

Special Board of Education Meeting

Saturday, July 24, 2021 8:00 AM

Wildcat Hills State Recreation Area
210615 NE-71,
Gering, , NE 69341



Agenda

1. GPS Board of Education Information

The meeting agenda will be kept current and available for public inspection in the office of the Secretary of the Board of Education at the Central Office during regular working hours.

District Vision: *Gering Public Schools provides a collaborative community, inspiring excellence and innovation in teaching and learning to empower student growth and leadership in school and life.*

District Mission: *Gering Public Schools exists to equip today's learners with the skills necessary to be tomorrow's leaders.*

2. *The Open Meetings Act requires and the intention of the Board is that agenda items be sufficiently descriptive to give the public reasonable notice of matters to be considered at the meeting. The Board of Education releases its agenda well in advance of most meetings and desires that all interested persons are fully informed. Any interested person who has a question or needs clarification about the sufficiency of a descriptive item should contact the office of the Superintendent of Schools.*

Agenda items are subject to reordering at discretion of the board president. Board members may request specific agenda item(s) be moved to a different place on the agenda. Please attend the entire meeting to ensure you hear discussion on a particular agenda item.

3. Opening Procedures

1. Call to Order

The Board of Education reserves the right to enter into Executive Session for the protection of the public interest; or the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual, and if the individual has not requested a public meeting.

2. Roll Call

3. Excuse Absent Board Member(s)

4. Opening Meetings Act

Pursuant to Section 84-1412 of the Nebraska Statutes, the public is hereby informed that a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is posted in the Board meeting room on the north wall.

Notice of this meeting was published in the Gering Courier on Thursday, July 15, 2021

5. Reports and Discussions

1. Superintendent's Report

6. Action Items

1. Discuss, consider, and take action regarding the Housing Agreement between Doll Land and Property and Gering Public Schools for the GHS Construction Pathway House Build Project.
2. Discuss, Consider, and take action regarding the approval of the elementary and secondary student handbooks.
3. Discuss, consider and take necessary action regarding the recommendation to appoint Rex Schultze of Perry, Guthery, Hasse & Gessford, P.C., LLC, to compile comprability study for the 2021-22 school year.

7. Adjourn

AGREEMENT

THIS AGREEMENT (“Agreement”) is made and entered into on _____, 2021, by and between **Doll Land and Property a Nebraska Corporation; and Scotts Bluff County School District No. 79-0016 (commonly known as Gering Public Schools), a Nebraska Political Subdivision, (“School”)**.

RECITALS

- A. Doll Land and Property owns certain real property located on LT 3A, BLK 2, THE PRESERVE REPLAT; 2545 SOUTH RIDGE CT GERING NE 69341.

- B. School desires to use the Property (as defined below) for instructing students in the practical application of skills taught in the School’s Building Trade Program. Specially, the School desires to use the Property so students in the Schools’ Building Trade Program can construct a house on the Property under the direction of Travis Gable, a certified teacher employed by the School.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing recitals which are hereby made a part of this agreement and the mutual promises set forth herein, Doll Land and Property and the School agree as follows:

- 1. **Real Estate Description and Consideration.** Doll Land and Property agrees to allow School and School agrees to build a house on the following described real estate, to-wit:
 - LT 3A, BLK 2, THE PRESERVE REPLAT
2545 SOUTH RIDGE CT GERING NE 69341

- 2. **Construction and Improvements to Real Estate.** School will build a house on the Property under the direction of a certified teacher employed by School. The plans and specifications of the buildings will be reviewed by Doll Land and Property. School agrees that it shall be responsible for the construction of the building consistent with said plans and specifications. School shall be responsible for obtaining contracts concerning construction of basement walls, footings, basement floor, plumbing, electrical, and HVAC. School anticipates using students who are enrolled in the School's Building Trade Program to perform carpentry, framing, and hanging of cabinetry. It is anticipated that School will subcontract for all drywall, roofing, garage door installation, countertops, site grading, rain gutters, concrete work and other items as necessary. A certified teacher employed by the School, will be responsible for supervising the construction of the Property on behalf of School. School may, at its option, subcontract additional work based upon time frame and ability to complete the Agreement in a timely manner.

- 3. **Payment of Costs.** School shall pay for all construction materials, contractors, subcontractors, carpentry and flooring, digging of the basement, pouring of concrete for basement walls and footings, and basement floors out of the line of credit established by the school.

- 4. **Review of Contractors and Materials.** The plans and specifications for the building of a residential home on the Property will be reviewed by Doll Land and Property. School and Doll Land and Property shall work together to obtain estimates from contractors

and to select contractors which will perform services in connection with any construction on Property. Doll Land and Property will provide a list of subcontractors that may be considered when bidding out services. It is anticipated by and between the parties that the total cost for the construction of a house on the *Property*, less the cost of the lot, will not exceed \$215,000. In the event estimated costs exceed \$215,000, then both parties shall meet to renegotiate items set forth in this agreement. School shall obtain lien waivers from all contractors that provide materials or labor in connection with construction on the Property.

5. **Possession.** Possession of the Property shall be provided to School no later than August 15, 2022. Parties understand title of real estate will remain with Doll Land and Property. On or before May 15, 2022, both parties will perform a walk through on the property and prepare a punch list to identify items that are yet to be completed prior to Doll Land and Property taking possession. Doll Land and Property shall be entitled to retake possession of the property within a reasonable time after completion of the project, consistent with the plans and specifications, but in no instance shall Doll Land and Property resume possession of the property later than June 15, 2022. Upon taking possession, Doll Land and Property shall pay to School the amount as set forth herein.
6. **Payment.** Doll Land and Property shall pay to School (or to bank on School construction class line of credit) upon Doll Land and Property taking possession of the Property, the sum of the following; (A) the builders risk insurance policy obtained by School (it is anticipated that this insurance will be purchased through a local insurance Company), plus (B) the total amount of expenses incurred by School, excluding tool costs, to construct the building on the Property, plus (C) any interest or finance charges incurred by school in borrowing funds to construct the building, plus (D) additional proceeds beyond the total cost will be gifted to the Gering Schools Foundation with a minimum guaranteed amount of \$6,000 as a result of the certified teachers' duties of oversight of the project.
7. **No Partnership Created.** School and Doll Land and Property have entered into this Agreement for the purpose of providing students in the Building Trades Program an opportunity to learn skills by working in an actual construction setting. School and its employees and students are not, in any way, employees or agents of Doll Land and Property, but rather the students are present for educational purposes only. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as creating a partnership *or* joint venture between School, its employees, its students, and Doll Land and Property.
8. **Taxes.** Doll Land and Property is responsible for all real estate taxes and special assessments levied against the Property and these costs shall be considered in the total expenses of the house when calculating any net profit to split between the parties.
9. **Compliance with Rules and Regulations.** All construction on, improvements to, and use of the Property during the time School has possession of the Property shall be in compliance with all applicable building codes, zoning regulations and all other federal, state, and local laws, rules, regulations, and ordinances. Doll Land and Property has already applied for all

appropriate building permits. Next school year, the building permits shall be applied for under Gering Public Schools.

10. **Plans.** Doll Land and Property shall create and submit to the School for review all blueprints, drawings, specifications, and other plans in connection with any buildings or other structures on the Property prior to the time such buildings or other structures are constructed.
11. **Restrictions on Property.** School shall not cause or consent to any easement, covenant, reservation, or restriction on, over, or against the Property, lease all or any portion of the Property, or otherwise allow the Property to be encumbered without first obtaining the prior written consent of Doll Land and Property.
12. **Risk of Loss.** School shall bear the risk of all losses to the Property which occur prior to the return of possession to Doll Land and Property. School shall, at its own expense, insure the Property against liability, property loss, and casualty from and after the date of this Agreement until Doll Land and Property retakes possession of the Property. Doll Land and Property shall be named an additional insured under all such policies. In the event any part of the Property or any materials acquired, whether or not affixed to the Property, are damaged and not repaired prior to Doll Land and Property retaking possession of the Property, Doll Land and Property shall have the right to receive any insurance proceeds for such damages (as long as any loan with the Bank has been paid off). Doll Land and Property agrees to insure the property upon Doll Land and Property resuming possession of the property as set forth herein.
13. **Doll Land and Property Representations and Warranties.** Doll Land and Property is a limited liability corporation duly organized and in good standing under the laws of the State of Nebraska. Doll Land and Property has all requisite authority and power to execute, deliver, and perform this Agreement.
14. **School's Representations and Warranties.** School is a political subdivision under the laws of the State of Nebraska. School has all requisite authority and power to execute, deliver, and perform this Agreement. All necessary actions required in order to authorize the execution and delivery of this Agreement and the consummation and performance of the transactions contemplated hereby have been duly and validly taken by School's Board of Education in accordance with Nebraska law.
15. **Headings.** The section headings used in this Agreement are for convenience of reference only, and they shall not limit, affect, or otherwise be used in the construction and interpretation of this Agreement.
16. **Notices.** Any document, written notice, or written consent required or permitted to be delivered hereunder shall be deemed delivered on the same day if personally delivered or two (2) days after deposit in the U.S. mail if delivered by registered or certified mail postage prepaid and addressed as follows:

If to Doll Land and Property: Andrew Doll
Doll Land and Property
2405 Shadow Ridge Drive
Gering, NE 69341

If to the School: Nicole Regan
Gering Public Schools
Administration Building
1519 10th Street
Gering, NE 69341

Any change in contact information shall be given by written notice in the manner specified in this section.

17. **Binding Effect; Benefits.** This Agreement shall be binding on and shall inure to the benefit of the parties and their respective successors and permitted assigns. Notwithstanding anything contained in this Agreement to the contrary, nothing in this Agreement is intended to confer on any person or entity other than the parties hereto any right, remedy, obligation, or liability.
18. **Entire Agreement.** This agreement constitutes the complete and exclusive expression of the terms and conditions of the agreement between Doll Land and Property and School pertaining to the subject matter hereof and supersede all prior proposals, agreements, understandings, negotiations, and discussions.
19. **Execution in Separate Counterparts.** This Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts with the same effect as if all parties hereto had signed the same document. This Agreement shall become effective when each party has executed at least one counterpart of this Agreement. All such counterparts shall be construed together and shall constitute one instrument. A photocopy, facsimile copy, or email transmission of a copy of this Agreement shall be enforceable as an original.
20. **Execution of Additional Documents.** Each party, without further consideration, promises to execute and deliver such other documents and take such other actions as may be necessary to consummate the intent and purpose of this Agreement, provided that this Agreement shall be effective regardless of whether any additional documents are executed or any further actions are taken.
21. **Governing Law.** This Agreement shall be construed and enforced according to the laws of the State of Nebraska.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Doll Land and Property and the School have caused this Agreement to be executed by their respective authorized representatives.

Doll Land and Property

By: _____
Andrew Doll, Owner

Date: _____

STATE OF NEBRASKA, COUNTY OF SCOTTS BLUFF SS:

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me on _____ 2021, by Andrew Doll, Owner of Doll Land and Property.

Notary Public

**Scotts Bluff County School
District No 79-0016**

By: _____
BJ Peters, President
Board of Education

Date: _____

STATE OF NEBRASKA, COUNTY OF SCOTTS BLUFF SS:

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me on _____, 2021, by BJ Peters, President of the Board of Education of Scotts Bluff County School District No. 79-0016, on behalf of the District, upon proper authority, and for the purposes herein stated.

Notary Public

Gering Junior High School



**6th, 7th, and 8th Grade
2021-2022**

PARENT-STUDENT HANDBOOK

**Gering Junior High School
800 Q Street
Gering, NE 69341
(308) 436-3123**



Gering Junior High School strives to empower our students to achieve excellence through exploration and enrichment
EMPOWER TO EXCELLENCE

Gering Junior High School, in partnership with the community, is committed to providing an educational program responsive to young adolescents' individual needs and characteristics. The focus of our transition is for young adolescents to **explore and enrich** their educational experiences while at the junior high. Our goal is to help students be better equipped to understand their strengths and potential as they enter into their high school career and beyond.

We strive to prepare all Gering students to be college and/or career ready when they complete their education at Gering Public Schools and lead highly influential lives in the community in which they choose to live. Our exploration course offerings at Gering Junior High School will provide students with hands-on learning and real-world opportunities to enhance their educational experiences and provide a seamless transition to great Career Academy Clusters offered at Gering High School.

The Junior High is organized into academic teams at each grade level (6-8) from the core areas: language arts, math, science and social studies. Exploratory courses include art, STEM, family and consumer science, careers, journalism, yearbook, introduction to agriculture, introduction to medical sciences, leadership, band, choir, business and technology, and industrial technology.

We strive to create an environment for all students that is safe, positive, encouraging and supportive.

As the "Home of the Bulldogs" our school serves approximately four hundred thirty plus students in grades six through eight. We are located between the old Oregon Trail and the North Platte River in historic Gering, Nebraska. is home to over thirty teachers, two administrators and two counselors, who all work hard everyday to provide students with a safe, welcoming environment and the best school experience and education possible.

Extracurricular clubs and programs are available for student involvement. We strive to have something for everyone. District sports for grades 7-8 include: football, volleyball, wrestling, cross-country, basketball, and track. Students can also participate in Builders Club, Friends of Rachel, Student Council, and Clowns (a drug free group). High ability learners have the opportunity to participate in academic quiz bowl, Geography Bee, Math Counts, Jazz Band and the Duke Talent Search.

**GERING PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

BJ Peters, President
Brent Holliday
Josh Lacy
Brian Copsey
Brady Shaul
Mary Winn

GERING PUBLIC SCHOOLS ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Nicole Regan, Superintendent of Schools
Byron Olson, Director of Student Services
Kory Knight, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment
Tim Meisner, Business Manager

Shawn Seiler, Junior High School Principal

Julie Siebke, Junior High School Dean of Students

Rocky Schneider, High School Principal
Mario Chavez, High School Assistant Principal
Crystal Palser, Dean of Students
Glen Koski, Director of Activities
Angela Morris, Geil Elementary Principal
Pam Barker, Lincoln Elementary Principal
John Wiedeman, Northfield Elementary Principal
Curt Hanson, Director of Warehouse and Maintenance

GERING PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Learners Today, Leaders Tomorrow

Direction Statement:

Gering Public Schools exist to equip today's learners with the skills necessary to be tomorrow's leaders.

Vision:

Gering Public Schools provides a collaborative community, inspiring excellence and innovation in teaching and learning to empower student growth and leadership in school and life.

School Calendar 2021-22

AUGUST				
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

August
 4-6 New Staff Orientation
 9-12 Teacher In-Service
 12 Jr High Orientations
 13 First day of School

January				
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

January
 3 No School: Students
Teacher Work Day
 4 School Resumes
 28 No School: Students
Teacher in-Service

September				
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	

September
 6 No School- Labor Day
 24 No School: Students
Teacher work Day

February				
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28				

February
 18 No School: Students/ Staff
 21-22 No School: Students
Teacher In-Service/work Day

October				
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

October
 14 End of first Quarter
 15 No School: Students
Teacher work Day
 18-21 Parent Teacher Conferences
 22 No School: students/Staff

March				
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

March
 10 End of 3rd
 11 No School: Students
Teachers Work Day
 15-17 PT Conferences
 16-17 No School: Students
 18 No School: Students/Staff

November				
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

November
 24-26 No School: Students/Staff

April				
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

April
 15-18 No School: Students/Staff
 19 No School: Students
Teacher work Day

December				
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

December
 21 K-12 Students & Staff-- 11:30 a.m. Dismissal
 End of 1st Semester
 22-31 No School: Students/Staff

May				
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

May
 14 GHS Graduation
 20 Last Day of School
 11:30 AM Dismissal
 23-24 Teacher work Days

First/Last Day of School End of Quarter / Semester
 NO SCHOOL: Teacher In-Service NO SCHOOL: Students / Staff

ALL OTHER CALENDAR SCHEDULING CAN BE FOUND:

www.westernconferencene.org click on Gering

Like Gering Junior High (Official) on Facebook and Twitter @youngbulldog

Daily Schedule

Lunch	6th GRADE	7th GRADE	8th GRADE
1st period	8:00-8:57 AM	8:00-8:57 AM	8:00-8:57 AM
2nd Period	9:00-9:48 AM	9:00-9:48 AM	9:00-9:48 AM
3rd Period	9:51-10:39 AM	9:51-10:39 AM	9:51-10:39 AM
4th Period	10:39-11:09AM	10:42-11:30 AM	10:42-11:30 AM
5th Period	11:12-12:00 PM	11:30-12:00 AM	11:33-12:21 PM
6th Period	12:03-12:51 PM	12:03-12:51 PM	12:21-12:51 PM
7th Period	12:54- 1:42 PM	12:54- 1:42 PM	12:54- 1:42 PM
8th Period	1:45-2:33 PM	1:45-2:33 PM	1:45-2:33 PM
9th Period	2:36-3:24 PM	2:36-3:24 PM	2:36-3:24 PM

****Wednesday Early Out Schedule**

Lunch	6th GRADE	7th GRADE	8th GRADE
1st period	8:00-8:47 AM	8:00-8:47 AM	8:00-8:47 AM
2nd Period	8:50-9:30 AM	8:50-9:30 AM	8:50-9:30 AM
3rd Period	9:33-10:13 AM	9:33-10:13 AM	9:33-10:13 AM
4th Period	10:13-10:43AM	10:16-10:56 AM	10:16-10:56 AM
5th Period	10:46-11:26 PM	10:56-11:26 AM	10:59-11:39 AM
6th Period	11:29-12:09 PM	11:29-12:09 PM	11:39-12:09 PM
7th Period	12:12- 12:52 PM	12:12- 12:52 PM	12:12- 12:52 PM
8th Period	12:55-1:35 PM	12:55-1:35 PM	12:55-1:35 PM
9th Period	1:38-2:18 PM	1:38-2:18 PM	1:38-2:18 PM

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Intent of Handbook:

This handbook is intended to be used by students, parents and staff as a guide to the rules, regulations, and general information about Gering Junior High School. Each student is responsible for becoming familiar with the handbook and knowing the information contained in it. Parents are encouraged to use this handbook as a resource and to assist their child in following the rules contained in this handbook.

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 during any school day, or school year. This handbook does not create a “contract.” The administration reserves the right to make decisions and make rule revisions at any time to implement the educational program and to assure the well being of all students. The administration will be responsible for interpreting the rules contained in the handbook. Should a situation or circumstance arise that is not specifically covered in this handbook, the administration will make a decision based upon all applicable school district policies, and state and federal statutes and regulations.

Mutual Respect

The Gering Junior High School expects every staff member and student to be treated with respect and dignity. A show of disrespect toward a staff member or insubordination on the part of students will not be tolerated.

Complaint Procedure

The proper procedure for a parent or student to make complaints or raise concerns is to begin with the school employee who is most immediately or directly involved in the matter, as illustrated in the complaint procedure set forth below. There are specific procedures to address certain complaints or concerns, such as discrimination, harassment, bullying, or disciplinary actions. Those procedures should be used where applicable.

- Step 1. Schedule a conference with the staff person most immediately or directly involved in the matter.**
- Step 2. Address the concern to the Principal if the matter is not resolved at Step 1.**
- Step 3. Address the concern to the Superintendent if the matter is not resolved at Step 2.**
- Step 4. Address the concern to the Board of Education if the matter is not resolved at Step 3.**

Conditions Applicable to All Levels of Complaint Procedure

All information to be considered at each step should be placed in writing in order to be most effective. Action or decisions will be expedited as quickly as possible, typically within ten (10) calendar days, depending on the nature of the complaint and the need for prompt resolution.

Notice of Nondiscrimination

Gering Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, marital status, religion, or disability in the admission, access to its facilities or programs or activities, treatment, or employment.

Designation of Directors

Any person having concerns or needing information about the District’s compliance with anti-discrimination laws or policies should contact the District’s designated Director for the applicable anti-discrimination law.

Law, Policy or Program	Issue or Concern	Superintendent
Title VI	Discrimination or harassment based on race, color, or national origin; harassment	Superintendent
Title IX Policy 504.24	Discrimination or harassment based on sex; gender equity	Superintendent
Law, Policy or Program	Issue or Concern	Superintendent
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disability Act (ADA)	Discrimination, harassment or reasonable accommodations of persons with disabilities	Director of Student Services
Homeless student laws	Children who are homeless	Superintendent
Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities	Safe and drug free schools	Superintendent

The Superintendent or Director of Student Services may be contacted at 1519 10th Street, Gering, Nebraska 69341-2999, (308) 436-3125.

Anti-discrimination & Harassment Policy

Elimination of Discrimination. Gering Public Schools 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.

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 Gering Public Schools. If a satisfactory arrangement cannot be obtained through the Superintendent, the complaint may be processed to the Board of Education.

TITLE IX Statement from the District:

"The Gering Public School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex in any educational program or activity that it operates. The District is required by Title IX (20 U.S.C. § 1681) and 34 CFR Part 106 not to discriminate in such a manner. This requirement not to discriminate also applies to admission and employment. Any inquiries about the application of Title IX may be referred to

the District Title IX Coordinator, to the Assistant Secretary of the Office of Civil Rights, or both. "

- Title IX Coordinator: Superintendent and/or Designee
- Address: 1519 10th Street, Gering, NE 69341
- Email: nregan@geringschools.net
- Phone: (308) 436-3125
- "For information regarding the Gering Public School District procedure for complaints of sexual harassment including the complaint process, how to file a report or a complaint of sexual harassment, how to file a formal complaint of sexual harassment, and how the District will respond to such complaints see Board Policy 504.24 located at Gering Public Schools website (<https://www.geringschools.net>).

Notice to Parents of Rights Afforded by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

The following is a description of the rights granted to qualifying students with disabilities under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. The intent of the law is to keep you fully informed concerning the decisions about your child and to inform you of your rights if you disagree with any of these decisions. You have the right to:

1. Have your child take part in, and receive benefits from, public education programs without discrimination because of his/her disability.
2. Have the school district advise you of your rights under federal law.
3. Receive notice with respect to identification, evaluation or placement of your child.
4. Have your child receive a free appropriate public education.
5. Have your child receive services and be educated in facilities which are comparable to those provided to every student.
6. Have evaluation, educational and placement decisions made based on a variety of information sources and by persons who know the student and who are knowledgeable about the evaluation data and placement options.
7. Have transportation provided to and from an alternative placement setting (if the setting is a program not operated by the district) at no greater cost to you than would be incurred if the student were placed in a program operated by the district.
8. Have your child be given an equal opportunity to participate in nonacademic and extracurricular activities offered by the district.
9. Examine all relevant records relating to decisions regarding your child's identification, evaluation and placement.
10. Request mediation or an impartial due process hearing related to decisions or actions regarding your child's identification, evaluation, educational program or placement. (You and your child may take part in the hearing. Hearing requests are to be made to the Superintendent).
11. File a local grievance.

Notification of Rights Under FERPA

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. They are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the district receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal (or appropriate school official) a written request that identifies their record(s) they wish to

inspect. The principal will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading. Parents or eligible students may ask the school district to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write to the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the district decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the district will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.
3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception which permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the district as an administrator, supervisor, instructor or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the school board; a person or company with whom the District has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility and effectively provide the function or service for which they are responsible. Contractors, consultants and volunteers are permitted to have access to education records where they are performing a function or service that would otherwise be done by a school employee. Their access is limited to education records in which they have a legitimate educational interest; which means records needed to effectively provide the function or service for which they are responsible.

