of Library/Media Center Materials*):

What is your proposed resolution? _____

Signature of receiving principal _____

Signature of Superintendent (if appealed) _____

Date Adopted: June 16, 2008

Last Revised: June 16, 2008

5.8—USE OF COPYRIGHTED MATERIALS

The Board of Education encourages the enrichment of the instructional program through the proper use of supplementary materials. To help ensure the appropriate use of copyrighted materials, the Superintendent, or his designee, will provide district personnel with information regarding the “fair use” doctrine of the U.S. Copyright Code as detailed in the “Agreement on Guidelines for Classroom Copying in Not-for-Profit Educational Institutions with Respect to Books and Periodicals” and “Guidelines for Educational Uses of Music.”

The District will not be responsible for any employee violations of the use of copyrighted materials.

Legal Reference: 17 USCS § 101 to 1010 (Federal Copyright Law of 1976)

Date Adopted: June 16, 2008

Last Revised: June 16, 2008

5.9—COMPUTER SOFTWARE COPYRIGHT

The District shall observe copyright laws governing computer software reproduction. Unless specifically allowed by the software purchase agreement, the Copyright Act allows the purchaser of software to:

1. Make one copy of software for archival purposes in case the original is destroyed or damaged through mechanical failure of a computer. However, if the original is sold or given away, the archival copy must be destroyed;
2. Make necessary adaptations to use the program; and/or
3. Add features to the program for specific applications. These improvements may not be sold or given away without the copyright owner's permission.

The District shall abide by applicable licensing agreements before using computer software on local-area or wide-area networks.

Legal Reference: 17 USC § 117 Amended Dec. 12, 1980

Date Adopted: June 16, 2008

Last Revised: June 16, 2008

5.10—RELIGION IN THE SCHOOLS

The First Amendment of the Constitution states that “Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof. . . .” As the Supreme Court has stated (*Abington School District v. Schempp*, 374 U.S. 203) the Amendment thus, “embraces two concepts—freedom to believe and freedom to act. The first is absolute but, in the nature of things, the second cannot be.” Therefore, it is the Board’s policy that the school system, as an agency of the government, shall be neutral in matters regarding religion and will not engage in any activity that either advocates or disparages religion. The District shall assume no role or responsibility for the religious training of any student.

The need for neutrality does not diminish our school system’s educational responsibility to address the historical role of religion in the development of our culture. Since we live in a diverse society, the District’s goal shall be to address the subject of religion objectively in such a way that it promotes an understanding of, and tolerance for, each other’s religious or non-religious views.

Discussions concerning religious concepts, practices, or disciplines are permissible when presented in a secular context in their relation to an inclusive study of religion or to the study of a particular region or country. The discussions shall be such that they are objective and academically informational and do not advocate nor denigrate any particular form of religious practice.

Instructional activities in the schools that are contrary to a pupil’s religious beliefs or teachings shall be optional when accommodations can be made. Accommodation will be considered for those portions of instructional activities in the schools that unduly burden a student’s sincere religious belief provided such accommodation doesn’t amount to a significant change in curriculum, program, or course of instruction and when it is possible that a substitution of equally rigorous material that advances the same instructional goals can be arranged. Parents and students are advised that such accommodations are easier to grant when the objection is to non-state mandated Framework material than if the material is required by the Frameworks

The teacher in charge of each classroom may, at the opening of school each day, conduct a brief period of silence with the participation of all students in the classroom who desire to participate.

Students and employees may engage in personal religious practices, such as prayer, at any time, and shall do so in a manner and at a time so that the educational process is not disrupted.

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 6-10-115

Date Adopted: June 16, 2008

Last Revised: July 16, 2012

5.11—DIGITAL LEARNING COURSES

Definitions

For the purposes of this policy

“Blended Learning” is education in which instruction and content are delivered through supervised instruction in a classroom and online delivery of instruction with some element of student control over time, place, path, or pace.

“Digital Learning” means a digital technology or internet-based educational delivery model that does not rely exclusively on compressed interactive video (CIV). Digital learning includes online and blended learning.

"Instructional Materials" means:

1. Traditional books, textbooks, and trade books in printed and bound form;
2. Activity-oriented programs that may include:
 - a. Manipulatives;
 - b. Hand-held calculators;
 - c. Other hands-on materials; and
3. Technology-based materials that require the use of electronic equipment in order to be used in the learning process.

“Online Learning” is education in which instruction and content are delivered primarily over the Internet. The term does not include print-based correspondence education, broadcast television or radio, videocassettes, compact disks and stand-alone educational software programs that do not have a significant Internet-based instructional component.

“Public School Student Accessing Courses at a Distance” means a student who is scheduled for a full course load through the District and attends all classes virtually.

Digital Course Offerings

The District shall offer one or more digital learning course(s) through one or more District approved provider(s) as either a primary or supplementary method of instruction. The courses may be in a blended learning, online-based, or other technology-based format and shall be tailored to meet the needs of each student.

The District may provide their own digital learning courses.

All digitally offered courses shall meet or exceed the State Board of Education's curriculum standards and requirements and be capable of being assessed and measured through standardized or local assessments. Additionally, the District shall ensure there is sufficient infrastructure to handle and facilitate a quality digital learning environment.

As an approved digital learning provider, the District shall annually determine what District created digital learning courses it will provide to our students. The District may also choose to provide digital learning courses by contracting with outside providers of such courses, who have been pre-approved by the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE). The School Board shall determine the provider method or combination of methods for the District. The Superintendent shall ensure that all digital learning courses provided to District students, regardless of the source of the course, have been approved by ADE.

District created digital courses and any digital courses the district purchases from outside providers shall adhere to the guidelines for the use of digitally transmitted copyrighted materials set forth in Policy 5.8-USE OF COPYRIGHTED MATERIALS as well as applicable statutory requirements.

The District shall require all outside providers to incorporate Policy 5.8 as a condition of the service contract. Failure of the outside provider to abide by Policy 5.8 shall constitute a breach of contract and the outside provider shall be responsible for any costs resulting from such breach.

The high school principal shall determine how many digital learning courses may be taken by each student.

The District is responsible for providing all instructional materials for each student who enrolls in a District approved digital learning course.

Regardless of any other provisions of this policy, the District may restrict a student's access to digital courses when the student's building principal determines the student's participation in such a course would not be academically appropriate based on the student's past performance in digital courses. Furthermore, the student's building principal may revoke a student's eligibility to continue taking a digital learning course if the student's performance during the semester indicates the student is not succeeding in the course.

