

# Doniphan-Trumbull Public School



## TEACHER HANDBOOK

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## DONIPHAN-TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOL

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# Doniphan-Trumbull Public School Teacher Handbook

## Forward

### **Section I. Intent of Handbook**

Welcome to Doniphan-Trumbull School. This handbook is intended to be used by teachers and other certificated staff to provide general information about Doniphan-Trumbull Public School and to serve as a guide to the District's policies, rules, and regulations, benefits of employment, and performance expectations.

References in this handbook to "teachers" are intended to apply to all certificated staff. This includes administrative staff to the extent the handbook deals with professional expectations and conduct.

Each teacher is responsible for becoming familiar with the handbook and knowing the information contained in it. Although the information found in this handbook is detailed and specific on many topics, the handbook is not intended to be all encompassing so as to cover every situation and circumstance that may arise. This handbook is intended to supplement other documents that deal with your employment, including your employment contract, the negotiated agreement between the Doniphan-Trumbull Public School Board and the Doniphan-Trumbull Education Association, and the policies and regulations of the Board of Education. In reading this handbook, please understand that where a direct conflict exists, state or federal law, the negotiated agreement, and Board policies and regulations will control.

This handbook does not create a "contract" of employment. Staff positions and assignments which do not legally require a certificate or are otherwise not protected by the teacher tenure laws may be ended or changed on an "at will" basis notwithstanding anything in this handbook or any other publication or statement, except for a contract approved by the Board of Education.

The administration will be responsible for interpreting the rules contained in the handbook and shall have the right to make decisions and make rule revisions at any time. Should a situation or circumstance arise that is not specifically covered in this handbook, the administration will make a decision based upon applicable school district policies, state and federal statutes and regulations, and the best interests of the District.

This handbook will be in effect for the current school year and subsequent school years unless replaced by a later edition.

### **Information About Doniphan-Trumbull Public School**

Doniphan-Trumbull Public School is a merger between the Trumbull School District and Doniphan School District.

#### **HISTORICAL District 26 Doniphan**

In 1875 District 26 reported twenty-two children of school age residing therein, sixteen in attendance, and 160 days of school for that year. William H. Sampson received \$75 for teaching the term, and \$9 was reported for fuel and other purposes. McGuffey's and Sanders spellers, McGuffey's and Hilliard readers, Spencerian writing books, Ray's arithmetic and Carnell's geographies were used to instruct the pioneer youth of the Doniphan community.

## **Trumbull History**

When the Burlington and Missouri River Railroad extended its tracks from Aurora, Nebraska to Hastings, Nebraska, it was obvious that a station would be needed along the way. E.J. Parker and a Mr. Lamb anticipated that it would be established at the halfway point, and proceeded to build a store at that location. The railroad officials, however, decided on two stations, so the little store was moved several miles south to become the first business in Trumbull. The Lincoln Land Company platted the town in 1886. By the time the first train arrived in September, the town had a grain elevator, a lumberyard, and several houses. It has been said that the town was named "Trumbull" for an official on the railroad, but in reality it was to honor the minister who established the first church in the area. Clay County District 48, approximately three square-miles, was organized in 1875. School was held in a sod house on Ed Eller's farmstead 2 miles east of the present day village. Miss Ollie Campbell, the first teacher, lived with the Ellers. After a term in the "soddy", classes were moved to a new schoolhouse about one-half mile east of what became the town. In 1912 a new schoolhouse was built. State laws passed in 1914 provided for consolidation of small districts, and required each county to provide secondary level classes for all who wanted it. In 1915 Nella Hart, Mrs. J.M. Combs, and Gertrude Boggs were instrumental in initiating a vote for consolidation, setting school district "101" apart to be used as an example for other counties in the state.

## **CURRENTLY**

The Doniphan-Trumbull Public School District is a rural school district serving the communities of Doniphan and Trumbull in central Nebraska. Both towns are located approximately 12 miles apart and within 15 miles from the cities of Hastings and Grand Island. Many of the students come from neighboring farms, but a significant number have parents working in either of the neighboring cities. Approximately 85% of the students graduating go on to higher education.

### **Section 1 School Mission Statement**

The mission of the Doniphan-Trumbull Public School - **COMMITTED TO ACTION'S THAT EMBRACE PROGRESSIVE OPPORTUNITIES, ADVANCED ACHIEVEMENT, GENUINE RESPECT, AND PERSONAL INTEGRITY THROUGH ACTIVE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS.**

### **Section 2 BELIEFS**

- Proficient in meeting the State's academic content standards and essential learning's and such additional standards as are established by the Board of Education
  - Successful at each educational level and in transitioning between those levels from early childhood through postsecondary education and/or career entry
  - Effective in functioning in and contributing to our culturally diverse democratic society
- The District seeks to provide an essential education by developing and maintaining:
- Qualified and competent administrative, teaching, paraprofessional, and operational staff;
  - Integrated, planned curriculum that prepares students to achieve state standards and such additional standards as are established by the Board of Education and to reach the student outcomes identified above;
  - Comprehensive support programs and services that meet the diverse needs of students;

- Safe, clean and supportive facilities and learning environments;
- Implementation of a curriculum that meets the following:

Is based on state standards in reading, writing, speaking, listening, mathematics, science and social studies/history and essential learning's in visual and performing arts, world languages, technology, health and physical education, and career and technical education and such additional standards; as are established by the Board of Education;

Is appropriate for the developmental level of the students;

Addresses diverse learning needs;

Instills a passion for learning and the importance of life-long learning;

Develops problem solving and critical thinking skills, decision-making skills, data gathering, and critical use of information;

Develops expected work ethics, as well as group participation and leadership skills;

Incorporates character education and multicultural education, including respect for diversity;

Provides for application of technology in all learning areas;

Provides access to advanced courses; and

Is organized in a schedule that is functional and meets student needs in all curriculum areas.

- providing a supportive learning environment which includes:

a welcoming and inviting environment that is emotionally safe, nurturing, supportive, and disciplined; that promotes respect, trust, integrity, and regard for self and others; and that honors diversity;

learning as the central purpose with students engaged in meaningful, relevant, and productive learning experiences; and

Implementation of policies and practices that result in an orderly environment with emphasis on consistent school-wide positive behavior.

### **Section 3: Members of the Board of Education**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>
Craig Vincent	Board President
Brent Rainforth	Vice President
Steph Roach	Board Member
Zach VanDiest	Treasurer
Chris Sullivan	Secretary
John Schultz	Board Member

### **Section 4: Administrative Staff**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
Stan Hendricks	Superintendent
Jason Lavaley	7-12 Principal
Rod Engel	PK-6 Principal
Nancy Niles	Asst. Principal/SPED Director
Brent Breckner	Athletic Director

**Section 5 Teachers and Counselors Staff**

See attached pages.

**Section 6 Support Staff**

See attached pages.

**Article 1 – SCHOOL CALENDAR AND SCHEDULES**

**Section 1: School Calendar**

See attached page in Appendix.

**Section 2: Daily Schedule**

See Jr./Sr. High School Bell Schedule in High School Appendix.

**Section 3: Shortened Schedule**

See Jr./Sr. High School Bell Schedule in High School Appendix.

**Section 4: Severe Weather and School Cancellations**

The Superintendent of schools is authorized by the Board of Education to close public schools in case of severe weather. Representatives of the Superintendent's staff will notify local news media when inclement weather warrants such action. The information is broadcast regularly by radio and television stations.

**Decision to Close Schools.** A decision to close school is made when forecasts by the weather service and civil defense officials indicate that it would be unwise for students to go to school. If possible, a decision about the next school day will be made by 9 p.m. for announcement during the 10 p.m. news. An early decision is not always possible because of uncertain weather conditions. School officials will make periodic assessments of conditions during the night and will decide early in the morning (by 6 a.m. if possible). In any case, an announcement will be made to the news media when schools will be closed. In some instances, schools will be open, but certain services may be cancelled (bus transportation, kindergarten, student activities). Some staff may be designated as being required to come to school even in the event of a school closing.

**After School Starts.** Every attempt will be made to avoid closing school once classes are in session. In some instances closing school during the day is inevitable if children are to safely return home before the brunt of a major storm hits. In these cases as much advance notice as possible will be given. If school is closed during the day staff will be notified and parents will be notified via media broadcast. Teachers will be responsible for remaining with students until all students have safely left school or the administration has made arrangements for remaining students.

**Parental Decisions.** Parents may decide to keep their children at home in inclement weather because of personal circumstances. Students absent because of severe weather when school is in session will be marked as excused absence. You should treat the absence like any other absence for legitimate causes provided parents properly notify the school of their decision. Parents may pick up their children in inclement weather (except in case of a tornado) at any time during the school day. Students will not normally be dismissed from school during severe weather on the basis of a telephone request.

**Emergency Conditions.** Doniphan-Trumbull Public School has a signal which, when activated,



includes the necessity to either evacuate the building or to move to safer areas of the building. All regular drills are held as required by law through the school year. There are plans for Emergency Exit system, Tornado Warning System, and Critical Incident Response. School officials are not permitted to release students from the school building during a tornado warning. In the event of an emergency exit alert or tornado warning, you should implement the school's established safety procedures.

#### **Section 4: Contract Days**

Teachers are contracted for 185 days (hereinafter referred to as the "contract year"). Such contract days shall be serviced by individual teachers on varying schedules as established by the Board of Education and administration.

#### **Section 5: Make-Up Days**

In the event teachers are not required to report for duty due to inclement weather conditions or other circumstance whereby a duty day is canceled, such days shall not be credited as a contract day served. Make-up days will be scheduled by the administration during the contract year as needed to allow all teaching staff to serve the full number of contract days.

## **Article 2 – EMPLOYMENT, COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS**

### **Section 1: Employment**

A teacher is employed by Doniphan-Trumbull Public School when the teacher signs the Teacher's Contract and the Board of Education approves such contract of employment. The teacher's employment continues absent action by the administration or the Board of Education to non-renew, terminate, amend or cancel the teacher's employment contract with the school district, or action by the Board of Education to accept a resignation of employment.

Should a teacher wish to resign from employment the teacher should give written notice of resignation to the Superintendent. The request to resign will be acted upon by the Board of Education. Mid-year resignations and resignations given late in the spring for the following school year can present significant planning problems for the District. If a mid-year resignation is submitted, or a resignation for the following school year is submitted after April 15 or after the teacher has signified acceptance of employment for the next school year, the Board of Education may act to not accept the resignation unless a suitable replacement can be found. The District will enforce the continuing contract of teachers accepting employment for the next school year under the provisions of Neb Rev. Stat. §79-820.

### **D-T Operational Procedure #4046** **November 1999**

#### **Renewal of and Release from Contract of Employment**

The Superintendent of Schools, utilizing the budgetary parameters and working with the appropriate administrative personnel, shall notify all certified employees, except administrators and those whose contracts are being considered for termination or non-renewal, of their tentative level of assignment (Elementary, Secondary, etc.) for the ensuing school year. Such notification shall be

recorded on the district's "Intent to Return," Form 28-1/99, and issued on or about April 1. (For administrators, the Intent to Return forms shall be issued on or about March 1). The Intent to Return forms will be issued through immediate supervisors who will be responsible for the following:

Distributing the forms to all certified employees under his or her supervision.

Collecting all forms from employees.

Signing the forms acknowledging receipt.

Distributing the copies to the employee and the Office of the Superintendent.

All forms are to be returned from the employee to the immediate supervisor within fifteen (15) days from the date of receipt. (For administrators, the form shall be returned by March 16).

Requests for release from contract, made during the aforementioned fifteen-day period will be promptly recommended to the Board of Education. Requests not made within the fifteen-day period will be considered individually.

Requests for release from contract must be made in writing. "Request for Release from Contract," Form Personnel 26-1/99, or "Intent to Return," Form 28-1/99, are designed for such requests or the employee may request release from contract by letter. Letters should contain, as a minimum, the date the requested release would become effective, the reason for the request, and the signature of the employee. All requests for release from contract should be sent at the earliest possible date to the Office of the Superintendent.

## **Section 2: Assignments**

The professional duties to be performed by a teacher with the District shall be subject to assignment by the Superintendent of the District with the approval of the Board of Education. A teacher will be expected to devote full time during days of school to the teacher's position and to diligently and faithfully perform the assigned duties to the best of the teacher's professional ability. Job descriptions, where available, provide additional information about the position duties.

In addition to the normal duties traditionally required of teachers, a teacher may be assigned such "extra duty" assignments to support the extra-curricular programs of the District, which shall be upon such terms and conditions and at such additional rate of compensation as the Teacher and the District may agree upon or as set forth in the negotiated agreement. The extra-curricular program of the school district is an integral part of the overall educational program of the school district. As such, a teacher shall not unreasonably refuse to accept such extra-duty assignments. In addition, performance in an extra duty assignment is a part of the evaluation of the teacher's overall performance to the District.

## **Section 3: Personnel File**

The District will follow the requirements of state and federal law and regulation with regard to a teacher's personnel file, including but not limited to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-8,109.

## **Section 4: Grievances and Complaints**

Teacher grievances regarding wages, hours, and conditions of employment set forth in the negotiated agreement shall be governed by the grievance or complaint procedure in the negotiated agreement. All other employment related grievances or complaints shall be addressed through the administrative chain of command following the process set forth in board policy.

## **Section 5: Compensation**

Regular Salary and Extra-Duty Compensation. Compensation is paid only as authorized by the Board of Education. Teachers are paid a salary based on placement on the salary schedule set forth in the collectively bargained negotiated agreement between the District and the collective bargaining agent for the certificated teaching staff (referred to in this handbook as the “negotiated agreement”), and the extra-duty salary schedule also incorporated into the negotiated agreement.

Changes in Salary Schedule Placement. Changes in a teacher’s placement on the salary schedule shall be governed by the provisions of the negotiated agreement. Teachers are expected to provide the Superintendent with a transcript for all graduate hours earned for purposes of advancement on the salary schedule on or before September 1 of the school year in which such hours are to be credited for the teacher’s placement on the salary schedule. Failure to timely provide an official transcript from the post-graduate institution of the graduate hours earned will result in a loss of such credit for such school year.

Salary Payments. Salary is payable over twelve equal installments. Teachers will be paid on the 20th of the month, or the last preceding school day, if the 20th falls on a vacation or week-end day. In emergency cases exceptions may be made, subject to the approval of the Board. In no case shall the Board advance more than one month's salary. Upon separation of a teacher’s employment, or upon fulfillment of the contract, the teacher may, at the option of the Board, be paid all salary due in one lump sum.

Additional compensation over and above regular compensation, extra-duty pay and supplemental pay shall be disbursed as it is earned and deductions from compensation due to unpaid leave shall be taken out as they are reported to the payroll office. Reimbursements for mileage or other expenses will be considered separate from compensation.

### **Section 6: Extended Duty Pay**

Extended duty for any teacher beyond the number of contract days established by the Board of Education for the school year shall be paid at [base salary divided by contract days] of schedule placement on a per diem basis for such teacher’s extended time.