In regards to education records requests; the district forwards education records (may include academic, health and discipline records) that have been requested in which the student seeks or intends to enroll, or where the student has already enrolled so long as the disclosure is for purposes related to the student's enrollment or transfer.

4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the district to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA is:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20202-4605

Notice Concerning Staff Qualifications

The No Child Left Behind Act gives parents/guardians the right to get information about the professional qualifications of their child's classroom teachers. Upon request, the District will give parents/guardians the following information about their child's classroom teacher:

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. You may also get information about other graduate certification or degrees held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification

or degree. We will also, upon request, tell parents/guardians whether their child is being provided services by a paraprofessional and, if so, the qualifications of the paraprofessional. The request for information should be made to an administrator in your child's school building. The information will be provided to you in a timely manner. Finally, the District will give timely notice to you if your 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 Act.

Notice Concerning Directory Information

The District may disclose directory information. The types of personally identifiable information that the district has designated as directory information are as follows: student's name, address, telephone listing, electronic mail address, photograph, date of and place of birth, major fields of study, dates of attendance, grade level, enrollment status (e.g., full-time or part-time), participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, degrees, honors and awards received, and most recent previous school attended. A parent or eligible student has the right to refuse to let the District designate any or all of those types of information about the student as directory information. The period of time within which a parent or eligible student has to notify the District in writing that he or she does not want any or all of those types of information about the student designated as directory information is as follows: two weeks from the time this information is first received. The district may disclose information about former students without meeting the conditions in this section.

Homeless Students Policy

A homeless child or youth is defined as one who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. The term includes—

- (1) Children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals.
- (2) Children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.
- (3) Children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
- (4) Migratory children (as defined in section 1309 of the ESSA of 1965, as amended), who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described in this definition.

This definition includes both youth who are unaccompanied by families and those who are homeless with their families. The district will comply with state and federal law as it relates to homeless children or youth.

Assurances

1. The district adopts these policies and practices to ensure that homeless children and youths are not stigmatized or segregated on the basis of their status as homeless.
2. The district will designate an appropriate staff person as the Local Educational Liaison (LEL) for homeless children and youths, to carry out the duties in compliance with state and federal law.
3. The district adopts these policies and practices to ensure that transportation is provided, at the request of the parent or guardian (or in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the liaison), to and from the school of origin. The "school of origin" means the school that the child or youth attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled. This will be done in accordance with the following, as applicable:
 - a. If the homeless child or youth continues to live in the district in which the school of

origin is located, the child's or youth's transportation to and from the school of origin shall be provided or arranged by that district.

- b. If the homeless child's or youth's living arrangements in the district served by the school of origin terminate and the child or youth, though continuing his or her education in the school of origin, begins living in an area served by another district, the school of origin and the local district in which the homeless child or youth is living shall agree upon a method to apportion the responsibility and costs for providing the child with transportation to and from the school of origin. If the two districts are unable to agree upon such method, the responsibility and costs for transportation shall be shared equally.

Comparable Services

Each homeless child or youth shall be provided services comparable to those offered to other students in the school in which the child is placed including transportation services, educational programs for children with disabilities and students with limited English proficiency, educational services for which the child or youth meets the eligibility criteria, such as Title I, school nutrition programs, programs in vocational and technical education, and programs for gifted and talented students.

Local Educational Liaison

The Superintendent or designee shall serve as the district's Local Educational Liaison who will serve in tracking, monitoring and coordinating programs and activities for these children. The identity and duties of the LEL shall annually be provided to the NDE, school staff, providers and advocates of services to homeless persons, and to homeless students.

1. In general, the LEL shall coordinate:
 - a. The provision of services with local social services agencies, the NDE Homeless Education Liaison, community and school personnel, and other agencies or programs providing education, social and related services to homeless children and youths and their families; and
 - b. With other local educational agencies on inter-district issues, such as transportation or transfer of school records.
2. Coordination purpose - The coordination shall be designed to:
 - a. Ensure that homeless children and youths have access and reasonable proximity, to available education and related support services; and
 - b. Raise the awareness of school personnel and service providers of the effects of short-term stays in a shelter and other challenges associated with homelessness.
3. The LEL shall receive appropriate time and training to carry out the duties required by law and this policy, and ensure that:
 - a. Homeless children and youths are identified by school personnel and through coordination activities with other entities and agencies;
 - b. Homeless children and youths enroll in schools of the district, which includes attending classes and participating fully in school activities, and have a full and equal opportunity to meet the same challenging State academic standards as other children and youths;
 - c. Homeless families, children, and youths receive educational services for which such families, children, and youths are eligible, and referrals to health care services, dental services, mental health services, and other appropriate services;
 - d. The parents or guardians of homeless children and youths are informed of the educational and related opportunities available to their children and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children;

- e. Receive individualized counseling from counselors to prepare and improve their readiness for college, including college selection, application, financial aid, and on-campus supports;
- f. Unaccompanied youths are informed of their status as independent students under the Higher Education Act of 1965 and may obtain assistance from the LEL to receive verification of such status for purposes of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid;
- g. Public notice of the educational rights of homeless children and youths is communicated where such children and youths receive services under the federal laws for homeless children, such as schools, family shelters, and soup kitchens;
- h. Enrollment disputes are mediated in accordance state and federal law; and
- i. The parent or guardian of a homeless child or youth, and any unaccompanied youth, is fully informed of all transportation services, including transportation to the school of origin and is assisted in accessing transportation to the school that is selected for the youth.

Enrollment and Placement

The district will handle enrollment and placement of homeless children in compliance with state and federal law according to the child's or youth's best interest such that it shall:

1. Continue the child's or youth's education in the school of origin for the duration of homelessness—
 - a. In any case in which a family becomes homeless between academic years or during an academic year; or
 - b. For the remainder of the academic year, if the child or youth becomes permanently housed during an academic year; or
2. Enroll the child or youth in any public school that non-homeless students who live in the attendance area in which the child or youth is actually living are eligible to attend.
3. The choice regarding enrollment shall be made regardless of whether the child or youth lives with the homeless parents or has been temporarily placed elsewhere.
4. Issues of guardianship, proof of residency, and dress code requirements shall not be cause for delay or denial of enrollment. The district is not prohibited from requiring a parent or guardian of a homeless child to submit contact information.
5. If the school district is unable to determine the grade level of the student because of missing or incomplete records, the child will be placed in the appropriate grade level by the same procedures used for non-homeless children.

School Stability

In determining the best interest of the child or youth the district shall:

1. Presume that keeping a homeless child or youth in the school of origin is in the child's or youth's best interest unless doing so is contrary to the request of the child's or youth's parent or guardian, or (in the case of an unaccompanied youth) the youth.
2. The district must consider student-centered factors related to a child's or youth's best interest including the impact of mobility on achievement, education, health, and safety, giving priority to the request of the child's or youth's parent or guardian, or (in the case of an unaccompanied youth) the youth.
3. If the district determines that it is not in a child's or youth's best interest to attend the school of origin, or the school requested by the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth, it must provide a written explanation of the reasons for its determination, in a manner and form that is understandable.

Enrollment Disputes

The dispute procedure must be made available for resolving disputes over eligibility, as well as school

selection or enrollment. If a dispute arises over school selection or enrollment in a school:

1. The district shall immediately provide the child's parent or guardian or, in the case of an unaccompanied youth, a written explanation of the decision made regarding the school selection including the right to appeal the decision. It shall be provided in a manner and form understandable to such parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth and include the LEL contact information. The child or youth shall be immediately admitted to the school in which enrollment is sought, pending resolution of the dispute.
Unaccompanied youths shall be assisted by the LEL in enrolling immediately.
2. Within thirty (30) days of receipt of the initial complaint, the LEL shall carry out the dispute resolution process in accordance with 92 NEC 19-005.002
3. The parent/guardian (or student, if applicable) may file a written appeal of the decision to the Nebraska Commissioner of Education. The Commissioner or designee may file a written response to the appeal within thirty (30) calendar days of receipt of the appeal.
4. Within thirty (30) days of receipt of the Commissioner's decision, the parent/guardian (or student, if applicable) may file a written appeal of the decision with the State Board of Education and shall be governed by 92 NAC Rule 61.

Records

Any record ordinarily kept by the school, including immunization or medical records, academic records, birth certificates, guardianship records, and evaluations for special services or programs, regarding each homeless child or youth shall be maintained:

1. So that the records are available, in a timely fashion, when a child or youth enters a new school or school district;
2. The district will treat the student's homeless status as a Student Education Record, not deemed to be directory information; and
3. In a manner consistent with the Federal Education Rights and Privacy Act.

The LEL shall document the number of homeless children and youths receiving services, and maintain financial records regarding any federal funds used for providing such services.

Immunization Requirements

Homeless students will not be denied enrollment for lack of immunization records. The school district will make a reasonable effort to locate immunization records from the information provided or will assist the student in obtaining the necessary immunizations. Permanent exemptions for homeless students from the immunization requirement in this policy will be allowed only for reasons in accordance with the law.

Review and Revision

The district shall review and revise any policies that may act as barriers to the enrollment of homeless children and youths in the district. In reviewing and revising such policies, consideration shall be given to issues concerning transportation, immunization, residency, birth certificates, school records and other documentation, and guardianship. Special attention shall be given to ensuring the enrollment and attendance of homeless children and youths who are not currently attending school.

Breakfast and Lunch Programs

The District has agreed to participate in the National School Lunch Program and accepts responsibility for providing free and reduced price meals to eligible children in the schools under its jurisdiction. The District provides the United States Department of Agriculture's required nondiscrimination statement:

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability.

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TTY). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

The school food authority assures the State Department of Education that the school system will uniformly implement the following policy to determine children's eligibility for free and reduced price meals in all National School Lunch Programs.

KEY WORDS FOR TOPICS ARE FOUND BELOW IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

Acceptable Use of Computers, Technology and the Internet

Gering Public Schools recognizes the value of computer and other electronic resources to improve student learning and enhance the administration and operation of its schools. To this end, Gering Public Schools encourage the responsible use of computers, computer networks (including the Internet), and other electronic resources in support of the mission and goals of the Gering District. It is the policy of Gering Public Schools to: (a) prevent user access over its computer network to, or transmission of, inappropriate material via Internet, electronic mail, or other forms of direct electronic communications; (b) prevent unauthorized access and other unlawful online activity; (c) prevent unauthorized online disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal identification information of minors; and (d) comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act [Pub. L. No. 106-554 and 47 USC 254(h)]. It is the policy of Gering Public Schools to maintain an environment that promotes ethical and responsible conduct in all online network activities by staff and students. It shall be a violation of this policy for any employee, student, or other individual to engage in any activity that does not conform to the established purpose and general rules and policies of the network. Within this general policy, Gering Public Schools recognizes its legal and ethical obligation to protect the wellbeing of students in its charge.

The following uses of school-provided electronic resources, including Internet and email, are not permitted:

- To access, upload, download, or distribute pornographic, obscene, or sexually explicit material
- To transmit obscene, abusive, sexually explicit, or threatening language;
- To violate any local, state, or federal statute;
- To vandalize, damage, or disable the property of another individual or organization;
- To access another individual's materials, information, or files without permission; and,
- To violate copyright or otherwise use the intellectual property of another individual or organization without permission.
- To distribute or forward "chain letters" via email.

Any violation of District policy and rules may result in loss of District-provided access to the Internet. Additional disciplinary action may be determined in keeping with existing procedures and practices regarding inappropriate language or behavior. When and where applicable, law enforcement agencies may be involved.

Students may...

- Design and post web pages and other material from school resources.
- Use direct communications such as email, online chat, or instant messaging with a teacher's permission.
- Use the resources for any educational purpose.
- Consequences for Violation: Violations of these rules may result in disciplinary action, including the loss of a student's privileges to use the school's information technology resources.

Supervision and Monitoring: School and network administrators and their authorized employees monitor the use of information technology resources to help ensure that uses are secure and in conformity with this policy. Administrators reserve the right to examine, use, and disclose any data found

on the school's information networks in order to further the health, safety, discipline, or security of any student or other person, or to protect property. They may also use this information in disciplinary actions and will furnish evidence of crime to law enforcement.

Enforcement of policy: To the extent practical, technology protection measures (or "Internet filters") shall be used to block or filter Internet, or other forms of electronic communications, access to inappropriate information.

Specifically, as required by the Children's Internet Protection Act, blocking shall be applied to visual depictions of material deemed obscene or child pornography, or to any material deemed harmful to minors.

Subject to staff supervision, technology protection measures may be disabled for adults or, in the case of minors, minimized only for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.

A Gering Public School staff member may override the technology protection measure that blocks or filters Internet access for a student to access a site with legitimate educational value that is wrongly blocked by the technology protection measure that blocks or filters Internet access.

Gering Public School staff will monitor students' use of the Internet by either direct supervision or by monitoring Internet use history to ensure enforcement of policy.

Inappropriate Network Usage: To the extent practical, steps shall be taken to promote the safety and security of users of Gering Public Schools online computer network when using electronic mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, and other forms of direct electronic communications.

Specifically, as required by the Children's Internet Protection Act, prevention of inappropriate network usage includes: (a) unauthorized access, including so-called "hacking", and other unlawful activities; and (b) unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors.

Education, Supervision and Monitoring: It shall be the responsibility of all members of Gering Public Schools staff to educate, supervise and monitor appropriate usage of the online computer network and access to the Internet in accordance with this policy, the Children's Internet Protection Act, the Neighborhood Children's Internet Protection Act, and Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act.

Procedures for the disabling or otherwise modifying any technology protection measures shall be the responsibility of the Director of Technology or designated representatives.

The Building Principal or designated representatives will provide age appropriate training for students who use Gering Public Schools Internet facilities. The training provided will be designed to promote Gering Public School's commitment to the standards and acceptable use of Internet services as set forth in the Gering Public Schools Network Acceptable Use and Internet Safety Policy;

Student safety with regard to:

1. safety on the Internet;
2. inappropriate behavior while on online, on social networking Web sites, and in chat rooms; and
3. cyberbullying awareness and response.

Compliance with the E-rate requirements of the Children's Internet Protection Act ("CIPA").

Following receipt of this training, the student will acknowledge that he/she received the training, understood it, and will follow the provisions of the Gering Public Schools Network Acceptable Use and

Internet Safety Policy. Curriculum materials and a Scope and Sequence can be found at Common Sense Media: www.common Sense Media.org

Disclaimers

Gering Public Schools and its individual schools, administrators, faculty, and staff thereof, make no warranties of any kind for the service provided and will not be held responsible for any damage suffered by users. This includes the loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, and intrusion by computer virus or service interruption.

Use of any information obtained via network access is at the risk of the user, and Gering Public Schools specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of the information obtained.

Gering Public Schools cannot guarantee complete protection from inappropriate material. Furthermore, it is impossible for the district or content filter to reflect each individual or family's opinions of what constitutes "inappropriate material". If a student mistakenly accesses inappropriate information, he/she should immediately notify a district staff member.

Gering Public Schools is not liable for an individual's inappropriate use of the district's electronic communications systems, for violations of copyright restrictions or other laws, and for other costs incurred by users through use of Gering Public Schools electronic communication systems.

The district will cooperate fully with local, state, or federal officials in any investigation concerning or relating to misuse of the district's electronic communication systems.

MINOR: The term "minor" means any individual who has not attained the age of 17 years.

TECHNOLOGY PROTECTION MEASURE: The term "technology protection measure" means a specific technology that blocks or filters Internet access to visual depictions that are:

OBSCENE, as that term is defined in section 1460 of title 18, United States Code;

CHILD PORNOGRAPHY, as that term is defined in section 2256 of title 18, United State Code; or Harmful to minors.

HARMFUL TO MINORS: The term "harmful to minors" means any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that:

- Taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion;
- Depicts, describes, or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals; and
- Taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors.
- SEXUAL ACT; SEXUAL CONTACT: The terms "sexual act" and "sexual contact" have the meaning given such terms in section 2246 of title 18, United States Code.

DUE PROCESS

If a principal makes a decision to discipline a student by long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment, the following procedures shall be followed: [ref. 79-4, 181]

- A. Written Charge and Summary of Evidence. [ref.79-4, 181(1)]
 1. File with Superintendent. On the date of the decision, a written charge and a summary of the evidence supporting such charge shall be filed with the superintendent.

2. Send Written Notice: The school shall, within two (2) days of the decision send written notice by registered or certified mail to the student and his or her parent or guardian informing them of the rights established under the Student Discipline Act.
- B. Written Notice: Written notice must include:
1. Violation and Summary of Evidence. The rule or standard of conduct allegedly violated and the acts of the student alleged to constitute a cause for long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment, including a summary of the evidence to be presented against the student; [ref.79-4,181(2)(a)]
 2. Recommended Penalty. The penalty, if any, which the principal has recommended in the charge and any other penalty to which the student may be subject; [ref. 79-4, 181(2)(b)]
 3. Right To Hearing. A statement that, before long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment for disciplinary purposes can be invoked, the student shall have a right to a hearing, upon request, on the specified charges; [ref. 79-4, 181(2)(c)]
 4. Hearing Procedures. A description of the hearing procedures provided by the act, along with procedures for appealing any decision rendered at the hearing; [ref. 79-4,181(2)(d)]
 5. Examine Evidence and Witnesses. A statement that the principal, legal counsel for the school, the student, the student's parent, or the student's representative or guardian shall have the right to:
 - a. Examine the student's academic and disciplinary records and any affidavits to be used at the hearing concerning the alleged misconduct and
 - b. Know the identity of the witnesses to appear at the hearing and the substance of their testimony; [ref. 79-4, 181(2)(e)]
 6. Request for Hearing Form. A form on which the student, the student's parent, or the student's guardian may request a hearing to be signed by such parties and delivered to the principal or superintendent in person or by registered or certified mail as prescribed in Sections 79-4,181 (outline II.J.4) and 79-4,185 (outline II.J.5.a)
- C. Suspension Until Hearing. When a notice of intent to discipline a student by long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment is filed with the superintendent, the student may be suspended by the principal until: [ref. 79-4, 181(3)]
1. The date the disciplinary action takes effect if no hearing is requested;
 2. If a hearing is requested, the date the hearing examiner makes the report of his/her findings and a recommendation of the action to be taken to the superintendent, or
 3. If the principal determines that the student must be suspended immediately to prevent or substantially reduce the risk of:
 - a. Interference with an educational function or school purpose or [ref. 79-4, 181(3)(a)]
 - b. A personal injury to the student himself or herself, other students, school employees, or school volunteers. [ref. 79-4,181(3)(b)]
- D. Discussions Prior to hearing. Nothing in the Student Discipline Act shall preclude the student, parent, guardian, or representative from discussing and settling the matter with appropriate school personnel prior to the hearing stage. [ref. 4, 181]

Procedures if Hearing Is Not Requested

If a hearing is not requested by the student or the student's parent or guardian within five (5) school days following receipt of the written notice, the punishment recommended in the charge by the principal or his/her designee will automatically go into effect upon the fifth (5th) school day following receipt of the written notice by the student or his/her parent or guardian as required above under Section 79-4, 181 [ref. 79-4,184].

Procedures If a Hearing is Requested

- A. Request For Hearing. A hearing must be requested within five (5) school days after receipt of the written notice. [ref. 79-4, 182(1)]
1. Request For Hearing Beyond Five Days. If a hearing is requested more than five (5) school days but not more than thirty (30) calendar days following the actual receipt of written notice, the hearing shall be held but the imposed punishment shall continue in effect pending final determination. [ref. 79-4, 185]
- B. Appointment/Qualifications of Hearing Examiner. If a hearing is requested, the superintendent must appoint a hearing examiner. [ref. 79-4, 182(1)]
1. Qualifications. The hearing examiner can be any person designated by the school district's superintendent, school board, or counsel, if such person:
 - a. Has not brought the charges against the student
 - b. Is not a witness at the hearing, and
 - c. Has no involvement in the charge [ref. 79-4,182(2)]
 2. General Duties. [ref 79-4, 183]
 - a. Impartiality - In addition to other duties, it is the duty of the hearing examiner to remain impartial throughout all deliberations.
 - b. Availability - The hearing examiner must be available, prior to any hearing held pursuant to the act, to answer any questions the principal, the student, or the student's parent or guardian may have regarding the nature and conduct of the hearing.
- C. Notice of Time/Place For Hearing. Within two (2) school days after being appointed, the hearing examiner must give written notice to the principal, the student, and the student's parent or guardian of the time and place for the hearing. [ref. 79-4,182(1)]
1. The hearing shall be scheduled within a period of five (5) school days after it is requested, but such time may be changed by the hearing examiner for good cause. [ref. 79-4,182(3)]
 2. No hearing shall be held upon less than two (2) school days' actual notice to the principal, the student, and the student's parent or guardian, except with the consent of all the parties. [ref. 79-4,182(3)]
- D. Right To Examine Records/Statements. The principal or legal counsel for the school, the student, and the student's parents or guardian, or representative shall have the right to examine the records and written statements referred to in the Student Discipline Act and the statement of any witness in the possession of the school board at a reasonable time prior to the hearing. [ref. 79-4,182(4)]

Grounds for Short-Term Suspension, Long-Term Suspension, Expulsion or Mandatory Reassignment

The following conduct has been determined by the Board of Education to have the potential to seriously affect the health, safety or welfare of students, staff and other persons or to otherwise seriously interfere with the educational process. Such conduct constitutes grounds for long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment, and any other lesser forms of discipline. The conduct is subject to the consequence of long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment where it occurs on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by the school and being used for a school purpose or in a vehicle being driven for a school purpose by a school employee or an employee's designee, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event.