Cross References: 4.7—ABSENCES
 4.45—SMART CORE CURRICULUM AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
 FOR THE CLASSES OF 2018, 2019, AND 2020
 4.45.1—SMART CORE CURRICULUM AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS
 FOR THE CLASS OF 2021 AND THEREAFTER
 5.8—USE OF COPYRIGHTED MATERIALS

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-16-1401 et seq.
 ADE RULES GOVERNING DISTANCE AND DIGITAL LEARNING

Date Adopted: June 19, 2014

Last Revised: June 19, 2017

5.14—HOMEWORK

Homework is considered to be part of the educational program of the District. Assignments shall be an extension of the teaching/learning experience that promotes the student's educational development. As an extension of the classroom, homework must be planned and organized and should be viewed by the students as purposeful.

Teachers should be aware of the potential problem students may have completing assignments from multiple teachers and vary the amount of homework they give from day to day.

Parents shall be notified of this policy at the beginning of each school year.

Legal Reference: State Board of Education Rules & Regulations: Accreditation Standards 10.07

Date Adopted: June 16, 2008

Last Revised: June 16, 2008

5.15—GRADING

Parents or guardians shall be kept informed concerning the progress of their student. Parent-teacher conferences are encouraged and may be requested by parents, guardians, or teachers. If the progress of a student is unsatisfactory in a subject, the teacher shall attempt to schedule a parent-teacher conference. In the conference, the teacher shall explain the reasons for difficulties and shall develop, cooperatively with the parents, a plan for remediation which may enhance the probability of the student succeeding. The school shall also send timely progress reports and issue grades for each nine-week grading period* to keep parents/guardians informed of their student's progress.

The evaluation of each student's performance on a regular basis serves to give the parents/guardians, students, and the school necessary information to help effect academic improvement. Students' grades shall reflect only the extent to which a student has achieved the expressed educational objectives of the course.

The grades of a child in foster care shall not be lowered due to an absence from school due to:

- (1) A change in the child's school enrollment;
- (2) The child's attendance at a dependency-neglect court proceeding; or
- (3) The child's attendance at court-ordered counseling or treatment.

The grading scale for all schools in the district shall be as follows.

A = 100 – 90
B = 89 – 80
C = 79 – 70
D = 69 – 60
F = 59 and below

For the purpose of determining grade point averages, the numeric value of each letter grade shall be

A = 4 points
B = 3 points
C = 2 points
D = 1 point
F = 0 points

The grade point values for Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), and approved honor courses shall be one point greater than for regular courses with the exception that an F shall still be worth 0 points.

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-15-902
 A.C.A. § 9-28-113(f)
 State Board of Education: Standards of Accreditation 12.02

Arkansas Department of Education Rules and Regulations Governing Uniform
Grading Scales for Public Secondary Schools

Date Adopted: June 16, 2008
Last Revised: July 16, 2012

5.17—HONOR ROLL AND HONOR GRADUATES

HONOR ROLL

Students who earn A's and B's will be recognized as honor roll students for each grading period.

HONOR GRADUATES

Students who have successfully completed the minimum core of courses recommended for preparation for college as defined by the State Board of Higher Education and the State Board of Education and have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 and complete a minimum of 8 credits in courses listed in the high school handbook will be designated as honor students. The GPA shall be derived from courses taken in public schools in grades nine (9) through twelve (12).

VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN

ACT 980 of 1991

“AN ACT TO ESTABLISH QUALIFICATIONS FOR VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN, DISTINCTION AS AN HONOR GRADUATE OF A HIGH SCHOOL AND MEMBERSHIP IN THE NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY OR ITS EQUIVALENT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

Section 1. (a) Beginning with the 1993-94 school year, only a student who has successfully completed a minimum core of high school courses recommended for a preparation for post-secondary education or a more rigorous program of vocational study shall be eligible for distinction as an honor graduate of a senior class in a high school in this state. (b) Beginning with the 1993-94 school year, only a student who has successfully completed the minimum core of high school courses recommended for preparation for post-secondary education or a more rigorous program of vocational study with a minimum grade point established by the school district or its equivalent shall be eligible for distinction as an honor graduate of a senior class in a high school in this state.

All grade point average will be based on ACT 980 and calculated on a four (4) point system through eight semesters. Class rank will determine Valedictorian and Salutatorian.

To be eligible for Valedictorian and Salutatorian honors a student must complete the Arkansas Smart Core Curriculum and the honor graduate requirements. The following procedures will be used to determine final selection of Valedictorian and Salutatorian:

1. Class rank will be used to determine Valedictorian and Salutatorian.
2. In case of a tie for either of the top two honors, the numerical grade for each semester of all courses taken in grades nine (9) through twelve (12), will be averaged. These averages will be used to determine Valedictorian and Salutatorian.
3. If ties exist after the first two steps, there will be a Co-Valedictorian and/or Co-Salutatorian.

Additionally, for a student to be eligible for the academic honor of Valedictorian or Salutatorian, that student must attend their senior year at Salem High School. A senior who transfers to Salem High School after the first ten (10) days of the first semester will not be eligible to be Valedictorian or Salutatorian.

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-18-101 (a) (1)
 A.C.A. § 6-18-101 (a) (2)
 A.C.A. § 6-18-101 (b)
 A.C.A. § 6-18-101(e)
 A.C.A. § 6-61-217(a)

Date Adopted: June 16, 2008
Last Revised: June 16, 2008

5.18—HEALTH SERVICES

The Board believes that healthy children promote a better learning environment, are more capable of high student achievement, and will result in healthier, more productive adults. Therefore, the goal of the District's health services is to promote a healthy student body. This requires both the education of students concerning healthy behaviors, as well as providing health care services to pupils.

While the school nurse is under the supervision of the school principal, the delegation of health care duties shall be in accordance with the Arkansas Nurse Practice Act and the Arkansas State Board of Nursing Rules and Regulations Chapter Five: Delegation of Nursing Care.

Date Adopted: June 16, 2008

Last Revised: June 16, 2008

5.19—EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES – SECONDARY SCHOOLS

The Board believes in providing opportunities for students to participate in extracurricular activities that can help enrich the student's educational experience. At the same time, the Board believes that a student's participation in extracurricular activities cannot come at the expense of his/her classroom academic achievement. Interruptions of instructional time in the classroom are to be minimal. Additionally, a student's participation in, and the District's operation of, extracurricular activities shall be subject to the following policy. All students meeting this policy's criteria are eligible for extracurricular activities.