### **Section 7: Benefits**

Teachers are provided benefits in accordance with the negotiated agreement, group health insurance plan requirements, and the school district’s Section 125 Plan document. Teachers shall make annual fringe benefit elections by September 1 of each school year. Should a teacher fail to make such election, the teacher election from the immediately preceding school and contract year shall be continued. Each teacher is responsible for informing the Office of the Superintendent in writing of any changes in benefit status.

Continued health insurance benefits are available through COBRA subject to certain qualifying requirements. A Notice of COBRA Continuation Coverage Rights is attached to this handbook as Appendix “A.”

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) provides rights and protections for participants and beneficiaries in group health plans. HIPAA includes protections for coverage under group health plans that limit exclusions for preexisting conditions; prohibit discrimination against employees and dependents based on their health status; and allow a special opportunity to enroll in a new plan to individuals in certain circumstances. HIPAA may also give you a right to purchase individual coverage if you have no group health plan coverage available, and have exhausted COBRA or other continuation coverage. Further information may be obtained from the

Plan Administrator of the group health plan.

### **Section 8: Payroll and Payroll Deductions**

Salary and benefits are paid in accordance with the individual employment contracts and negotiated agreement. Payroll deductions shall be made in accordance with law and the negotiated agreement.

### **Section 9: Expense Reimbursement**

Reimbursement for authorized mileage will be paid to teachers required to drive their own vehicles during their regular scheduled working hours between two or more work sites. Claims for reimbursement should be submitted to the appropriate supervisor. The allowable rate shall be governed by Board policy, unless otherwise required by law. The District is not liable for physical damage to employee vehicles. Materials necessary for instruction are provided by the District. If teachers need additional materials for instruction or school-related purposes, the request should be made to the Principal.

Reimbursement for purchase of materials or for meals or other expenses related to travel must be submitted to and approved by either the Principal or, if the expense relates to an activity, by the Athletic Director. The request for reimbursement should include a voucher sufficient to establish that the expense was actually incurred and that the expense was reasonable and related to a school-purpose.

### **Section 10: 403(b) Salary Reduction Agreements**

The District will cooperate with any teacher who chooses to participate in an investment program under a Internal Revenue Code Section 403(b) provided that the certificated employee executes a "Salary Reduction Agreement" provided by the District and the vendor of the 403(b) Plan elected by the teacher has entered in to a "Service Provider Agreement" with the District holding the District harmless from any liability that may arise out of such 403(b) Plan, including, but not limited to, the calculation of the maximum exclusion allowance, tax reporting, notices and income withholding.

### **Section 11: Overtime**

Teaching professionals are classified as exempt from overtime under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). The overtime exemption for teaching professionals is not dependent on whether the employee is paid on a "salary basis." Exempt employees are not eligible for overtime or compensatory time. A publication provided by the federal government which provides more information about the FLSA is attached as Appendix "A" to this handbook.

Overtime hours must first be approved by 1) Supervisor, 2) Building Principal, and then to 3) Superintendent before any hours are worked.

Any non-exempt employees must receive prior approval from their supervisor to work additional hours beyond their regular work schedule. Non-exempt employees must be paid for each hour worked in excess of 40 hours in a workweek. The regular workweek is from 12:00 a.m. on Monday through 11:59 p.m. on Sunday. The administration may establish a different 7-day period workweek from time to time for specified employees or employee groups.

Overtime pay for non-exempt employees will be paid at the rate of not less than 1½ times the employee's regular rate of pay for hours worked in excess of the 40 hour workweek. Employees with two or more non-exempt positions may be eligible for overtime pay based upon the total number of

hours worked in one workweek. If applicable, the employee and the Superintendent will agree upon the overtime rate, in compliance with FLSA regulations. A non-exempt employee may request compensatory time in lieu of overtime pay, with approval of the employer, with the rate figured as 1½ times the number of hours worked in excess of 40 hours in any work week. Compensatory time may be accumulated up to 40 hours upon approval by their supervisor. Any accumulation of compensatory time over 40 hours must be approved by the Superintendent. The FLSA limits the accumulation of compensatory time to 240 hours.

The District's policy is to not permit improper deductions from the salary of exempt employees who are required to meet a "salaried basis" test for the exemption to be applicable. (Teaching professionals are not subject to the "salaried basis" test). An employee who feels an improper deduction affecting exemption status has occurred may submit a complaint to the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee, who shall promptly investigate the complaint. Reimbursement shall be made and a good faith commitment to comply in the future will be given in the event it is determined that an improper deduction affecting overtime exemption has been made.

The District's policy is to authorize unpaid disciplinary suspensions of a full day or more for infractions of workplace conduct rules and to apply such policy uniformly to all similarly situated employees, including exempt employees who are required to meet a "salaried basis" test for the exemption to be applicable. Unpaid disciplinary suspensions of a partial day or of a full day or more may be implemented for infractions of safety rules of major significance. Deductions of pay of a partial day or of a full day or more may be made for FMLA leaves and in the first and last weeks of employment. In addition, based on principles of public accountancy, deductions from pay of a partial day or of a full day or more will be made for absences for illness, injury or personal reasons when accrued leave is not used or not available, and for absences due to any budget-required furlough.

### **Article 3 – ABSENCES FROM WORK**

#### **Section 1: Paid Leave - Sick and Personal Leaves**

Teachers are provided with paid annual and personal leaves (professional leaves, bereavement leaves, etc.) in accordance with the negotiated agreement. During such paid leaves, teachers shall continue to receive all salary and fringe benefits called for by the negotiated agreement. Non-certified staff has annual leave.

The leaves provided by the District are to be used for the purpose intended. Abuse of leave privileges affects the students, other staff, and the entire District and will not be tolerated.

#### **Section 2: Return from Leave**

Upon return from leave, teachers are to review information supplied by the substitute teacher as to progress made in the class and any student behavior concerns. The substitute should be contacted directly if the written information supplied is not adequate. A teacher who is absent for any period of time because of injury requiring care from a physician or health care provider, or for a period of one week or more due to illness, must present a written statement to the Principal from the teacher's physician or health care provider stating that the teacher is physically able to return to duty. This statement is to be presented in person before the teacher returns to duty in order that the present stage of convalescence can be observed and discussed.

### **Section 3: Payroll Deductions for Absences in Excess of Paid Leave**

Should a teacher be absent from work in excess of the teacher's accumulated sick leave or other paid leaves called for in the negotiated agreement, the teacher's salary and fringe benefits (including the cost of premiums for group health insurance) shall be reduced by the day or days or work missed on a per diem basis calculated using the number of days missed as the numerator, and the number of total contract days for the school years as the denominator; e.g. one day missed = 1/185th of total salary and fringe benefits.

### **Section 4: Leaves of Absence**

A teacher may apply to the Board of Education for a leave of absence from the teacher's duties. The Board of Education will consider such requests on a case-by-case basis. No leave of absence shall extend beyond one school year. All leaves of absence shall be without pay except for the payment of health insurance benefits as may be required under applicable state or federal laws.

### **Section 5: Jury Duty**

A teacher who is summoned for jury service shall promptly notify the Principal of such summons. The teacher's salary will continue during time spent in jury service, and no deduction of leave time shall occur, except that the District may reduce the pay by an amount equal to any compensation, other than expenses, paid by the court for jury duty. Teachers are to notify the Principal of the amount received for such jury duty.

If a teacher, upon reporting for jury duty in the morning, is dismissed from jury duty for the remainder of the day, the teacher is to report for duty and resume duties for the balance of the day. When a teacher is entirely dismissed from jury duty, the teacher is directed to report for duty and the substitute will be dismissed.

Teachers are expected to promptly notify the Principal of any other form of legal summons which may require an absence from duty. In the event the summons involves a school-related matter, the matter shall be treated similar to a jury duty absence. In the event the summons involves a personal matter, the teacher will be required to use available leave days.

### **Section 6: Military Leave**

Teachers who are members of the National Guard, Army Reserve, Naval Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, Air Force Reserve, or Coast Guard Reserve (hereinafter, "reserves"), are entitled to a military leave of absence from their respective duties, without loss of pay, when employed with or without pay under the orders or authorization of competent authority in the active service of the state or of the United States. Teachers who normally work or are normally scheduled to work 120 hours or more in three consecutive weeks shall receive a military leave of absence of 120 hours each calendar year. Teachers who normally work or are normally scheduled to work less than 120 hours in three consecutive weeks shall receive a military leave of absence each calendar year equal to the number of hours they normally work or would normally be scheduled to work, whichever is greater, in three consecutive weeks. Such military leave of absence may be taken in hourly increments and shall be in addition to the teacher's regular annual leave.

When the governor of this state shall declare that a state of emergency exists, and any teacher who is a member of the reserves is ordered to active service of the state, the teacher shall be granted a state of emergency leave of absence until released from active service by competent authority. The leave of absence shall not be a military leave of absence; other forms of leave may be granted. The teacher shall receive normal salary or compensation minus the state active duty base pay the teacher receives in active service of the state.

## **Section 7: Family and Medical Leave Act**

The Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) provides for 12 weeks of job-protected unpaid leave in a 12-month period to eligible employees in specified circumstances. A publication provided by the federal government which provides more information about FMLA leaves is attached as Appendix to this handbook.

The plan year for FMLA is a rolling year. A rolling year is a 12-month period measured backward from the date an employee last used any FMLA leave. Employees will be required to substitute remaining applicable paid leave prior to using unpaid leave. In other words, the total of job-protected paid and unpaid leave is 12 weeks.

If you need to take an FMLA leave, or have any questions regarding an FMLA leave, you should contact the Superintendent.

## **Article 4 – DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **Section 1: Hours of Work & Meetings**

Regular, dependable attendance at work is an essential function of a teacher's employment position.

The Board of Education recognizes that teachers' responsibilities to their students and their profession generally involve the performance of duties and the commitment of time beyond the normal working day, but also recognizes that teachers and other educational professionals are entitled to regular time and work schedules on which they can rely in the ordinary course of events and which will be fairly and evenly maintained to the extent possible throughout the school system.

Schools have differing starting and ending times for the student day. All Full Time certificated employees assigned to a building are to spend eight hours on site, excluding lunch break (30-minute lunch). The Principal will determine the length of time prior to and after the student class schedule for staff to be on-site in order to meet the required eight hours. Staff may leave the building earlier when called to a professional meeting.

Certificated employees maybe assigned other classroom duties (i.e. serve on playground, lunchroom and hall supervision) as designated by the Principal. The Principal will attempt to make an equitable distribution of such assignments and professional staff shall assume such duties as part of their work and agreement of employment.

Teachers shall attend meetings called by the Superintendent of Schools, principals, department heads and team leaders, except those meetings, which are designated for optional attendance.

### **Section 2: Arrival to Duty Assignments**

Full-time teachers have a designated on-site workday as eight (8) hours. Certificated employees other than teachers are expected to meet the same guidelines for entry to the building, being in their assigned duty area, and duty departure time. Teachers and other certificated employees who are part-time or work on adjusted schedules are to be in the building at least 10 minutes before their class or assigned duty begins, and to be in their classroom or assigned duty area at least 10 minutes before their class or assignment begins. During the school day, teachers are to be in their assigned classroom at least five minutes before each period begins to assure that students are not unsupervised within the classroom.

### **Section 3: Leaving School**

Teachers are to be on duty at all times during the school day. Teachers are considered on duty even during designated planning periods. An uninterrupted lunch period of not less than 30-minutes each day is provided to teachers during which they are not assigned teaching, supervisory, or other duties. Teachers who leave the school during the designated lunch period must check out with the Principal's office.

Teachers may not leave school during duty hours without approval of the Principal. If the absence has been approved, the teacher must check out with the Principal's office when leaving, and check back in with the Principal's office upon return. Teachers who need to leave during the school day for reason of illness or emergency are to check out with the Principal's office and make sure that a responsible person has been notified of their unexpected absence so student coverage may be provided.

### **Section 4: Daily Class Record Books**

**CLASS DAILY RECORD BOOKS** Every teacher is required to keep a complete a written and/or electronic student information system record of attendance and achievement of every student. This class record book must be kept current and include the following minimum information in a readily understandable fashion:

1. The names and any assigned student numbers of all students enrolled in the class at the beginning of the semester.
2. The name and date of entry for each student who enrolls after the semester opens.
3. The date of withdrawal for each student who withdraws from the class previous to the close of the semester--dropouts or early withdrawals.
4. A complete record of the attendance of each student enrolled showing:
  - A. Days on which the student was tardy.
  - B. Days on which the student was absent, with a differentiation between excused and unexcused absences.
5. A complete report of all recorded grades for each student. There is no minimum requirement for the frequency of recorded grades (or for the giving of written lessons or examinations). Be sure that you test frequently enough and that you record grades frequently enough to readily and realistically justify the term and final grades which are reported to parents.

Upon request a student's individual record in the teacher's class record book shall be made available for review or copying. Information relating to other students should not be allowed to be seen by other students or parents.

Because the entries in the class record book constitute a source of original entry for information which may be needed in the absence of the teacher, teachers are required to deliver the teachers' class record books to the Principal at the close of the school year for filing in the permanent records. Teachers who return to [Insert School Name] and who wish to refer to the previous year's class record book may request the return of the class record book. Such books shall again be brought to the office for permanent filing when the teacher is finished with them, or at the close of the current term.

### **Article 5- Classroom and School Procedures**

Teachers are expected to adhere to the following classroom and school procedure in the performance



of their duties:

**Section 1: Text Book and Room Inventory**

All school purchased materials must be inventoried with the building bookkeeper or secretary. Textbooks are to be numbered and either have cards in pockets or a form for writing the name of the student whom the book is assigned. Teachers should keep good records of who has which book. At the start of the year, note condition of the textbook on the inventory sheet and keep this sheet. When a book is turned in, again note its condition, and if the book shows abuse (other than normal wear) assess a fine that you consider is fair. Insist that students put covers on their books by the end of the first week after receiving them.

**Section 2: Use of Cell Phones**

Teachers shall not use personal cell phones for any non-school purpose during teacher duty time.

**Section 3: Use of Teacher Aides**

Teacher aides provide valuable assistance in the educational process and allow teachers to carry out their responsibilities in a more efficient and effective manner. A teacher aide must not, however, assume teaching responsibilities. The teacher must maintain the role of leadership and responsibility for the students, with the teacher aide in a supportive role. Teacher aides may be used to assist the teacher by, among other tasks, assisting with instructional activities under the direction of the teacher, helping to supervise students, copying tests and other written material, organizing class materials, preparing bulletin boards, grading tests or class work, and calculate grades and record grades. Teacher aides are to work only on their assigned workdays and within their assigned workday. If the teacher desires the aide to work hours other than the assigned work hours or assigned workday, contact the administration for approval.

**Section 4: Use of Student Aides**

Student aides are to be directly supervised by the teacher and are not to leave the building or be in the halls or anywhere they are not being supervised. Student aides are not to be used to assist the teacher by helping supervise another student, grade tests or class work, calculate student grades or record grades. Keys are NEVER to be given to students, whether they are student aides or not. A student aide should not be present and assisting a teacher without another adult present after the end of regular teacher duty hours.