1. Willfully disobeying any reasonable written or oral request of a school staff member, or the voicing of disrespect to those in authority.
2. Use of violence, force, coercion, threat, intimidation, harassment, or similar conduct in a manner that constitutes a substantial interference with school purposes or making any communication that reasonable recipient would interpret as a serious expression of an intent to harm or cause injury to another;

3. Willfully causing or attempting to cause substantial damage to property, stealing or attempting to steal property of substantial value, repeated damage or theft involving property, or setting or attempting to set a fire of any magnitude;
4. Causing or attempting to cause personal injury to any person, including any school employee, school volunteer, or student. Personal injury caused by accident, self-defense, or other action undertaken on the reasonable belief that it was necessary to protect some other person shall not constitute a violation of this subdivision;
5. Threatening or intimidating any student for the purpose of or with the intent of obtaining money or anything of value from such student or making a threat which causes or may be expected to cause a disruption to school operations;
6. Knowingly possessing, handling, or transmitting any object or material that is ordinarily or generally considered a weapon or that has the appearance of a weapon or bringing or possessing any explosive device, including fireworks;
7. Selling, using, possessing or dispensing of alcohol, tobacco, narcotics, drugs, controlled substance, or an inhalant; being under the influence of any of the above; possession of drug paraphernalia, or the selling, using, possessing, or dispensing of an imitation controlled substance as defined in section 28-401 of the Nebraska statutes, or material represented to be alcohol, narcotics, drugs, a controlled substance or inhalant.
8. Use of a controlled substance in the manner prescribed for the student by the student's physician is not a violation. The term "under the influence" has a less strict meaning than it does under criminal law; for school purposes, the term means any level of impairment and includes even the odor of alcohol or illegal substances on the breath or person of a student; also, it includes being impaired by reason of the abuse of any material used as a stimulant;
9. Public indecency or sexual conduct;
10. Engaging in bullying, which includes any ongoing pattern of physical, verbal, or electronic abuse on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose by a school employee or a school employee's designee, or at school-sponsored activities or school-sponsored athletic events;
11. Sexually assaulting or attempting to sexually assault any person. This conduct may result in an expulsion regardless of the time or location of the offense if a complaint alleging such conduct is filed in a court of competent jurisdiction;
12. Engaging in any activity forbidden by law which constitutes a danger to other students or interferes with school purposes. This conduct may result in an expulsion regardless of the time or location of the offense if the conduct creates or had the potential to create a substantial interference with school purposes, such as the use of the telephone or internet off-school grounds to threaten.
13. Repeated violation of any rules established by the school district or school officials if such violations constitute a substantial interference with school purposes;
14. Truancy or failure to attend assigned classes or assigned activities; or tardiness to school, assigned classes or assigned activities;
15. The use of language, written or oral, or conduct, including gestures, which is profane or abusive to students or staff members. Profane or abusive language or conduct includes, but is not limited to, that which is commonly understood and intended to be derogatory toward a group or individual based upon race, gender, disability, national origin, or religion;
16. Dressing or grooming in a manner which is dangerous to the student's health and safety or a danger to the health and safety of others or repeated violations of the student dress and grooming standards; dressing, grooming, or engaging in speech that is lewd or indecent, vulgar or plainly offensive; dressing, grooming, or engaging in speech that school officials reasonably conclude will materially and substantially disrupt the work and discipline of the school; dressing, grooming, or engaging in speech that a reasonable observer would interpret as advocating illegal drug use.
17. Willfully violating the behavioral expectations for those students riding Gering Public Schools buses.

18. A student who engages in the following conduct shall be expelled for the remainder of the school year in which it took effect if the misconduct occurs during the first semester, and if the expulsion for such conduct takes place during the second semester, the expulsion shall remain in effect for the first semester of the following school year, with the condition that such action may be modified or terminated by the school district during the expulsion period on such terms as the administration may establish:
 - a. The knowing and intentional use of force in causing or attempting to cause personal injury to a school employee, school volunteer, or student, except if caused by accident, self-defense, or on the reasonable belief that the force used was necessary to protect some other person and the extent of force used was reasonably believed to be necessary, or
 - b. The knowing and intentional possession, use, or transmission of a dangerous weapon other than a firearm.
19. Knowingly and intentionally possessing, using, or transmitting a firearm on school grounds, in a school-owned or utilized vehicle, or during an educational function or event off school grounds, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event. This conduct shall result in an expulsion for one calendar year. "Firearm" means a firearm as defined in 18 U.S.C. 921, as that statute existed on January 1, 1995. That statute includes the following statement: "The term 'firearm' means (a) any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; (b) the frame or receiver of any such weapon; (c) any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or (d) any destructive device." The Superintendent may modify such a one year expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis, provided that such modification is in writing.
20. Bringing a firearm or other dangerous weapon to school for any reason is discouraged; however, a student will not be subject to disciplinary action if the item is brought or possessed under the following conditions:
 - a. Prior written permission to bring the firearm or other dangerous weapon to school is obtained from the student's teacher, building administrator and parent.
 - b. The purpose of having the firearm or other dangerous weapon in school is for a legitimate educational function.
 - c. A plan for its transportation into and from the school, its storage while in the school building and how it will be displayed must be developed with the prior written approval by the teacher and building administrator. Such a plan shall require that such item will be in the possession of an adult staff member at all times except for such limited time as is necessary to fulfill the educational function.
 - d. The firearm or other dangerous weapon shall be in an inoperable condition while it is on school grounds.

Reporting Student Law Violations:

1. Cases of law violations or suspected law violations by students will be reported to the police and to the student's parents or guardian as soon as possible.
2. When a Principal or other school official releases a minor student to a peace officer (e.g., police officer, sheriff, and all other persons with similar authority to make arrests) for the purpose of removing the minor from the school premises, the Principal or other school official will take immediate steps to notify the parent, guardian, or responsible relative of the minor regarding the release of the minor to the officer and regarding the place to which the minor is reportedly being taken. An exception applies when a minor has been taken into custody as a victim of suspected child abuse; in that event the Principal or other school official shall provide the peace officer with the address and telephone number of the minor's parents or guardian.
3. In an effort to demonstrate that student behavior is always subject to possible legal sanctions regardless of where the behavior occurs, it shall be the policy of the Gering Public Schools to notify the proper legal authorities when a student engages in any of the following behaviors on school grounds or at a school sponsored event:

- a. Knowingly possessing illegal drugs or alcohol.
- b. Assault.
- c. Vandalism resulting in significant property damage.
- d. Theft of school or personal property of a significant nature.
- e. Automobile accident.
- f. Any other behavior which significantly threatens the health or safety of students, staff or other persons or which is required by law to be reported.

Restorative Practice Policy

Our school district supports proactive and reactive evidence-based initiatives to manage student misbehavior. Restorative Practices are grounded in principles and values that: are needs based, hold students accountable, are focused on repairing harms, and support meaningful outcomes. Restorative Practices will be integrated within existing discipline measures and utilized as deemed appropriate.

Restorative Practice Process:

Restorative Practices reflect the philosophy that when a misdeed occurs within a school, it affects those harmed, those causing the harm, and the wider school community. The goal of Restorative Practices is to address conflict using open and respectful dialogue that focuses on the harm caused and strategies to repair this harm and the relationships of those involved. Restorative Practices can include group conferencing, peer mediation, victim-offender mediation, or classroom peace circles, and can be formal or informal. These processes may be handled by district personnel, school resource officers, or others that support the district, such as contractors, ESU's, volunteers, and those serving through Nebraska Supreme Court-approved mediation centers. In a Restorative Practice Conference, students and parents/guardians agree to the following:

- **Constructive Communication:** The goal of restorative practice is to foster new understanding through dialogue that results in a mutually-agreed resolution to the issues at hand. Students and parents agree to speak honestly and to listen respectfully without interruptions. The mediator/facilitator's role is to manage communication and help the parties work to discover solutions that meet the needs and interests of all parties to the fullest extent possible. The mediator/facilitator will not make judgments, give legal advice, or present parties with solutions to their problems.
- **Confidentiality, Privileged, and Voluntary Communications:** Pursuant to Neb. Reb. 43-247.03, parties agree not to record or create transcripts of sessions and acknowledge they are responsible to maintain confidentiality and agree that communications during preparation, process, and follow up will not be shared with others, excepting:
 - Agreements reached in the restorative process.
 - When written permission by all participants is given.
 - When statements regarding unreported allegations of child abuse or neglect or threats to harm self or another are revealed.
 - When process information must be shared with funding or referring agencies, such as Diversion, Probation, County Attorneys, or Courts.
- **Agreements:** No agreement can be forced upon any party. Parties agree to take responsibility for carrying out any agreements made during the restorative process.
- **Program Evaluation:** Participants may be asked to take part in evaluations of the process to comply with reporting requirements.

GENERAL STUDENT INFORMATION

Attendance Policy

Regular and punctual student attendance is required. The Board's policies require such attendance. The administration is responsible for developing further attendance rules and regulations and staff is responsible for assisting in the enforcement of the rules and regulations. Students and parents are responsible for developing behaviors which will result in regular and punctual student attendance.

Absence / Tardy Procedure

Section 79-201 of the Nebraska School Law states that "every person residing in a school district within the State of Nebraska who has legal or actual charge or control of any child not less than seven, nor more than sixteen years of age, shall cause such child to attend regularly the public, private, denominational, or parochial day school each day that such school is open and in session..." Punctual and regular attendance is important since absence from school is the greatest single cause of lack of achievement in school.

- ❑ It is the parent's/guardian's responsibility to notify the school each time their child is absent or tardy. Normal School hours for students are **8:00 a.m. until 3:24 p.m.** PARENTS SHOULD CALL THE SCHOOL OFFICE (436-3123) STARTING AT 7:30 a.m. AND ON THROUGH THE DAY OF YOUR STUDENT'S ABSENCE.
- ❑ Attendance will be tracked by counting periods missed. One day's absence will be counted as eight (8) academic class periods. Attendance totals will be recounted at the end of each week.
- ❑ When the student reaches 35 periods of absence, the principal or her/his designee will send a letter to the parent to inform them of their child's attendance record.
- ❑ When a student has missed 80 or more periods, a letter will be sent home asking the parent or guardian to contact the school to set up a meeting. A copy of this letter will be sent to the County Attorney, who may set up a truancy hearing. A meeting will then be held that will include the student, the parent/guardian, a school administrator and a school counselor. This meeting will serve to draw up a new attendance agreement. The student will also be required to buy back time (see below). If the student does not buy back the necessary number of periods, he/she may lose credit in his/her classes
 - Any student who is absent for five consecutive school days due to illness must have a note from a physician allowing him/her to return to school.
 - Three unexcused tardies will count as an absence.
 - In order to buy back the time, a student must follow the process below.
 - ❑ The student will have one night of detention for every period he or she is over the 80 periods limit
 - ❑ If a student who has missed 80 periods is passing all of their classes, they will be required to meet with a school administrator, counselor, or attendance monitor to determine if they need to buy back time.
 - ❑ If a student is failing a class or a teacher needs the student to come in, he/she will either stay in detention or go to mandatory tutoring.
 - ❑ Make up time may also be assigned during the lunch hour.
 - ❑ At the end of every week, the numbers will be updated. The process will be repeated until the necessary time has been made up to get the student down to 35 periods missed.
 - ❑ Once the student has served the required number of detentions or provided progress reports indicating s/he is passing all classes, the school will consider the time as having been made up.
 - ❑ If attendance is addressed in a 504 or an IEP plan, that plan will supersede this attendance policy.
 - ❑ A student shall be considered absent if he/she is more than 20 minutes late to any class.

We understand that there may be circumstances that prevent students from attending school. We will accept the following as excuses:

Exceptional Absences (not counted in the cumulative absence total):

School activities	Court Related	Bereavement
Weather related	Serious Illness (must have a note from the Dr. with specific dates)	
Suspensions	Hospital stay and recovery	

Other absences (counted in the cumulative absence total):

Illness	Planned absence	Church activities	Club sport contests
Nurse's Office	Office Behavior Referral	3 unexcused tardies	

Make-up Work: Students are allowed 2 days to make up assignments for every day of excused absence.

Academic Integrity

Policy Statement

Students are expected to abide by the standards of academic integrity established by their teachers and school administration. Standards of academic integrity are established in order for students to learn as much as possible from instruction, for students to be given grades which accurately reflect the student's level of learning and progress, to provide a level playing field for all students, and to develop appropriate values.

Cheating and plagiarism violate the standards of academic integrity. Sanctions will be imposed against students who engage in such conduct.

Definitions

The following definitions provide a guide to the standards of academic integrity:

1. "**Cheating**" means intentionally to misrepresent the source, nature, or other conditions of academic work so as to accrue undeserved credit, or to cooperate with someone else in such misrepresentation. Such misrepresentations may, but need not necessarily, involve the work of others. Cheating includes, but is not limited to:
 - (a) **Tests** (includes tests, quizzes and other examinations or academic performances):
 - (1) **Advance Information:** Obtaining, reviewing or sharing copies of tests or information about a test before these are distributed for student use by the instructor. For example, a student engages in cheating if, after having taken a test, the student informs other students in a later section of the questions that appear on the test.
 - (2) **Use of Unauthorized Materials:** Using notes, textbooks, pre-programmed formulas in calculators, or other unauthorized material, devices or information while taking a test except as expressly permitted. For example, except for "open book" tests, a student engages in cheating if the student looks at personal notes or the textbook during the test.
 - (3) **Use of Other Student Answers:** Copying or looking at another student's answers or work, or sharing answers or work with another student, when taking a test, except as expressly permitted. For example, a student engages in cheating if the student looks at another student's paper during a test. A student also engages in cheating if the student tells another student answers during a test or while exiting the testing room, or knowingly allows another student to look at the student's answers on the test paper.
 - 4) **Use of Other Student to Take Test.** Having another person take one's place for a test, or taking a test for another student, without the specific knowledge and permission of the instructor.

- (5) Misrepresenting Need to Delay Test. Presenting false or incomplete information in order to postpone or avoid the taking of a test. For example, a student engages in cheating if the student misses class on the day of a test, claiming to be sick, when the student's real reason for missing class was because the student was not prepared for the test.
- (b) Papers (includes papers, essays, lab projects, and other similar academic work):
- (1) Use of Another's Paper: Copying another student's paper, using a paper from an essay writing service, or allowing another student to copy a paper, without the specific knowledge and permission of the instructor.
- (2) Re-use of One's Own Papers: Using a substantial portion of a piece of work previously submitted for another course or program to meet the requirements of the present course or program without notifying the instructor to whom the work is presented.
- (3) Assistance from Others: Having another person assist with the paper to such an extent that the work does not truly reflect the student's work. For example, a student engages in cheating if the student has a draft essay reviewed by the student's parent or sibling, and the essay is substantially re-written by the student's parent or sibling. Assistance from home is encouraged, but the work must remain the student's.
- (4) Failure to Contribute to Group Projects. Accepting credit for a group project in which the student failed to contribute a fair share of the work.
- (5) Misrepresenting Need to Delay Paper. Presenting false or incomplete information in order to postpone or avoid turning in a paper when due. For example, a student engages in cheating if the student misses class on the day a paper is due, claiming to be sick, when the student's real reason for missing class was because the student had not finished the paper.
- (c) Alteration of Assigned Grades. Any unauthorized alteration of assigned grades by a student in the teacher's grade book or the school records is a serious form of cheating.
2. "Plagiarism" means to take and present as one's own a material portion of the ideas or words of another or to present as one's own an idea or work derived from an existing source without full and proper credit to the source of the ideas, words, or works.

Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to:

- a. Failure to Credit Sources: Copying work (words, sentences, and paragraphs or illustrations or models) directly from the work of another without proper credit. Academic work frequently involves use of outside sources. To avoid plagiarism, the student must place the work in quotations and give a citation to the outside source.
- b. Falsely Presenting Work as One's Own: Presenting work prepared by another in final or draft form as one's own without citing the source, such as the use of purchased research papers or use of another student's paper.
- c. "Contributing" to academic integrity violations means to participate or assist another in cheating or plagiarism. It includes but is not limited to allowing another student to look at your test answers, to copy your papers or lab projects, and to fail to report a known act of cheating or plagiarism to the instructor or administration.

C. Sanctions

The following sanctions will occur for academic integrity offenses:

1. Academic Sanction. The instructor will refuse to accept the student's work in which the cheating or plagiarism took place, assign a grade of "F" or zero for the work, and require the student to complete a test or project in place of the work within such time and under such

conditions as the instructor may determine appropriate. In the event the student completes the replacement test or project at a level meeting minimum performance standards, the instructor will assign a grade which the instructor determines to be appropriate for the work. Credit for the class may be withheld pending successful completion of the replacement test or project.

2. Report to Parents and Administration. The instructor will notify the Principal of the offense and the instructor or Principal will notify the student's parents or guardian.

3. Student Discipline Sanctions. Academic integrity offenses are a violation of school rules. The Principal may recommend sanctions in addition to those assigned by the instructor, up to and including suspension or expulsion. Such additional sanctions will be given strong consideration where a student has engaged in a serious or repeated academic integrity offense or other rule violations, and where the academic sanction is otherwise not a sufficient remedy, such as for offenses involving altering assigned grades or contributing to academic integrity violations.

Academic Progress Report

~~Academic progress reports will be taken home by students or sent home at the midpoint of each nine week term or at any other time when the teachers feel it is necessary. The reports are to be read and signed by a parent/guardian and returned to the designated teacher.~~ At the teacher's discretion, parents may be informed as to the student's progress via a telephone call, or email. Parents are encouraged to sign up for access to the Infinite Campus Portal. This tool is an excellent resource for parents to stay up to date on their student's academic progress, behavior and attendance. Contact the Gering Junior High School Office for assistance with this process at 308-436-3123.

Accidents or Injuries

Please report accidents or injuries to the classroom teacher or to an administrator. The teacher or administrator will file an accident report. An administrator may call the school nurse to examine the injury.

Accreditation

Both Gering Middle School and High School are members of and accredited by ~~AdvanceED~~ Nebraska Department of Education Frameworks.

Arrival At School/Dismissal From School: Students are expected to arrive at school no more than 20 minutes prior to the first class or school program in which they are participating. **Prior to that time, the school is not responsible for supervision of the students.** Students will be admitted to the school building 20 minutes prior to the first class. Students will not be permitted to enter earlier unless the Principal determines it to be necessary due to inclement weather or other factors. Students are to enter through their assigned entrance and proceed to designated areas.

Students will be dismissed at the end of the last period of the school day unless there are other circumstances (early dismissal, detention etc.). Upon dismissal, students must leave the school grounds and proceed home or to a previously designated location unless participating in a school-sponsored activity. **The school is not responsible for supervision of students once the students are to have left school grounds.**

Certain days on the calendar are "shortened days," meaning that the school day starts or ends other than on the normal schedule. Parents are strongly encouraged to be aware of those days so their children are not left in an unsupervised situation or without a means to get home upon dismissal.

Asbestos Management Plan

Gering Public Schools has conducted asbestos inspections in all of its facilities as required by Section 203 of Title 15, Chapter 53, subchapter II, of the Toxic Substance Control Act. 15 U.S.C. 2643, of 1986.

Management plans requiring those inspections are available for your review in the principal's office and in the Central Administration Office at 1800 Eighth Street, Gering, Nebraska during regular business hours.

Behavior (Positive Behavior Support)

In order to ensure a safe learning environment for all students, the school staff is committed to:

- Using a positive, preventative, and educational approach to student behavior
- Having a plan with clear direction for staff
- Explicitly teaching student behavior expectations
- Empowering all staff to implement the plan
- Students taking responsibility for their own behavior
- Using natural and logical consequences when behavior problems occur
- Seeking parent support for appropriate student conduct and disciplinary procedures

In order to carry out the philosophy and beliefs stated above, our school has chosen to implement the Positive Behavior Support (PBS) model. PBS is a program designed to build a more positive school-wide atmosphere. The ultimate goal is to teach students to be self-managers, who encourage and challenge each other to higher behavioral and academic standards. This is accomplished through the use of clear expectations which are explicitly taught, regularly acknowledged and fairly corrected. Students are "setup" for success in school.

Bell Schedule

The daily schedule will be devised to optimize time allotted for educational instruction and the full utilization of educational staff shared between buildings. The daily schedule may be subject to change in order to meet constraints imposed by additions to the curriculum or changes in personnel.

Bicycles

Bicycles must be parked in the racks provided and should be locked and licensed. The School District assumes no responsibility for the safety or security of these vehicles.

BIST (Behavior Intervention Support Team)

An evidenced based program adopted by the Gering School District to help staff implement the following systems.

- A communication system or regular meetings, checklists for student/administrator referral, informal feedback and check ups.
- A proactive, rather than reactive, behavior system which fits with the goals of Positive Behavior Support.
- A common language which builds skills and develops responsibility.
- Safe places where students who are in trouble can go to process and get help.
- Mentors who will support teachers of difficult students. (Mentors can be teachers, colleagues, volunteers and others).
- A behavior intervention team of school staff to give back-up for teachers and administration.

BIST operates on these basic life goals:

1. I can do what I don't want to do. I can be productive and follow directions even when I don't want to.
2. I can be angry or upset and make good choices.
3. I can be okay when others are not okay.

BIST Placement Steps: Classroom Seat, Safe Seat, Buddy Room, Team Focus or Recovery Room, Principal's Office

Students must earn their way back into the previous step by processing with the teacher and/or meeting pre-established goals. After the Team has notified the parents, they make the recommendation to the

principal to place a student in Team Focus or the Recovery Room. The final decision for placement lies with the principal.

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 and initialed by the Principal. 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. Personal messages and/or picture posters are NOT to be attached to student lockers without Administrative approval.

Like Gering Junior High (Official) on Facebook and Twitter @youngbulldog

Cafeteria

Gering Public School uses an automated scanning system to record payments and charges to family accounts. Parents/guardians are expected to maintain a positive balance in their family lunch account.

At the start of the school year, a letter is sent home with students including an application for free or reduced lunches and breakfasts. We encourage you to complete the form and return it as soon as possible

Benefits from the prior year expire on **September 19th** of the current school year and a new application must be submitted. Any charges incurred from that point until the new form is approved are the responsibility of the parent/guardian.

GUIDELINES REGARDING THE COLLECTION OF DELINQUENT MEAL CHARGES

The Gering Public School food service department utilizes a computerized point-of-sale system, Infinite Campus. Upon enrollment, all students are given a Student account. Money deposited into this account can be used for the purchase of breakfast, lunch, milk and ala carte items. Parents can check their child's account balance and make deposits in the Parent Portal at <http://www.geringschools.net/parents/>.

Payment Options: The food service department recommends that money is pre-paid into the account prior to the point-of-sale. The following payment options are available:

1. Major credit card through the Parent Portal.
2. Check:
 - i. Must be made to Gering Public Schools.
 - ii. Must have student's full name in memo.
 - iii. If more than one student is on a single check, the check must specify how much money is to be deposited into each account. If a check is returned due to non-sufficient funds (NSF), we will attempt to collect all money owed. In the event it cannot be collected, a third party collection agency will be utilized.
3. Cash: Must be submitted in a sealed envelope with students' full name and amount on the envelope.
4. Account Balance Information:
 - i. Gering Public Schools expects parents to be responsible for monitoring their student's Café account and maintaining a positive balance. Free and

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reduced price meal assistance is available to all patrons at any time throughout the school year. Applications may be obtained from any of our school offices. The building Principal's office will notify parents of negative account balances. In the event a student's account reaches a negative balance, no extra meals or ala carte items can be charged.

In the event a student's Café account reaches a negative balance of \$10, the following will apply.

1. An alternate lunch will be served, consisting of a peanut butter or cheese sandwich and milk. The student will continue to receive an alternate meal until all charges are paid and the account has a positive balance.

Free and Reduced eligible students are entitled to one reimbursable meal. Extra meals and ala carte items will need to be purchased.

At the end of the school year, if a family no longer has children attending school, moves out of the district, or become eligible for free meals, the family may request reimbursement of any balance in the family account. Funds for families with students continuing the following school year will remain in the family account for the next school year. **The cafeteria will open for breakfast at approximately 20 minutes prior to the start of each school day.**

Care of School Property

Students are responsible for the proper care of all books, equipment, supplies and furniture supplied by the school. Students who disfigure property, break windows or do other damage to school property or equipment will be required to pay for the damage done or replace the item. Fines are determined on books according to the following criteria:

Lost Book:	Replacement cost
Missing one or both covers:	Same as lost book
Loose Cover:	\$1.00
Missing Page:	50¢ per page (up to replacement cost)
Torn Page:	20¢ per page (up to replacement cost)
Marks that cannot be erased:	20¢ per mark (up to replacement cost)

School-issued items that are stolen or damaged from unlocked lockers are the responsibility of the student to whom they were issued. Students must pay all fines before they can receive school publications and final grades.