Definitions:

Extracurricular activities are defined as: any school sponsored program where students from one or more schools meet, work, perform, practice under supervision outside of regular class time, or are competing for the purpose of receiving an award, rating, recognition, or criticism, or qualification for additional competition. Examples include, but are not limited to, interscholastic athletics, cheerleading, band, choral, math, or science competitions, and club activities.

Academic Courses are those courses for which class time is scheduled, which can be credited to meet the minimum requirements for graduation, which is taught by a teacher required to have State certification in the course, and has a course content guide which has been approved by the Arkansas Department of Education. Any of the courses for which concurrent high school credit is earned may be from an institution of higher education recognized by the Arkansas Department of Education. If a student passes an academic course offered on a block schedule, the course can be counted twice toward meeting the requirement for students to pass four (4) academic courses per semester as required by this policy.

Supplemental Improvement Program is an additional instructional opportunity for identified students outside of their regular classroom and meets the criteria outlined in the current Arkansas Activities Association Handbook.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS: Junior High

A student promoted from the sixth to the seventh grade automatically meets scholarship requirements. A student promoted from the seventh to the eighth grade automatically meets scholarship requirements for the first semester. The second semester eighth-grade student meets the scholarship requirements for junior high if he/she has successfully passed four (4) academic courses the previous semester, three (3) of which shall be in the core curriculum areas specified by the Arkansas Department of Education's Standards of Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools.

The first semester ninth-grade student meets the scholarship requirements for junior high if he/she has successfully passed four (4) academic courses the previous semester, three (3) of which shall be in the core curriculum areas specified by the Arkansas Department of Education's Standards of Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools.

The second semester ninth-grade student meets the scholarship requirements for junior high if he/she has successfully passed (4) academic courses the previous semester which count toward his/her graduation requirements.

Ninth-grade students must meet the requirements of the senior high scholarship rule by the end of the second semester in the ninth grade in order to be eligible to participate the fall semester of their tenth-grade year.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS: Senior High

In order to remain eligible for competitive interscholastic activity, a student must have passed (4) academic courses the previous semester and either:

- 1) Have earned a minimum Grade Point Average of 2.0 from all academic courses the previous semester; or
- 2) If the student has passed four (4) academic courses the previous semester but does not have a 2.0 GPA the student must be enrolled and successfully participating in a supplemental instruction program to maintain their competitive interscholastic extracurricular eligibility.

STUDENTS WITH AN INDIVIDUAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

In order to be considered eligible to participate in competitive interscholastic activities, students with disabilities must pass at least four (4) courses per semester as required by their individual education program (IEP).

ARKANSAS ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

In addition to the foregoing rules, the district shall abide by the rules and regulations of the Arkansas Activities Association (AAA) governing interscholastic activities.

** State Board of Education Standards for Accreditation 10.05 require a policy that "shall limit and control interruptions of instructional time in the classroom and the number of absences for such activities." You could replace "one per week per extracurricular activity" with a specific number of days per semester that could also allow the student to "bank" or accumulate days in anticipation of a major event.*

NOTE: *The standards as outlined above are minimum standards and can be raised locally if desired. If your district does not offer a Supplemental Instruction Program (SIP), delete the references to it in your policy.*

The State Board has given the Arkansas Activities Association the responsibility and authority to administer the SIP. Their standards allow a student to participate in an SIP for a maximum of two consecutive semesters and require the student to improve his/her GPA by at least 10% by the end of the first semester to remain eligible for the second semester. By the end of the second semester, the student must have attained a 2.0 GPA to be eligible for competitive interscholastic activities. Following one or more semesters where the student has attained a 2.0 GPA, this cycle may be repeated.

Legal References: State Board of Education Standards for Accreditation 10.05 and 10.06
 Arkansas Activities Association Handbook

Date Adopted: June 16, 2008

Last Revised: June 16, 2008

5.19.1—EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES - ELEMENTARY

The Board believes in providing opportunities for students to participate in extracurricular activities that can help enrich the student's educational experience. At the same time, the Board believes that a student's participation in extracurricular activities cannot come at the expense of his/her classroom academic achievement. Interruptions of instructional time in the classroom and absences from class are to be minimal. All students are eligible for extracurricular activities unless specifically denied eligibility on the basis of criteria outlined in this policy.

A student may lose his/her eligibility to participate in extracurricular activities when, in the opinion of the school's administration, the student's participation in such an activity may adversely jeopardize his/her academic achievement. Students may also be denied permission to participate in extracurricular activities as a consequence of disciplinary action taken by the administration for inappropriate behavior.³

Legal References: State Board of Education Standards for Accreditation 10.05 and 10.06

Date Adopted: June 16, 2008

Last Revised: June 16, 2008

5.20—DISTRICT WEB SITE

The Salem School District shall maintain a web page to provide information about its schools, students, and activities to the community. This policy is adopted to promote continuity between the different pages on the district web site by establishing guidelines for their construction and operation.

The Salem School District web site shall be used for educational purposes only. It shall not create either a public or a limited public forum. Any link from any page on the District's site may only be to another educational site. The web site shall not use "cookies" to collect or retain identifying information about visitors to its web site nor shall any such information be given to "third parties." Any data collected shall be used solely for the purpose of monitoring site activity to help the district improve the usefulness of the site to its visitors.

Each school's web page shall be under the supervision of the school's Web Master and the District's web site shall be under the supervision of the District's Web Master. They shall have the responsibility for ensuring that web pages meet appropriate levels of academic standards and are in compliance with these guidelines and any additional administrative regulations. To this end the District and School Web Masters shall have the authority to review and edit any proposed changes to web pages to ensure their compliance with this policy. All such editing shall be viewpoint neutral.

District and school web pages shall also conform to the following guidelines.

- 1) All pages on the District's web site may contain advertising and links only to educational sources.
- 2) The District's home page shall contain links to existing individual school's web pages and the school home pages shall link back to the District's home page. The District's home page may also include links to educational extracurricular organization's web pages which shall also link back to the District's home page.
- 3) Photos along with the student's name shall only be posted on web pages after receiving written permission from the student's parents or the student if the student is over the age of eighteen (18).³
- 4) The District's web site will be hosted by a company of the district's choosing that will comply with all requirements of an educational institution.
- 5) No web page on the District web site may contain public message boards or chat rooms.
- 6) All web pages on the District web site shall be constructed to download in a reasonable length of time.
- 7) The District's home page shall contain a link to a privacy policy notice which must be placed in a clear and prominent place and manner.
- 8) With the exception of students who may retain the copyright of material they have created that is displayed on a District web page, all materials displayed on the District web site are owned by Salem School District.
- 9) Included on the District's web site shall be:¹
 - a) Local and state revenue sources;
 - b) Administrator and teacher salary and benefit expenditure data;

- c) District balances, including legal balances and building fund balances;
- d) Minutes of regular and special meetings of the school board;
- e) The district's budget for the ensuing year;
- f) A financial breakdown of monthly expenditures of the district;
- g) The salary schedule for all employees including extended contract and supplementary pay amounts;
- h) Current contract information (not including social security numbers, telephone numbers, personal addresses or signatures) for all district employees;
- i) The district's annual budget;
- j) The annual statistical report of the district;
- k) The district's personnel policies; and
- l) The annual School Performance Report;⁷

The information and data required for items A through K in 9 above shall be the actual data for the previous two (2) school-years and the projected data for the current school-year.