**Section 5: Checking Out of Equipment**

All equipment must be checked out through the building principal. All school equipment may be used only for school purposes. No school equipment may be directed to the personal use of a teacher or another District employee.

**Section 6: Requisition of Equipment and Supplies**

Books and supplies, which are needed for instruction, should be requested through the Principal's office. No equipment or supplies ordered through the District may be directed to the personal use of a teacher or another District employee.

**Section 7: E-mail**

Each teacher will be assigned a school e-mail address for purposes of intra-school and inter-school e-mail correspondence. Teachers should check for e-mail through out the day, and should timely

respond to e-mails which require a response, but should avoid checking and responding to e-mails during instructional time. Use of the District's e-mail system for personal communications should be limited, and is subject to the rules governing overall computer usage found in Board policy and this handbook.

### **Section 8: Teacher Mail Box**

Each teacher will be assigned a mailbox located in the Teacher Workrooms. Teachers should check for mail each morning and also later in the school day, if possible. If something requires an answer teachers are responsible for responding promptly. Teacher mailboxes are to be limited to communicate regarding school business.

### **Section 9: Teachers Meetings**

Teachers' meetings will be held. ALL teachers are expected to be present for the meetings, unless they are absent from school for good cause or have made prior arrangements.

### **Section 10: Supervision of Students**

Proper supervision of students is an important responsibility for teachers and other adults responsible for our students. Teachers and other adults responsible for student supervision are expected to meet the four "P's" for student supervision and safety.

### **Section 11: Proper Supervision**

Report to all duty assignments on time.

1. Circulate through your duty area. Pay particular attention to areas and activities that pose an increased risk of injury. Be vigilant while supervising students. Never leave your classroom unattended; the need to make a copy is not greater than the need to supervise your students. If an emergency requires that you leave your classroom, request that another nearby staff member cover your class, or notify the office so someone can provide assistance. If you are on recess duty, your responsibility is to supervise the students in your assigned area. When talking with other adults or students, remember that your primary duty is supervision and make sure you are aware of what all students who you are to be supervising are doing.

If you have seen or have been informed that a particular student has a propensity to act dangerously or in an unpredictable manner, your supervision of that student must increase with the known risk of injury. (Remember, though, that this type of information may be confidential—do not share confidential information about students except with other staff who need to know the information to perform their jobs).

Be careful with touching students. Use of corporal punishment is prohibited at Doniphan-Trumbull Public School. Touching students should be limited to that necessary to protect the student from harm (e.g., falling from playground equipment) and that which professional educators determine appropriate for purposes of proper student relationships.

Be careful with your language. Profanity or abusive language should not be used by you. Be a good role model for students. If a student uses such language, you should correct the student and take such disciplinary action as is appropriate, which may include making a report to administration.

#### **2. Proper Instructions**

- Proper instructions are important to reduce the risk of injury when students undertake an activity, especially an activity that has an increased risk of harm to students.
- Repeat the instructions on how to complete a task that has a heightened risk of danger as often as needed. Do not assume because students heard the directions once that they will be remembered.

- When you go over safety rules with students note it in your written records (e.g., your lesson plan book or daily reports).
- Review playground and classroom safety rules with students at least once each semester and note when you do it in your written records. Also, if any students are absent when you review the rules contact the student(s) to review the same information and also note that contact in your written records.

### 3. Proper Maintenance of Buildings, Grounds, and Equipment

- Conduct periodic inspections of equipment under your control or in your area of supervision.
- If equipment is broken and presents a risk of injury, immediately take it out of service (if it can't be moved, tape a "Do Not Use" sign) and notify the office so those repairs may be undertaken.
- Check your communication device (whether it be a school phone in your supervision area, a walkie-talkie, or a cell phone) periodically to make sure you can communicate with the office immediately in the event of an emergency.

### **Section 12: Proper Warnings**

If you have knowledge of a hazard that can likely cause injury, take steps to warn other staff and students. Tell the office so additional warnings may be given.

### **Section 13: Contact the Office for Assistance**

The office administration should be contacted immediately when a situation exists which could cause injury to students or others. Examples include:

- student fight
- student health problem (fainting, bleeding, high temperature, difficulty breathing, etc.); if the office can not be immediately located, call 911 if the problem appears to be of immediate and serious concern
- a report or a suspicion that a student has a weapon or other dangerous item or drugs, alcohol, or other illegal substances
- presence of an intruder (a non-student or staff member who refuses to go to the office)

### **Section 14: Student Searches**

Office administration should also be contacted before performing searches of students or their belongings. You may direct a student suspected of having an item in violation of school rules to wait with you until another adult is present, or to follow you to the office if you can leave your assigned area without causing risk of harm to others. Do not use physical force to detain the student or to make the student accompany you except as reasonably necessary to protect the student or others.

### **Section 15: Student Rights**

Students should be treated fairly and given the same treatment without consideration of race, color, religion, gender, or disability. Students who need special accommodations should be given those accommodations as needed for them to participate in school and school activities. Further, students have the right to have their school records kept confidential. Such information should be shared only with other school staff with a need to know the information to perform their duties.

### **Section 16: Managing Student Conduct**

Discipline is everyone's responsibility. It begins with the student being responsible for his/her own behavior and understanding the consequences it may cause. The teacher is responsible for articulating classroom expectations at the beginning of the school year, implementing the classroom expectations on a consistent basis, and being familiar with the student handbook. All staff are

responsible for all students in the hallways, in the rest rooms, at assemblies, at pep rallies, and during lunch. Consequences for inappropriate behavior may include students making up time before or after school, a student or a parent conference, or a referral to an administrator.

The following guidelines will assist in maintaining appropriate student conduct and complying with the process required for student discipline.

1. On the first day of class make students aware of classroom expectations. Students will accept them if they know in advance and if they are fair and consistent. Students often appreciate giving input on classroom rules. These expectations should be in writing. Give one copy to the students, post one copy in the room and provide one copy for the principal.
2. It is important to document student behavior in your classroom, calls to parents, referrals, and/or communications with a student.
3. If, after attempts to improve student behavior, the problems continue, talk to the student's counselor or the Principal about possible alternatives in discipline procedures. Be attentive and respond to "bullying."
4. If a student continues to cause problems, inform the administration for disciplinary action using the approved reporting forms. Be sure to state the problem clearly and expectations in terms of assistance, as at times the student's and teacher's stories are different. Be prepared to provide documentation.
5. Follow up on any referral. The student may not go to the principal or the counselor when sent. The administrator or attendance coordinator will inform the teacher of the consequences.
6. Refer students with continued and significant behavioral problems to the student assistance team for a determination of whether the student is in need of special services. Contact the counselor if you have questions as to the procedure.
7. Talk with other teachers about the classroom management techniques they use to establish an atmosphere conducive to learning in their classroom. A large repertoire of classroom management techniques always enhances learning.
8. Read and understand the student handbook and the student conduct rules of the District.
9. Use good judgment when dealing with difficult situations involving students. Physical confrontation generally escalates tense situations. Corporal punishment is prohibited in our school district and is not to be used. Physical force may only be used to the extent reasonably necessary to protect the student, yourself and others, and to protect property as may be reasonable.
10. Violations of student rules, which are also violations of state law, are required to be reported to law enforcement. Make a report of such conduct to the Principal so this law may be followed.

## **Section 17:           Dispensing Medication**

Teachers are not permitted to give any medication to students unless trained under the Medication Aid Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. §71-6718 to 71-6743. Students who need to take prescription

medicine must have a signed parent release form on file in the office. Medications are to be taken in the presence of the office staff, the nurse, or medication aide and are to be stored in the office. Medical procedures are not to be administered in the classroom except in accordance with the District's Safety and Security Management Plan and the District's Emergency Protocol (asthma/anaphylaxis protocol).

If students must take medication and/or perform medical procedures prescribed by a duly licensed physician during school hours, it is the responsibility of the parents or guardians to sign permission to dispense the medicine at the school and to submit a note or prescription from the physician authorizing the medicine and/or medical procedure. School district personnel will not administer medicine, including over the counter medicine, without this signed form and note or prescription. Any medication brought to school needs to be properly labeled. The label should include the following information: Student's name, name of medication, dosage needed, and time of dispensing the medication.

### **Section 18: Reporting Child Abuse**

Nebraska State Law and school policy mandates school officials to make a report to the proper law enforcement agency or the Department of Health and Human Services (Child Protective Services) when there is reasonable cause to believe that a child has been abused or neglected, or a child is in a situation, which would reasonably result in abuse or neglect. According to Nebraska State Law, abuse or neglect means knowingly, intentionally, or negligently causing or permitting a minor child to be:

- (a) Placed in a situation that endangers his or her life or physical or mental health;
- (b) Cruelly confined or cruelly punished;
- (c) Deprived of necessary food, clothing, shelter, or care;
- (d) Left unattended in a motor vehicle if such minor child is six years of age or younger;
- (e) Sexually abused; or
- (f) Sexually exploited by allowing, encouraging, or forcing such person to solicit for or engage in prostitution, debauchery, public indecency, or obscene or pornographic photography, films, or depictions.

Teachers are to inform their principal or supervisor that they intend to make a report. Administrative staff may sometimes choose to make the report for a teacher. However, informing a principal or supervisor does not end the teacher's responsibility; teachers are obligated to make certain a report was made if they do not do it themselves.

It is vital that the report be made as accurately and as soon as possible. To assure accuracy, you are encouraged to document the date of the incident and specific statements or explanations made by a child regarding an abuse/neglect concern. Timeliness in making a report will assist in minimizing further risk to the child by allowing the police or Child Protective Services workers to interview the child during the school day and prior to an evening or weekend. In cases of physical injury (e.g., bruising or other marks), it is essential the police observe and document the injury. A counselor, the school social worker or an administrator will help you.

## **Article 6 – PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT**

### **Section 1: Professional Ethics Standards**

The Doniphan-Trumbull Public School expects its certificated employees to adhere to the professional ethics standards established by the Nebraska Department of Education as such standards may be modified from time to time. The professional ethics standards, which certificated employees, are

expected to adhere to include those set forth below. References to “educator” shall include all certificated employees of the District.

### Preamble

The educator shall believe in the worth and dignity of human beings. Recognizing the supreme importance of the pursuit of truth, the devotion to excellence and the nurture of democratic citizenship, the educator shall regard as essential to these goals the protection of the freedom to learn and to teach and the guarantee of equal educational opportunity for all. The educator shall accept the responsibility to practice the profession to these ethical standards.

The educator shall recognize the magnitude of the responsibility he or she has accepted in choosing a career in education, and engages, individually and collectively with other educators, to judge his or her colleagues, and to be judged by them, in accordance with the provisions of this code of ethics.

The standards listed in this section are held to be generally accepted minimal standards for public school certificate holders in the State of Nebraska and for all educators, including administrators, with respect to ethical and professional conduct.

### **Principle I - Commitment as a Professional Educator:**

Fundamental to the pursuit of high educational standards is the maintenance of a profession possessed of individuals with high skills, intellect, integrity, wisdom, and compassion. The educator shall exhibit good moral character, maintain high standards of performance and promote equality of opportunity.

In fulfillment of the educator's contractual and professional responsibilities, the educator:

A. Shall not interfere with the exercise of political and citizenship rights and responsibilities of students, colleagues, parents, school patrons, or school board members.

B. Shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, sex, marital status, age, national origin, ethnic background, or handicapping condition.

C. Shall not use coercive means, or promise or provide special treatment to students, colleagues, school patrons, or school board members in order to influence professional decisions.

D. Shall not make any fraudulent statement or fail to disclose a material fact for which the educator is responsible.

E. Shall not exploit professional relationships with students, colleagues, parents, school patrons, or school board members for personal gain or private advantage.

F. Shall not sexually harass students, parents or school patrons, employees, or board members.

G. Shall not have had revoked for cause in another state a teaching certificate, administrative certificate, or any certificate enabling a person to engage in any of the activities for which a special services counseling certificate is issued in Nebraska.

H. Shall not engage in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation in the performance of professional duties.

I. Shall report to the Superintendent any known violation of paragraphs G, E, or B above.

J. Shall seek no reprisal against any individual who has reported a violation of this rule.

### **Principle II - Commitment to the Student:**

Mindful that a profession exists for the purpose of serving the best interests of the client, the educator shall practice the profession with genuine interest, concern, and consideration for the student. The educator shall work to stimulate the spirit of inquiry, the acquisition of knowledge and understanding, and the thoughtful formulation of worthy goals.

In fulfillment of the obligation to the student, the educator:

A. Shall permit the student to pursue reasonable independent scholastic effort, and shall permit the student access to varying points of view.

- Bushel not deliberately suppress or distort subject matter for which the educator is responsible.
- C. Shall make reasonable effort to protect the student from conditions, which interfere with the learning process or are harmful to health or safety.
  - D. Shall conduct professional educational activities in accordance with sound educational practices that are in the best interest of the student.
  - E. Shall keep in confidence personally identifiable information that has been obtained in the course of professional service, unless disclosure serves professional purposes, or is required by law.
  - F. Shall not tutor for remuneration students assigned to his or her classes unless approved by the Board of Education.
  - G. Shall not discipline students using corporal punishment.

### **Principle III - Commitment to the Public:**

The magnitude of the responsibility inherent in the education process requires dedication to the principles of our democratic heritage. The educator bears particular responsibility for instilling an understanding of the confidence in the rule of law, respect for individual freedom, and a responsibility to promote respect by the public for the integrity of the profession.

In fulfillment of the obligation to the public, the educator:

- A. Shall not misrepresent an institution with which the educator is affiliated, and shall take added precautions to distinguish between the educator's personal and institutional views.  
Bushel not use institutional privileges for private gain or to promote political candidates, political issues, or partisan political activities.
- C. Shall neither offer nor accept gifts or favors that will impair professional judgment.
- D. Shall support the principle of due process and protect the political, citizenship, and natural rights of all individuals.
- E. Shall not commit any act of moral turpitude, nor commit any felony under the laws of the United States or any state or territory.
- F. Shall, with reasonable diligence, attend to the duties of his or her professional position.

### **Principle IV - Commitment to the Profession:**

In belief that the quality of the services to the education profession directly influences the nation and its citizens, the educator shall exert every effort to raise professional standards, to improve service, to promote a climate in which the exercise of professional judgment is encouraged, and to achieve conditions which attract persons worthy of the trust to careers in education. The educator shall believe that sound professional relationships with colleagues are built upon personal integrity, dignity, and mutual respect.

In fulfillment of the obligation to the profession, the educator:

- A. Shall provide upon the request of an aggrieved party, a written statement of specific reasons for recommendations that lead to the denial of increments, significant changes in employment, or termination of employment.
- B. Shall not misrepresent his or her professional qualifications, nor those of colleagues.
- C. Shall practice the profession only with proper certification, and shall actively oppose the practice of the profession by person's known to be unqualified.

### **Principle V - Commitment to Professional Employment Practices:**

The educator shall regard the employment agreement as a pledge to be executed both in spirit and in fact. The educator shall believe that sound personnel relationships with governing boards are built upon personal integrity, dignity, and mutual respect.