Band Fees: Students participating in Band and borrowing a school issued instrument will be responsible for paying a non-refundable \$20 cleaning fee for use of this instrument before the instrument will be issued/sent home with the student.

Chromebook Insurance Charge:

Gering Public Schools is assessing a \$20 insurance charge to cover incidental damage that may occur to a Chromebook. **This fee does not cover intentional or malicious damage to the chromebook.** Lost or misplaced Chromebooks will result in the student being assessed the full cost of a replacement Chromebook.

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 coursework, 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.

Dances:

Student dances are to be sponsored by school organizations. The following rules must be followed:

- There must be at least 10 adult chaperones provided by the organization, two of which must be school staff members.
- Dance hours may not last longer than 9:00 P.M.
- Students must show their student I.D. to enter.
- No students from other schools may enter.
- The doors to the dance close 30 minutes after the dance begins. Students may not enter the dance after that time unless accompanied by parent/guardian.
- Students are not allowed to leave the dance early unless a parent / guardian comes into the dance to get them.
- The sponsoring organization will be responsible for decorations and clean up.
- Sponsors have the final determination on selection of music and themes.
- Dances will be scheduled for Monday - Friday. Dances will NOT be held on weekends.

Deliveries:

No deliveries to students of flowers, balloons, pizzas, gifts or other items will be permitted during regular school hours or without prior administrative approval.

Drug-Free Schools:

The District implements regulations and practices that will ensure compliance with the Federal Drug Free Schools and Communities Act and all regulations and rules promulgated pursuant thereto. The District’s safe and drug-free schools program is established in accordance with principles of effectiveness as required by law to respond to such harmful effects. The consistent message of the program is that the use of illicit drugs and the unlawful possession and use of alcohol is wrong and harmful.

Electronic Resources:

Students will have many opportunities to use the Internet and other electronic resources as part of their educational opportunities in Gering Public Schools. Students using electronic resources must be careful

to follow District Policy and Procedures. (See Acceptable Use Policy for Electronic Resources - page 5)
WARNING: Students are reminded that anytime you share information electronically, it is **NO LONGER PRIVATE INFORMATION!!!!** Examples may include, but are not limited to: Twitter, Facebook, computers, cell phones (including text messages), personal blogs, and any/all other electronic devices. Students are thus notified that the school administration, while possibly not initially involved in securing information in the sharing process of electronic information, **WILL** follow normal investigative procedures if a possible school violation and/or activity suspension may be involved.

Emergency Closing Procedures Parents are requested to provide an emergency contact telephone number to have on file in the event of an emergency closing or any other general or individual situation that requires the immediate presence of a parent/guardian. In the event that parents do not have such a number or cannot be contacted, it will be assumed that the parent has instructed their children concerning the procedure they are to follow should school be dismissed early. Realizing that the school might be unable to reach all parents, it is suggested that all children be advised as to what they are to do should they ever be dismissed early. It is recommended that parents give their children an alternate destination and that the building principal be made aware of this information.

If conditions allow and supervision is available in the event of an early dismissal, the child will be held in school until the normal dismissal time. If the parent or guardian has not arrived to pick up the child by the normal dismissal time, law enforcement or child protective services may be contacted to ensure the safety of the child.

Fire and Evacuation Drills:

Detailed instructions for building evacuation drills can be found on the bulletin board of each classroom. Students should study these instructions and be familiar with all exits. Fire drills will be held throughout the school year. Other drills relative to the evacuation or safe sheltering of students may be held as needed.

Grading System

Students will receive letter grades on report cards and transcripts. The following scale will be used to assign letter grades and a grade point average from a percent:

A -	94 to 100	(Superior work)
B -	86 to 93	(Above average)
C -	78 to 85	(Average)
D -	70 to 77	(Below average)
F -	Below 70	(Failure)
WF -	Withdrawn/Failing	(No credits, no GPA)
WP -	Withdrawn/Passing	(No credits, no GPA)
I -	Incomplete	
P -	Passing	

Each teacher will define the grading procedures to be used in their classes.

Guidance and Counseling Services:

School Counselors: Lorna Davis and Drew Marlow

The mission of Gering Junior High / Senior High School's guidance program is to provide a system designed to anticipate and facilitate the educational, career, and personal/social needs of students. A curriculum approach to providing services focuses on the prevention of problems by providing all students with appropriate age level skills and guidance information. Among the many responsibilities of school counselors, the following are primary: Counseling students, consulting with staff members, and integrating guidance services into the school's instructional program. Counselors will meet the developmental needs of all students as well as respond to the special needs and interests of individual students.

The guidance delivery system will ensure that the skills of the counselor are used to optimum advantage; that the work of the psychologists, nurses, and administrators support and enrich the guidance program; that the classroom teacher's already important guidance role is strengthened; and, that parents and community resources are kept informed and encouraged to participate in the development of students.

Hall Passes:

Teachers wishing to have unscheduled students in their rooms or elsewhere for special conferences will make out a dated, timed, and signed hall pass and give it to the student before he/she is to use the pass. Teachers receiving the request must also sign and write the time it before it is valid. Anytime you have a hall pass, you are to return to your room before the end of the period, and this pass is to be signed and timed by the teacher.

Health Services:

As defined by the National Association of School Nurses, school nursing is a specialized practice of professional nursing that advances the well-being, academic success, and life-long achievement of students. School nurses facilitate positive student responses to normal development; promote health and safety; intervene with actual and potential health problems; provide case management services; and actively collaborate with others to build student and family capacity for adaptation, self-management, self-advocacy, and learning.

The school nurse role:

- Ensures compliance with school entry health requirements
- Provides care and case management for children with chronic health problems
- Monitors security and safe administration of medications
- Assures the health and safety of the school students and staff
- Manages disaster preparedness and emergency service plans
- Provides health education and staff wellness programs
- Provides resources and guidance in the areas of disease and infection control practices at school
- Assures student compliance with state and local regulations related to health and safety (Immunizations; Health Screens)
- Identifies school health needs and advocates for necessary resources

Parents and/or Guardians are responsible for the health care of their child, while the school is available to assist, assess, and monitor that care during regular school hours. Parents and/or Guardians are responsible for notifying the school of their student's:

- Chronic or Acute health related diseases, conditions, and/or issues (Examples include severe allergies, diabetes, epilepsy, asthma, urinary or bowel issues, etc.);
- Recent physical, vision, and/or dental exams;
- Updated immunizations (Records are reviewed annually, and summary reports are sent to Nebraska State Health Department);
- Need for medication administration during the regular school day (Please refer to Medication Administration Policy);
- Absence from school due to illness. (Please inform school of type of illness so that the number and type of illness and symptoms can be monitored and reported to local health department as necessary);
- Updated emergency contact information and a plan/arrangement in place if parent/guardian is unable to pick up their ill child from school and/or when the child is ill and needs to stay home.

In addition, parents/and or guardians have the following notification responsibilities:

- Students from out of state will need a physical/vision exam which was done within the last (six) 6 months of entering school. Provide a current immunization report that is compliant with the State of Nebraska guidelines. All documents need to be turned in and approved by the health office prior to the student's first day of school.
- Inform the school of PE or recess restrictions. If a student requires restricted PE or recess due to a health condition for more than one (1) school day, then a healthcare provider note is required. If a student has a note limiting or restricting PE, this will include recess. If a student is out of school for five (5) consecutive days due to illness, a note from the student's health provider will need to be provided to the school's health office.
- Each school location has a First Responder Team and staff who are CPR/First Aid/AED certified,

trained on Asthma & Anaphylaxis and Medication Administration to assist students. The schools are not staffed with full-time nurses. Basic first aid will be administered to students; if more extensive care is needed, then the parent/guardian (or emergency contact) will be notified, or 911 will be contacted.

Medication Administration Policy:

It is recognized that for effective treatment of chronic and/or acute illnesses, medication might need to be administered during school hours. A student who is required to take medication during the regular school day must comply with medication administration policy. The policy has been developed for the safety of the student receiving the medication and for the safety of all students. Medication will be administered by the school nurse, a registered Medication Aide, or other school staff member meeting the minimum competency standards for the Medication Aide Act.

For school personnel to administer prescription medication to a student, it is necessary to have a doctor and/or health care provider's authorization and written order and a parent/guardian's authorization. Medication must be brought to school in the original labeled prescription bottle by parent/guardian with proper label including child's name, and an order from the health care providers with the student's name, medication name, instructions for use (time, dosage, duration) and the healthcare provider's signature. The authorization must be renewed on an annual basis and/or if the prescription changes. Loose capsules, tablets, unidentified or non-labeled medication will not be accepted for administration. Medication will not be administered without the above authorization and information.

A record of the medication administration will be kept for each student receiving medication including the student name, medication name, instructions for use, name and initials of personnel who administered medication, date, time and route of administration, drug count with signature of school personnel and parent/guardian to verify count, documentation of unusual circumstances, actions, or omissions. Administration of medication records shall be kept confidential. Records shall be available to the Department of Health and Human Services Regulation and Licensure, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the State Department of Education.

1. Over-the-counter medication (such as Tylenol, ibuprofen, cough drops, saline eye drops, hydrocortisone cream, triple antibiotic ointment, insect sting swab, topical cooling gel) may be given with parents/guardians permission by trained school personnel by signing the pertinent section on Student Health Information form at the beginning of the school year. That permission releases Gering Public Schools and employees from liability in case of choking, allergic reaction, side effects and/or health risks related to the medication. Parents/guardians may also supply over-the-counter medication for their student to be kept at the school.
2. Medication will be kept in a secured area. Students may carry medication only with the approval of the parents and building principal and the appropriate paperwork completed. Emergency protocol for medication-related reactions will be in place. Medications must be picked up by an adult on the last day of school, or they will be disposed of.
3. Schools are not staffed with a full-time nurse. The student has a responsibility to remember to report to the office at medication administration time.
4. The superintendent shall be responsible, in conjunction with the school nurse or medication aide, for developing rules and regulations governing the administration of medication, prescription and nonprescription, including emergency protocols, to students and for ensuring persons administering medication have met the requirement of state statutes. Annually, each student shall be provided with the requirements for administration of medication at school.

Health Screenings

Health Screenings will be performed as recommended by the Department of Health and Human Services. Parents/Guardians will be notified in writing if medical, dental, vision, audiology, or other follow-up is recommended after the screening is completed.

Contagious and Infectious Diseases

As recommended by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, please refer to the list below for minimum isolation periods and control measures:

Please note: Susceptible=person with disease; Contacts=those who have been in contact with diseased person. Day of onset of specific symptom is counted as "day zero"; the day after onset is "day 1"

1. Chickenpox: Exclude for at least 5 days after the eruption first appears or until vesicles become dry; Avoid contact with susceptibles. No exclusion of contacts. Alert parents of immunosuppressed

child(ren) of possible exposure.

2. Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye): Exclude symptomatic cases. Urge medical care. May return when the eye is normal in appearance or with documentation from the physician that the child is no longer infectious. No exclusion of contacts.
3. Common Cold: Exclusion unnecessary. No exclusion of contacts.
4. Diphtheria: Exclude cases. Return with a documented physician approval. Exclude inadequately immunized close contacts as deemed appropriate by school officials following investigation by the local and/or Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. Report immediately by telephone all cases to local and/or state health departments.
5. Enterobiasis (Pinworm, Threadworm, Seatworm): Exclude until treated as documented by physician. No exclusion of contacts. Careful hand washing essential.
6. Fifth Disease: Exclude until fever and malaise are gone. May return with rash with documented physician approval. No exclusion of contacts; however, alert any students or staff who are pregnant, have chronic hemolytic anemia or immunodeficiency to consult their physician.
7. Hepatitis A: Exclude for no less than 7 days after onset of jaundice. Return with documented physician approval. No exclusion of contacts. Immune globulin (IG) prevents disease if given within two weeks of exposure. IG to family contacts only. Careful hand washing essential.
8. Herpes Simplex (Type 1): Exclusion unnecessary. No exclusion of contacts. Avoid contact with immunosuppressed or eczematous persons. Good hygiene avoids sharing toilet articles.
9. Impetigo: Exclude until brought under treatment as documented by physician. No exclusion of contacts. Good personal hygiene essential. Avoid common use of toilet articles.
10. Influenza: Exclude for duration of illness. No exclusion of contacts.
11. Lice: The student is not sent home from school; however, it is acceptable for the parent/guardian to pick up the student. The parent/guardian is instructed that the student should be treated before returning to school and that nits should be removed.
12. Meningitis (Bacterial and Viral): Exclude for duration of illness. Return with documented physician approval. No exclusion of contacts. Chemoprophylaxis appropriate for family and intimate contacts.
13. Measles (Rubeola): Exclude for duration of illness and for no fewer than 4 days after onset of rash. Exclude unimmunized students on same campus from date of diagnosis of first case until 14 days after rash onset of last known case or until measles immunization received or laboratory proof of immunity is presented or until history of previous measles infection is verified as per records or the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. Report immediately by telephone all cases to local and/or state health departments.
14. Mumps (Epidemic Parotitis): Exclude until swelling has subsided. No exclusion of contacts. Inform parents of unimmunized students on campus of possible exposure and encourage immunization.
15. Pediculosis (Head or body lice): Exclude until after appropriate treatment is started. No exclusion of contacts; however, they should be notified of exposure.
16. Pertussis (Whooping Cough): Return as per written documentation. Exclude adequately immunized close contacts as deemed appropriate by school officials following investigation by the local and/or state Department of Health and Human Services. Chemoprophylaxis may be considered for family and close contacts. Report immediately by telephone all cases to local and/or state health departments.
17. Poliomyelitis: Exclude until physician approves return.
18. Ringworm: Exclude until treatment started. No exclusion of contacts. Good sanitation practices and don't share toilet articles.
19. Rubella (German Measles): Exclude for duration of illness and for no less than 4 days after onset of rash. Exclude unimmunized students on same campus from date of diagnosis of first case until 23* days after rash onset of the last known case or until rubella immunization received or laboratory proof of immunity is presented. Report immediately by telephone all cases to the local and/or state health department.
20. Scabies: Exclude until the day after treatment started. No exclusion of contacts.
21. Shingles/Herpes Zoster: Exclude children with shingles / zoster if the vesicles cannot be covered until after the vesicles have dried. Individuals with shingles /zoster should be instructed to wash their hands if they touch the potentially infectious vesicles.

22. Streptococcal Infection (Scarlet Fever, Scarletina, Strep Throat): Exclude until afebrile and under treatment for 24 hours. No exclusion of contacts. Early medical care is important and usually requires 10 days of antibiotic treatment. Screening for asymptomatic cases not recommended.

23. Tuberculosis Pulmonary: Exclude. Physician treatment essential. May return with documented physician approval. No exclusion of contacts. Skin test contacts and chemoprophylaxis with INH if positive (in absence of disease). Exclusion of non-pulmonary tuberculosis unnecessary.

In addition, Gering Public Schools policy includes:

1. Elevated Body Temperature: A student with temperature over 100 degrees shall be sent home from school. The student can return to school once fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication (Tylenol, Ibuprofen, etc). A fever is defined as 100-degrees Fahrenheit or 37.8-degrees Celsius. Or students may return with documented physician approval.

2. Hepatitis B and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) or Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS): Determination of the school attendance status of a student with Hepatitis B or HIV/AIDS will be on a case by case basis.

3. Missed school days from illness: If a student is absent for five consecutive school days due to illness, then doctor note is required to allow for his/her return to school.

4. Nausea and/or Vomiting: If a student has nausea and/or vomiting, then remaining out of school for 24-hours is strongly recommended.

5. MRSA (Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus Aureus): May return with documented physician approval.

Procedures for students who become injured or ill at school

Any student who becomes ill or injured during the school day will report to the school nurse. An ill or injured student may not leave school until permission of the parent, or the person designated by the parent, has been received. Ill or injured students are not to leave the building without the knowledge of the health office staff and without signing out properly in the office. The Health Office is to be used for the purpose of receiving First Aid treatment for injuries or illness.

Requirements for Physicals, Vision Exams, and Immunizations:

- *Physical Examination*

Physical examination by a physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse within the six months prior to the entrance of a child into Early Childhood Education, beginner grade or Kindergarten, and 7th grade, or in the case of a transfer from out of state to any grade, is required. The parent/guardian has the right to submit a written statement refusing such examination.

- *Vision Exam*

Visual evaluation by a physician, a physician assistant, an advanced practice registered nurse, or an optometrist within six months prior to the entrance of a child into the beginner grade or Kindergarten, or in the case of transfer from out of state to any grade, is required. The visual evaluation must consist of testing for amblyopia, strabismus, and internal and external eye health, with testing to determine visual acuity. The parent/guardian has the right to submit a written statement refusing such an evaluation.

- *Immunization Requirements*

The State of Nebraska has immunization requirements for children entering school. Students will not be able to enter school until the school has written proof of their immunization status. To attend school, students in Nebraska are required to be immunized per current requirements from Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.

All students K-12 must be immunized for D.P.T., polio, measles, rubella, varicella, mumps and Hepatitis B. The Tdap vaccination is required for incoming 7th graders. Dates of immunizations are required.

Students with a history of varicella disease (chicken pox) must provide evidence of immunity in form of signature of parent with date of illness, signature of health care provider with date of illness, laboratory evidence of varicella immunity or a clinical diagnosis of shingles.

Students who do not receive immunizations for health reasons must have a statement signed by a healthcare provider stating that, in their opinion, the specified immunization(s) required would be injurious to the health and well-being of the student or any member of the student's family or household.

Students who do not receive immunization due to religious reason must have a notarized affidavit signed by a legally authorized representative of the student, stating that the immunization conflicts with the tenets and practice of a recognized religious denomination of which the student is an adherent or member, or that immunization conflicts with the personally and sincerely followed religious beliefs of the student.

A student may be provisionally enrolled in school if he/she has begun the immunizations against the specified disease prior to enrollment and continues the necessary immunizations as rapidly as is medically feasible. In addition, a student may also be 18 provisionally enrolled if he/she is the child of an officer or enlisted person, or the child of the spouse of such officer or enlisted person on active duty in any branch of military services of the United States.

For further information on immunizations, contact school health staff or refer to Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Control of Communicable Disease regulations.

Summary of the School Immunization Rules and Regulations
For 2020-2121 School Year

Student Age Group	Required Vaccines
Ages 2 through 5 year enrolled in a school based program not licensed as a childcare provider	4 doses of DTaP, DTP, or DT vaccine, 3 doses of Polio vaccine, 3 doses of Hib vaccine or 1 dose of Hib given at or after 15 months of age, 3 doses of pediatric Hepatitis B vaccine, 1 dose of MMR or MMRV given on or after 12 months of age, 1 dose of varicella (chickenpox) or MMRV given on or after 12 months of age. Written documentation (including year) of varicella disease from parent, guardian, or health care provider will be accepted. 4 doses of pneumococcal or 1 dose of pneumococcal given on or after 15 months of age.
Students from Kindergarten through 12th Grade, including all transfer students from outside the State of Nebraska and any foreign students	3 doses of DTaP, DTP, DT, or Td vaccine, one given on or after the 4th birthday, 3 doses of Polio vaccine, 3 doses of pediatric Hepatitis B vaccine or 2 doses of adolescent vaccine if the student is 11-15 years of age. 2 doses of MMR or MMRV vaccine, given on or after 12 months of age and separated by at least one month, 2 doses of varicella (chickenpox) or MMRV if given on or after 12 months of age. Written documentation (including year) of varicella disease from parent, guardian, or health care provider will be accepted. If the child has had varicella disease, they do not need any varicella shots.
Additionally, for 7th Grade Only	1 dose of Tdap (must contain Pertussis booster)

Source: Nebraska Immunization Program, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, 2011. For additional information, call 402-471-6423.

The School Rules & Regulations are available on the internet: <http://www.hhs.state.ne.us/reg/t173.htm>

(Title 173: Control of Communicable Diseases - Chapter 3; revised and implemented 2011)

Emergency Response to Life-Threatening Asthma or Systemic Allergic Reactions (Anaphylaxis) Protocol (NDE- Title 92 NAC Chapter 59):

The Nebraska State Board of Education mandated that this protocol to be adopted and implemented in all accredited public schools, approved nonpublic schools and early childhood education programs. Through Attack on Asthma Nebraska and the Nebraska Department of Education, the protocol steps are designed to provide quick, effective care in order to prevent death due to severe asthma attack or anaphylaxis. Staff members have been trained to recognize signs and symptoms of a life-threatening breathing emergency, certain staff members are trained to respond to anyone experiencing a life-threatening asthma or anaphylaxis emergency at school.

The Emergency Protocol includes:

1. *CALL 911*
2. *Summon school nurse if available. If not, summon designated trained, non-medical staff to implement emergency protocol*
3. *Check airway patency, breathing, respiratory rate, and pulse*
4. *Administer medications (EpiPen® and Albuterol) per standing order*
5. *Determine cause as quickly as possible*
6. *Monitor vital signs (pulse, respiration, etc)*
7. *Contact parents immediately and physician as soon as possible*
8. *Any individual treated for symptoms with epinephrine at school will be transferred to medical facility*

If you know that your student has asthma or a known allergy, it is critically important that you communicate this information to school health staff. For each student with a known allergic condition or asthma, you must provide the school with (1) written medical documentation (Asthma/Allergy Action Plan), (2) medications, as directed by a healthcare professional. In the event that your student experiences a life-threatening asthma attack or systemic allergic reaction, we will defer to the specific documents and medication that you have provided. If you do not have medical documentation and instructions on file with the school for your student, we will defer to the regulatory protocol as described above.

This protocol is in effect for the school day hours (7:30 AM-3:30 PM) and after school programs. Emergency medication remains on school grounds. If your child has an EpiPen and/or inhaler in the health office, it will be sent with school staff on field trips. If your child participates in after school activities (sports, clubs, etc.), complete appropriate paperwork for him/her to carry and self-administer medication. In the event of an emergency, 911 will be called.

If you do not want your student to receive the above described emergency medication, contact school health staff.

The Gering School District employs three full time nurses who cover the district's locations. Each school location has a First Responder Team and staff who are CPR/First Aid/AED certified, Attack on Asthma and Medication Administration trained to assist as the schools are not staffed with a full-time nurse. Basic first aid will be administered to a student, if more extensive care is needed, then the parent/guardian (or emergency contact) will be notified, or 911 will be contacted

Concussions

A concussion is a type of brain injury that changes the way the brain normally works. If your student has a concussion, his or her brain needs time to heal. After a concussion, physical and cognitive activities should be carefully managed and monitored with limited and gradual return to learn and play. If your student is diagnosed with a concussion, then please contact the school nurse, counselor, principal, athletic director, or coach. The student will follow the Return to Learn protocols for academic work. If the student is involved in sports etc. (This includes recess) the student will need to have a clearance note from a healthcare provider to Return to Play.