Before July 15 of each year, the District shall post on its website the following information:⁸

- The dyslexia intervention programs used during the previous school year that were specifically responsive to assisting students with dyslexia;
- The number of students during the previous school year who received dyslexia intervention; and
- The total number of students identified with dyslexia during the previous school year.

The District and school webmasters are responsible for ensuring all District webpages meet required standards to be accessible to individuals with disabilities.

Notes: ¹ A link to either a non-educational website or advertising from non-educational sources establishes your web site as a limited open forum, which would require you to allow links and advertising to other non-educational sources unless you could demonstrate that they could be disruptive to your educational environment.

² Collection of data from individuals under the age of thirteen (13) makes compliance with the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) more difficult and cumbersome. It's simply easier to have your policy state that you will collect no data on site visitors.

³ This relates to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Directory Information as defined by FERPA (see policy 4.13) allows for the release of a student's name, address, and phone number, but because of the potential for significantly greater exposure of the Internet than exists in print media, ASBA recommends limiting the release of Directory Information on the Internet to a student's photo along with their name only **after** receiving written parental permission, or the student's permission if the student is over the age of eighteen (18). Although it has not been definitively established by the U.S. Supreme Court, the vast increase in exposure offered by the Internet appears to dictate a more restrictive policy regarding the release of Directory Information as it relates to the Internet.

⁴ If you choose to have your district's website hosted by a server separate from your district, make sure that they are willing to abide by the requirements of this policy, especially the advertising requirements.

⁵ See policy 5.20.1

⁶ a) through k) are required by A.C.A. § 6-11-129.

⁷ The annual school performance report here refers to the reports required under both A.C.A. § 6-15-1402 and A.C.A. § 6-15-2101. Districts are required to provide a printed copy of the school performance report to an individual upon request; however, districts are no longer required to have the school performance report printed in the newspaper.

⁸ A.C.A. § 6-41-611 states that a district who fails to meet the dyslexia screening and intervention requirements may be placed in probationary status. If the district is placed in probationary status, the district is required to post to the district website that the district was placed in probationary status and why.

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-11-129
 A.C.A. § 6-15-1402
 A.C.A. § 6-15-2006
 A.C.A. § 6-15-2101
 A.C.A. § 6-41-606
 A.C.A. § 6-41-611
 20 U.S.C. § 1232 g
 15 U.S.C. § 6501 (COPPA)

Date Adopted: June 16, 2008
Last Revised: June 19, 2017

5.20 F1—PERMISSION TO DISPLAY PHOTO OF STUDENT ON WEB SITE

I hereby grant permission to the Salem School District to display the photograph or video clip of me/my student (if student is under the age of eighteen {18}) on the District's web site, including any page on the site, or in other District publications without further notice. I also grant the Salem School District the right to edit the photograph or video clip at its discretion.

The student's name may be used in conjunction with the photograph or video clip. It is understood, however, that once the photograph or video clip is displayed on a web site, the District has no control over how the photograph or video clip is used or misused by persons with computers accessing the District's web site.

Name of student (Printed)

Signature of student (only necessary if student is over 18)

Signature of parent (required if student is under 18)

Date

5.20.1—WEB SITE PRIVACY POLICY

The Salem School District operates and maintains a web site for the purpose of informing the citizens of the district about its activities. The web site does not use “cookies” or ISP addresses to collect or retain personally identifying information about visitors to its web site nor is any such information given to “third parties.” Any data collected is used solely for the purpose of monitoring site activity to help the district improve the usefulness of the site to its visitors.

The site serves no commercial purpose and does not collect any information from individuals for such purpose.

Photographs of students, when associated with the student’s name, shall not be displayed on any page of the district’s web site without the prior written consent of the parent (or the student if 18 or older).

The site provides for email communication between the District and individuals for the purpose of exchanging information regarding the District and its activities or between teachers and their students. The site may also provide for password protected communication between the District and its staff.

Legal References: 15 U.S.C. § 6501 (COPPA)

Date Adopted: June 16, 2008

Last Revised: June 23, 2009

5.21—ADVANCED PLACEMENT

Students who take advanced placement courses, International Baccalaureate courses, or honors courses approved for weighted credit by the Arkansas Department of Education, or International Baccalaureate shall be graded according to the following schedule.

A = 100 – 90
B = 89 – 80
C = 79 – 70
D = 69-60
F = 59 and below

For the purpose of determining grade point averages, the numeric value of each letter grade shall be

A = 5 points
B = 4 points
C = 3 points
D = 2 point
F = 0 points

Students taking AP or International Baccalaureate courses shall receive weighted credit as described in this policy. Credit shall be given for each grading period during the course of the year, but shall be retroactively removed from a student's grade for any course in which the student fails to take the applicable AP exam. Students who do not take the AP exam shall receive the same numeric value for the grade he/she receives in the course as if it were a non-AP course.

Students who transfer into the district will be given weighted credit for the Advanced Placement courses, International Baccalaureate courses, honors courses approved by the Arkansas Department of Education, International Baccalaureate courses, and concurrent college courses taken for weighted credit at his/her previous school(s) according to the preceding scale.

Legal References: Arkansas Department of Education Rules and Regulations Governing Uniform
 Grading Scales for Public Secondary Schools
 ADE Rules Governing Advanced Placement Courses in the Four Core Areas in High
 School
 A.C.A. § 6-15-902(c)(1)
 A.C.A. § 6-16-806

Date Adopted: June 16, 2008
Last Revised: June 23, 2009

5.22—CONCURRENT CREDIT

A ninth (9th) through twelfth (12th) grade student who successfully completes a college course(s) from an institution approved by the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) shall be given credit toward high school grades and graduation at the rate of one (1) high school credit for each three (3) semester hours of college credit. Unless approved by the school's principal, **prior to enrolling for the course**, the concurrent credit shall be applied toward the student's graduation requirements as an elective.