In fulfillment of the obligation to professional employment practices, the educator:

- A. Shall apply for, accept, offer, or assign a position or responsibility on the basis of professional preparation and legal qualifications.
- B. Shall not knowingly withhold information regarding a position from an applicant or employer, or misrepresent an assignment or conditions of employment.
- C. Shall give prompt notice to the employer of any change in availability of service.
- D. Shall conduct professional business through designated procedures, when available, that have been approved by the employing agency.
- E. Shall not assign to unqualified personnel, tasks for which an educator is responsible.
- F. Shall permit no commercial or personal exploitation of his or her professional position.
- G. Shall use time on duty and leave time for the purpose for which intended.

## **PROFESSIONAL BOUNDARIES POLICY**

### *Personnel - All Employees*

#### *Professional Boundaries Between Employees and Students*

*All employees are expected to observe and maintain professional boundaries between themselves and students. A violation of professional boundaries will be regarded as a form of misconduct and may result in disciplinary action.*

*The following non-exclusive list of actions will be regarded as a violation of the professional boundaries that employees are expected to maintain with a student:*

- *Using e-mail, text messaging, instant messaging or social networking sites to discuss with a student a matter that does not pertain to school-related activities, such as the student's homework, class activity, school sport or club, or other school-sponsored activity. Electronic communications with students are to be sent simultaneously to multiple recipients, not to just one student, except where the communication is clearly school-related and inappropriate for persons other than the individual student to receive (for example, e-mailing a message about a student's grades).*
- *Engaging in social-networking friendships with a student on MySpace, Facebook, or other social networking site. Material that employees post on social networks that is publicly available to those in the school community must reflect the professional image applicable to the employee's position and not impair the employee's capacity to maintain the respect of students and parents or impair the employee's ability to serve as a role model for children.*
- *Engaging in sexual activity, a romantic relationship, or dating a student of the District or a former student within one year of the student graduating or otherwise leaving the District or a person who is age 18 or below.*
- *Making any sexual advance – verbal, written, or physical – towards a student.*
- *Showing sexually inappropriate materials or objects to a student.*



- *Discussing with a student sexual topics that are not related to a specific curriculum.*
- *Telling sexual jokes to a student.*
- *Invading a student's physical privacy.*
- *Hugging or other physical contact with a student that is initiated by the employee when the student does not seek or want this attention.*
- *Being overly "touchy" with a specific student.*
- *Allowing a specific student to get away with misconduct that is not tolerated from other students, except as appropriate for students with an IEP or 504 Plan.*
- *Discussing with the student the employee's problems that would normally be discussed with adults (e.g., marital problems).*
- *Giving a student a ride in the employee's personal vehicle without express permission of the student's parent or school administrator unless another adult is in the vehicle.*
- *Taking a student on an outing without obtaining prior express permission of the student's parent or school administrator.*
- *Inviting a student to the employee's home without prior express permission of the student's parent and school administrator.*
- *Going to the student's home when the student's parent or a proper chaperone is not present.*
- *Giving gifts of a personal nature to a specific student.*

*Appropriate exceptions are permitted to the foregoing for legitimate health or educational purposes and for reasons of familial relationships between employees and their children who are students in the District.*

*Date of Adoption: \_\_July 11\_\_, 2011\_\_*

## **Section 2: Evaluations**

Evaluations of teachers will be conducted in accordance with the District's evaluation policy. Supervisors reserve the right to observe, appraise or evaluate teachers more frequently than required by policy on an as-needed basis. Teachers are expected to participate constructively and positively in the evaluation process and to accept and implement constructive suggestions and improvement strategies developed by the administration.

## **Section 3: Role Model**

Teachers serve as role models for students and their actions and conduct reflect on the school as

a whole. Teachers are in all respects to conduct themselves in a professional manner.

#### **Section 4: Relationships**

It is important for teachers to maintain an effective working relationship with the administration and all co-workers, including other teachers and support staff. Teachers are also to maintain appropriate relationships with students. Appropriate relationships are established by extending social courtesies, following through on commitments and promises, complying with administrative directives and Board policies, being honest and consistent, and not intruding into personal matters outside the scope of duties or gossiping or spreading rumors about others.

#### **Section 5: Professional Attire**

It is important for teachers to project a professional image to students, parents and co-workers. Appropriate attire and grooming is one of the means of projecting a professional image. Teachers are expected to maintain conservative and professional attire and grooming when on duty. As professionals, teachers are expected to be aware of the standard to be maintained. As a minimal guide, teachers should not wear clothing which students would not be permitted to wear at school. Scheduled dress down days will not number more than one (1) per quarter or other approved school days through the administration. The administration may establish more detailed guidelines for individual teachers should that be necessary.

#### **Section 6: Private Tutoring**

Teachers are encouraged to provide individual assistance to students as a part of their duties. Teachers who engage in private tutoring for pay (compensation of any kind from a source other than the District) are subject to the following rules:

1. The teacher may not arrange to provide private tutoring for any child enrolled in the teacher's class.
2. The teacher is not to provide private tutoring in a school building.
3. The teacher is not to provide private tutoring during duty time.
4. The teacher is not to advertise or promote the teacher's private tutoring services in the school or in the school's communications systems except with the express permission of the Superintendent or designee.

#### **Section 7: Outside Employment**

Teachers shall not perform duties unrelated to District employment during duty hours. In addition, teachers shall not engage in employment which conflicts with their school duties. Teachers are not required to notify the District of outside employment except: (1) teachers who are also employed by another Nebraska school district in order to comply with Nebraska State Retirement System regulations and (2) teachers who have a work-related injury in order to comply with workers' compensation requirements.

### **Article 7 – ACADEMIC MATTERS**

#### **Section 1: Purpose and Goals of Academic Achievement**

The Doniphan-Trumbull Public School Board of Education is committed to providing a quality education for all District School students consistent with the school's mission statement. Effective, quality instruction by teachers is an essential means of meeting the District's mission of providing a

quality education.

## **Section 2: Teaching to Student Understanding to Assure Learning**

Each teacher is responsible for teaching in a manner to meet the mission of the District and to assure student understanding and learning of the principles and concepts to be presented to students within the curriculum adopted by the District. Teachers will model classroom instruction on the educational model implemented by the District and reflected in the teacher evaluation instrument adopted by the Board of Education. Teachers are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the instructional model and the principles of instruction set forth in the evaluation instrument. The administration shall provide periodic in-services regarding the instructional model.

State and federal laws and regulations have been enacted which require that students with certain needs be provided instruction and services consistent with those special needs. Examples include students who have been verified as in need of special education (“special education students”), students with other disabilities, which impact the educational program (“504 students”), and limited English proficient students (“LEP or ELL students”). The District’s policy is to comply with the state and federal laws and regulations in all respects. Teachers who are assigned special education, 504, or LEP/ELL students are required to provide instruction and services consistent with legal requirements and the requirements of Board policy and regulation.

## **Section 3: Instruction in the Curriculum**

Teachers shall instruct students in the curriculum, including the use of curriculum materials, adopted and implemented by the Board of Education and as directed by the administration.

## **Section 4: Reconsideration of Grades/Marks**

Questions raised concerning duly assigned grades will be resolved cooperatively in a conference which includes the teacher(s) involved and the Principal. In the event a grade is questioned by parents or students, the parents/guardians and/or student may be included in the conference.

Failure to resolve the issue will result in a second conference involving the Superintendent or designee and the participants in the initial conference described above. The grades designated by teachers will not be changed unilaterally by the Superintendent unless the Superintendent determines that the grade is not consistent with the requirements of law, Board policy, or the best interests of the District.

**Reduced Credit.** Some students in certain situations may qualify for less than the number of credits normally granted for a course. Late entry or a serious injury at an awkward point in the semester would be a couple of examples. If a student is excessively absent from a class for any particular reason, a teacher may request reduced credit. All cases of reduced credit should be recorded on a "Reduced Credit/Error Summary" form and be approved by the Principal.

**Transfer Grades.** A student transferring into [Insert Name of School] at the fifteen-to eighteen-week time period will have all grades on transcript from an accredited school accepted for semester credit. Grades must be approved for credit by the Principal.

**Reports to Parents.** Grades and credit are assigned on a quarter (9 weeks) or semester basis. Reports are sent to parents at the close of each nine weeks during the school year; the reporting periods are referred to as first quarter, first semester, third quarter, and second semester.

The grade reports are produced from information supplied by teachers and distributed to

students at school or are mailed to parents.

All term or mid-quarter grades are calculated on a cumulative basis; i.e., the grade given at the end of the first quarter represents an evaluation of work done during that quarter, and the grade given at the close of the semester represents an evaluation of all the work done during the entire eighteen weeks.

The end-of-quarter and end-of-semester reports are directed to parents, not to students. Students probably know quite well how they stand in such areas as citizenship, attitude, cooperation, attendance, preparation of assignments, etc. The parents do not have this knowledge. If any such factors have significant bearing on the student's grades or their relationship with teachers, notes should be sent to parents. Arrangements will be made to place these teacher-written notes with the grade report forms. The notes may call attention to deficiencies, faults, or failures; or they may be commendatory in nature. If carefully prepared, they can be most valuable. Parents need to have information about areas of strengths and areas needing improvement and progress being made by their child. For their instruction, and for our ultimate well being, if and when problems arise, it is essential that the reports be as informative as possible. Teachers should, in all cases, plan to keep on file duplicate copies of the notes, which are sent to parents.

Please accept, cooperatively and professionally, the responses that parents may make subsequent to the distribution of term or mid-quarter reports. Parents are not always helpful or reasonable under these circumstances but they do need information and direction. Please encourage parents to discuss their student-centered problems with you and give them all possible assistance.

**Mid-Quarter Progress Reports To Parents.** Mid-quarter progress reports are prepared at or near the middle of the fourth and the thirteenth weeks of each semester. These reports will be mailed to all parents.

### **Section 5: Parent-Teacher Conferences**

Parent-Teacher conferences are a critical opportunity for teachers to dialogue with parents (or guardians) of students regarding student achievement and learning. To this end, quarterly Parent-Teacher conferences will be scheduled and held during the school year. Teacher attendance at Parent-Teacher conferences is mandatory. A teacher may only be excused from attendance at Parent-Teacher conferences in writing by the Superintendent. The schedule setting forth the dates and times for the Parent-Teacher conferences for the school years is as follows:

Teachers are expected to be prepared for such conferences. Being prepared includes having completed grade books, which include all student assignments, work or tests completed within five (5) days of the date of the Parent-Teacher conference.

## **Article 8 – USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT**

### **Section 1: Drug-Free Workplace**

The District has established the school as a drug-free workplace. The drug-free workplace for this purpose includes school grounds, school utilized vehicles, and places in which school activities are held.

The unlawful manufacture, distribution, disposition, possession, or use of a controlled substance is prohibited in the work place. The possession, use or distribution of illicit drugs or alcohol, the use of glue or aerosol paint or any other chemical substance for inhalation, and being under the influence of illicit drugs, alcohol, or inhalants, is prohibited in any place while teachers are on duty

time. Any level of impairment from illicit drugs, alcohol, or inhalants, and the presence of any odor of illicit drugs (such as marijuana) or alcohol on a teacher in the work place or on duty time shall be a violation of the drug-free workplace. The possession or distribution of a look-alike drug or look-alike controlled substance is prohibited. In addition, teachers are expected to serve as role models for students and will be considered to have violated the District's expectations in the event the teacher commits a criminal drug or alcohol offense off the work place or off duty time.

As a condition of employment teachers will abide by the District's drug-free workplace policies and notify the Superintendent of any criminal drug statute conviction for a violation occurring in the workplace no later than 5 days after such conviction. Disciplinary sanctions up to and including termination of employment and referral for prosecution will be imposed for violations of the District's drug-free workplace policies. Sanctions may include the requirement that the teacher complete an appropriate rehabilitation program, a reprimand, and termination of employment. Drug and alcohol counseling and rehabilitation and reentry programs are available through local health agencies.

## **Section 2: Smoke and Tobacco-Free Workplace**

The use of tobacco products in the District's buildings and on school grounds, all owned or leased facilities and vehicles is prohibited.

## **Section 3: Weapon-Free Workplace**

The District prohibits any person from being in possession of a weapon at a school attendance facility, on school property, at a school-supervised activity, or at a school-sponsored function. Any teacher found to be in violation of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

The term "weapon" means an instrument or object used, or which may be used, as a means of attack, defense, or destruction, including, without limitation:

Any object which will, or is designed to, or may readily be converted to, expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or other means;

The frame or receiver of any object described in the preceding example;

Any firearm muffler or silencer;

Any explosive, incendiary or gas (a) bomb, (b) grenade, (c) rocket, (d) missile, (e) mine, or similar device;

Any bludgeon, sandclub, metal knuckles, or throwing star;

Any knife other than as used for strictly instructional or personal care or eating purposes. A pocketknife with a blade of 2-1/2 inches or more is a prohibited weapon. A switchblade knife is prohibited regardless of size of the blade. A switch-blade knife is defined as a knife with a blade that opens automatically by hand pressure applied to a button, spring, or other device in the handle of a knife, or any knife having a blade that opens or falls or is ejected into position by the force of gravity or by an outward, downward, or centrifugal thrust or movement;

Any electronic device designed to discharge immobilizing levels of electricity, commonly known as a stun gun; and

A teacher may possess mace or other similar chemical agents in quantity and/or concentration typically designed for individual personal defensive purposes shall not be considered as possession of a weapon. Possession of larger quantities and/or concentrations of mace or other similar chemical agents than is typically designed for individual personal defensive purposes will be considered as possession of a weapon. Usage of mace or other similar chemical agents will be considered as usage of a weapon if the usage is found to be for non-defensive purposes. A teacher who is negligent in their possession of mace or other similar chemical agents will be subject to disciplinary action.

A teacher may possess an item which may be considered a weapon where such item is used for instructional purposes and the teacher has received approval of the administration to possess the item, provided it is used in the manner approved and is maintained in such manner as the administration has directed.

Any other object that is designed for or intended for use as a destructive or injurious device.

The phrase "possession of a weapon" includes, without limitation, a weapon in a teacher's personal possession, as well as in a teacher's motor vehicle, desk, locker, briefcase, backpack, or purse.

#### **Section 4: Use of District Computer Network and Internet**

Teachers have access to the District's computer network and the Internet for the enhancement and support of student instruction. It is important to remember that the equipment and the software are the property of the school district.