Procedure for Head Lice Detection and Management at School

1. When a student is found to have live lice and/or nits:
 - a. The parent/guardian is notified, and information related to detection and elimination of head

- lice will be provided at that time or sent home with the student in a sealed envelope.
- b. The student is not sent home from school, however it is acceptable if the parent/guardian picks up the student.
 - c. The parent/guardian is instructed that the student should be treated before returning to school and that nits should be removed.
 - d. When the student returns to school, the school health staff is to confirm that treatment has been completed. If live and/or nits are found, the parent is notified to keep nit-picking and combing.
 - e. Follow up head checks may be done by school staff to confirm lice management efforts. If future checks reveal an increased number of nits present or it is obvious to the screener that 31 the student's hair has not been treated, the parent/guardian will be contacted for follow-up and support.
2. When to check beyond the identified student with live lice or nits:
 - a. If the student has siblings in the building and/or other buildings in the district, then the sibling(s) are to be checked.
 - b. Full classroom screenings for head lice or nits will not be done, unless otherwise determined by school nurse and/or building administrator.
 3. Classroom Environment:
 - a. Notify the custodian to vacuum the affected classroom and all upholstered furniture within.
 - b. Stuffed animals and pillows can be bagged for two weeks.
 - c. No environmental pesticide treatments are to be used.
 - d. Encourage students to avoid sharing hats, combs, coats, pillows, or other personal items.
 - e. The school nurse and/or building administrator can use professional judgement to determine when unusual measures are necessary to respond to extraordinary cases.
 4. Notification Procedures:
 - a. The customary notification for the presence of head lice is to be done on an individual/case by case basis to the parent/guardian of the infested student. Classroom notifications are not done with typical head lice cases.
 - b. In very unusual cases, it may be appropriate in the professional opinion of the school nurse and in consultation of the administrator to consider a general parent/guardian notification for a high number of identified cases of head lice.
 5. Exclusion Procedure Support:
 - a. In the rare case that a student has either:
 - 1) chronic head lice infestation or
 - 2) severe head lice infestation that is disruptive to the learning environment, the school nurse will be consulted.
 - b. If in the nurse's professional judgement, it is determined that exclusion needs to be considered, the nurse will consult with the administrator about implementing exclusion. This measure will be taken with careful consideration:
 - 1) With chronic head lice infestation cases, the nurse will secure documentation of repeated and unsuccessful head lice management measures.
 - 2) The return of the student after exclusion will be predicated on a head check with evidence of progress in head lice management and progress toward eradication of the head lice. Evidence will look like elimination of live lice and a decrease in the number of nits.
 - 3) It may be appropriate in the judgement of the school nurse to monitor progress of lice management over a period of time. The goal is supporting the family in head lice eradication.

General Control Measures in Schools	
Recommendations	Rationale
Routine classroom or school-wide screening for head lice is not recommended	The American Academy of Pediatrics discourages head lice screenings, which have not been proven to have a significant effect over time on the incidence of head lice in the school setting and are not cost effective.

	Children should be checked only when demonstrating symptoms of head lice.
The American Association of Pediatrics, the National Association of School Nurses, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advocate that “no-nit” policies should be discontinued.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Egg cases farther from the scalp are easier to discover, but these tend to be empty (hatched) or nonviable and, thus, are of no consequence. 2. Nits are cemented to hair shafts and are very unlikely to be transferred successfully to other people. 3. The burden of unnecessary absenteeism to the students, families and communities far outweighs the risks associated with head lice. 4. Misdiagnosis of nits is very common during nit checks conducted by nonmedical personnel. 5. Research has shown that the survival of head lice when not on the head is usually less than one day and the eggs can only hatch when incubated by body heat found near the scalp.
Provide parent education program in the management of head lice in the school setting.	Head lice are not a medical or public health hazard as they are not known to spread disease. However, parents may have misconceptions and prejudices, which place pressure on school staff. Educating and supporting the child and parent with factual, nonjudgmental information is better than having policies and practices driven by misinformation.
School personnel involved in detection of head lice infestation should be properly trained.	The diagnosis of a head lice infestation is best made by finding a live nymph or adult louse on the scalp or hair of a person. Because nymphs and adult lice are very small, move quickly, and avoid light, they can be difficult to find. The diagnosis should be made by a health care provider or other person trained to identify live head lice
Individual Case Management	
Recommendations	Rationale
A child with an active head lice infestation should remain in class but be discouraged from close direct head contact with others.	A child with an active head lice infestation has likely had the infestation for one month or more by the time it is discovered and poses little risk to others from the infestation. Transmission occurs primarily through head-to-head contact and infrequently through indirect contact with shared belongings. It is the position of the National Association of School Nurses (NASN), the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, and The American Pediatric Association that the management of head lice in the school setting should not disrupt the educational process

Notify parent or guardian by telephone or by having a note sent home with the child at the end of the school day stating that prompt, proper treatment of this condition is in the best interest of the child and his or her classmates.	The school can be most helpful by making available accurate information about the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of head lice in an understandable form. Information sheets in different languages and visual aids for families with limited literacy skills should be made available by schools.
Maintain confidentiality when a child is diagnosed with head lice.	
Criteria for Return to School	
Recommendations	Rationale
Students diagnosed with live lice do not need to be sent home early from school; they can go home at the end of the day, be treated, and return to class after appropriate treatment has begun	Nits may persist after treatment, but successful treatment should kill crawling lice. Do not check for nits (dead or alive) or enforce a no-nit policy for those who have been treated. It is not productive.

Head Lice: Guiding Principles for School Policy. Rhode Island Department of Health. Divisions of Infectious Disease and Epidemiology, November 18, 2014.

LICE 101: MYTHS and REALITIES ABOUT HEAD LICE

Definitions	
Lice: more than one louse.	Nit: Eggs, dead or alive, of a louse
Louse: Small insect that lives on the scalp.	Parasite: Lives off another, in this case the blood of humans
Pediculosis: Having an infestation of lice	Infestation: Having an insect present, in this case, in your hair.
MYTHS	TRUTHS
Head lice are easy to get.	Lice are spread only mainly by head-to-head contact. They are much harder to get than a cold, flu, ear infection, pink eye, strep throat, food poisoning, or impetigo
You can get lice from your dog, guinea pig, or other animal	Lice are species-specific. You can only get human lice from another human. You cannot get another animal's lice
You can get head lice from hats and helmets.	Rarely, but possible. Hairbrushes, pillows, and sheets are also uncommon modes of transmission
School is a common place for lice transmission	School is an unlikely source of transmission. Much more common are family members, overnight guests, and playmates who spend a large amount of time together
Poor hygiene contributes to lice.	Hygiene makes absolutely no difference. You get lice by close personal contact with someone else that has lice, not by being dirty.

Lice can jump or fly from one person to another.	Lice can only crawl. They can neither fly or jump. They must crawl from one person to another
Any nits left in the hair can cause lice to come back.	Any nits farther away than one quarter to one half on the hair shaft are ALREADY HATCHED and pose no risk to others
Eggs or nits can fall out of the hair, hatch, and cause lice in another person.	Nits are cemented on the hair and very hard to remove. They cannot fall off. Newly hatched lice much find a head quickly or will die.
Lice can live a long time.	Lice live only 1-2 days off the head. Each louse only lives about 30 days on the head.
All members of a family should be treated if one person has lice.	Only the person with lice should be treated. Lice shampoos are INSECTICIDES and can be dangerous if used incorrectly or too frequently. Household members and close contacts should be checked, but only treat those who actually have lice. The house should NOT be sprayed with insecticide, nor used on clothing or other items.
Checking a classroom when one student has lice can prevent lice from spreading.	Classroom transmission is EXCEEDINGLY RARE and checking students is a waste of valuable teaching time. Checking family members and close playmates is much more appropriate.
Avoiding lice is important as they spread disease	Head lice do not spread any known disease. They are annoying and irritating, but not dangerous.

Pontius, Deborah J. (2014). Demystifying Pediculosis: School Nurses Taking the Lead. *Pediatric Nursing* 40(5), 226-235.

Birth Certificate Requirements

State law requires that a certified copy of a student's birth certificate be provided within 30 days of enrollment of a student in school for the first time. You may obtain a certified copy from the Bureau of Vital Statistics in the state in which your child was born. Assistance in obtaining birth certificates may be obtained from Health Records Management, P.O. Box 95065, Lincoln, NE 68509-5065. There is a fee per certificate.

Please note: The document parents receive from the hospital looks like a birth certificate, but it is not a certified copy. A certified copy has the raised seal of the state of Nebraska on it and is signed by the director of vital statistics.

If a birth certificate is unavailable, other reliable proof of a student's identity may be used. These documents would include naturalization or immigration documents showing date of birth or official hospital birth records, a passport, or a translation of a birth certificate from another country. The documents must be accompanied by an affidavit explaining the inability to produce a copy of the birth certificate.

Home Work:

Students may be required to do homework for several classes. This work is to be ready when class starts. All homework will be completed and turned in according to that grade level team's policy. If a student fails to complete homework or make-up homework on their own time, they may be assigned a

specified time to do so. Wednesday night is considered to be family night. Every effort will be made by the staff to minimize the amount of homework assigned on Wednesdays.

Honor Roll:

Each nine weeks, the honor roll is announced. This is done in recognition of the pupils who have achieved high scholastic ratings in their class work. To be placed on the Honor Roll, students must maintain an average of **3.00** or above for the grading period. All elective and core subjects are used in the computation of grade point for honor roll.

Identification Badges:

Students will be issued identification badges at the beginning of the school year. These I.D. badges will be used for various computerized electronic accounting, security and procurement purposes. Students are expected to keep their badges on their person at all times during school hours or at school functions or activities, and be willing to produce their badges upon request by school officials. Lost or damaged I.D. badges must be replaced at a \$5.00 cost to the student.

Incompletes:

A grade of "Incomplete" will be given when a student's work for a nine-week period or semester is not finished. Unfinished work, causing the incomplete, must be finished within a two-week period of time. Exceptions to this policy may be made upon recommendation from the Student Assistance Team, due to a 504 Plan, or an IEP.

Infinite Campus:

Gering Public Schools has upgraded its student information systems to a web-based system that parents can access from home, public library, or other computer system having internet access. This system is called **Infinite Campus**. Parents / guardians can access their child's records by filling out a brief form and getting a password from the Junior High front office. Due to privacy concerns, parents must present a photo ID at that time. With this password, parents will be able to access information about their junior high student and any other of their children in other GPS buildings.

Injuries at School/Insurance:

The Gering Public Schools does not pay medical bills for students injured at school or while participating in extracurricular activities. The school provides information and enrollment forms for parents wishing to purchase medical insurance through an independent insurance company, which is not affiliated with the Gering Public Schools. Parents are encouraged to review the insurance material especially if their son or daughter will be participating in athletics.

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.

Lockers:

Each student is assigned a locker with a combination lock to be used for coats, books, and other school supplies. If your locker does not lock securely, inform the office immediately so that better security arrangements may be made. **The school assumes no responsibility for articles lost or stolen.** Students will be held responsible for the content and appearance of their lockers. A damage fee may be assessed for destruction of lockers. **Lockers are the property of Gering Public Schools and are subject to search without notice if school administrators feel there is reasonable cause for the search.** Students are encouraged to leave valuables at home and minimize the amount of money they bring to school. Please have your child mark their personal items for easy identification.

Loitering

Students are reminded that unless they are in organized sports, activities, or under the direct supervision of school personnel, they must vacate the premises by 3:45 p.m. or one-half hour after dismissal. And on Wednesday's early releases, students are not to be on school grounds until 3:40 PM when there will be coach supervision.

Lost and Found

Students who find lost articles are asked to take them to the office, where the articles may be claimed by the owner. If articles are lost at school, report that loss to office personnel. The lost / found container will be cleaned out at the end of each nine weeks period. Items not claimed will be given to local charities.

Media Center: *Hours* - Monday through Friday 7:45 a.m. – 3:45 p.m. When students wish to work in the media center after 3:45 p.m., they may make arrangements with the Media Director. Teachers may request an extension of hours in order to accommodate student schedules.

Fine Policy - Students who borrow media center materials are fully responsible for returning them on time and for their care. Fines will be assessed for overdue and damaged materials. Lost materials will be assessed at full purchase.

Media Notification:

Representatives of the media, (newspaper, radio, and television), frequently visit our school to gather information, pictures and stories about various topics. Occasionally, due to family, religious, legal or other reasons, parents/guardians do **NOT** want their children to receive this publicity. If as a parent/guardian this is your wish, forms are available at the school which when completed, will be kept on hand and referred to when members of the media visit our school. Media personnel will be asked to avoid featuring any child for whom this form is on file. Please note that this procedure cannot apply to public events or to extracurricular programs or activities.

Medication Policy:

It is recognized that many children are only able to attend regular school because of the effective use of medication in the treatment of chronic disabilities and acute illnesses. Any student who is required to take medication during the regular school day must comply with school regulations. The following regulations have been developed for the protection of every child receiving medications.

1. Prescription medications must be brought to school by an adult in a prescription container, properly labeled, including: child's name, physician's name, dosage including dates and times for administration. All medication must be accompanied by a signed permit from parent and physician. The permit must be renewed annually or whenever the medication prescription changes or expires.
2. Over-the-counter medications such as Tylenol, will be given when brought in by the parent and accompanied by a note giving staff permission to administer the medication on a short term basis. The school will not stock over-the-counter medication.
3. If emergency medication, such as an inhaler needs to be carried by a student, written permission needs to be on file at the school from the parent and physician. This permit must be renewed annually. Otherwise, students may not carry medication on their person during the school day. Medications must be kept in the office. No loose capsules, tablets, aspirin or unidentified non-labeled substance will be accepted for dispensing to students by school staff.
4. The schools are not staffed with a full-time nurse. The school staff will do everything they can to ensure that medication is given at appropriate times; however, there may be times that a dose may be missed. The student has a responsibility to remember that they need to take their medication.

Parent / Teacher Conferences:

Parent / teacher conferences are held immediately following the first nine-week period for parents and teachers to discuss the progress of their child. Other conferences may be scheduled as needed.

Personal Learning Plan & Career Exploration

To help students reach their chosen learning, earning, and living goals, an initial "Personal Learning Plan" (PLP) is developed with every student at GMS as part of Career Exploration coursework. The PLP is an online project which spans Grades 6-12, allowing students to keep track of graduation requirements, extracurricular activities, community involvement, and courses necessary for college admissions. The PLP serves as an ongoing, up-to-date visualization from which students view their transition through the educational system as a whole, rather than each year as an isolated event.

To spark interest in possible pursuits beyond high school, GMS Career Exploration courses expose students to the Nebraska 16 Career Cluster Model via the Nebraska Middle School Career Education and Engage! curricula. Career Exploration students also complete a variety of interest inventories to promote self-awareness related to personal interests, knowledge, and skills. Classroom presentations are provided by community professionals who share information about their career and workplace through an informal discussion format.

Pre-arranged Absence:

An admit slip must be used for all pre-arranged absences. The pass must be signed by all of the student's teachers before that student is excused for any related activity, church or family function. For school related activities, a list submitted by the sponsor will suffice. All required work must be completed prior to the absence. If the student fails to submit all makeup work in advance to the appropriate teacher, the student may receive a "0" in that class for the days missed.

Promotion/Retention

Students will be promoted to the next grade level at the end of each school year based on the student's achievement and attendance. Students who cannot demonstrate proficiency at their grade level will be considered for retention. Acceptable student proficiency will be based on the following:

1. Promotion from 6th, 7th and 8th grade: Students must successfully complete 2 of the 4 core subjects (Math, English, Science, Social Studies). This means that if a student fails 3 of the 4 core subjects, they could ~~will~~ be retained at grade level. ~~If a student passes the second semester of a class after failing the first semester of that class, then the student will be considered to have passed that class.~~
2. Students who are unable to meet the proficiency requirements will have additional opportunities to demonstrate proficiency. Such opportunities may include, but shall not be limited to a mandatory summer school program focused on areas of deficiency or other such alternatives conducted by the district outside of the regular school day. Students must also meet the school attendance policy to be considered for promotion.
3. When a student is not successful in completing 2 of the 4 core subjects for a quarter, both the student and parent(s)/guardian will be informed. A conference will be held immediately after that quarter with the student, parent(s)/guardian, teacher(s), counselor, psychologist, and administrator to determine the interventions necessary to support the student's success.

Report Cards:

Report cards are issued at the end of each quarter. Letter grades are used to designate a student's progress. A grade of "F" (failing) carries no credit. A grade of "I" (incomplete) received at the end of a grading period must be made up within two weeks or missing assignments will receive grades of "0" and those grades will be averaged into the final grade. No incompletes will be given at the end of the fourth quarter, as all coursework must be completed by the end of the fourth quarter.

(Response to Intervention)

Multi-tiered Student Support Team or MTSS Team

MTSS is a system of service delivery designed to provide effective instruction for all students using a comprehensive and preventive problem solving approach. It employs a tiered method of instructional delivery, in which the core curriculum addresses and meets the needs of most students (Tier 1), additional instruction is provided for those needing supplementary support (Tier 2), and intensive and individualized services are provided for the students who continue to demonstrate more intensive needs (Tier 3). At its foundation, MTSS includes measuring the performance of all students, and basing educational decisions regarding curriculum, instruction, and intervention intensity on student response to instruction.

Multi-tier Systems of Support (MTSS)

The staff of Gering Junior / Senior High Schools recognizes that students can have experiences that may affect their academic and social life. The primary goal of the MTSS is preventative in nature designed to help students before their experiences become overwhelming. Experiences may include:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Depression | Dropping Out |
| Students Not Living at Home | Abuse |
| Divorce | Time Management |
| Eating Disorders | Suicide |
| Self Esteem | Test Anxiety |
| Death | Under Achievement |
| Single Parent Families | Failing Grades |
| Absenteeism/Tardiness | |

Students in need of information or help may be referred by various concerned individuals including: self, peers, family, or school staff. Referral forms can be obtained from any staff member (which will include cooks, custodial staff, secretaries, library aides, coaches, teachers, or administrators). Completed forms can be returned to any staff member. After the referral, information will be gathered to help identify the problem(s) the student is experiencing. The Multi-tier Systems of Support team will then meet to formulate an appropriate plan of action.

Once a problem has been identified and the extent of the problem is known, the student will be encouraged to accept the needed help. Team members will help students consider possible options and encourage them to make decisions that will resolve their problem in a positive way. At some level, parents may be involved in the process.

The next step involves providing help for the student. The assistance recommended will vary with the type and severity of the problem. Finally, student assistance programs will provide support for students as they make adjustments in their lifestyles and seek to make appropriate life decisions.

In cases of extreme physical, mental, or family circumstances, MTSS team may elect to allow students to have a schedule that deviates from the listed requirements.

Safety Glasses

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 where applicable. All visitors to these areas must check out and wear a pair of safety glasses when entering any of these areas.

Searches

Student lockers, desks, computer equipment, and other such property are owned by the school. The school exercises exclusive control over school property. Students should not expect privacy regarding usage of or items placed in or on school property, including student vehicles parked on school property, because school property is subject to search at any time by school officials. Periodic, random searches of lockers, desks, computers and other such property may be conducted at the discretion of the administration.

The following rules apply to searches of students and of a student's personal property and to the seizure of items in a student's possession or control:

1. School officials may conduct a search if there is a reasonable basis to believe that the search will uncover evidence of a crime or a school rule violation. The search is to be conducted in a reasonable manner under the circumstances.
2. Illegal items or other items reasonably determined to be a threat to the safety of others or a threat to educational purposes may be taken and kept by school officials. Any firearm or other weapon will be confiscated and delivered to law enforcement officials as soon as practicable.
3. Items which have been or are reasonably expected to be used to disrupt or interfere with the educational process (that is, "nuisance items") may be removed from student possession.

Severe Weather and School Cancellations

The Superintendent of Schools is authorized by the Board of Education to close public schools in the event 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, law enforcement advisories or civil defense officials indicate that it would be unwise to hold 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).

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 to parents. If school is closed during the day the notice will be broadcast by the media. **Parents should have a plan in place to accommodate these circumstances.**

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 absent. The absence will be treated 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 during the school day. Students will not normally be dismissed from school during severe weather on the basis of a telephone request.

What Not To Do. Parents should not attempt to come to school during a tornado warning. **School officials are not permitted to release students from the school building during a tornado warning.** Tornado safety procedures are practiced regularly by students and staff members. Also, parents are urged not to call radio and television stations and school buildings during severe weather.

Emergency Conditions. The school has a signal which, when activated, includes the necessity to either evacuate the building or to move to safer areas of the building. Regular drills are held as required by law through the school year. There are plans for an Emergency Exit system, Tornado Warning System, and Critical Incident Response.

Signing A Child In And Out Of School: Parents or guardians are required to sign their children in and/or out of school if they are entering after their first class or leaving prior to their final class. The parent or guardian must report to the main office for this purpose. The sheet for signing a child in and/or out of school is located on the front counter. If a child is being signed out, the school secretary will call the appropriate classroom and indicate to the teacher that the child is leaving. Parents are not to go directly to the classrooms. The schools will only release children to adults designated by the parent on the emergency card.

If there is a special circumstance, such as a court order limiting access to a student by a parent or guardian, affecting who a student can be released to, the parent must inform the Principal and provide the Principal with a copy of that order to maintain on file at the school.

Students are to stay on or within the boundary of the sidewalk. When students leave the campus without authorization, the school will:

- (1.) Notify parents or person(s) designated by parents immediately
- (2.) Communicate with parents or designee that:
 - a. parent or designee should begin to search for the student and,
 - b. School will notify the police department
- (3.) If parents or designee cannot be reached, verification and search procedures will still be implemented

Police will be informed if the student is potentially dangerous to self or others

Smoke-Free Environment

Gering Public Schools declares all of our schools buildings and grounds to be smoke-free. We would appreciate your help in meeting the goal of a smoke free, vape free and tobacco-free environment for our children. When you attend school events, including athletic events, please remember that our grounds are smoke, vape, and tobacco-free and abide by our District's policy.

Special Education Services

What Does Special Education Mean?

Special education means specially designed instruction and related services adapted as appropriate to the needs of an eligible student with a disability. Special education is provided at no cost to the parent to meet the unique needs of a child with a disability.

Students Who May Benefit

A student verified as having autism, behavior disorders, deaf-blindness, developmental delay, hearing impairments, mental handicaps, multiple disabilities, orthopedic impairments, other health impairments, specific learning disabilities, speech-language impairments, traumatic brain injury or visual impairments, who because of these impairments need special education and related services.

How are Students With Disabilities Identified?

Referrals are made by teachers or parents to a Student Assistance Team. If the student assistance team or comparable problem solving team feels that all viable alternatives have been explored, a referral for multidisciplinary evaluation is completed. An evaluation is conducted to assist in the determination of whether a student has a disability and the nature and extent of the special education and related services the student needs. The evaluation is conducted only with written consent of a parent or guardian. A

multidisciplinary evaluation team (MDT) will then meet to determine whether the student is eligible for special education.