As permitted by the ADE Rules Governing Concurrent College and High School Credit, a student who takes a three (3) semester hour remedial/developmental education course shall receive a half (1/2) credit for a high school career focus elective. The remedial/developmental education course cannot be used to meet the core subject area/unit requirements in English and mathematics.

Participation in the concurrent high school and college credit program must be documented by a written agreement between:

- The student;
- The student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) if the student is under the age of eighteen (18);
- The District; and
- The publicly supported community college, technical college, four-year college or university, or private institution the student attends to take the concurrent credit course.

Students are responsible for having the transcript for the concurrent credit course(s) they've taken sent to their school in order to receive credit for the course(s). Credit for concurrent credit courses will not be given until a transcript is received. Students may not receive credit for the course(s) they took or the credit may be delayed if the transcripts are not received at all or in a timely manner; this may jeopardize students' eligibility for extracurricular activities, graduation, or other activities.¹

Students will retain credit earned through the concurrent credit program that was applied toward a course required for high school graduation from a previously attended, accredited, public school.

A student eligible to receive free or reduced price meals shall not be responsible for any of the costs for the student's first six (6) concurrent credit hours so long as the concurrent credit courses are taught on the District grounds and by a teacher employed by the District.² Any and all costs of concurrent credit courses beyond the six (6) hours permitted, that are not taught on the District's campus, or are not taught by a teacher employed by the District are the responsibility of the student. Students who are not eligible to receive free or reduced price meals are responsible for any and all costs associated with concurrent credit courses.

Notes: ¹ If your district has other repercussions that would apply for failure to receive credit for a course, enter them here.

This paragraph is not mandatory, but would put the responsibility on the student for getting his/her transcripts to you.

² The cost of the six (6) concurrent credit hours may be paid by the District, the institution of higher education, or through a cost sharing agreement between the District and the institution of higher education.

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-15-902(c)(2)
 A.C.A. § 6-16-1201 et seq.
 ADE Rules and Regulations: Concurrent College and High School Credit for Students
 Who Have Completed the Eighth Grade

Date Adopted: June 16, 2008

Last Revised: June 19, 2017

5.23—EQUIVALENCE BETWEEN SCHOOLS

Not Applicable - The Salem School District has only one elementary school and one high school.

5.24—STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN SURVEYS

Section One: No student shall be required to submit to a survey, analysis, or evaluation which is administered or distributed by a school, and is funded in whole or in part by any program administered by the U.S. Department of Education without the prior written consent of the parent/guardian that reveals information concerning the following:

1. political affiliations;
2. mental and psychological problems potentially embarrassing to the student or his family;
3. sex behavior and attitudes;
4. illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, and demeaning behavior;
5. critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships;
6. legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers;
7. religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or student's parent; or
8. income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program).

Section Two: No surveys shall be administered without the prior approval of the school principal. Any survey created by a third party, or funded, in whole or in part, as part of any US Department of Education administered program, containing one or more of the eight categories listed above shall be available to be inspected by a student's parent/guardian before the survey is administered or distributed by a school to a student. Parents/guardians shall have the right to deny permission for their child to participate in the taking of the survey. The school shall not penalize students whose parents/guardians exercise this option. The school shall take reasonable precautions to protect students' privacy during their participation in the administration of any survey, analysis, or evaluation containing one or more of the eight categories listed above.

Section Three: Parents or guardians wishing to inspect a survey, analysis, or evaluation shall be able to do so in the administrative office of the administering school where the surveys shall be available for inspection for a period of ten (10)* days (regular school days when school is in session) after the notice of intent to administer the survey is sent. Included in the notice shall be information regarding how the survey or questionnaire will be administered; how it will be utilized; and the persons or entities that will have access to the results of the completed survey or questionnaire. Parents may refuse to allow their student to participate before or after reviewing the survey or questionnaire.

The requirements of sections one, two, and three of this policy do not apply to a survey administered to a student in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Section Four: Prior written parental permission is required before any survey or questionnaire (not including tests mandated by state or Federal law or regulation and standardized scholastic achievement tests) is administered to a student the responses to which are to be provided to a person or entity other than another public school, school district, or any branch of the Federal Government and which requests or requires a student to provide any of the eight (8) categories of information listed above and/or the following:

1. A student's name;
2. The name of the student's parent or member of the student's family;

3. The address, telephone number, or email address of a student or a member of a student's family;
4. A personal identification number, such as a social security number, driver's license number, or student identification number of a student or a member of the student's family;
5. Any information, the disclosure of which is regulated, or prohibited by any other state or federal law or regulation.

The rights provided to parents under this policy transfer to the student when he/she turns 18 years old.

Notes: This policy is to be developed in conjunction with parents.

Parents must be "directly" notified of this policy, at least annually at the beginning of the school year, and within a reasonable period of time after any substantive change in the policy and include in the notice the specific or approximate dates (to the extent known) during the school year when these activities are scheduled.

"Directly notified" in regard to this policy means by mail or email: inclusion in the student handbook does not meet the law's requirements.

*The length of time may be adjusted, but it must be a "reasonable period of time."

Legal Reference: 20 USC § 1232h (a), (b), (c) [NCLB Act of 2001, Part F, Section 1061 (c) (1)(A)(i)(ii)(B), (2)(A)(i)(ii)(B)(C)(ii), (5)(A)(ii)(B), (6)(C)(F)(G)]
ACA § 6-18-1301 et seq.

Date Adopted: June 16, 2008

Last Revised: June 16, 2008

5.24F1—OBJECTION TO PARTICIPATION IN SURVEYS, ANALYSIS, OR EVALUATIONS

I, the undersigned, being a parent or guardian of a student, or a student eighteen (18) years of age or older, hereby note my objection to participation by the student named below in the following survey, analysis, or evaluation.

I choose not to have my student participate in the following survey, analysis, or evaluation.

Name of specific survey _____

____ All surveys

Name of student (Printed)

Signature of parent (or student, if 18 or older)

Date form was filed (To be filled in by office personnel)

5.25—MARKETING OF PERSONAL INFORMATION

The Salem School District shall not collect, disclose, or use personal information for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information or to otherwise provide that information to others for that purpose.¹

Personal information is defined, **for the purposes of this policy only**, as individually identifiable information including

1. a student or parent's first and last name,
2. a home or other physical address (including street name and the name of the city or town),
3. telephone number, and
4. social security identification number.