#### **In using the computers and the Internet, teachers are agreeing to the following:**

1. Since copyright laws protect software, teachers will not make unauthorized copies of software found on school computers by any means. Teachers will not give, lend, or sell copies of software to others unless the original software is clearly identified as shareware or in the public domain.
2. If a teacher downloads public domain programs for personal use or non-commercially redistributes a public domain program, the teacher assumes all risks regarding the determination of whether a program is in the public domain.
3. Teachers shall not access material that is obscene, child pornography or otherwise inappropriate matter for educational or work-related uses or contrary to the District's mission. Teachers are not permitted to knowingly access information that is profane, obscene or offensive toward a group or individual based upon race, gender, national origin or religion. Further, teachers are prohibited from placing such information on the Internet.
4. Teachers will protect the privacy of other computer users' areas by not accessing their passwords without written permission. Teachers will not copy, change, read, or use another person's files. Teachers will not engage in "hacking" or otherwise attempt to gain unauthorized access to system programs or computer equipment.
5. Teachers will not use computer systems to disturb or harass other computer users by sending unwanted mail or by other means.
6. Teachers will not disclose their passwords and account names to anyone or attempt to ascertain or use anyone else's password and account name.
7. Teachers will not attempt to login to the system as a system administrator.
8. Teachers understand that the intended use of all computer equipment is to meet instructional objectives.
9. Teachers will not waste or take supplies, such as paper, printer ribbons, toner, and diskettes that are provided by the District.

10. Teachers will not use the network for financial gain or for any commercial or illegal activity.

11. Attempts to bypass security systems on computer workstations or servers, or vandalism will result in cancellation of privileges and may result in further consequences. Malicious attempts to harm or destroy data of another teacher, or data that resides anywhere on the network or on the Internet, or the uploading or creation of computer viruses are forbidden.

12. The District will not be responsible for any liabilities, costs, expenses, or purchases incurred by the use of the District's telecommunications systems such as the Internet. This includes, but is not limited to, the purchase of on line services or products. The teacher is solely responsible for any such charges. The teacher's acceptance of an email account is an acceptance of the teacher's agreement to indemnify the District for any expenses, including legal fees, arising out of the teacher's use of the system in violation of the agreement.

13. The Internet will be supplied for your use on an "as is, as available" basis. The District does not imply or expressly warrant that any information you access will be valuable or fit for a particular purpose or that the system will operate error free.

14. The District is not responsible for the integrity of information accessed, or software downloaded from the Internet.

15. The District reserves the right to refuse posting of files, and to remove files.

16. The District further reserves the right to inspect a teacher's computer and computer usage at any time. Teachers have no privacy rights or expectations of privacy with regard to use of the District's computers or Internet system.

17. The computer system is not a public forum. It is provided for the limited purpose of advancing the District's mission.

18. A technology protection measure is in place that blocks and/or filters Internet access to prevent access to Internet sites that are not in accordance with policies and regulations. In addition to blocks and/or filters, the District may also use other technology protection measures or procedures as deemed appropriate. The technology protection measure that blocks and/or filters Internet access may be disabled only by an authorized staff member for bona fide research or educational purposes: (a) who has successfully completed district training by the on proper disabling circumstances and procedures, (b) with permission of the immediate supervisor of the staff member requesting said disabling, or (c) with the permission of a building administrator. An authorized staff member may override the technology protection measure that blocks and/or filters Internet access for a minor to access a site for bona fide research or other lawful purposes provided the minor is monitored directly by an authorized staff member.

Any violation of any part of this agreement or any other activity which school administrators deem inappropriate will be subject to disciplinary action. Discipline could include but would not be limited to, the immediate suspension or termination of the teacher's Internet account and computer privileges, reprimand, suspension, or termination.

## **Section 5: Use of School Facilities**

Teachers will be issued keys to the school. Teachers are expected to not lose their keys and to not allow others to have access to or to use their keys. Teachers are permitted to have access to school facilities during non-school time provided such access is for work-related purposes. When teachers leave the building, they are to close all windows, lock their classroom door, and make sure that the entry door is fully closed and locked. This is especially important when teachers are using the school facilities prior to the beginning of the school year and during any weekend or evening usage.

School property is to be used for approved work-related purposes and not for personal purposes or for personal gain or benefit. Use of school supplies (paper, staples, etc.), school equipment (copiers, fax machines, telephones, etc.), and school postage is to be used for approved school-related purposes only. Excess or surplus supplies or equipment, including items, which have been placed in the trash, should not be removed for non-school use without approval from the administration.

### **Section 6: Care of School Property**

Teachers are responsible for the proper care of all books, equipment, supplies and furniture supplied by the school. If an item is in need of maintenance or repair, report it to the Principal. If you learn that a student has damaged school property or equipment, or if you are responsible for damage to school property, promptly report it to the Principal so the item may be replaced or repaired if possible and appropriate responsibility for the cost of replacement or repair may be determined.

### **Section 7: Use of Telephone**

Personal telephone calls shall not be made during duty time except in the event of an emergency. You will need to promptly log long distance calls and be responsible for any charges, which are for personal use.

### **Section 8: Visitors**

Teachers are not to have visitors on school property except on a short-term basis and only with permission of the principal. Included in the definition of visitors are family members of the teacher. Visitors should follow posted procedures for being on school property. Teachers are not to bring their children to school with them in lieu of taking them to childcare.

### **Section 9: Salespersons**

Teachers need not allow, and should not permit, any salesperson or representative or agent of any commercial enterprise or theatrical presentation to contact the teacher while engaged in the teacher's duties except for such times as may be designated by the Superintendent or designee. By law, the hours of no solicitation are between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on all days' school is in session. If you are required to be at work earlier than 8:30 a.m., the hours are extended to that earlier time as well.

Teachers shall not use classrooms, buildings or other school property for personal use or profit without specific approval from the Superintendent or designee. Teachers shall not use time for which the teacher is on duty or paid by the District to engage in any activity for personal financial profit. Any violation of this policy will be held to be willful insubordination.

### **Section 10: Security of Desks and Lockers**

Offices, teacher desks, lockers, file cabinets and other such storage devices ("storage devices") are owned by the school and are to be properly cared for and maintained. Appropriate security measures should be used to protect school and personal property kept in storage devices from theft or vandalism and to protect confidential student records.

The school exercises exclusive control over school property and reserves the right search



offices and storage devices provided to or used by employees where permitted by law, such as where reasonable grounds exist for suspecting that a search will turn up evidence that the employee has committed work-related misconduct, or that a search is necessary for a non-investigatory work-related purpose, such as to retrieve a file. School-related documents or records must remain readily available to administration and other appropriate school staff. Any personal items a teacher wants to have kept private should be kept in a separate personal storage device, such as a brief case, purse or backpack. The District is not responsible for any personal property teachers may bring to school. Teachers are cautioned not to bring large amounts of money or items of significant value to school.

### **Section 11: Video Surveillance**

The Board of Education has authorized the use of video cameras on School District property to ensure the health, welfare and safety of all staff, students and visitors to District property, and to safeguard District facilities and equipment. Video cameras may be used in locations as deemed appropriate by the Superintendent.

Notice is hereby given that video surveillance may occur on District property. In the event a video surveillance recording captures a student or other building user violating school policies or rules or local, state or federal laws, the video surveillance recording may be used in appropriate disciplinary proceedings against the student or other building user and may also be provided to law enforcement agencies.

### **Section 12: Bulletins and Announcements**

Bulletin boards and display cases are available for school-related and approved materials to be posted and displayed. Posters to be used in the halls or materials for distribution will need to be approved by the Principal's office. Posters are not to be attached to any painted wall surfaces. The person or organization responsible for distributing the posters is responsible to see that all posters are removed within 48 hours after the event.

### **Section 13: Copyright and Fair Use Policy**

It is the school's policy to follow the federal copyright law. Students are reminded that, when using school equipment and when completing course work, they also must follow the federal copyright laws. The federal copyright law governs the reproduction of works of authorship. Copyrighted works are protected regardless of the medium in which they are created or reproduced; thus, copyright extends to digital works and works transformed into a digital format. Copyrighted works are not limited to those that bear a copyright notice.

The "fair use" doctrine allows limited reproduction of copyrighted works for educational and research purposes. The relevant portion of the copyright statute provides that the "fair use" of a copyrighted work, including reproduction "for purposes such as criticism, news reporting, teaching (including multiple copies for classroom use), scholarship, or research" is not an infringement of copyright. The law lists the following factors as the ones to be evaluated in determining whether a particular use of a copyrighted work is a permitted "fair use," rather than an infringement of the copyright:

- the purpose and character of the use, including whether such use is of a commercial nature or is for nonprofit educational purposes;
- the nature of the copyrighted work;
- the amount and substantiality of the portion used in relation to the copyrighted work as a whole, and
- the effect of the use upon the potential market for or value of the copyrighted work.

Although all of these factors will be considered, the last factor is the most important in determining whether a particular use is “fair.” Students should seek assistance from a faculty member if there are any questions regarding what may be copied.

#### **Section 14: Lost and Found**

Teachers who find lost articles are asked to take them to the office, where the articles can be claimed by the owner.

#### **Section 15: Safety**

Safety Program and Safety Committee

The District has established a Safety and Security Management Plan which includes safety and security plans and procedures, including plans and procedures to address emergency and crisis situations. Teachers are expected to be familiar with and to comply with the Safety and Security Management Plan. The Plan may be obtained for review or copy from the Principal or the Superintendent.

The District also has a safety committee to address employee accidents, injuries and work place conditions. Teachers can make suggestions and/or report concerns to the safety committee in the following ways: (1) contact the teachers association representative of the safety committee, (2) contact the President of the teachers association, or (3) contact the Safety Committee in care of the Superintendent.

#### **Safety Practices**

**Guidelines for safe work practices which teachers should follow include the following:**

- 1.Never stand on chairs, counters, tables, etc. Only use step stools, ladders and locking stools to stand, climb, etc., to reach high places, put things on bulletin boards, etc.
- 2.Always wear protective equipment (i.e., goggles, aprons, gloves, and ear protection).
- 3.Wipe up spills or report promptly to appropriate personnel. DO NOT assume someone else will do it.
- 4.Be aware of your surroundings. Pick up clutter, keep your work area or room clean and free of clutter, debris, etc.
- 5.Identify and report all hazards (i.e., broken equipment, broken or uneven floor surfaces, non-operating tools, windows, doors, etc.). Follow up if not repaired.
- 6.Do not use equipment if you are not familiar with it or operate machinery without proper training.
- 7.Do not carry heavy or bulky objects. Get a cart, dolly or assistance. Know how to properly lift.
- 8.Report any injuries or medical problems to your supervisor immediately and complete the employee accident report.
- 9.Wear seatbelts when in vehicles where provided.
- 10.Do not do repetitive tasks for long periods of time (i.e., keyboarding, dipping cookies, cutting out things, filing, typing, etc.). Take breaks, learn and do stretching exercises, etc. Every accident in the school building, on the school grounds, at practice sessions, or at any athletic event sponsored by the school must be reported immediately to the Principal.

As required by law, approved safety glasses will be required of every student and teacher while participating in or observing vocational, technical, industrial technology, science, and art classes. All visitors to these areas must check out a pair of safety glasses when entering any of these areas.

#### **Section 16: Use of Personal Vehicles**

Teachers who drive school vehicles or volunteer to use their personal automobile to transport students must have a valid driver's license and proof of insurance. Teachers will be provided a Driver's Certification form to verify this information and to be given instruction on emergency evacuation and first aid. Teachers who drive school vehicles or transport students in their personal vehicles are responsible for following safe driving practices, including use of seat belts by all occupants, and are responsible for any injury or accident. Teachers are not to use cell phones while driving a school vehicle or while transporting children.

### **Section 17: Accidents**

Every accident which results in a personal injury must be reported to the Principal immediately. In the event the injury involves a student, the teacher responsible for the student either as teacher, coach or sponsor is responsible for making the report. If the injury occurs in the presence of the teacher, the teacher is also responsible for making a report.

### **Section 18: Workers Compensation**

Teachers are required to immediately report any work-related injury and/or work-related medical condition to their supervisor and complete all appropriate paperwork.

## **Article 9 – STATE AND FEDERAL PROGRAMS**

### **Section 1: Notice of Nondiscrimination**

The Doniphan-Trumbull Public School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, marital status, disability, religion or age in admission or access to, or treatment of employment, in its programs and activities. The Coordinators listed in Section 2 have been designated to handle inquiries regarding complaints, grievance procedures or the application of these policies of nondiscrimination.

Local complaint or grievance procedures are provided for by the District and set forth in this handbook. If an employee does not feel that a complaint of nondiscrimination has been satisfactorily resolved at the school level, the employee may file a complaint with the appropriate federal or state agency. Complaints are to be filed with the regional Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights where the complaint relates to Title IX (discrimination, harassment or lack of equity based on gender), Title VI (discrimination or harassment based on race, color, or national origin) or Section 504 (discrimination, harassment or failure to accommodate a disability). Complaints are to be filed with the the regional U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) if the complaint relates to Title VII (discrimination or harassment based on race, color, gender, national origin, or religion), the Americans with Disabilities Act (discrimination, harassment or failure to accommodate a disability), or the Age Discrimination in Employment Act (discrimination based on age). The contact information for the OCR and the EEOC in this regard are:

Office for Civil Rights  
8930 Ward Parkway  
Suite 2037  
Kansas City, MO 64114  
816-268-0550

FAX: 816-823-1404; TDD: 800-437-0833

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)  
1801 L Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20507  
(800) 669-4000; TDD: (800) 669-6820

A publication provided by the federal government concerning rights of non-discrimination is attached as Appendix “D” to this handbook.

**Section 2: Designation of Coordinators**

Any person having inquiries concerning the District’s compliance with anti-discrimination laws or policies or other programs should contact or notify the following person(s) who are designated as the coordinator for such laws, policies or programs. The contact address for each coordinator is: Doniphan-Trumbull Public School, 302 West Plum., P.O. Box 300 , Doniphan, NE 68832, (402) 845-2282

Law, Policy or Program	Issue or Concern	Coordinator
Title VI	Discrimination or harassment based on race, color, or national origin; harassment	Superintendent
Title IX	Discrimination or harassment based on sex; gender equity	Superintendent
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disability Act (ADA)	Discrimination, harassment or reasonable accommodations of persons with disabilities	Superintendent
Homeless student laws	Children who are homeless	Superintendent
Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities	Safe and drug free schools	Superintendent

**Section 3: Anti-discrimination & Harassment Policy**

**Elimination of Discrimination**

The Doniphan-Trumbull Public School hereby gives this statement of compliance and intent to comply with all state and federal laws prohibiting discrimination or harassment and requiring accommodations. This school district intends to take necessary measures to assure compliance with such laws against any prohibited form of discrimination or harassment or which require accommodations.

**Preventing Harassment and Discrimination**

Purpose: Doniphan-Trumbull Public School is committed to offering employment and educational opportunity to its employees and students in a climate free of discrimination. Accordingly, unlawful discrimination or harassment of any kind by administrators, teachers, co-workers, students or other persons is prohibited. In addition, the Doniphan-Trumbull Public School will try to protect employees and students from reported discrimination or harassment by non-employees or others in the work place and educational environment.

For purposes of this policy, discrimination or harassment based on a person's race, color, national origin, gender, marital status, disability, religion or age is prohibited. The following are general definitions of what might constitute prohibited harassment.

In general, ethnic or racial slurs or other verbal or physical conduct relating to a person's race, color, religion, disability or national origin constitute harassment when they unreasonably interfere with the person's work performance or create an intimidating work, instructional or educational environment.

Age harassment (40 years of age and higher) has been defined by federal regulations as a form of age discrimination. It can consist of demeaning jokes, insults or intimidation based on a person's age.