Independent Evaluation

If a parent disagrees with an evaluation completed by the school district, the parent has a right to request an independent educational evaluation at public expense. Parents should direct inquiries to school officials to determine if the school district will arrange for further evaluation at public expense. If school district officials feel the original evaluation was appropriate and the parents disagree, a due process hearing may be initiated. If it is determined that the original evaluation was appropriate, parents still have the right to an independent educational evaluation at their own expense.

Reevaluation

Students identified for special education will be reevaluated at least every three years by the IEP team. The IEP team will review existing evaluation data on the student and will identify what additional data, if any, are needed. The school district will obtain parental consent prior to conducting any reevaluation of a student with a disability.

Individual Education Program (IEP)

Upon a student being verified as having a disability, a conference will be held with parents. At the conference, an Individualized Education Program (IEP) will be developed specifying programs and services

which will be provided by the schools. Parent consent will be obtained prior to a student being placed for the first time in a program providing special education and related services or early intervention services to infant and toddlers. Once in place, the IEP is reviewed on an annual basis, or more frequently as needed. Parents are given a copy of the IEP.

Special Education Placement

The student's placement in a special education program is dependent on the student's educational needs as outlined in the Individual Education Program (IEP). To the maximum extent appropriate, students with disabilities are educated with students who are not disabled. Special classes, separate schooling, or other removal of children with disabilities from the regular educational environment occurs only when the nature or severity of the disability is such that education in regular classes with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily. Determination of a student's educational placement will be made by the IEP team.

Written notice shall be given to parents a reasonable time before the school district: 1. Proposes to initiate or change the identification, evaluation, verification or educational placement of a child or the provision of a free appropriate public education; or 2. Refuses to initiate or change the identification, evaluation, or educational placement of the child or the provision of a free appropriate public education to the child.

More Information

Anyone interested in obtaining a copy of the District's special education policy, the Parental Rights in Special Education brochure, or a copy of the Nebraska Department of Education Rule 51 (special education regulations and complaint procedures) or Rule 55 ((special education appeal procedures) may contact the Superintendent. A notice of parental rights, Rules 51 and 55 and more information about special education are also available at the Nebraska Department of Education's website: <http://www.nde.state.ne.us/SPED/sped.html>.

Students with Disabilities: Section 504

Accommodations and related services are made available to students with disabilities under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Under Section 504, parents have the following rights:

1. Have your child take part in, and receive benefits from, public education programs without discrimination because of your child's disability.
2. Have the school district advise you of your rights under federal law.
3. Receive notice with respect to identification, evaluation or placement of your child.
4. Have your child receive a free appropriate public education. This includes the right to be educated with non-disabled students to the maximum extent appropriate. It also includes the right to have the school district make reasonable accommodations to allow your child an equal opportunity to participate in school and school-related activities.
5. Have your child receive services and be educated in facilities which are comparable to those provided to students without disabilities.
6. Have your child receive an individualized evaluation and receive special education and related services if your child is found eligible under Section 504.
7. Have evaluation, eligibility, educational and placement decisions made based on a variety of information sources and by persons who know your child and who are knowledgeable about the evaluation data and placement options.
8. Have transportation provided to and from an alternative placement setting at no greater cost to you than would be incurred if your child were placed in a program operated by the school district.
9. Have your child be given an equal opportunity to participate in nonacademic and extracurricular activities offered by the school district.
10. Examine all relevant records relating to decisions regarding your child's identification, evaluation and placement. Obtain copies of educational records at a reasonable cost on the same terms as records are provided students without a disability unless the fee would effectively deny you access to the records.
11. Receive a response from the school district to reasonable requests for explanations and interpretations of your child's records.
12. Request amendment of your child's educational records if there is reasonable cause to believe that they are inaccurate, misleading or otherwise in violation of the privacy rights of your child. If the school district refuses this request, it shall notify you within a reasonable time, and advise you of the right to a hearing.
13. File a local grievance in accordance with school policy.
14. Request an impartial hearing related to decisions regarding your child's identification, eligibility, and educational program or placement with opportunity for participation by the person's parents or guardian and representation by counsel, and a review procedure. This is provided in the local grievance procedure.

Student Council

The Gering Junior High Student Council is an organization representing the student body. The officers of the student council are elected in the spring by the student body. Representatives to the student council are elected in the fall. One representative is chosen from each study hall. To be elected, students must be of good character, have leadership ability, and maintain at least average citizenship and scholastic grades. Students may be requested to resign their position if their citizenship or scholastic average falls below minimum acceptable standards as established by the student council.

Student Records

The Gering Public Schools will on occasion release routine directory information (84-712.05) to the general public which includes:

Student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degree and awards received, the most recent previous educational agency or institution attended by the student, and other similar information."

The information released may be to military recruiters, newspapers, colleges & universities, athletic and activity programs, etc. Parents may have their student's name and information withheld from dissemination upon written request to the office of the principal.

Surveys

Surveys of students are rarely administered by school personnel. In the event that an external survey is conducted, the Principal or designee shall notify parents/legal guardians of students to be surveyed, the nature of the survey, the date and time when the survey shall be administered, and the purposes or uses of the survey results. School officials shall honor any parent/legal guardian's request to have his/her student exempt from participation in the survey.

Telephones

The office will not be responsible for personal messages for students during the school day, nor will students be called from class for a telephone call or message except in an emergency. If a student receives a phone call, a message will be taken and delivered at the earliest possible convenience. If you are asked to call back, you will have to do so at the front office before classes, at noon, or after school.

Textbooks

Textbooks are assigned to your personal care. You are held accountable for them and will be required to pay for loss or excessive damage. Students will place their name in ink on the inside front cover of each book when they are issued. All textbooks shall be covered with a book cover. Free book covers are available in the front office.

Transcripts

Students requesting transcripts must provide the office with a 24-hour notice. Students are responsible for making sure they have the necessary courses and credits to meet graduation requirements.

Transferring from Gering Public Schools

If a student should find it necessary to withdraw from school, it is very important that he/she secure a clearance slip from the principal's office and have it signed by all of his/her teachers and parent/guardian. The slip is to be returned to the office after it has been signed by all individuals. Failure to check out of school in this manner will cause records to remain incomplete, making it impossible to send credits to another school.

Transportation Services

Transportation to and from school is provided to students in accordance with law and Board policy. Students may also be transported on field trips and when participating in school activities. Students are expected to follow the behavioral expectations for riding school buses. All buses are equipped with audio and video recorders.

Behavior on School Buses

- I. **General Conduct Rules Apply:** While riding school buses you are expected to follow the same student conduct rules which apply when you are on school property or attending school activities, functions or events. There are also special conduct rules for riding school buses. These rules also apply to riding other school vehicles.

II. Special Conduct Rules for Riding School Buses.

A. Rules for Getting On and Off the Bus

1. Be on time to be picked up. As a general rule, get to your bus stop five minutes before your scheduled pickup time. If you miss the bus, immediately return to your home and tell your parents so they can get you to school.
2. While waiting for the bus, stay at least 5 feet away from the street, road or highway. Wait until the bus comes to a complete stop before approaching the bus.
3. You may exit the bus only at your approved destination (your school or your approved bus stop). Exit the bus as directed by the driver. Do not run.
4. If you must cross the street after exiting the bus, always cross in front of the bus where the driver can see you. Wait for the driver to signal to you before crossing the street.

B. Rules on the Bus

1. Be respectful of the bus driver. Immediately follow all directions of the driver and any paraeducator or adult on the bus.
2. Sit in your seat facing forward. Use seat belts in vehicles in which they are available.
3. Talk quietly and use appropriate language.
4. Keep all parts of your body inside the bus.
5. Keep your arms, legs and belongings to yourself.
6. No fighting, harassment, bullying, intimidation or horseplay.
7. Do not throw any object.
8. No eating, drinking, use of tobacco, vaping, alcohol, drugs or flammables.
9. Do not bring any weapon (real or imitation) or dangerous objects on the school bus.
10. Do not damage the school bus.

III. Getting the Driver's Assistance: If you need assistance from the driver, wait until the bus is at a full stop. If you are close enough, tell the driver what you need. If you are too far away for the driver to hear you, ask a student in front of you to get the driver's attention. If necessary, walk up to the driver, while the bus is at a full stop. If you need immediate assistance for an emergency, take all action needed to safely get the help of the driver.

IV. Consequences for Rule Violations: Consequences for school bus misconduct may include restriction or suspension of bus privileges and other disciplinary measures, up to and including expulsion from school.

Video Surveillance

The Board of Education has authorized the use of video cameras on school district property and district vehicles to ensure the health, welfare and safety of all staff, students and visitors to district property, and to safeguard district facilities, school busses 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 or in district vehicles. 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.

Visitors to the Building

Visitations by individuals wishing to observe the instructional program at Gering Public Schools are welcomed, so long as such visits have the purpose of gaining an insight into the educational or instructional dynamics within the school setting. Individuals wishing to observe in the school must submit a request in writing to the building principal **24 hours prior** to the visitation.

Student age visitors are NOT permitted in Gering Junior High School without the accompaniment of a parent or guardian.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Activity Participation - General Requirements

Any student participating in a school activity must exhibit good citizenship in the school and in the community. Activities in the school shall be organized and administered to contribute to the health, worthy use of leisure time, citizenship, and character objectives of education.

A student must be in attendance the **ENTIRE** school day in order to participate in a practice, game or activity. If, however, she/he secures the administration's permission prior to the absence, participation may be acceptable

When activities occur during regular school hours, **ONLY** eligible participants or those students with prior administrative approval will be excused for the event. While at the event/activity, the non-participating student must remain under the direct supervision of a parent/guardian

Activity Participation - Extra-Curricular Guidelines

- A. The following procedures are designed to put into practice the following philosophies:
1. Extracurricular Program: Students who participate in Gering Public Schools' extracurricular program receive benefits not accorded the student who does not participate in extracurricular activities; therefore, students have an additional responsibility to represent the school and its programs in a manner symbolic of the goals, objectives, mission, and philosophy of the Gering Public Schools.
 2. Student Misconduct: A policy that has significant consequences for inappropriate student behavior sends a strong message to students that they need to reflect upon their behavior at all times and to make appropriate decisions. This policy may also provide students with a rationale to resist negative peer pressure.
- B. Extracurricular Activities governed by this policy include but is not limited to football, volleyball, softball, cross country, soccer, tennis, basketball, wrestling, swimming, track, golf, speech & debate, Harmony, treble choir, mixed chorus, instrumental band, jazz band, National Honor Society (Junior High and High School), all school play, musical, Mock Trial, cheerleading, Student Council, and other clubs and organizations. This listing is not intended to be all-inclusive and at times may apply to additional activities that exhibit similar characteristics to those listed.
- C. The following student conduct shall constitute grounds for suspension of the privilege to participate in extracurricular activities.
1. Possessing, chewing, vaping or smoking tobacco during the season
 2. Engaging in the unlawful possession, selling, dispensing, or use of a controlled substance as defined in section 28-401, or alcohol as defined in section 53-1-3 or being under the influence of a controlled substance or alcohol.
 3. Student misconduct that may result in in-school suspension or out-of-school suspension.
 4. Serious student misconduct as defined in section 79-267 of the State of Nebraska School Laws and the Student Parent Handbook ("*...grounds for long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment...*")
- Affected students are those who participate in extracurricular activities and have been cited by law enforcement officers or are determined to have committed one of the above-mentioned conducts.
- D. Affected students, Item C.1, will be handled in the following manner:
1. First offense: Suspension from all activities pending enrollment in a tobacco/vaping cessation class/online course and subject to consequences in the Discipline Policy.
 2. Second and subsequent offenses: Suspension from all activities pending completion of a tobacco/vaping cessation class/online course cessation and subject to consequences in the Discipline Policy.
- E. Affected students, Items C. 2-3, will be handled in the following manner:

1. First offense: Suspension from all public events, not to exceed three events or a period of two weeks.
 - 1.1. Students shall practice with the team.
 - 1.2. An event is a scheduled day.
 - 1.3. Students must complete a sport or an activity in good standing for events to be considered.
 2. Second offense: A second such infraction will result in the student being suspended from all activities for a period of 9 weeks. Students may be reinstated after complying with the following: E-1 and successful completion of an 8-hour drug/alcohol education class or counseling.
 3. Subsequent Offenses: Suspension from all activities for one calendar year and successful completion of an 8-hour drug/alcohol education class or counseling.
- F. The policy governs infractions that occur throughout the school year, inclusive of extracurricular activities that extend into August and June. Violations that occur out of season will take effect at the start of the student's participation in an activity.
- G. Decisions affecting students will be made by the School Principal or designee. Appeals to the decision may be made to the Superintendent of Schools according to the District's Public Complaint Procedure (District Policy 1312)

**GERING Junior High School
STUDENT CONTROL AND DISCIPLINE POLICY**

The Board believes that any unit of society must have rules and regulations designed to establish order and to protect all members of the community in the exercise of their rights and responsibilities. The Superintendent of Schools is directed to establish rules and regulations of conduct which are fundamentally fair, justly applied, and consistent with the laws and constitution of the State of Nebraska and the United States. The Board of Education also authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to delegate to other school officials the authority and responsibility to administer these rules and regulations and develop additional rules and regulations within the limits of Nebraska Statutes, Board of Education Policy and administrative regulations.

These rules and regulations should prohibit any misconduct during the school day:

- A. on school grounds
- B. by a participant in school activities
- C. as a spectator at school activities involving Gering participants
- D. off school grounds, if there is a substantial interference with school purposes that causes or creates a reasonable likelihood that it will cause a substantial disruption in, or material interference with, any school function, activity or purpose, or that interferes with the health, safety, wellbeing, or the rights of self or others.

Students shall be expected to regard staff members as individuals, employed to provide direct or indirect contributions to learning. While students are to have considerable latitude in making choices for them, they shall be required to respect the rights of staff members (and other students as well) and interference with those rights shall not be condoned. No student shall have the right to interfere with the efforts of instructional staff to coordinate or assist in learning, to disseminate information for purposes of learning, or to otherwise implement a learning program. Nor shall a student have a right to interfere with the motivation to learn or the learning activities and efforts of other students. Gering Junior High School administration expects every staff member and student to be treated with respect and dignity. A show of disrespect toward a staff member or insubordination on the part of the student will not be tolerated.

Violations of school rules and procedures will be handled to aid in maintaining and promoting an orderly environment within which students can learn and grow. The administration of discipline is designed to maintain order and be uniform, fair and unbiased. Application of specific disciplinary measures can be

found in the section entitled “Progressive Discipline Procedures” (pg.47) and will serve as a guide toward holding students accountable for their actions in a fair and consistent manner. The administration of the “Progressive Discipline Procedures” (pg. 47) cannot be an absolute for all students in all situations; therefore, the administration will consider mitigating circumstances when assigning discipline to individual students. In the event that a student’s offense does not fall within a defined category, the administration will assign discipline at a level consistent with like offenses. In all cases the staff and administration at Gering Junior High School will adhere to the student’s due process rights.

Alternative Education Plan for Expelled Students:

In the case of an expelled student, an alternative education plan will be provided to the student according to provisions outlined in Board Policy 505.04 and pertinent regulations and procedures.

Definition of Discipline:

Discipline shall be regarded as a process designed to teach, model, and use appropriate strategies to reinforce the behaviors necessary to ensure a safe and productive learning environment by changing unacceptable behavior to acceptable behavior, and to hold students accountable for inappropriate behaviors.

Detentions:

Teachers may detain students after school hours. Before assigning students to detention, the teacher will inform the student of the conduct that allegedly constitutes the violation, and the student will be given an opportunity to explain his/her version of the incident. An assigned teacher/staff member will help with detention during designated times of the day.

All students will bring work to detention and will not be allowed to sleep. In addition to detention, teachers may require a student to come either before school or remain after school with prior notice given to the student. Students must make arrangements for their own transportation.

A student who is unable to achieve self-discipline and has a rapid accumulation of detentions will be subject to short-term removal from class. Detention will be held in a designated room five days a week (Monday through Friday). Students who do not report to detention at their appointed time will be assessed additional detentions or suspension.

Electronic Devices

Philosophy and Purpose. Gering Public Schools strongly discourages students from bringing and/or using electronic devices at school. The use of electronic devices can be disruptive to the educational process and are items that are frequently lost or stolen. In order to maintain a secure and orderly learning environment, and to promote respect and courtesy regarding the use of electronic devices, the District hereby establishes the following rules and regulations governing student use of electronic devices, and procedures to address student misuse of electronic devices.

Definitions

1. “Electronic devices” include, but are not limited to, cell phones, Mp3 players, iPods, personal digital assistants (PDAs), compact disc players, portable game consoles, cameras, digital scanners, personal laptop computers, and other electronic or battery powered instruments which transmit voice, text, or data from one person to another.
2. “Sexting” means generating, sending or receiving, encouraging others to send or receive, or showing others, through an electronic device, a text message, photograph, video or other medium that:

- a. Displays sexual content, including erotic nudity, any display of genitalia, unclothed female breasts, or unclothed buttocks, or any sexually explicit conduct as defined at Neb. Rev. Stat. § 28-1463.02; or
- b. Sexually exploits a person, whether or not such person has given consent to creation or distribution of the message, photograph or video by permitting, allowing, encouraging, disseminating, distributing, or forcing such student or other person to engage in sexually explicit, obscene or pornographic photography, films, or depictions; or,
- c. Displays a sexually explicit message for sexual gratification, flirtation or provocation, or to request or arrange a sexual encounter.

Possession and Use of Electronic Devices. Students are not permitted to possess or use any electronic devices during class time or during passing time except as otherwise provided by this policy. Cell phone usage is strictly prohibited during any class period; including voice usage, digital imaging, or text messaging.

Students are permitted to possess and use electronic devices before school hours, **during lunch** and after school hours, provided that the student does not commit any abusive use of the device (see paragraph (4)(a)). Administrators have the discretion to prohibit student possession or use of electronic devices on school grounds during these times in the event the administration determines such further restrictions are appropriate; an announcement will be given in the event of such a change in permitted use.

Electronic devices may be used during class time when specifically approved by the teacher or a school administrator in conjunction with appropriate and authorized class or school activities or events (i.e., student use of a camera during a photography class; student use of a laptop computer for a class presentation).

Students may use electronic devices during class time when authorized pursuant to an Individual Education Plan (IEP), a Section 504 Accommodation Plan, or a Health Care Plan, or pursuant to a plan developed with the student's parent when the student has a compelling need to have the device (e.g., a student whose parent is in the hospital could be allowed limited use of the cell phone for family contacts, so the family can give the student updates on the parent's condition).

Violations

Prohibited Use of Electronic Devices: Students shall not use electronic devices for any of the following: (a) activities which disrupt the educational environment; (b) illegal activities in violation of state or federal laws or regulations; (c) unethical activities, such as cheating on assignments or tests; (d) immoral or pornographic activities; (e) activities in violation of Board or school policies and procedures relating to student conduct and harassment; (f) recording others (photographs, videotaping, sound recording, etc.) without direct administrative approval and consent of the person(s) being recorded, other than recording of persons participating in school activities that are open to the public; (g) "sexting;" or (h) activities which invade the privacy of others. Such student misuses will be dealt with as serious school violations, and immediate and appropriate disciplinary action will be imposed, including, but not limited to, suspension and expulsion from school.

Disposition of Confiscated Electronic Devices: Electronic devices possessed or used in violation of this policy may be confiscated by school personnel and returned to the student or parent/guardian at an appropriate time. If an electronic device is confiscated, the electronic device shall be taken to the school's main office to be identified, placed in a secure area, and returned to the student and/or the student's parent/guardian in a consistent and orderly way.

- **First violation:** confiscation of electronic device, one detention, 8 discipline points. Electronic devices will be returned to the student after the student has served the detention.

- **Second violation:** confiscation of cell phone, 2 detentions, 8 discipline points. Electronic devices will be returned to the parent after school and after the student has served the detentions.
- **Third violation:** confiscation of electronic device, one day ISS, 8 discipline points. Electronic devices will be returned to the parent after school and after the student has served the In School Suspension.
- **Subsequent violations:** Same as third offense and add another day of ISS for each subsequent violation.

Penalties for Prohibited Use of Electronic Devices: Students who receive a “sexting” message are to report the matter to a school administrator and then delete such message from their electronic device. Students shall not participate in sexting or have any “sexting” message on their electronic devices regardless of when the message was received while on school grounds or at a school activity. Students who violate the prohibitions of this policy shall be subject to the imposition of appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion, provided that at a minimum the following penalties shall be imposed:

1. Students found in possession of a “sexting” message shall be subject to a one (1) day suspension from school.
2. Students who send or encourage another to send a “sexting” message shall be subject to a five (5) day suspension from school.

Reporting to Law Enforcement. Violations of this policy regarding the prohibited use of electronic devices that may constitute a violation of federal or state laws and regulations, including, but not limited to, the Nebraska Child Protection Act or the Nebraska Child Pornography Prevention Act shall be reported to appropriate legal authorities and law enforcement.

Responsibility for Electronic Devices. Students or their parents/guardians are expected to claim a confiscated electronic device within ten (10) days of the date it was relinquished. The school shall not be responsible, financially or otherwise, for any unclaimed electronic devices. By bringing such devices to school, students and parents authorize the school to dispose of unclaimed devices at the end of each semester. The District is not responsible for the security and safekeeping of students’ electronic devices and is not financially responsible for any damage, destruction, or loss of electronic devices.

Fighting:

Fighting, either physical or verbal, is prohibited on school property or at school sponsored events. A student shall not threaten, cause or attempt to cause physical injury to any student or to a school employee. The school insists that students seek the assistance of teachers, counselors, and administrators to resolve conflicts. Students who engage in fighting will be disciplined, a parent/student/administrator conference will be held prior to the student’s return to school and the police will be notified. Multiple instances of fighting, or whenever a staff member is injured, will result in mandatory reassignment or expulsion. (Nebraska School Law Section 79-4, 170-9-4, 205)

Firearms on School Grounds - Possession

1. Any person who possesses a firearm in a school, on school grounds, in a school owned vehicle, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event shall be guilty of the offense of unlawful possession of a firearm on school grounds. (LB 988)
2. Unlawful possession of a firearm on school grounds is a Class IV misdemeanor. Any firearm possessed in violation of this offense shall be confiscated without warrant by a police officer or may be confiscated without warrant by school administrative or teaching personnel.
3. After the firearm is no longer needed as evidence, it shall be destroyed in such manner as the court may direct.

4. Students possessing firearms on school grounds will be disciplined according to category VI “Possession of Firearms” of the progressive discipline policy.

Gang Activity or Association:

For the purpose of these policies, a gang is a group of three or more people who:

1. Interact together to the exclusion of others;
2. Claim a territory or area;
3. Have a name;
4. Have rivals/enemies; and
5. Exhibit antisocial behavior - often associated with crime or a threat to the community. The type of dress, apparel, activities, acts, behavior or manner, or grooming displayed, reflected, or participated in by the student shall not:
6. Lead school officials to believe that such behavior, apparel, activities, acts, or other attributes are gang related or would disrupt or interfere with the school environment or activity and/or educational objectives;
7. Present a physical safety hazard to self, students, staff members, or other employees;
8. Create an atmosphere in which the well-being of a student, staff member, or other person is hindered by undue pressure, behavior, intimidation, overt gesture, or threat of violence, or
9. Imply gang membership or affiliation by written communication, marks, drawing, painting, design, or emblem upon any school or personal property or on one’s person.