The district may collect, disclose, or use personal information that is collected from students for the exclusive purpose of developing, evaluating, or providing educational products or services for, or to, students or educational institutions such as the following:

1. College or other postsecondary education recruitment, or military recruitment;
2. Book clubs, magazines, and programs providing access to low cost literary products;
3. Curriculum and instructional materials used by elementary schools and secondary schools;
4. Tests and assessments used by elementary schools and secondary schools to provide cognitive, evaluative, diagnostic, clinical, aptitude, or achievement information about students (or to generate other statistically useful data for the purpose of securing such tests and assessments) and the subsequent analysis and public release of the aggregate data from such tests and assessments;
5. The sale by students of products or services to raise funds for school related or education related activities; and
6. Student recognition programs.

Legal Reference: 20 USC § 1232h (c) [NCLB Act of 2001, Part F, Section 1061 (c) (1)(E), (2)(A)(C)(i), (4)(A), (5)(A)(i)(B), (6)(C)(E)]

Date Adopted: June 16, 2008

Last Revised: June 16, 2008

5.26—ALTERNATIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

The district shall have an alternative learning environment (ALE) which shall be part of an intervention program designed to provide guidance, counseling, and academic support to students who are experiencing emotional, social, or academic problems.

The superintendent or his/her designee shall appoint an Alternative Education Placement Team which shall have the responsibility of determining student placement in the ALE. The team should consist of at least a school counselor, the ALE director or principal, a parent or legal guardian, and a regular classroom teacher.

Students who are placed in the ALE shall exhibit at least two of the following characteristics:

Disruptive behavior	Abuse: physical, mental, sexual
Potential Drop Out	Frequent relocation of residency
Personal or family problems or situations	Homelessness
Recurring absenteeism	Inadequate Emotional Support
Transition to or from residential programs	Mental/Physical Health Problems
Academic Problems	Pregnancy/Single Parenting
On going, persistent lack of attaining proficiency levels in literacy and mathematics	

The teachers and administrator of the ALE shall determine exit criteria for students assigned to the district's ALE on which to base the student's return to the regular school program of instruction.

The district's ALE program shall follow class size, staffing, curriculum, and expenditure requirements identified in the ADE Rules Governing the Distribution of Student Special Needs Funding and the Determination of Allowable Expenditure of These Funds.

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-20-2305(b)(2)
 A.C.A. § 6-48-102, 103
 ADE Rules Governing the Distribution of Student Special Needs Funding and the
 Determination of Allowable Expenditure of These Funds – 3.01, 3.05, 4.00, and 8.0

Date Adopted: June 16, 2008
Last Revised: June 27, 2011

5.26.1—ALE PROGRAM EVALUATION

The ALE program shall be evaluated at least annually to determine its overall effectiveness. The evaluation shall specifically address how the use of ALE funds is in alignment with the district's ACSIP in addressing identified achievement gaps and student performance deficiencies.

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 6-15-426(f)

Date Adopted: June 16, 2008

Last Revised: June 16, 2008

5.27—ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

The district shall utilize the special needs funding it receives for identified English Language Learners on activities, and materials listed in the ADE Rules Governing the Distribution of Student Special Needs Funding and the Determination of Allowable Expenditure of These Funds.

The expenditures of ELL supplemental funding shall be evaluated at least annually to determine their overall effectiveness. The evaluation shall specifically address how the use of ELL funds is in alignment with the district's ACSIP in addressing identified achievement gaps and student performance deficiencies.

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-20-2305(b)(3)
 A.C.A. § 6-15-426(f)
 ADE Rules Governing the Distribution of Student Special Needs Funding and the
 Determination of Allowable Expenditure of These Funds – 3.09, 5.00, 8.00

Date Adopted: June 16, 2008

Last Revised: June 19, 2014

5.28—NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH ACT FUNDING EXPENDITURES

Funding received from the state based on the number of students eligible for free and reduced-priced meals under the National Student Lunch Act shall be expended in accordance with guidelines outlined in the ADE Rules Governing the Distribution of Student Special Needs Funding and the Determination of Allowable Expenditure of These Funds.

The district shall at least annually evaluate programs supported by NSLA funds to determine the effectiveness of the programs and to ensure they are providing intervention/prevention services designed to increase student achievement which are in alignment with the district's ACSIP.

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-20-2305(b)(4)
 A.C.A. § 6-15-426(f)
 ADE Rules Governing the Distribution of Student Special Needs Funding and the
 Determination of Allowable Expenditure of These Funds 3.12,3.17,3.18,6.00,8.00

Date Adopted: June 16, 2008

Last Revised: June 19, 2014

5.29—WELLNESS POLICY

The health and physical well-being of students directly affects their ability to learn. Childhood obesity increases the incidence of adult diseases occurring in children and adolescents such as heart disease, high blood pressure and diabetes. The increased risk carries forward into their adulthood. Research indicates that a healthy diet and regular physical activity can help prevent obesity and the diseases resulting from it. It is understood that the eating habits and exercise patterns of students cannot be magically changed overnight, but at the same time, the Board of Directors believes it is necessary to strive to create a culture in our schools that consistently promotes good nutrition and physical activity.

The problem of obesity and inactivity is a public health issue. The Board of Directors is keenly aware that it has taken years for this problem to reach its present level and will similarly take years to correct. The responsibility for addressing the problem lies not only with the schools and the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE), but with the community and its residents, organizations and agencies. Therefore, the District shall enlist the support of the larger community to find solutions that improve the health and physical activity of our students.

Wellness Committee

To enhance the district's efforts to improve the health of our students, a School Nutrition and Physical Activity Advisory Committee (SNPAAC) shall be formed. It shall be structured in a way to ensure age-appropriate recommendations are made that correlate to the District's grade configurations.¹ The SNPAAC shall have the powers and responsibilities delegated to it by statute and Rule and are incorporated into this policy by reference.² The overarching goal of the committee shall be to promote student wellness by monitoring how well the District is doing at implementing this policy. The SNPAAC shall use modules 1, 2, 3, 4, and 8 of the Centers For Disease Control' (CDC) School Health Index as a basis for annually assessing each school's progress toward meeting the requirements of this policy. The results of the annual assessment shall be included in each school's ACSIP, provided to each school's principal, and reported to the board. Goals and objectives for nutrition and physical activity shall also be included in the ACSIP.

The SNPAAC shall be made up of Individuals from the following groups to the extent interested persons from each group desire to be included in the development, implementation, and periodic review of the District's wellness policy:³

- Members of the District's Board of Directors;
- School administrators;
- School nutrition personnel;
- Teacher organizations;
- Teachers of physical education;
- Parents;
- Students;
- Professional groups (such as nurses);
- School health professionals (such as school nurses, school counselors, and social workers); and
- Community members.