Sexual harassment is defined by federal and state regulations as a form of sex discrimination. It can consist of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or physical or verbal conduct of a sexual nature by supervisors or others in the work place, classroom or educational environment.

Sexual harassment may exist when:

Submission to such conduct is either an explicit or implicit term and condition of employment or of participation and enjoyment of the school's programs and activities; Submission to or rejection of such conduct is used or threatened as a basis for employment related decisions, such as promotion, performance, evaluation, pay adjustment, discipline, work assignment, etc., or school program or activity decisions, such as admission, credits, grades, school assignments or playing time;

The conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or educational performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working, classroom or educational environment. Sexual harassment may include explicit sexual propositions, sexual innuendo, suggestive comments, sexually oriented "kidding" or "teasing", "practical jokes", jokes about gender-specific traits, foul or obscene language or gestures, displays of foul or obscene printed or visual material, and physical contact, such as patting, pinching or brushing against another's body.

### **Complaint and Grievance Procedures**

Employees or students should initially report all instances of discrimination or harassment to their immediate supervisor or classroom teacher. However, if the employee or student is uncomfortable in presenting the problem to the supervisor or teacher, or if the supervisor or teacher is the problem, the employee or student is encouraged to go to the next level of supervision. In the case of a student, the Principal would be the next or alternative person to contact.

If the employee or student's complaint is not resolved to his or her satisfaction within five (5) to ten (10) calendar days, or if the discrimination or harassment continues, or if as a student you feel you need immediate help for any reason, please report your complaint to the Superintendent of Doniphan-Trumbull Public School. If a satisfactory arrangement cannot be obtained through the Superintendent, the complaint may be processed to the Board of Education. The supervisor, teacher or the Superintendent will thoroughly investigate all complaints. These situations will be treated with the utmost confidence, consistent with resolution of the problem. Based on the results of the investigation, appropriate corrective action, up to and including discharge of offending employees, and disciplinary action up to expulsion against a harassing student, may be taken. Under no circumstances will any threats or retaliation be permitted to be made against an employee or student for alleging in good faith a violation of this policy.

### **Section 4: Grievance Procedure for Persons with a Disability**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act address discrimination, harassment or failure to provide reasonable accommodations to persons with a disability. The following grievance procedure shall be used for resolution of complaints of alleged violations of the ADA or Section 504:

1. Complaints shall be filed with the ADA and Section 504 Coordinator. Complaints shall be

made in writing, unless the Complainant's disability prevents such, in which event the Complaint can be made verbally.

2. Complaints shall set forth: (a) the name of the Complainant, (b) the address and telephone number or other such information sufficient to enable the Coordinator to contact the Complainant, (c) a brief description of the alleged violation, and (d) the relief requested by the Complainant.

3. Complaints shall be investigated by the Coordinator or the Coordinator's designee. Investigations shall be thorough, but informal, and the Complainant shall be given a full opportunity to submit evidence relevant to the complaint.

4. The Coordinator shall make a decision on the Complaint within thirty (30) days of the filing of the Complaint, unless such time period is extended by agreement of the Complainant. The decision shall be made in writing, shall set forth the Coordinator's proposed resolution of the Complaint, and shall be forwarded to the Complainant.

5. The Complainant shall have ten (10) days from the date the Coordinator's decision is sent to the Complainant to accept or reject the Coordinator's proposed resolution, and shall be deemed to have accepted the proposed resolution unless the Complainant rejects the proposed resolution within such time period. In the event the complainant rejects the proposed resolution, the complainant shall be given the opportunity to file a request for reconsideration within the ten (10) days from the date the Coordinator's division is sent to the Complainant. The request for reconsideration shall be filed with the Coordinator. The Coordinator shall consider any additional information provided in the request for reconsideration and make a decision on the request for reconsideration within 10 (ten) days after the request for reconsideration was filed.

### **Section 5: Confidentiality of Student Records (FERPA)**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) gives parents and students over 18 years of age rights of access and confidentiality with respect to education records. Employees are expected to provide access rights and maintain the confidentiality of education records in accordance with FERPA and Board policy. Further information about FERPA and the District's policies under FERPA are found in Board policy and in the student handbook.

### **Section 6: Disclosure of Student Information to Military Recruiters and Colleges**

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 requires the District to provide military recruiters and institutions of higher education access to secondary school students' names, addresses, and telephone listings. Parents and secondary students have the right to request that the school not provide this information (i.e., not provide the student's name, address, and telephone listing) to military recruiters or institutions of higher education, without their prior written consent. Employees are expected to follow these requirements.

### **Section 7: Disclosure of Staff Qualifications**

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 gives parents/guardians the right to get information about the professional qualifications of their child's classroom teachers. The District designates the following information as "directory information" and will give parents/guardians such information upon request:

1. Whether the teacher has met State qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction.
2. Whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency or provisional teaching certificate.
3. The baccalaureate degree major of the teacher, along with information about other graduate certification or degrees held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree.
4. Whether the parent/guardian's child has been assigned, or has been taught for four or more

consecutive weeks, by a teacher who does not meet the requirements of the NCLB.

### **Section 8: Student Privacy Protection**

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 requires the District to protect the privacy of students. Further information about student privacy and the District's policies with regard to student privacy are found in Board policy and in the student handbook. In general, employees are expected to comply with these provisions of the NCLB and related Board policy, as follows:

1. Student surveys created by and administered by either the United States Department of Education or a third party (a group or person other than the District)—give parent/guardian the opportunity to inspect the survey upon request before the survey is administered or distributed to the students;

2. Student surveys, which involve "sensitive" matters—make suitable arrangements to protect student privacy (that is, do not include the name or other identifying information about a particular student) and give parents the opportunity, in advance, to "opt-out" their child from the survey.

Sensitive matters include:

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent;
2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or the student's parent;
3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating or demeaning behavior;
5. Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom the student has 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 students or the student's parent;
8. Income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program).

3. Instructional materials—permit parents upon reasonable request to inspect any instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum for their child. The term "instructional materials" does not include academic tests or academic assessments for purposes of this parent inspection requirement. If you receive such a request, direct the parent to contact your building principal and also inform the building principal yourself about the request to get instructions.

4. Collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information—the District policy is to not gather such information for such purposes.

### **Section 9: Parental Involvement**

General - Parental/Community Involvement in Schools

The District's policy is to welcome parental involvement in the education of their children. As a part of this policy, employees are expected to:

1. provide parents timely information about their child's progress, including use of quarterly report cards, active and constructive attendance at parent-teacher conferences, and more frequent parent contacts where warranted by the student's academic and behavioral needs;
2. make textbooks, completed tests and other curriculum materials available for review by parents upon request;
3. permit parent's access to their child's records according to law and school policy;
4. encourage parents to attend courses, assemblies, counseling sessions and other instructional activities with prior approval of the proper teacher, counselor or administrator, provided that such parent attendance be educationally appropriate and not disruptive to the educational program;

5. assure that testing occurs to assure proper measurement of each child's educational progress and achievement;
6. permit parents to excuse their child from testing, classroom instruction and other school experiences when possible and educationally appropriate;
7. notify parents of student surveys in accordance with district policy, obtain parental permission for surveys where required by District policy or law, and allow parents to opt-out of such surveys in accordance with District policy and law; and
8. encourage parents to express their concerns, share their ideas and advocate for their child's education.

### **Title I Parental Involvement**

The District has a separate policy established pursuant to the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 relating to parental involvement applicable to parents of children enrolled in Title I programs. The policy requires that parents of Title I children be given the opportunity to participate in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring—(A) that parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning; (B) that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school; (C) that parents are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child; and (D) the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in the parental involvement policy. Employees are expected to comply with the Title I parental involvement policy.

### **Section 10: Homeless Students**

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 requires that homeless students not be stigmatized or segregated on the basis of their status as homeless. Homeless children generally include children who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. The Superintendent serves as the District's designated Homeless Coordinator and should be contacted for questions relating to a homeless student.

### **Section 11: Breakfast and Lunch Programs**

The District participates in the National School Lunch Program. Employees are expected to keep information about the participation of students in the program confidential.

### **Section 12: Confidentiality of Protected Health Information**

It is the policy of the District to develop and implement all necessary practices, policies, and procedures to comply with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) where and to the extent applicable and to maintain the privacy of protected health information (PHI), as that term is defined by HIPAA, that it receives, obtains, or transmits for employees and students. The District designates the Superintendent as its HIPAA privacy officer. Student and employee records containing PHI shall be accessible only to those who require such information to carry out their duties.



## APPENDIX A:

### Notice of COBRA Continuation Coverage Rights \*\* Continuation Coverage Rights Under COBRA\*\*

#### Introduction

You are receiving this notice because you have recently become covered under DONIPHAN-TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOL health plan (the “Plan”). This notice contains important information about your right to COBRA continuation coverage, which is a temporary extension of coverage under the Plan. The right to COBRA continuation coverage was created by a federal law, the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (COBRA). COBRA continuation coverage can become available to you and to other members of your family who are covered under the Plan when you would otherwise lose your group health coverage. This notice generally explains COBRA continuation coverage, when it may become available to you and your family, and what you need to do to protect the right to receive it. This notice gives only a summary of your COBRA continuation coverage rights. For more information about your rights and obligations under the Plan and under federal law, you should either review the Plan’s Summary Plan Description or get a copy of the Plan Document from the Plan Administrator.

The Plan Administrator is The Plan Administrator is responsible for administering COBRA continuation coverage.

#### COBRA Continuation Coverage

COBRA continuation coverage is a continuation of Plan coverage when coverage would otherwise end because of a life event known as a “qualifying event.” Specific qualifying events are listed later in this notice. COBRA continuation coverage must be offered to each person who is a “qualified beneficiary.” A qualified beneficiary is someone who will lose coverage under the Plan because of a qualifying event. Depending on the type of qualifying event, employees, spouses of employees, and dependent children of employees may be qualified beneficiaries. Under the Plan, qualified beneficiaries who elect COBRA continuation must pay for COBRA continuation coverage. If you are an employee, you will become a qualified beneficiary if you will lose your coverage under the Plan because either one of the following qualifying events happens:

- Your hours of employment are reduced, or

- Your employment ends for any reason other than your gross misconduct.

If you are the spouse of an employee, you will become a qualified beneficiary if you will lose your coverage under the Plan because any of the following qualifying events happens:

- Your spouse dies;

- Your spouse’s hours of employment are reduced;

- Your spouse’s employment ends for any reason other than his or her gross misconduct;

- Your spouse becomes enrolled in Medicare (Part A, Part B, or both); or

- You become divorced or legally separated from your spouse.

Your dependent children will become qualified beneficiaries if they will lose coverage under the Plan because any of the following qualifying events happens:

- The parent-employee dies;

- The parent-employee’s hours of employment are reduced;

- The parent-employee’s employment ends for any reason other than his or her gross misconduct;

- The parent-employee becomes enrolled in Medicare (Part A, Part B, or both);

The parents become divorced or legally separated; or  
The child stops being eligible for coverage under the plan as a “dependent child.”

Sometimes, filing a proceeding in bankruptcy under title 11 of the United States Code can be a qualifying event. If a proceeding in bankruptcy is filed with respect to the employer and that bankruptcy results in the loss of coverage of any retired employee covered under the Plan, the retired employee is a qualified beneficiary with respect to the bankruptcy. The retired employee’s spouse, surviving spouse, and dependent children will also be qualified beneficiaries if bankruptcy results in the loss of their coverage under the Plan.

The Plan will offer COBRA continuation coverage to qualified beneficiaries only after the Plan Administrator has been notified that a qualifying event has occurred. When the qualifying event is the end of employment or reduction of hours of employment, death of the employee, commencement of a proceeding in bankruptcy with respect to the employer to the extent retiree health coverage is provided, or enrollment of the employee in Medicare (Part A, Part B, or both), the employer must notify the Plan Administrator of the qualifying event within 30 days of any of these events.

For the other qualifying events (divorce or legal separation of the employee and spouse or a dependent child’s losing eligibility for coverage as a dependent child), you must notify the Plan Administrator. The Plan requires you to notify the Plan Administrator within 60 days after the qualifying event occurs. You must send this notice to the Plan Administrator. Any additional Plan procedures for this notice must also be provided.

Once the Plan Administrator receives notice that a qualifying event has occurred, COBRA continuation coverage will be offered to each of the qualified beneficiaries. For each qualified beneficiary who elects COBRA continuation coverage, COBRA continuation coverage will begin on the date of the qualifying event.

COBRA continuation coverage is a temporary continuation of coverage. When the qualifying event is the death of the employee, enrollment of the employee in Medicare (Part A, Part B, or both), your divorce or legal separation, or a dependent child losing eligibility as a dependent child, COBRA continuation coverage lasts for up to 36 months.

When the qualifying event is the end of employment or reduction of the employee’s hours of employment, COBRA continuation coverage lasts for up to 18 months. There are two ways in which this 18-month period of COBRA continuation coverage can be extended.

**Disability extension of 18-month period of continuation coverage**

If you or anyone in your family covered under the Plan is determined by the Social Security Administration to be disabled at any time during the first 60 days of COBRA continuation coverage and you notify the Plan Administrator in a timely fashion, you and your entire family can receive up to an additional 11 months of COBRA continuation coverage, for a total maximum of 29 months. You must make sure that the Plan Administrator is notified of the Social Security Administration’s determination within 60 days of the date of the determination and before the end of the 18-month period of COBRA continuation coverage. This notice should be sent to the Plan Administrator. Any additional Plan procedures for this notice must also be provided.

**Second qualifying event extension of 18-month period of continuation coverage**

If your family experiences another qualifying event while receiving COBRA continuation coverage, the spouse and dependent children in your family can get additional months of COBRA continuation coverage, up to a maximum of 36 months. This extension is available to the spouse and dependent children if the former employee dies, enrolls in Medicare (Part A, Part B, or both), or gets divorced or legally separated. The extension is also available to a dependent child when that child stops being eligible under the Plan as a dependent child. In all of these cases, you must make sure that the Plan Administrator is notified of the second qualifying event within 60 days of the second qualifying event.

This notice must be sent to the Plan Administrator. Any additional Plan procedures for this notice must also be provided.

#### If You Have Questions

If you have questions about your COBRA continuation coverage, you should contact the Superintendent or Plan Administrator or you may contact the nearest Regional or District Office of the U.S. Department of Labor's Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA). Addresses and phone numbers of Regional and District EBSA Offices are available through EBSA's web site at [www.dol.gov/ebsa](http://www.dol.gov/ebsa).

#### Keep Your Plan Informed of Address Changes

In order to protect your family's rights, you should keep the Plan Administrator informed of any changes in the addresses of family members. You should also keep a copy, for your records, of any notices you send to the Plan Administrator.

## BP 403.07 Personnel - All Employees

### Professional Boundaries Between Employees and Students

All employees are expected to observe and maintain professional boundaries between themselves and students. A violation of professional boundaries will be regarded as a form of misconduct and may result in disciplinary action.