If the student’s dress or behavior is in violation of these regulations, the principal or designee will ask the student to make the appropriate correction. If the student refuses, the parent/guardian will be notified and asked to make the necessary correction. The principal or designee will make the final decision and take appropriate corrective or disciplinary action.

Harassment and Bullying Policy:

One of the missions of Gering Public Schools is to provide safe and secure environments for all students and staff. Positive behaviors (non-violence, cooperation, teamwork, understanding, and acceptance of others) are encouraged in the educational program and required of all students and staff. Inappropriate behaviors (bullying, intimidation and harassment) are to be identified and corrected. Students and staff are to avoid such behaviors. Strategies and practices are implemented to reinforce positive behaviors and to discourage and protect others from inappropriate behaviors.

“Bullying” is behavior during which one person or group engages in harmful action towards another person or group acting on a real or perceived imbalance of power or view of superiority. The behavior typically includes verbal (e.g. teasing or name-calling) and physical aggression (e.g., hitting, pushing), threatening, excluding or ignoring, spreading rumors, or taking, defacing or destroying the others’ property. “Harassment” includes the same actions, though not necessarily from a standpoint of perceived power. Harassment is prohibited. Bullying and harassment is a violation of student conduct rules and appropriate disciplinary measures, up to expulsion, will be enforced. When bullying or harassment is done on the basis of gender, disability, race, or other protected status, it is considered a very serious offense for which expulsion may be a likely consequence, depending on the severity of the conduct.

Students who are the victims of bullying or harassment or who observe such occurrences are to promptly report the problem to their teacher or to the Principal so the problem can be addressed.

Pop, Candy, and Gum:

Consumption of pop, candy or other snack items shall be confined to the concession area. Students will not be permitted to bring beverages, candy, or other food items into the building without approval of school officials. Sunflower seeds and chewing gum are not allowed in the school building. We are fortunate to have carpet throughout the majority of our building. Chewing gum is severely damaging to carpet and constitutes an excessive amount of custodial time for cleanup and removal.

Profanity:

Profanity is not an acceptable manner of expressing oneself. Use of profanity will result in disciplinary action from the principal or the assistant principal's office.

Skateboards, Hover boards, Scooters or Skate Shoes:

Skateboards, scooters, hover boards or skate shoes are not allowed in the hall or school lockers. These are not to be ridden in or around the school. Please leave these items at home.

Solicitations:

In consideration of the large number of youth organizations that use raffles or some other types of solicitation as fund raising activities, and in the interest of fairness, fund raising activities will be restricted solely to school sponsored organizations. Any fundraising activity that takes place on school property must have administrative approval.

Standards of Student Conduct Pertaining to Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco and Vaping Products.

These standards are in addition to standards of student conduct elsewhere adopted by board policy or administrative regulation. The District's standards prohibit the possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs or alcohol on school premises, in school vehicles, or as a part of any of the school's activities on or off school premises. Conduct prohibited at places and activities as hereinabove described shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Possession, use, distribution or being under the influence of any controlled substance, including vaping, but not limited to marijuana, any narcotic drug, any hallucinogen, any stimulant, or any depressant.
2. Possession of any prescription drug in an unlawful fashion.
3. Possession, use, distribution or being under the influence of alcohol.
4. Possession, use, distribution, or being under the influence of any abusable glue or aerosol paint or any other chemical substance for inhalation, including but not limited to lighter fluid, whiteout, and reproduction fluid, when such activity constitutes a substantial interference with school purposes.
5. Possession, use, or distribution of any look-alike drug or look-alike controlled substance when such activity constitutes a substantial interference with school purposes.
6. Possession, use or distribution of any tobacco or vaping product.

Disciplinary Sanctions

Violation of any of the above prohibited acts will result in disciplinary sanction being taken within the bounds of applicable law, up to and including expulsion and referral to appropriate authorities for criminal prosecution. In particular, students should be aware that:

1. Violation of these standards may result in suspension or expulsion.
2. Prohibited substances will be confiscated and unlawful substances will be turned over to law enforcement authorities.
3. The student may be referred for counseling or treatment.
4. Parents or legal guardians will be notified.
5. Law enforcement will be notified.
6. If it appears there is imminent danger to the student, other students, school personnel, or students involved, emergency medical services will be contacted.

Intervention

The District does not have the authority or responsibility to make medical or health determinations regarding chemical dependency. However, when observed behavior indicates that a problem exists which may affect the student's ability to learn or function in the educational environment, the school has the right and responsibility to refer the student for a formal chemical dependency diagnosis based on behavior observed by school staff.

Administration

The administration is authorized to adopt such administrative rules, regulations or practices necessary to properly implement this policy. Such regulations, rules or practices may vary the procedures set forth herein to the extent necessary to fit the circumstances of an individual situation. Such rules, regulations and practices may include administrative forms, such as checklists to be used by staff to record observed behavior and to determine the proper plan of action.

Pursuant to school statutory authority to adopt policies, rules and regulations necessary to protect the government and health of students in the School District, the Board of Education of Gering Public Schools has determined that the possession or use by students of tobacco, vaping or tobacco products, alcohol, narcotics, or other dangerous and/or illegal drugs or drug paraphernalia shall be prohibited:

1. during the school day
2. on school grounds
3. by a participant in school activities
4. as a spectator at school activities involving Gering participants.

Students who possess or use vaping products, tobacco products, alcohol, narcotics, or other dangerous drugs or drug paraphernalia except as directed by a physician during the school day, on school grounds, or while participating in or attending school activities shall be subject to disciplinary sanctions, including, but not limited, to, expulsion or suspension. Students involved in extracurricular activities shall be subject to additional disciplinary actions. Enforcement of disciplinary sanctions shall be in accordance with the procedures established by the Gering Public Schools Comprehensive Substance Abuse Policy and Guidelines for Students Participating in Extracurricular Activities. This information will be provided to each student at the beginning of the school year.

Student Appearance: Students at Gering Public Schools are expected to dress in a way that is appropriate for the school setting. Students should not dress in a manner that is dangerous to the health and safety of anyone or interferes with the learning environment or teaching process in our school. Following is a list of examples of attire that will not be considered appropriate, such list is not exclusive and other forms of attire deemed inappropriate by the administration may be deemed inappropriate for the school setting:

- a. Clothing that shows an inappropriate amount of bare skin or underwear (midriffs, spaghetti straps, sagging pants) or clothing that is too tight, revealing or baggy, or tops and bottoms that do not overlap or any material that is sheer or lightweight enough to be seen through (leggings, tights, yoga pants), or otherwise of an appropriate size and fit so as to be revealing or drag on the ground.
 - i. Leggings, tights, yoga pants are permitted only if worn with a shirt whose length reaches the bottom of your fingers.
- b. Shorts, skirts, or skorts that do not reach mid-thigh or longer.
- c. Clothing or jewelry that advertises or promotes beer, alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs.
- d. Clothing or jewelry that could be used as a weapon (chains, spiked apparel) or that would encourage "horse-play" or that would damage property (e.g. cleats).
- e. Headwear including hats, caps, bandanas, and scarves;
- f. Clothing or jewelry which exhibits nudity, makes sexual references or carries lewd, indecent, or vulgar double entendre.
- g. Clothing or jewelry that is gang related.

Consideration will be made for students who wear special clothing as required by religious beliefs, disability, or to convey a particularized message protected by law. The final decision regarding attire and grooming will be made by the Principal or Superintendent. In the event a student is uncertain as to whether a particular item or method of grooming is consistent with the school's guidelines, the student should contact the Principal for approval, and may also review such additional posting of prohibited items or grooming which may be available in the Principal's office.

Coaches, sponsors or teachers may have additional requirements for students who are in special lab classes, students who are participants in performing groups or students who are representing the school as part of an extracurricular activity program.

On a first offense of the dress code, the student may call home for proper apparel. If clothes cannot be brought to school, the student will be assigned to in-school suspension for the remainder of the day. Students will not be allowed to leave campus to change clothes. Continual violations of the dress code will result in more stringent disciplinary actions, up to expulsion. Further, in the event the dress code violation is determined to also violate other student conduct rules (e.g., public indecency, insubordination, expression of profanity, and the like), a first offense of the dress code may result in more stringent discipline, up to expulsion.

Student Conduct at School Events:

Gering Junior/Senior High School students, who attend activities at school, or at another location, are reminded that they are representatives of the entire student body. They should conduct themselves in a manner that will bring credit to our school. Students are expected to observe rules and regulations established by Gering Junior/Senior High School as expressed through this handbook. The administration and staff will work cooperatively with other schools if student conduct becomes a problem. Violation of these rules and regulations could lead to suspension or expulsion from school and/or activities.

Substitute Teachers:

Substitutes play a unique role in continuing the educational mission of Gering Public Schools while a teacher is absent from the class. It is critically important to ensure that the substitute's experience at the Gering Schools will be positive, so that they will continue to feel welcome and serve in our school. Consequences will be doubled for offenses incurred under the direction or supervision of a substitute teacher.

Gering Junior High School School Progressive Discipline Procedure:

Gering's discipline plan is designed to be progressive in nature. Students who are repeatedly referred to the principal's office for additional disciplinary measures will be disciplined according to the charts listed below. The initial responsibility for the disciplining of a student, who is disobedient or disrespectful in class, is the classroom teacher. Each time a student is disciplined by an administrator he/she will receive a specific number of points. Any points received shall be cumulative throughout the school year. Accumulation of 180 or more points in any category or combination thereof, throughout the school year, will result in recommendation to the Board of Education for expulsion from the Gering Public Schools. Gering Junior High School will make an effort to provide counseling for all students who demonstrate need. The junior high school administration reserves the right to accept personal and/or family counseling as an alternative to expulsion, so long as the student and/or parent(s) continue with counseling until dismissed by counselor.

The following Definition of Terms is provided in order to help clarify inappropriate behaviors at Gering Middle School.

Arson

The burning of, or attempt to burn, any buildings, or part of any building, structure, or property of the school district.

Bomb Threat

Raising or creating any false alarm of bomb in and to any buildings, or part of any building, structure, or property of the school district by any means or manner whatsoever.

Bullying

Treating another person abusively by words or actions using force or coercion.

Cheating

To violate rules dishonestly (as on daily work or an examination).

Detentions

Time during the day (before or after school) when a student is required to report to a specified area to make up time. Examples of reasons would be misbehavior, tardies, lack of effort in class or classes, etc.

Disrespect to Faculty Member

Lack of respect.

Disruption of School/Class/Assemblies

Examples include: Yelling and/or running in the halls, persistent talking in class, horseplay, throwing things, disruptive objects, etc.

Explosives, Fireworks and Foul Substances

Any Article containing an explosive or combustible substance -including fireworks - or foul, offensive or injurious substances or compounds, with intent to use the same against the person or property of another.

Expulsion

The term "expulsion" means disciplinary action whereby a student:

1. is separated by the Board of Education from school attendance for a period in excess of ten (10) days.
2. is separated from school attendance for the balance of the then current semester or current year;
- or
3. suffers a penalty which automatically prevents his or her completing within normal time his or her overall course of study in any school in the school district.

The term does not apply to situations in which a student is assigned a special course of study, enrolled in special classes or given homebound instruction as authorized or required by law, or removed from athletic activities, non-credit school activities or school-provided transportation.

Extortion/Blackmail

The direct attempt to extract money, goods or favors from another individual through coercion, force or threats.

False Alarm of Fire

Raising or creating any false alarm of fire in and to any building, or part of any building, structure or property of the school district by any means or manner whatsoever.

False Reporting

The act of claiming the name of another person to excuse a student from class or school.

Fighting

The act of quarreling (physical or verbal) which could or does result in bodily contact in or on school property, or going to and from school, including any activity under school sponsorship (e.g. dance, athletic event, etc.)

Gross Misbehavior

Misbehaving that is totally beyond simple appropriate behavior, i.e. overt behavior that threatens property or the safety and well-being of others including the promotion of fighting.

Harassment/Intimidation

Any act of threat by force or verbalization against another person.

Illegal Entry

Forced entry or entry without administrative authorization into a building, room or school property.

Illegal Explosives

Possessing, using, threatening to use or transferring any weapon or instrument capable of inflicting bodily injury.

Inappropriate Behavior/Gestures

Behavior on school grounds that is not acceptable as measured by the general standards of the school and community including words, gestures, pictures, spitting, unauthorized games, littering, loitering, etc.

Inappropriate Dress

See Dress Code provisions delineated earlier in the handbook.

Inappropriate Public Displays of Affection (PDA)

Students are not to engage in inappropriate public displays of affection on school property or at school activities. Such conduct includes kissing, touching, fondling or other displays of affection that would be reasonably considered to be embarrassing or a distraction to others.

Indecent Material

The act of portraying obscenity or vulgarity in pictures or caricatures in assignments, on any personal property visible to others at school, or on any school property.

In-School Suspension

Any disciplinary action whereby a student is separated from class attendance, but is required to be at school. In-school suspension generally lasts from one to three days.

Insubordination

Disregard for the authority of a staff member.

Loitering

Being somewhere other than where authorized and refusing to leave when ordered; being in a school area without an authorized pass.

Long Term Suspension

More than five school days, but less than twenty school days.

Mandatory Reassignment

Assignment to another educational setting.

Member of the Administrative Staff/Designee

A school district employee who is certificated under the statutes relating to the licensing of teachers and administrators and who has supervisory authority.

Misuse of School Materials/Equipment

Misusing and/or using school materials in an unauthorized manner short of major destruction, e.g. writing on or marking desks, books, lockers, etc., using shop materials, home ec. food products, etc., misuse of computer accounts or materials.

Other School Personnel/Staff Members

All school district employees and functionaries except teachers. The term includes, but is not limited to, student teachers, teacher's aides, cafeteria personnel, custodians, maintenance personnel, bus drivers, etc.

Physical or Verbal Assault

The act of initiating a violent physical or verbal attack against another student on school property, on a school bus or at a school sponsored event.

Plagiarize

To steal and pass off as one's own work without crediting the source, knowingly or unknowingly.

Possession or Illegal Use of Weapon

The act of possession, using or threatening to use any weapon or instrument capable of inflicting bodily injury.

Possession/Use of Tobacco

Smoking by any students or the possession of smoking materials (chewing tobacco, e-cigarettes, vaping products) is not permitted on school property. Smoking shall be defined as being in the immediate proximity of smoking materials (chewing tobacco, e-cigarettes, vaping products) and exhibiting probable suspicion of intent. GMS Substance Abuse Policy governs this rule.

Profanity

The use of language that is unacceptable to school/community standards.

School Property

Any building, buildings, part of any building, structure, land or property of the school district.

Short-Term Suspension

Up to and including five school days.

Suspension

Any disciplinary action whereby a student is separated from school attendance for a period of ten or less days and which does not constitute an expulsion. The term does not include situations in which a student is assigned a special course of study, enrolled in special classes or given homebound instruction as authorized or required by law, or removed from athletic activities, non-credit school activities, or school provided transportation.

Theft

The act of acquiring and/or being in possession of the property of another, without consent of the owner.

Trespassing

Entering upon the lands or premises of the school district without authority after having been forbidden to do so by school staff; or upon being notified to depart by members of the school staff, refusing or neglecting to depart as directed.

Truancy

The act of unauthorized absence from school for any period of time. Chronic tardiness may be considered truancy.

Unauthorized Games in School Building

Gambling, poker, etc.

Unlawful Intimidation of School Authority

Interfering with administrators, teachers or other school personnel by force or violence.

Vandalism

Destruction of school property or property belonging to another.

Vape Pen (Vaporizer Pen)

A device used for nicotine or marijuana, which vaporizes the active molecules in concentrated nicotine or marijuana oil. Also called an e-cigarette.

Verbal/Physical/Written Threat to Teacher/Staff

Any verbal, physical or written threat which insults or abuses any staff member or otherwise shows disrespect.

Vulgarity

Offensive, lewd, obscene.

PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINE CONSEQUENCES

A. Detention

- B. Detention(s)
- C. Detention(s) or In-School Suspension
- D. In-School Suspension
- E. In or Out-of-School Suspension (police may be notified)
- F. Out of School Suspension (police may be notified)
- G. Out of School Suspension/Expulsion (police will be notified)
- H. Expulsion (police will be notified)

PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINE LEVELS

OFFENSE	CAT	PTS	1	2	3	4	5		
1. Inappropriate public display of affection	I	0	A	B	B	B	C		
2. Dress code violations	I	0	A	B	B	B	C		
3. Gum	I	0	A	B	B	B	C		
4. Failure to attend detention (teacher)	I	0	A	B	B	B	C		
5. Other Cat. I	I	0	A	B	B	B	C		
6. Sleeping in Class	I	8	A	B	B	B	C		
7. Disruption of class/school/assembly	I	8	A	B	B	B	C		
8. Inappropriate behavior/gestures	I	8	A	B	B	B	C		
9. Profanity/vulgarity	I	8	A	B	B	B	C		
10. Cell phone (confiscation)	II	8	SEE PROCEDURE ON PG. 42						
11. Repeated violations of Category I	II	8	A	B	B	B	C		
12. Other Cat. II	II	8	A	B	B	B	C		
13. Cheating/Plagiarism	II	10	B	B	C	C	C	D	
14. Skipping/Cutting class	II	10	B	B	C	C	C	D	
15. Disorderly conduct	II	10	B	B	C	C	C	D	
16. Failure to identify self to school officials	II	10	B	B	C	C	C	D	
17. Inappropriate dress	II	10	B	B	C	C	C	D	
18. Indecent material	III	10	B	B	C	C	C	D	
19. Jeopard. the safety of oneself or others	III	10	B	B	C	C	C	D	
20. Leave school grounds w/o permission	III	10	B	B	C	C	C	D	
21. Lying	III	10	B	B	C	C	C	D	
22. Misuse of school material & equipment	III	10	B	B	C	C	C	D	
23. Not following request of school official	III	10	B	B	C	C	C	D	
24. Trespassing	III	10	B	B	C	C	C	E	
25. Skipping detentions (office)	III	10	B	B	C	C	C	D	
26. Use/poss. of tobacco/vaping products	III	10	C	C	D	D	D	E	
27. Other Cat. III	III	10	C	C	D	D	D	E	
28. False call/Forgery of notes	IV	14	C	C	D	D	D	E	
29. Vandalism 1	IV	14	C	C	D	D	D	E	
30. Theft 1	IV	14	C	C	D	D	D	E	
31. Disrespect to faculty members	IV	14	C	C	D	D	D	E	
32. Other Cat. IV	IV	14	C	C	D	D	D	E	
33. Gross Misbehavior	V	21	C	D	D	E	E	F	
34. Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying	V	21	D	D	E	F	F	G	
35. Vandalism 2	V	21	E	E	F	F	F	G	
36. Theft 2	V	21	E	E	F	F	F	G	
37. Insubordination	V	21	E	E	F	F	F	G	
38. Fighting	V	21	E	E	F	F	F	G	
39. Other Cat. V	V	21	E	E	F	F	F	G	
40. Indecent behavior	VI	28	E	E	F	F	F	G	
41. Open/persistent defiance of authority	VI	28	E	E	F	F	F	G	

42. Threatening behavior	VI	28	E	E	F	F	G
43. Physical assault	VI	28	E	E	F	G	G
44. Under the influence of alcohol/drugs	VI	28	E	E	F	G	G
45. Possess alcohol/drugs/paraphernalia	VI	28	E	E	F	G	G
46. Other Cat. VI	VI	28	E	E	F	G	G
47. Extortion	VII	42	F	F	G	H	
48. False fire alarm	VII	42	F	F	G	H	
49. Sell, give, or exchange alcohol/drugs	VII	42	F	F	G	H	
50. Possess of weapon other than firearm	VII	42	F	F	G	H	
51. Possession or use of firecrackers	VII	42	F	F	G	H	
52. Terroristic Threats	VII	42	F	F	G	H	
53. Other Cat. VII	VII	42	F	F	G	H	
54. Arson	VIII	180	G	H	H	H	
55. Bomb threat	VIII	180	H	H	H	H	
56. Physical assault (school employee)	VIII	180	H	H	H	H	
57. Possession and/or use of explosives	VIII	180	H	H	H	H	
58. Use of any instrument as a weapon	VIII	180	H	H	H	H	
59. Possession of firearm	VIII	180	(One calendar year)				
60. Other Cat. VIII	VIII	180	H	H	H	H	

**STUDENT & PARENT HANDBOOK SIGNATURE PAGE
PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN TO GERING JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
(1st period Teacher)
WITHIN FIRST WEEK OF THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR**

My signature below indicates that I have received and read the policies contained in the GERING JUNIOR HIGH School Handbook. I understand that violations of the district and school's rules and policies, and directions of GERING JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL STAFF MEMBERS, may result in school disciplinary action being taken.

Parent/Guardian's Name (PLEASE PRINT) _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature _____ DATE: _____

Student's Name (PLEASE PRINT) _____

Student's Signature _____ DATE: _____

**GERING PUBLIC SCHOOLS
DISTRICT NO. 16
GERING, NEBRASKA**

**Gering Elementary
Schools.**

Introduction

Intent of Handbook

The purpose of this handbook is to provide you with information concerning the policies, regulations, and services that relate to the successful operation of the Gering Elementary Schools. This handbook does not form a contract, and the school reserves the right to change or modify the handbook as needed.

Communication and cooperation between the home and the school are essential in providing quality education to each child. Parents are encouraged to maintain regular contact with the school and to attend scheduled parent-teacher conferences. If a problem should arise or if clarification is needed, please contact your child's teacher or principal.

Members of the Board of Education

B.J. Peters, Board President

Brian Copsey, Vice President

Mary Winn, Member at Large

Brent Holliday, Member at Large

Josh Lacy, Member at Large

Brady Shaul, Member at Large

Tim Meisner, Board Treasurer

Administrative Staff

Dr. Nicole Regan, Superintendent of Schools – 436-3125

Tim Meisner, Business Manager – 436-3125

Byron Olsen, Director of Student Services – 436-3125

Kory Knight, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment – 436-3125

Jennifer Sibal, Community Engagement Director, Gering Public Schools Foundation – 436-3125

Shawna Payne, Human Resource Coordinator-436-3125

Pam Barker, Principal of Lincoln Elementary – 436-2350

Angela Morris, Principal of Geil Elementary - 436-2545

John Wiedeman, Principal of Northfield Elementary – 436-5555

School Calendar

School Calendar 2021-2022



Calendar Legend	
	First / Last Day of School
	End of Quarter / Semester
	NO SCHOOL: Teacher In-Service
	NO SCHOOL: Students / Staff

AUGUST				
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

SEPTEMBER				
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	

OCTOBER				
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

NOVEMBER				
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

DECEMBER				
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

AUGUST	
4-6	New Staff Orientation
9-12	Teacher In-Service
12	Elementary Open House (5-7pm)
	See back for JH/HS Orientations
13	First Day of School

SEPTEMBER	
6	No School: Labor Day
24	No School: Students Teacher In-service/Work Day

OCTOBER	
14	End of 1 st Quarter
15	No School: Students Teacher Work Day
18-21	PT Conferences
22	No School: Students/Staff

NOVEMBER	
24-26	No School: Students/Staff

DECEMBER	
21	K-12 Students & Staff – 11:30 a.m. Dismissal
	End of 1 st Semester
22-31	No School: Students/Staff

JANUARY	
3	No School: Students Teacher Work Day
4	School Resumes
28	No School: Students Teacher In-Service

FEBRUARY	
18	No School: Students/Staff
21-22	No School: Students Teacher In-Service/Work Days

MARCH	
10	End of 3 rd Quarter
11	No School: Students Teacher Work Day
15-17	PT Conferences
16-17	No School: Students Teacher Work Day
18	No School: Staff

APRIL	
15-18	No School: Students/Staff
19	No Students: Teacher Work Day

MAY	
14	GHS Graduation
20	Last Day: 11:30 a.m. Dismissal
23-24	Teacher Work Days

JANUARY				
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

FEBRUARY				
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28				

MARCH				
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

APRIL				
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

MAY				
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

GPS district mission, vision, mantra and district goals

School Mission and Vision Statements

The Main Thing: Ongoing learning and growth will prepare each Gering Public Schools student to be college and/or career ready.