The SNPAAC shall provide written recommendations to the District's Child Nutrition Director concerning menus and other foods sold in the school cafeteria. Such recommendations shall be based, at least in part, on the information the Committee receives from the District on the requirements and standards of the National School

Lunch Program and from menus for the National School Lunch Program and other food sold in the school cafeteria on a quarterly basis.⁴

The SNPAAC will meet at least quarterly. Meeting dates for the SNPAAC will be placed on the District's calendar.

School Health Coordinator

To assist the SNPAAC in ensuring that the District fulfills the requirements of this policy, a District level School Health Coordinator (Designated District Official) shall be appointed. In addition, a school level School Health Coordinator shall be appointed who shall be responsible for assisting the District level School Health Coordinator in ensuring that each school fulfills the requirements of this policy.⁵

Goals

In its efforts to improve the school nutrition environment, promote student health, and reduce childhood obesity, the District will adhere to the ADE Rules Governing Nutrition and Physical Activity Standards And Body Mass Index For Age Assessment Protocols. To promote nutrition, physical activity, and other school based activities that will improve student wellness, the District, working with the SNPAAC, has established the following goals:⁶

1. Implement a grade appropriate nutrition education program that will develop an awareness of and appreciation for nutrition and physical activity throughout the curriculum;
2. Enforce existing physical education requirements and engage students in healthy levels of vigorous physical activity;
3. Strive to improve the quality of physical education curricula and increase the training of physical education teachers;
4. Follow the Arkansas Physical Education and Health Education Frameworks in grades K-12;
5. Not use food or beverages as rewards for academic, classroom, or sports performances;
6. Establish class schedules and bus routes that do not directly or indirectly restrict meal access;
7. Provide students with ample time to eat their meals in pleasant cafeteria and dining areas;
8. Abide by the current allowable food and beverage portion standards;
9. Meet or exceed the more stringent of Arkansas' or the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Nutrition Standards for reimbursable meals and a la' carte foods served in the cafeteria;⁷
10. Restrict access to competitive foods as required by law and Rule;
11. Conform new and/or renewed vending contracts to the content restrictions contained in the Rules and reduce district dependence on profits from the sale of competitive foods.
12. Provide professional development to all district staff on the topics of nutrition and/or physical activity;⁸
13. Utilize the School Health Index available from the CDC to assess how well the district is doing at implementing this wellness policy and at promoting a healthy environment for its students.

Food and Beverages Outside of the District's Food Service Programs

The District will insure that drinking water is available without charge to all students throughout the school including, but not limited to, in the District's food service areas.

All food and beverages sold to students on school campus during the school day by school administrators or school non-licensed or licensed staff (principals, coaches, teachers, club sponsors, etc.); students or student groups; parents or parent groups; or another person, company, or organization associated with the school shall meet the Federal Smart Snacks requirements and Arkansas Nutrition Standards at a minimum.⁹ These

restrictions include, but are not limited to, food and beverages sold in vending venues (machines, ice chests, cabinets) in school stores or as part of school fundraisers.

All food and beverages provided , but not sold, to students on the school campus during the school day by school administrators or school non-licensed or licensed staff (principals, coaches, teachers, club sponsors, etc.); students or student groups; parents or parent groups; or another person, company, or organization associated with the school shall meet the Federal Smart Snacks requirements and Arkansas Nutrition Standards at a minimum.⁹ These restrictions include, but are not limited to, food and beverages provided in vending venues (machines, ice chests, cabinets) in school stores or as part of school fundraisers.

Up to a maximum of nine (9)¹⁰ times per school year, school administration may schedule school wide events where food and beverages provided to students are not required to meet the Federal Smart Snacks standards during the scheduled time. The schedule of the events shall be by school, approved by the principal, and shall be part of the annual school calendar.

Food and beverages outside of the District’s food service programs may not be sold, served, or provided to students in the District’s food service areas during meal times.

Elementary students shall not have in-school access to vending machines.

The District does not place nutrition restrictions on food or beverages brought from home that are intended for personal consumption only.⁹

Advertising

In accordance with the USDA regulations, oral, written, or graphic statements made for the purpose of promoting the sale of a food or beverage product that are made by the producer, manufacturer, seller, or any other entity with a commercial interest in the product shall only be permitted on school campus during the school day if they meet or exceed the Federal Smart Snacks standards.¹¹ This restriction does not apply to:

- Materials used for educational purposes in the classroom, including, but not limited to:
 - The use of advertisements as a media education tool; or
 - Designing and implementing the health or nutrition curriculum;
- Clothing, apparel, or other personal items used by students and staff;
- The packaging of products brought from home for personal consumption; and
- Currently existing advertisements on school property, including but not limited to, the exterior of vending machines, posters, menu boards, coolers, trash cans, cups used for beverage dispensing , and other food service equipment; however, all future contracts and replacement items shall meet the Federal Smart Snacks standards.

Community Engagement

The District will work with the SNPAAC to:

- a. Encourage participation in extracurricular programs that support physical activity, such as walk-to-school programs, biking clubs, after-school walking etc.;
- b. Encourage the implementation of developmentally appropriate physical activity in after-school childcare programs for participating children;
- c. Promote the reduction of time youth spend engaged in sedentary activities such as watching television and playing video games; and

- d. Encourage the development of and participation in family-oriented community-based physical activity programs.

The District will annually inform the public:

- Of the web address where the policy is located;
- Of any changes made to this policy since the previous year;
- Of the health and wellness priority goals in the District's ACSIP;
- That a printed copy of the policy may be picked up at the District's central office; and
- The amounts and specific sources of funds received and expenditures made from competitive food and beverage contracts.

Assessment of District's Wellness Policy

At least once every three years¹² with input from the SNPACC, the District shall assess both the District as a whole and individual schools' status in regards to the implementation and compliance of the goals of this policy, including the health and wellness goals in the District's ACSIP. The assessment shall be based, at least in part, on:

- The extent to which District schools are in compliance with this policy;
- The extent to which this policy compares to other model local school wellness policies;
- The annual reviews of this policy based on modules 1, 2, 3, 4, and 8 of the CDC's School Health Index; and
- A description of the progress made in attaining the goals of this policy.

On the years the assessment occurs, the assessment results shall be reported to the public, including parents, students, and other members of the community as part of the District's annual report to the public.

The District will update the wellness policy based on the results from the three (3) year¹² assessment.