The following non-exclusive list of actions will be regarded as a violation of the professional boundaries that employees are expected to maintain with a student:

- Using e-mail, text messaging, instant messaging or social networking sites to discuss with a student a matter that does not pertain to school-related activities, such as the student's homework, class activity, school sport or club, or other school-sponsored activity. Electronic communications with students are to be sent simultaneously to multiple recipients, not to just one student, except where the communication is clearly school-related and inappropriate for persons other than the individual student to receive (for example, e-mailing a message about a student's grades).
- Engaging in social-networking friendships with a student on MySpace, Face-book, or other social networking site. Material that employees post on social networks that is publicly available to those in the school community must reflect the professional image applicable to the employee's position and not impair the employee's capacity to maintain the respect of students and parents or impair the employee's ability to serve as a role model for children.
- Engaging in sexual activity, a romantic relationship, or dating a student of the District or a former student within one year of the student graduating or otherwise leaving the District or a person who is age 18 or below.
- Making any sexual advance – verbal, written, or physical – towards a student.
- Showing sexually inappropriate materials or objects to a student.
- Discussing with a student sexual topics that are not related to a specific curriculum.
- Telling sexual jokes to a student.
- Invading a student's physical privacy.
- Hugging or other physical contact with a student that is initiated by the employee when the student does not seek or want this attention.
- Being overly "touchy" with a specific student.
- Allowing a specific student to get away with misconduct that is not tolerated from other students, except as appropriate for students with an IEP or 504 Plan.

- Discussing with the student the employee's problems that would normally be discussed with adults (e.g., marital problems).
- Giving a student a ride in the employee's personal vehicle without express permission of the student's parent or school administrator unless another adult is in the vehicle.
- Taking a student on an outing without obtaining prior express permission of the student's parent or school administrator.
- Inviting a student to the employee's home without prior express permission of the student's parent and school administrator.
- Going to the student's home when the student's parent or a proper chaperone is not present.
- Giving gifts of a personal nature to a specific student.

Appropriate exceptions are permitted to the foregoing for legitimate health or educational purposes and for reasons of familial relationships between employees and their children who are students in the District.

Date of Adoption: \_\_July 11\_\_, 2011\_\_

## **Students**

### **School Wellness Policy**

A mission of Doniphan-Trumbull Public Schools (“District”) is to provide curriculum, instruction, and experiences in a health-promoting school environment to instill habits of lifelong learning and health. Therefore, the Board adopts the following School Wellness Policy.

#### **1. School Wellness Committee**

##### **Committee Role and Membership**

The District worked within an existing school wellness committee, going forward plans call for meeting at least four times per year to establish goals for and oversee school health and safety policies and programs, including development, implementation and periodic review and update of this District wellness policy.

The DWC membership will represent all school levels and include (to the extent possible), but not be limited to: parents and caregivers; students; representatives of the school nutrition program; physical education teachers; health education teachers; school health professionals or staff; mental health and social services staff; school administrators; school board members; and the general public. When possible, membership will also include Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education coordinators. To the extent possible, the DWC will include representatives from each school building and reflect the diversity of the community.

##### ***Leadership***

The Superintendent or designee(s) will convene the DWC and facilitate development of and updates to the wellness policy, and will ensure each school’s compliance with the policy.

Each school will designate a school wellness policy coordinator, who will ensure compliance with the policy.

#### **2. Wellness Policy Implementation, Monitoring, Accountability and Community Engagement**

##### ***Implementation Plan***

The District will develop and maintain a plan for implementation to manage and coordinate the execution of this wellness policy. The plan delineates roles, responsibilities, actions and timelines specific to each school; and includes information about who will be responsible to make what change, by how much, where and when; as well as specific goals and objectives for nutrition standards for all foods and beverages available on the school campus, food and beverage marketing, nutrition promotion and education, physical activity, physical education and other school-based activities that promote student wellness. It is recommended that the school use the Healthy Schools Program online tools to complete a school-level assessment based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s School Health Index, create an action plan that fosters implementation and generate an annual progress report.

This wellness policy and the progress reports can be found at the District’s website.

[www.dtcardinals.org](http://www.dtcardinals.org)

##### ***Recordkeeping***

The District will retain records to document compliance with the requirements of the wellness policy at the Superintendent’s office and/or on the District’s computer network. Documentation maintained in this location will include but will not be limited to:

- The written wellness policy;
- Documentation demonstrating that the policy has been made available to the public;
- Documentation of efforts to review and update the Local Schools Wellness Policy; including an indication of who is involved in the update and methods the district uses to make stakeholders aware of their ability to participate on the DWC;

- Documentation to demonstrate compliance with the annual public notification requirements;
- The most recent assessment on the implementation of the local school wellness policy;
- Documentation demonstrating the most recent assessment on the implementation of the Local School Wellness Policy has been made available to the public.

### ***Annual Notification of Policy***

The District will actively inform families and the public each year of basic information about this policy, including its content, any updates to the policy and implementation status. The District will make this information available via the District website and/or district-wide communications. The District will provide as much information as possible about the school nutrition environment. This will include a summary of the District's events or activities related to wellness policy implementation. Annually, the District will also publicize the name and contact information of the District officials leading and coordinating the committee, as well as information on how the public can get involved with the school wellness committee.

### ***Triennial Progress Assessments***

At least once every three years, the District will evaluate compliance with the wellness policy to assess the implementation of the policy and include:

- The extent to which the District's schools are in compliance with the wellness policy;
- The extent to which the District's wellness policy compares to the Alliance for a Healthier Generation's model wellness policy; and
- A description of the progress made in attaining the goals of the District's wellness policy.

The position/person responsible for managing the triennial assessment and contact information is the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee.

The DWC, in collaboration with individual schools, will monitor schools' compliance with this wellness policy.

The District will actively notify households/families of the availability of the triennial progress report.

### ***Revisions and Updating the Policy***

The DWC will update or modify the wellness policy based on the results of the annual School Health Index and triennial assessments and/or as District priorities change; community needs change; wellness goals are met; new health science, information, and technology emerges; and new Federal or state guidance or standards are issued. The wellness policy will be assessed and updated as indicated at least every three years, following the triennial assessment.

### ***Community Involvement, Outreach and Communications***

The District is committed to being responsive to community input, which begins with awareness of the wellness policy. The District will actively communicate ways in which representatives of DWC and others can participate in the development, implementation and periodic review and update of the wellness policy through a variety of means appropriate for that district. The District will also inform parents of the improvements that have been made to school meals and compliance with school meal standards, availability of child nutrition programs and how to apply, and a description of and compliance with Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards. The District will use electronic mechanisms, such as email or displaying notices on the district's website, as well as non-electronic mechanisms, such as newsletters, presentations to parents, or sending information home to parents, to ensure that all families are actively notified of the content of, implementation of, and updates to the wellness policy, as well as how to get involved and support the policy. The District will ensure that communications are culturally and linguistically appropriate to the community, and accomplished through means similar to other ways that the district and individual schools are communicating important school information with parents.

The District will actively notify the public about the content of or any updates to the wellness policy annually, at a minimum. The District will also use these mechanisms to inform the community about the availability of the annual and triennial reports.

### **3. Nutrition**

#### ***School Meals***

The District is committed to serving healthy meals to children, with plenty of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and fat-free and low-fat milk; that are moderate in sodium, low in saturated fat, and have zero grams *trans* fat per serving (nutrition label or manufacturer's specification); and to meeting the nutrition needs of school children within their calorie requirements. The school meal programs aim to improve the diet and health of school children, help mitigate childhood obesity, model healthy eating to support the development of lifelong healthy eating patterns and support healthy choices while accommodating cultural food preferences and special dietary needs.

All schools within the District participate in USDA child nutrition programs, including the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), the School Breakfast Program (SBP), and any additional Federal child nutrition programs in which the District participates. The District may also operate additional nutrition-related programs and activities. All schools within the District are committed to offering school meals through the NSLP and SBP programs, and other applicable Federal child nutrition programs, that:

- Are accessible to all students;
- Are appealing and attractive to children;
- Are served in clean and pleasant settings;
- Meet or exceed current nutrition requirements established by local, state, and Federal statutes and regulations. (The District offers reimbursable school meals that meet USDA nutrition standards.)
- Promote healthy food and beverage choices using at least ten of the following Smarter Lunchroom techniques:
  - Whole fruit options are displayed in attractive bowls or baskets (instead of chaffing dishes or hotel pans).
  - Sliced or cut fruit is available daily.
  - Daily fruit options are displayed in a location in the line of sight and reach of students.
  - All available vegetable options have been given creative or descriptive names.
  - Daily vegetable options are bundled into all grab-and-go meals available to students.
  - All staff members, especially those serving, have been trained to politely prompt students to select and consume the daily vegetable options with their meal.
  - White milk is placed in front of other beverages in all coolers.
  - Alternative entrée options (e.g., salad bar, yogurt parfaits, etc.) are highlighted on posters or signs within all service and dining areas.
  - A reimbursable meal can be created in any service area available to students (e.g., salad bars, snack rooms, etc.).
  - Student surveys and taste testing opportunities are used to inform menu development, dining space decor and promotional ideas.
  - Student artwork is displayed in the service and/or dining areas.
  - Daily announcements are used to promote and market menu options.

#### ***Staff Qualifications and Professional Development***

All school nutrition program directors, managers and staff will meet or exceed hiring and annual continuing education/training requirements in the USDA professional standards for child nutrition professionals. These school nutrition personnel will refer to USDA's Professional Standards for School



Nutrition Standards website to search for training that meets their learning needs.

### ***Water***

To promote hydration, free, safe, unflavored drinking water will be available to all students throughout the school day and throughout every school campus (“school campus” and “school day” are defined in the glossary). The District will make drinking water available where school meals are served during mealtimes.

### ***Competitive Foods and Beverages***

The District is committed to ensuring that all foods and beverages available to students on the school campus during the school day support healthy eating. The foods and beverages sold and served outside of the school meal programs (e.g., “competitive” foods and beverages) will meet the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards, at a minimum. Smart Snacks aim to improve student health and well-being, increase consumption of healthful foods during the school day and create an environment that reinforces the development of healthy eating habits. A summary of the standards and information, as well as a Guide to Smart Snacks in Schools are available at: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/healthierschoolday/tools-schools-smart-snacks>. The Alliance for a Healthier Generation provides a set of tools to assist with implementation of Smart Snacks available at [www.foodplanner.healthiergeneration.org](http://www.foodplanner.healthiergeneration.org).

To support healthy food choices and improve student health and well-being, all foods and beverages outside the reimbursable school meal programs that are sold to students on the school campus during the school day will meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks nutrition standards or, if the state policy is stronger, will meet or exceed state nutrition standards. These standards will apply in all locations and through all services where foods and beverages are sold, which may include, but are not limited to, à la carte options in cafeterias, vending machines, school stores and snack or food carts.

### ***Celebrations and Rewards***

All foods offered on the school campus will meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards or, if the state policy is stronger, will meet or exceed state nutrition standards, including through:

1. Celebrations and parties. The district will provide a list of healthy party ideas to parents and teachers, including non-food celebration ideas.
2. Classroom snacks brought by parents. The District will provide or make available to parents a [list of foods and beverages that meet Smart Snacks](#) nutrition standards.
3. Rewards and incentives. The District will provide teachers and other relevant school staff a [list of alternative ways to reward children or other comparable resources](#). Foods and beverages will not be used as a reward, or withheld as punishment for any reason, such as for performance or behavior.

### ***Fundraising***

Foods and beverages that meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in Schools nutrition standards may be sold through fundraisers on the school campus during the school day. The District will make available to parents and teachers a list of healthy fundraising ideas or comparable resources.

### ***Nutrition Promotion***

Nutrition promotion and education positively influence lifelong eating behaviors by using evidence-based techniques and nutrition messages, and by creating food environments that encourage healthy nutrition choices and encourage participation in school meal programs. Students and staff will receive consistent nutrition messages throughout schools, classrooms, gymnasiums, and cafeterias. Nutrition promotion also includes marketing and advertising nutritious foods and beverages to students and is most effective when implemented consistently through a comprehensive and multi-channel approach by school staff, teachers, parents, students and the community.

The District will promote healthy food and beverage choices for all students throughout the school

campus, as well as encourage participation in school meal programs. This promotion will occur through at least:

- Implementing at least ten or more evidence-based healthy food promotion techniques through the school meal programs using Smarter Lunchroom techniques; and
- Ensuring 100% of foods and beverages promoted to students meet the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.

### ***Nutrition Education***

The District will teach, model, encourage and support healthy eating by all students. Schools will provide nutrition education and engage in nutrition promotion that:

- Is designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to promote and protect their health;
- Is part of not only health education classes, but also integrated into other classroom instruction through subjects such as math, science, language arts, social sciences and elective subjects;
- Includes enjoyable, developmentally-appropriate, culturally-relevant and participatory activities, such as cooking demonstrations or lessons, promotions, taste-testing, farm visits and school gardens;
- Promotes fruits, vegetables, whole-grain products, low-fat and fat-free dairy products and healthy food preparation methods;
- Emphasizes caloric balance between food intake and energy expenditure (promotes physical activity/exercise);
- Links with school meal programs, cafeteria nutrition promotion activities, school gardens, Farm to School programs, other school foods and nutrition-related community services;
- Teaches media literacy with an emphasis on food and beverage marketing; and
- Includes nutrition education training for teachers and other staff.

### ***Essential Healthy Eating Topics in Health Education***

The District will include in the health education curriculum a minimum of 12 of the following essential topics on healthy eating:

- Relationship between healthy eating and personal health and disease prevention
- Food guidance from MyPlate
- Reading and using FDA's nutrition fact labels
- Eating a variety of foods every day
- Balancing food intake and physical activity
- Eating more fruits, vegetables and whole grain products
- Choosing foods that are low in fat, saturated fat, and cholesterol and do not contain *trans* fat
- Choosing foods and beverages with little added sugars
- Eating more calcium-rich foods
- Preparing healthy meals and snacks
- Risks of unhealthy weight control practices
- Accepting body size differences
- Food safety
- Importance of water consumption
- Importance of eating breakfast
- Making healthy choices when eating at restaurants
- Eating disorders
- The Dietary Guidelines for Americans
- Reducing sodium intake

- Social influences on healthy eating, including media, family, peers and culture
- How to find valid information or services related to nutrition and dietary behavior
- How to develop a plan and track progress toward achieving a personal goal to eat healthfully
- Resisting peer pressure related to unhealthy dietary behavior
- Influencing, supporting, or advocating for others' healthy dietary behavior

### ***Food and Beverage Marketing in Schools***

The District is committed to providing a school environment that ensures opportunities for all students to practice healthy eating and physical activity behaviors throughout the school day while minimizing commercial distractions. The District strives to teach students how to make informed choices about nutrition, health and physical activity. These efforts will be weakened if students are subjected to advertising on District property that contains messages inconsistent with the health information the District is imparting through nutrition education and health promotion efforts. It is the intent of the District to protect and promote student's health by permitting advertising and marketing for only those foods and beverages that are permitted to be sold on the school campus, consistent with the District's wellness policy.

Any foods and beverages marketed or promoted to students on the school campus during the school day will meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards or, if stronger, state nutrition standards, such that only those foods that comply with or exceed those nutrition standards are permitted to be marketed or promoted to students.

Food and beverage marketing is defined as advertising and other promotions in schools. Food and beverage marketing often includes an oral, written, or graphic statements made for the purpose of promoting the sale of a food or beverage product made by the producer, manufacturer, seller or any other entity with a commercial interest in the product. This term includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Brand names, trademarks, logos or tags, except when placed on a physically present food or beverage product or its container.
- Displays, such as on vending machine exteriors
- Corporate brand, logo, name or trademark on school equipment, such as marquees, message boards, scoreboards or backboards (Note: immediate replacement of these items are not required; however, districts will replace or update scoreboards or other durable equipment when existing contracts are up for renewal or to the extent that is financially possible over time so that items are in compliance with the marketing policy.)
- Corporate brand, logo, name or trademark on cups used for beverage dispensing, menu boards, coolers, trash cans and other food service equipment; as well as on posters, book covers, pupil assignment books or school supplies displayed, distributed, offered or sold by the District.
- Advertisements in school publications or school mailings.
- Free product samples, taste tests or coupons of a product, or free samples displaying advertising of a product.

As the District/school nutrition services/Athletics Department/PTA/PTO reviews existing contracts and considers new contracts, equipment and product purchasing (and replacement) decisions should reflect the applicable marketing guidelines established by the District wellness policy.

## **4. Physical Activity**

Children and adolescents should participate in at least 60 minutes of physical activity every day. A substantial percentage of students' physical activity can be provided through a comprehensive school physical activity program (CSPAP). A CSPAP reflects strong coordination and synergy across all of the components: quality physical education as the foundation; physical activity before, during and after school; staff involvement and family and community engagement and the District is committed to providing these opportunities. Schools will ensure that these varied physical activity opportunities are in addition to, and not as a substitute for, physical education (addressed in "Physical Education" subsection). All schools in the District will be encouraged to participate in *Let's Move! Active Schools* ([www.letsmoveschools.org](http://www.letsmoveschools.org)), or comparable program, in order to successfully address all CSPAP areas. Physical activity during the school day (including but not limited to recess, classroom physical activity breaks or physical education) will not be withheld as punishment. The District will provide teachers and other school staff with a list of ideas or resources for alternative ways to discipline students. To the extent practicable, the District will ensure that its grounds and facilities are safe and that equipment is available to students to be active. The District will conduct necessary inspections and repairs.

### ***Physical Education***

The District will provide students with physical education, using an age-appropriate, sequential physical education curriculum consistent with national and state standards for physical education. The physical education curriculum will promote the benefits of a physically active lifestyle and will help students develop skills to engage in lifelong healthy habits, as well as incorporate essential health education concepts (discussed in the "*Essential Physical Activity Topics in Health Education*" subsection). The curriculum will support the essential components of physical education.

All students will be provided equal opportunity to participate in physical education classes. The District will make appropriate accommodations to allow for equitable participation for all students and will adapt physical education classes and equipment as necessary.

All elementary students in each grade will receive physical education for at least 60-89 minutes per week throughout the school year.

All secondary students (middle and high school) are required to take the equivalent of one academic year of physical education.

The District's physical education program will promote student physical fitness through individualized fitness and activity assessments (via the Presidential Youth Fitness Program or other appropriate assessment tool) and will use criterion-based reporting for each student.

### ***Essential Physical Activity Topics in Health Education***

Health education will be required in all elementary grades and the District will require middle and high school students to take and pass at least one health education course. The District will include in the health education curriculum a minimum of 12 the following essential topics on physical activity:

- The physical, psychological, or social benefits of physical activity
- How physical activity can contribute to a healthy weight
- How physical activity can contribute to the academic learning process
- How an inactive lifestyle contributes to chronic disease
- Health-related fitness, that is, cardiovascular endurance, muscular endurance, muscular strength, flexibility, and body composition
- Differences between physical activity, exercise and fitness
- Phases of an exercise session, that is, warm up, workout and cool down
- Overcoming barriers to physical activity
- Decreasing sedentary activities, such as TV watching
- Opportunities for physical activity in the community
- Preventing injury during physical activity

- Weather-related safety, for example, avoiding heat stroke, hypothermia and sunburn while being physically active
- How much physical activity is enough, that is, determining frequency, intensity, time and type of physical activity
- Developing an individualized physical activity and fitness plan
- Monitoring progress toward reaching goals in an individualized physical activity plan
- Dangers of using performance-enhancing drugs, such as steroids
- Social influences on physical activity, including media, family, peers and culture
- How to find valid information or services related to physical activity and fitness
- How to influence, support, or advocate for others to engage in physical activity
- How to resist peer pressure that discourages physical activity.

### ***Recess (Elementary)***

All elementary schools will offer at least 20 minutes of recess on all days during the school year. Exceptions may be made as appropriate, such as on early dismissal or late arrival days. If recess is offered before lunch, schools will have appropriate hand-washing facilities and/or hand-sanitizing mechanisms located just inside/outside the cafeteria to ensure proper hygiene prior to eating and students are required to use these mechanisms before eating. Hand-washing time, as well as time to put away coats/hats/gloves, will be built in to the recess transition period/timeframe before students enter the cafeteria.

Outdoor recess will be offered when weather and other conditions make it feasible for outdoor play.

In the event that recess must be held indoors, teachers and staff will follow the indoor recess guidelines that promote physical activity for students, to the extent practicable.

Recess will complement, not substitute, physical education class. Recess monitors or teachers will encourage students to be active, and will serve as role models by being physically active alongside the students whenever feasible.

### ***Classroom Physical Activity Breaks (Elementary and Secondary)***

Students will be offered periodic opportunities to be active or to stretch throughout the day on all or most days during a typical school week. The District recommends teachers provide short (3-5-minute) physical activity breaks to students during and between classroom time at least three days per week. These physical activity breaks will complement, not substitute, for physical education class, recess, and class transition periods.

The District will provide resources and links to resources, tools, and technology with ideas for classroom physical activity breaks. Resources and ideas are available through USDA and the Alliance for a Healthier Generation.

### ***Active Academics***

Teachers will incorporate movement and kinesthetic learning approaches into “core” subject instruction when possible (e.g., science, math, language arts, social studies and others) and do their part to limit sedentary behavior during the school day.

The District will support classroom teachers incorporating physical activity and employing kinesthetic learning approaches into core subjects by providing annual professional development opportunities and resources, including information on leading activities, activity options, as well as making available background material on the connections between learning and movement.

Teachers will serve as role models by being physically active alongside the students whenever feasible.

### ***Before and After School Activities***

The District offers opportunities for students to participate in physical activity either before and/or after the school day through a variety of methods. The District will encourage students to be physically active before and after school by sponsoring or permitting: physical activity clubs and physical

activity in aftercare, intramurals or interscholastic sports.

*The District will promote healthy food and beverage choices for all students, which includes snacks that students bring onto school grounds.*

### ***Active Transport***

The District will support active transport to and from school, such as walking or biking. The District will encourage this behavior by requiring that its schools engage in six or more of the activities below, to be selected by each school administration; including but not limited to:

- Designate safe or preferred routes to school
- Promote activities such as participation in International Walk to School Week, National Walk and Bike to School Week
- Secure storage facilities for bicycles and helmets (e.g., shed, cage, fenced area)
- Instruction on walking/bicycling safety provided to students
- Promote safe routes program to students, staff, and parents via newsletters, websites, local newspaper
- Use crossing guards
- Use crosswalks on streets leading to schools
- Use walking school buses
- Document the number of children walking and or biking to and from school
- Create and distribute maps of school environment (e.g., sidewalks, crosswalks, roads, pathways, bike racks, etc.)

## **5. Other Activities that Promote Student Wellness**

The District will integrate wellness activities across the entire school setting, not just in the cafeteria, other food and beverage venues and physical activity facilities. The District will coordinate and integrate other initiatives related to physical activity, physical education, nutrition and other wellness components so all efforts are complementary, not duplicative, and work towards the same set of goals and objectives promoting student well-being, optimal development and strong educational outcomes.

Schools in the District are encouraged to coordinate content across curricular areas that promote student health, such as teaching nutrition concepts in mathematics, with consultation provided by either the school or the District's curriculum experts.

All efforts related to obtaining federal, state or association recognition for efforts, or grants/funding opportunities for healthy school environments will be coordinated with and complementary of the wellness policy, including but not limited to ensuring the involvement of the DWC.

All school-sponsored events will adhere to the wellness policy guidelines. All school-sponsored wellness events will include physical activity and healthy eating opportunities when appropriate.

### ***Community Partnerships***

The District will develop, enhance, or continue relationships with community partners (e.g., hospitals, universities/colleges, local businesses, SNAP-Ed providers and coordinators, etc.) in support of this wellness policy's implementation. Existing and new community partnerships and sponsorships will be evaluated to ensure that they are consistent with the wellness policy and its goals.

### ***Community Health Promotion and Family Engagement***

The District will promote to parents/caregivers, families, and the general community the benefits of and approaches for healthy eating and physical activity throughout the school year. Families will be informed and invited to participate in school-sponsored activities and will receive information about health promotion efforts.

As described in the "Community Involvement, Outreach, and Communications" subsection, the District will use electronic mechanisms (e.g., email or displaying notices on the District's website), as

well as non-electronic mechanisms, (e.g., newsletters, presentations to parents or sending information home to parents), to ensure that all families are actively notified of opportunities to participate in school-sponsored activities and receive information about health promotion efforts.

### ***Staff Wellness and Health Promotion***

The DWC will have a staff wellness subcommittee that focuses on staff wellness issues, identifies and disseminates wellness resources and performs other functions that support staff wellness in coordination with human resources staff.

Schools in the District will implement strategies to support staff in actively promoting and modeling healthy eating and physical activity behaviors. The District promotes staff member participation in health promotion programs and will support programs for staff members on healthy eating/weight management that are accessible and free or low-cost.

### ***Professional Learning***

When feasible, the District will offer annual professional learning opportunities and resources for staff to increase knowledge and skills about promoting healthy behaviors in the classroom and school (e.g., increasing the use of kinesthetic teaching approaches or incorporating nutrition lessons into math class). Professional learning will help District staff understand the connections between academics and health and the ways in which health and wellness are integrated into ongoing district reform or academic improvement plans/efforts.

### ***Glossary***

**Extended School Day** – the time during, before and after school that includes activities such as clubs, intramural sports, band and choir practice, drama rehearsals and more.

**School Campus** - areas that are owned or leased by the school and used at any time for school-related activities, including on the outside of the school building, school buses or other vehicles used to transport students, athletic fields and stadiums (e.g., on scoreboards, coolers, cups, and water bottles), or parking lots.

**School Day** – the time between midnight the night before to 30 minutes after the end of the instructional day.

**Triennial** – recurring every three years.

Legal Reference: Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, 42 U.S.C. section 1758b; 7 CFR sections 210.11 and 210.30; National School Lunch Program, 42 U.S.C sections 1751-1760, 1770; Regulations and Procedures for Accreditation of Schools, NDE Rule 10

Date of Adoption: July, 2017

## RECEIPT OF TEACHER HANDBOOK OF DONIPHAN-TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOL

This signed receipt acknowledges receipt of the Teacher Handbook of Doniphan-Trumbull Public School. This receipt acknowledges that it is understood that I am to read and be familiar with the handbook, that I understand the handbook contains a disclaimer of contract and that I understand that the handbook includes the District's policies of non-discrimination and equity, and that specific complaint and grievance procedures exist in the handbook which should be used for responding to harassment or discrimination.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Teacher's Signature

Return to:

Stan Hendricks, Superintendent  
Doniphan-Trumbull Public School, Doniphan, NE 68832



Doniphan-Trumbull Public School  
Addition to Employee Code of Conduct  
*Appendix "1"*

ACCEPTABLE USE OF COMPUTERS AND NETWORKS

ADMINISTRATORS, FACULTY AND STAFF AGREEMENT

In order to make sure that all members of Doniphan-Trumbull Public School community understand and agree to these rules of conduct for use of the e-mail and Internet systems of the school district, the Doniphan-Trumbull School District asks that you, as an administrator, faculty member, or staff member user, sign the following statement:

I have received a copy of, and have read, the Internet Safety and Acceptable Use Policy adopted by the Doniphan-Trumbull Public School and I understand and will abide by those district guidelines and conditions for the use of the facilities of Doniphan-Trumbull Public School and access to the Internet. I further understand that any violation of the district guidelines is unethical and may constitute a criminal offense. Should I commit any violation, my access privileges will be revoked. School disciplinary action and/or appropriate legal action will be taken.

I agree not to hold the Doniphan-Trumbull Public School any of its employees, or any institution providing network access to Doniphan-Trumbull Public School responsible for the performance of the system or the content of any material accessed through it.

Employee's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Employee's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

This form will be retained on file by authorized  
faculty designee for duration of applicable  
computer/network/Internet use.

## 2019-2020 School Calendar

**Doniphan-Trumbull Public Schools**

302 W Plum Doniphan NE 68832  
402-845-2282 fax 402-845-6688

August 2019						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
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September 2019						
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October 2019						
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November 2019						
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December 2019						
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January 2020						
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Aug 9	New Faculty
Aug 12, 13, 14	Opening In-Service Days
Aug 15	First Day K-12 Students
Sept 2	Labor Day - No School
Sept 26 (2:00-8:00 pm)	P-T Conferences
Sept. 27 (8:00-12:00 pm)	P-T Conferences
Oct 17	End of 1st Qtr.
Oct. 18	No School-Fall Break
Nov. 27	1:30 Dismissal
Nov. 28 & 29	Thanksgiving Vacation
Dec. 19 & 20 (Finals)	1:30 Dismissal
Dec. 20	End of 2nd Qtr. & 1st Semester
Dec 22 to Jan 5	Winter Break
Jan 6	School Resumes Students 2nd Sem.
Feb. 13 (2:00-8:00)	P-T Conferences
Feb. 14 (8:00-12:00)	P-T Conferences
Feb 21	No School
Mar 11	End of 3rd Qtr
March 12 & 13	Spring Break
Apr 10 & 13	Good Friday & Easter; No School

May 9	Senior Graduation
May 19 & 20 (Finals)	1:30 Dismissal
May 20	End of 4th Qtr. & 2nd Sem
May 21	Last Day Faculty

Category of Events	
Aug 2	New Student Registration
Professional Develop Dates	
Sept. 13	Jan. 24
Oct. 25	Mar. 6

1st Semester	2nd Semester
St. Days 87	St. Days 92
Contract Days 91	Contract Days 94
179 Student Days	
185 Contract Days	

February 2020						
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March 2020						
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April 2020						
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May 2020						
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31						

June 2020						
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July 2020						
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26	27	28	29	30	31	

Category of Events	

Category of Events	

Category of Events	

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	School day										
	School Closed										
	No School, Teacher In-Serv										
	1:30 early outs for students										
	Report Cards										

△	Parent Teacher Conferences
○	First & Last Day of Semsters