District Website

The District will place on its website:

- The name, District phone number, and District email address for the District Level School Health Coordinator;
- The names, district phone numbers, and district email addresses for the School Level School Health Coordinators;⁵
- The names of the members of the SNPAAC;
- Meeting dates for the SNPAAC;
- Information on how community members may get involved with the SNPAAC;
- A copy of this policy;
- A copy of the annual review of this policy based on modules 1, 2, 3, 4, and 8 of the CDC's School Health Index; and
- A copy of the most recent three (3) year¹² assessment of this policy.

Notes: First and foremost, remember that this policy is to be developed with input from the Wellness Committee (SNPAAC). There are very specific powers, duties, and responsibilities given to the committee.

Additional information on requirements and suggestions for local wellness policies are available from the USDA at <http://healthymeals.nal.usda.gov/school-wellness-resources>. Commissioner's Memos CNU-17-010, CNU-17-013, and CNU-17-016 have several additional resources.

8.01.2 of the ADE Rules Governing Nutrition and Physical Activity Standards And Body Mass Index allows a school to serve or provide to students during the school day, outside of the meal period, a serving of food and beverages that complies with the Federal Smart Snacks requirements as demonstrated by using the Alliance for a Healthier Generation Smart Snacks Calculator, including a copy of the Smart Snacks Calculator product compliance screen and a copy of the nutrition fact label of the product. This is a local control issue and does not have to be included in the policy, but you should be aware that it is an option and is on the ADE Wellness Policy Review Checklist.

As part of the Federal review, districts will be required to provide records demonstrating compliance with the regulations that include, but are not limited to:

- A copy of the wellness policy;
- Documentation demonstrating compliance with community involvement requirements, including requirements to make the local school wellness policy and triennial assessments available to the public, which may include, but are not limited to: a copy of the district/school Web page where the local school wellness policy has been posted or a copy of the school newsletter/local newspaper;
- Documentation of the three (3) year assessment for each school; and
- Documentation to demonstrate compliance with the public notification requirements.

¹ The Rules Governing Nutrition and Physical Activity allow three options for accomplishing this requirement:

1. Establish a School Nutrition and Physical Activity Advisory Committee at each school in addition to the district committee;
2. Establish subcommittees of the district Committee, representing the appropriate age and grade configurations for your district; or
3. Include representatives from each appropriate grade level group (elementary, middle, junior and senior high) on the membership of the district committee.

Select the option you will use and rewrite the sentence to reflect your choice.

² The statutory powers are codified at A.C.A. § 20-17-135(e)(1) and repeated in the Rules starting at 6.01. The powers delegated solely through the Rules can be found starting at 6.06.

³ The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 requires the groups listed in this paragraph to be permitted to participate (rather than "must"). There is no mention in the Act of limitations to the numbers of individuals included in each category for the policy's oversight, but some limitation to the overall size of this review team may be necessary for efficiency purposes. As part of the review process, districts will be required to demonstrate attempts were made to recruit individuals even if no one in that particular group agrees to participate.

⁴ This paragraph is intended to meet the requirements of A.C.A. § 6-20-709 and the ADE advises that WRITTEN documentation that this requirement has been met will be required during the administrative review of the child nutrition program.

⁵ While the new Federal terminology is "designated district official", the responsibilities remain the same; i.e. ensuring compliance with the Wellness Policy. Indistar refers to this position as "Wellness Chair"; we choose not to make the title of this individual the "Wellness Chair" because we believe that it should be up to the SNPAAC to select the member to be its chair rather than having it set in policy.

You are not required to appoint school level School Health Coordinators. If you choose not to appoint the school level school health coordinators, remove the sentence appointing them.

⁶ The goals included in this policy are those specifically required by rule. Additional goals should be listed upon the advice of the SNPAAC and the consent of the Board. The USDA requires that the final policy include specific measurable goals for nutrition promotion and education, physical activity, and other school-based activities that promote student wellness. When setting the goals, districts are required to review and consider evidence-based strategies. At a minimum, districts are expected to review the "Smarter Lunchroom" tools and strategies; a copy may be found at <http://www.fns.usda.gov/healthierschoolday/tools-schools> under the "School Nutrition Improvement" heading.

⁷ The ADE uses Commissioner's Memos to inform districts of many wellness policy issues concerning nutrition in general, serving portion sizes, drinking water availability, etc. The SNPAAC should be kept abreast of such applicable Memos. You have the choice to exceed the state or federal requirements. If you choose to meet and not exceed those mandated by government, you should delete "or exceed" at the start of the sentence. Currently, some of the state's requirements are more stringent than the federal requirements, but this could change. By mentioning both governments in the policy, you'll still be covered. If you do choose to exceed existing requirements you will need to specify what they are in this policy.

⁸ The Rules require all staff to receive professional development, but, at this time, there is no provision for how much or what it is to consist of. ADE is currently in the process of creating professional development covering several nutrition and physical education areas that will be accessible through Arkansas IDEAS.

⁹ Foods and beverages sold or provided outside of the food service areas being required to meet the Federal Smart Snacks Standards is the minimum required by law. If you choose to exceed the minimum, you will need to include the standards that must be met in the policy.

¹⁰ Nine (9) is simply the maximum allowed by rule. You may insert a lower number if you choose.

¹¹ This language is the minimum required by law. You have the option to be more restrictive on what level of nutritional value food and beverage advertisements must meet to be on school property. If you choose to be more restrictive, keep in mind that the First Amendment requires that the exceptions for educational uses; clothing, apparel, and other personal items; and packaging brought from home still be included.

¹² The USDA refers to this as the "Triennial Assessment" and requires that the district's wellness policy be assessed in depth at least once every three (3) years to determine the district's progress on reaching

the goals set in the policy. If you wish to assess the policy more regularly, replace this language with your desired timeline. The first of the in depth three (3) year assessments must be completed by no later than the end of the 2017-2018 school year.

Legal References: Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act 42 U.S.C. § 1751 et seq. as amended by PL 111-296 (Section 204) of 2010. (Section 204 is codified at 42 U.S.C. § 1758(b))
Child Nutrition Act of 1966 42 U.S.C. § 1771 et seq.
7 C.F.R. § 210.18
7 C.F.R. § 210.31
A.C.A. § 6-20-709
A.C.A. §§ 20-7-133, 134, and 135
ADE Rules Governing Nutrition and Physical Activity Standards And Body Mass Index For Age Assessment Protocols
Allowable Competitive Foods/Beverages - Maximum Portion Size List for Middle, Junior High, and High School
Commissioner's Memo CNU-17-010
Commissioner's Memo CNU-17-013
Commissioner's Memo CNU-17-016
Nutrition Standards for Arkansas Public Schools

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