District Mission: Gering Public School exists to equip today's learners with the skills necessary to be tomorrow's leaders.

District Vision: Gering Public Schools provides a collaborative community, inspiring excellence and innovation in teaching and learning to empower student growth and leadership in school and life.

District Goals:

1. **100% of Gering Public Schools students will demonstrate yearly growth on grade level Math and ELA standardized assessments, with 85% of all students achieving proficiency by May of 2026.**
2. **Gering Public schools students will have equitable exposure to health, safe, and supported opportunities through a wide range of extracurricular and enrichment activities.**
3. **Gering Public Schools students will develop an awareness of, exposure to, and be prepared to navigate the pathways and systems that will allow them to gain access to post-secondary or career opportunities.**

Notice of Nondiscrimination

The Gering School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, marital status, disability, or age in admission or access to, or treatment of employment, in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding complaints, grievance procedures or the application of these policies or non-discrimination.

Dr. Nicole Regan, Superintendent
1519 10th Street, Gering, NE 69341
(308) 436-3125

If parents, employees and students do not feel that their complaints regarding Title IX, Title VI, section 504 have met with resolution at the local level, they can appeal their grievances to the regional Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights. This would be their final opportunity for resolution. This address needs to be readily available to parents, employees and students for their appeals.

Office for Civil Rights
8930 Ward Parkway, Suite 2037
Kansas City, MO 64114
(816) 268-0550
FAX: (816) 823-1404; TDD 800-437-0833

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Rebecca Hasty, Nontraditional/Equity Programs Specialist, Career & Technical Education, Nebraska Department of Education, PO Box 94987, Lincoln, NE 68509-4987, (402) 471-4823, FAX (402) 471-4565, e-mail - rhasty@nde.state.ne.us.

Title IX

The Gering Public School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex in any educational program or activity that it operates. The district is required by Title IX (20 U.S.C. § 1681) and 34 CFR Part 106 not to discriminate in such a manner. This requirement not to discriminate also applies to admission and employment. Any inquiries about the application of Title IX may be referred to the District Title IX Coordinator, to the Assistant Secretary of the Office of Civil Rights, or both.

- Title IX Coordinator: Superintendent and/or Designee
- Address: 1519 10th Street, Gering, NE 69341
- Email: nregan@geringschools.net
- Phone: (308) 436-3125

For information regarding the Gering Public School District procedure for complaints of sexual harassment including the complaint process, how to file a report or a complaint of sexual harassment, how to file a formal complaint of sexual harassment, and how the District will respond to such complaints see Board Policy 504.24 located at Gering Public Schools website (<https://www.geringschools.net>).

Mutual Respect

The Gering Public Schools expects every staff member and student to be treated with respect and dignity. A show of disrespect toward a staff member or insubordination on the part of the student will not be tolerated.

Multicultural Policy

The philosophy of the District's multicultural education program is that students will have improved ability to function as productive members of society when provided with: (a) an understanding of diverse cultures and races, the manner in which the existence of diverse cultures and races have affected the history of our Nation and the world, and of the construction made by diverse cultures and races (including but not limited to African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, Asian Americans and European Americans) and (b) with the ability and skills to be sensitive toward and to study, work and live successively with persons of diverse cultures and races. The mission shall also include preparing students to eliminate stereotypes and discrimination or harassment of others based on ethnicity, religion, gender, socioeconomic status, age or disability.

Multicultural education is the identification, selection and infusion of specific knowledge, skills and attitudes for the following purposes:

- Affirming the culture, history and contributions that shall include but not be limited to African Americans, Asian Americans and Native Americans;
- Challenging and eliminating racism, prejudice, bigotry, discrimination and stereotyping based on race;
- Valuing multiple cultural perspectives; and
- Providing all students with opportunities to "see themselves" in the educational environment in positive ways and on a continuing basis.

To promote and support multicultural education within Gering Public Schools, it shall be the policy and practice of this district to create opportunities for all students to achieve academically and socially in an educational environment in which all students and staff understand and respect the racial and cultural diversity and interdependence of members of our society.

Complaint Procedures

The proper procedures for a parent or student to make complaints or raise concerns about school staff or the school programs or activities are set forth below.

1. Complaint Procedures:

Step 1. Have a scheduled conference with the staff person involved in the complaint matter.

Step 2. Appeal to the Principal if the matter is not resolved at Step 1.

Step 3. Appeal to the Superintendent if the matter is still unresolved at Step 2.

Step 4. Appeal to the Board of Education if the matter is still unresolved at Step 3. Written appeal should be made within five (5) days of the Superintendent's decision.

Step 5. If the complaint is regarding a federal program, and has not been resolved at the district level, the initiating party should contact the Director of Student Services. The Director of Student Services will provide the initiating party information on how to forward the complaint to the Nebraska Department of Education.

Using these procedures, the needs and desires of all parents can be met. It is the desire of all administrators and teachers to solve all problems at the building level whenever possible. Please remember that we stand ready to visit with you. We are more than willing to explain our position on a problem, and we will listen to your concerns.

All complaints shall be in writing, and no anonymous correspondence will be considered by the Board of Education.

2. Conditions Applicable to All Levels of Complaint Procedure:

All information to be considered at each appeal step should be placed in writing in order to be most effective. Appeal decisions shall be expedited as quickly as possible. A decision at any level should be rendered within ten (10) calendar days, unless a legal hearing is requested or required.

Daily Schedule (Kindergarten through 5th grade)

Building Time		Early Dismissal (Wednesdays)
● Northfield Elementary	7:55 am to 3:30 pm	2:15 pm
● Lincoln Elementary	7:50 am to 3:25 pm	2:10 pm
● Geil Elementary	7:55 am to 3:30 pm	2:15 pm

These times are tentative and are subject to change.

Breakfast will be served 30 minutes prior to the start of the school day.

Supervision for all children will be provided at the school building approximately 10 minutes prior to the start of each school day. For safety purposes, we are, therefore, requesting that children not arrive any earlier than 10 minutes before the start time of their particular building and leave school grounds immediately unless attending after-school programs or requested to stay by the principal or classroom teacher.

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 local radio and television stations.

Decisions 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). Students and parents will want to pay special attention to which public school district and/or building is being closed.

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 to parents. If school is closed during the day, the notice will be broadcast by the media and **parents should have a plan in place to accommodate these circumstances. At the beginning of each school year, you will be asked to provide the school with a plan for your child to follow in the event that this should occur.**

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 absent. The absence will be treated like any other absences for legitimate causes, provided parents properly notify the school of their decision. Parents may pick up their children in inclement weather 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.

What Not To Do. Parents should not attempt to come to school during a tornado warning. **School officials are not permitted to release students from the school building during a tornado warning.** Tornado safety procedures are practiced regularly by students and staff members. Also, parents are urged not to call radio and television stations and school buildings during severe weather. Every effort will be made to provide accurate and timely information through the media.

Emergency Conditions. Gering Public Schools has a signal which, when activated, includes the necessity to either evacuate the building or to move to safe areas in the building. All regular drills are held as required by law through the school year. There are plans for an Emergency Exit System, Tornado Warning System, and Critical Incident Response.

Emergency Procedures

In case of an emergency, it is absolutely necessary for school personnel to be able to contact the parents of a child or someone who knows the child. Therefore, it is very important that telephone numbers and addresses be kept up to date. If possible, an emergency phone number where a parent or guardian can be contacted at all times should be listed with the school. Unlisted numbers are becoming more frequent, and they handicap the school in contacting parents.

The school will not release an unlisted number to any individual, so please list a telephone number with the school. If the situation warrants, a Messenger call may go out explaining the emergency situation to parents.

At the beginning of the school year, you will be asked to provide the school with emergency contact information.

Change of Address and Telephone Numbers

It is CRITICAL THAT EVERY PARENT report a change of address and/or phone number to the elementary office as soon as possible.

Live Broadcast or Videotaping

Individuals may broadcast or videotape public school district events, including open Board meetings, as long as it does not interfere with or disrupt the school district event and it does not create an undue burden in adapting the buildings and sites to accommodate the request.

It shall be within the discretion of the Superintendent to determine whether the request is unduly burdensome and whether the broadcast or videotaping will interfere with or disrupt the school district event.

Videotaping of classroom activities will be allowed at the discretion of the administration.

News media coverage of sports and other special events is encouraged. Radio broadcasts of events will be arranged through the communications Director.

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.

Notice is further given that students and members of the public may photograph, video or otherwise record students and others at events open to members of the public. The School District may take action to prohibit or limit such recording when determined to be appropriate. However, the School District cannot give assurance that such recording will not occur. As such, those who attend events open to members of the public are deemed to consent to such recording.

Visitors

Parents are encouraged to visit school. Visits in classrooms should generally not exceed one hour in length, and the visitor should be an observer and not a participant in the learning process. Teachers and principals appreciate knowing in advance that you plan to visit. Visitation just prior to or after a holiday is not very beneficial to parents or the classroom teacher and is discouraged.

Visitation by students from outside the District and pre-school children visitations are discouraged. To assist teachers with beginning school in the fall and in closing school in late spring, the school asks that no visitations be made during the first two (2) weeks and the last two (2) weeks of a school year.

All visitors must report to the principal's office, sign in, and receive a visitor's badge before entering a classroom and upon leaving the building.

Smoke-Free Environment

Gering Public Schools declares all of our school buildings and grounds to be smoke-free. We would appreciate your help in meeting the goal of a smoke- and tobacco- free environment for our children. When you attend school events, including athletic events, please remember that our grounds are smoke- and tobacco-free and abide by our District's policy.

Care of School Property

Students are responsible for the proper care of all books, equipment, supplies and furniture supplied by the school.

Students, who disfigure property, break windows or do other damage to school property or equipment will be required to pay for the damage done or replace the item. The administration reserves the right to determine the amount of all fines.

Fines on books are determined according to the following criteria:

Lost Book:	Replacement cost
Missing one or both covers:	Same as lost book
Loose Cover/Broken Binding:	\$1.00
Missing Page:	50 cents per page (up to replacement cost)
Torn Page:	20 cents per page (up to replacement cost)
Marks that cannot be erased:	20 cents per mark (up to replacement cost)

Students must pay all fines before they can receive school publications and final grades.

Searches

Searches within the school building or on school grounds will be authorized by the principal when there are circumstances that would cause a reasonable person to believe that the search of a particular person, place, or thing will lead to the discovery of the following:

1. Evidence of a violation of the student conduct standards contained in the policies of the Board of Education or a violation of federal, state or local laws.
2. Anything which, because of its presence, presents an immediate danger of physical harm or illness to any person.

Locker/Desk/Storage Area

All lockers and other storage areas on school premises remain the property of the issuing agency and are provided for the use of the students and are subject to inspection, access for maintenance, and search pursuant to this policy.

No student shall lock or otherwise impede access to any locker or storage area except with a lock provided by or approved by the principal of the school in which the locker or storage area is located. Unapproved locks will be removed.

The principal, or a member of the administrative staff and a faculty witness, will search a locker and its contents when the person conducting the search has reasonable cause to conduct the search.

1. Personal Searches

The principal, or another member of the administrative staff designated in writing by the principal and acting at the direction of the principal, will search the person of a student while on the school premises and/or during a school activity if the principal has reasonable cause to conduct a search of that student for a violation of the policy herein. Searches of the person of a student shall be limited to the following:

- a. Searches of the pockets of the student
- b. Searches of the shoes and socks of the student
- c. Any object in the possession of the student, such as a purse or backpack
- d. A "pat down" of the exterior of the student's clothing

More extensive searches of the person of a student than those enumerated above shall be conducted in a private room by a person of the same sex as the student being searched and witnessed by one other person of the same sex as the person being searched. Searches of the person of a student which requires removal of clothing other than coat or jacket and shoes and socks shall be conducted only upon grounds of probable cause.

2. Custody of Evidence

Anything found in the course of a search conducted in accordance with this section, which is evidence of a violation of the student conduct standard, may be:

- a. Seized and admitted as evidence in any suspension or expulsion proceeding if it is tagged for identification at the time it is seized and kept in a secure place by the principal or the principal's designee until it is presented at the hearing.
- b. Turned over to a law enforcement officer in accordance with the subsection of this regulation entitled "Involvement of Law Enforcement Officers."

3. Involvement of Law Enforcement Officers

Except in cases of extreme danger to life or property, or when notification is not possible through reasonably diligent efforts, the parent of any student shall be notified prior to requesting police to conduct a search of the person. In those instances when notification is not possible prior to requesting police to conduct the search, the student's parents shall be notified as soon as is reasonably possible thereafter. Upon finding probable cause for a search, the principal, or a member of the administrative staff designated in writing by the principal, may request the assistance of a law enforcement officer to conduct the following:

- a. Search any area of the school premises, any student or any motor vehicle on the school premises.
- b. Identify, retain, or dispose of contraband found in the course of a search conducted in accordance with this section.

Bicycles/Scooters

Children riding bicycles or scooters to school should park them in the bicycle rack or area designated by the principal. Bicycle racks are not supervised at all times during the day, therefore, for protection against theft, a method of locking the bicycle or scooter to the bicycle rack is a necessity.

Although school administrators and teachers are interested in protecting the property of students, they cannot assume responsibility for items such as bicycles or scooters for which they cannot provide supervision throughout the day.

Bicycles and scooters are to be ridden directly from home to the bicycle rack and vice versa when the school day ends. No bicycles or scooters are to be ridden on the playground or other school property, except when going to and from the bicycle rack.

Student Valuables

Students, not the school, are responsible for their personal property. Students are cautioned not to bring large amounts of money or items of value to school. If it is necessary to bring valuable items or more money than is needed to pay for lunch, leave the money or valuables with a staff member in the school office for temporary and safe keeping. Even then, the school is not in a position to guarantee that the student's property will not be subject to loss, theft, or damage. Administration has final authority on all items brought to school.

Cell phones and Electronic Devices

Students are asked to NOT bring cell phones, smart watches, and other personal electronic devices to school. If the students bring a personal electronic device to school, it should be kept in their backpack, cubby, or location designated by school staff during the school day. The school is not responsible for damaged, lost or stolen devices.

Lost and Found

Students who find lost articles are asked to take them to the office where the articles can be claimed by the owner. If the articles are lost at school, report that loss to office personnel.

Accidents

Every accident in the school building and/or on the school grounds must be reported immediately to school personnel.

Insurance

INJURIES AT SCHOOL

The Gering Public Schools does not pay for medical bills for students injured at school or while participating in extracurricular activities. The school provides information and enrollment forms for parents wishing to purchase medical insurance through an independent insurance company which is not affiliated with the Gering Public Schools. Parents are encouraged to review the insurance material.

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.

Toxic Substance Control Act

Gering Public Schools annually conducts asbestos inspections in its facilities as required by Section 203 of Title 2 of the Toxic Substance Control Act. 15 U.S.C. 2643. Management plans requiring those inspections are available for your review in principals’ offices and in the Central Administration Office at 1519 10th Street, Gering, Nebraska during regular business hours.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance Policy

Regular and punctual student attendance is required. The Board’s policies require such attendance, the administration is responsible for developing further attendance rules and regulations, and students and parents are responsible for developing behaviors which will result in regular and punctual student attendance.

Attendance and Absences

Absences From School - Definitions. An absence from school will be reported as: (a) an excused absence or (b) an unexcused absence.

1. Excused Absences. Absences should be cleared through the Principal’s office in advance whenever possible. An absence or tardy, even by parental approval, may not be excused. All absences, except for illness and/or death in the family, require advance approval. An absence for any of the following reasons will be excused, provided the required procedures have been followed:
 - a. Attendance at a funeral for a member of the immediate family (parents, siblings, and grandparents),
 - b. Illness which causes a student to be absent from school,
 - c. Doctor or dental appointment which require student to be absent from school,
 - d. Court appearances that are required by a court order and the student is not responsible for needing to be in court,
 - e. School sponsored activities which require students to be absent from school,

- f. Family trips in which student accompanies parents(s)/legal guardian(s),
- g. Other absences which have received prior approval from the Principal.

The principal has the discretion to deny approval for the latter two reasons, depending on circumstances such as the student's number of other absences, the student's academic status, the tests or other projects which may be missed, and in the case of a family trip, whether the trip could be taken during non-school time and the educational nature of the trip.

2. Unexcused Absences: an absence which is not excused is unexcused. If a student's absence is unexcused the student may receive zeros for any class work missed during the absence, and may be required to make up work and the time missed.

A student who accumulates unexcused absences may be considered truant as per state law, Neb.Rev.Stat. § 79-201 to 79-209. Truancy is a violation of school rules. The consequence of such action may include suspension from classes and the student may be required to make up the time missed. Students who leave the school premises without permission during the school day will be considered truant.

Absence Procedure. A student will not be allowed to enter class after an absence until an admit slip, based upon a written or verbal parental excuse, or a conditional admit slip, is issued by the Principal's office. A conditional admit slip, good for two days, may be issued to allow time to bring an excuse, in case no excuse has been provided upon returning to school. Work must be made up within the time allowed on the admit slip. Students missing classes for school activities must present a completed activities dismissal slip to the sponsor before being allowed to leave for the activity.

For excused absences, two school days will be allowed to make up the work for each day missed with a maximum of ten (10) days allowed to make up work. If requested, assignment sheets will be prepared for students who are ill. If parents and/or students request assignment sheets, the school should be contacted by no later than 8:00 a.m.

For unexcused absences, the student will receive a failing mark for or in each class period missed.

Reporting and Responding to Truant Behavior. In all school districts in this state, any Superintendent, principal, teacher or member of the school board who know of any violation of section 79-201 on the part of any child of school age, his or her parent, the person in actual or legal control of such child, or any other person shall within three days report such violation to the attendance officer of the school, who shall investigate the case. When, of his or her personal knowledge, by report or complaint from any resident of the district, or by report or complaint as provided in this section, the building Principal believes that any child is unlawfully absent from school, the Building Principal shall immediately investigate.

Excessive Absenteeism. Students who accumulate five (5) absences in a quarter shall be deemed to have "excessive absences." Such absences shall be determined on a per day basis for elementary students and on a per class basis for secondary students. When a student has excessive absences, the following procedures shall be implemented:

1. One or more meetings shall be held between a school attendance officer, school social worker, or other persons designated by the school administration and the parent/guardian and the student to report and attempt to solve the truancy problem. If the parent/guardian refuses to participate in such a meeting, the principal shall place in the student's attendance records documentation of such refusal.
2. Educational counseling to determine whether curriculum changes, including but not limited to, enrolling the child in an alternative education program that meets the specific educational and behavior needs of the child.

3. Educational evaluation, which may include a psychological evaluation, to assist in determining the specific condition, if any, contributing to the truancy problem, supplemented by specific efforts by the school to help remedy any condition diagnosed.
4. Investigation of the truancy or excessive absenteeism problem by the school social worker, or another person designated by the administration to identify conditions which may be contributing to the problem. If services for the child and his or her family are determined to be needed, the person performing the investigation shall meet with the parent/guardian and the child to discuss any referral to appropriate community agencies for economic services, family or individual counseling, or other services required to remedy the conditions that are contributing to the truancy or excessive absenteeism problem.

Reporting Habitual Truancy. If the child is habitually truant, the building Principal will file a report with the county attorney of the county in which such person resides. The county attorney may file a complaint against a person violating section 79-201 before the judge of the county court of the county in which such person resides charging such person with violation of section 79-201 or may file a petition under the Nebraska Juvenile Code alleging the person violating section 79-201 is a juvenile described in subdivision (3)(a) or (3)(b) of section 43-247. Nothing in this section shall preclude a county attorney from being involved at any stage in this process to address excessive absenteeism.

Sec. 20. Section 79-2104, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2010

Tardiness

Students will be considered tardy to school if they are not seated in their assigned class or ready and attentive in their assigned area five minutes after the first bell rings. Students who arrive after the first bell rings, but before 10:00 a.m. will be considered tardy. Five tardies will equal one absence. Students arriving after 10:00 a.m. will be considered absent for a half day. Students arriving after 1:00 p.m. will be considered absent for a full day.

Leaving School

Students who must leave school for any reason during the school day must check out at the office before leaving. Students leaving school must be cleared in advance by a note or phone call from the student's parent or legal guardian. Upon returning to school that same day, students are expected to sign in at the office. A sheet will be available on the office counter for this purpose. Appointments with doctors and/or dentists should be scheduled outside the regular school day.

Make-up Work

When a child returns to school after an absence, all make-up work should be completed as soon as possible. Generally, a student will be allowed two days to make up work for one day missed, except when make-up work must be completed sooner because it is impeding the child's progress. For Example, if a student is absent for two (2) days, he/she will have four (4) days to make up the missed work before being required to give up recesses and other free time. Chronic absenteeism or students who have failed to make up work in the past may be required to stay in at recess or at lunchtime immediately upon their return to school from an absence.

Parents should work closely with the teacher to make the task of make-up as easy and profitable as possible for the returning student. If an absence is anticipated, arrangements should be made for the make-up work prior to the absence.

SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT

Reporting to Parents

It is very important for students and parents to be informed about the student's progress in school. To understand themselves, to capitalize on their strong points and to remedy any weaknesses; students need to know what their strengths and weaknesses are. In order for parents to work cooperatively with the school in supporting educational endeavors, they need to know how their son or daughter is progressing, and they need information on the educational program. For these reasons, a good reporting system is a necessity.

The following procedures will be followed in reporting to parents:

1. Kindergarten through 5th grade will have two parent-teacher conferences during a school year. These conferences will be scheduled for parents at the end of the first nine (9) weeks of school and again at the end of the third nine (9) week period. In addition to scheduled parent-teacher conferences, individual conferences may be scheduled when a need exists or upon the request of the parent.
2. Report cards will be issued at the end of each nine (9) week period. When conferences are scheduled, at the end of a nine (9) week period, report cards will be given to parents during the conference. At the end of the other nine (9) week periods, report cards will be sent home with students. The school calendar included in this handbook designates the dates when each nine-week period ends. Report cards will generally be issued the following Thursday. Please remember these important dates.

Standards-Based Learning

The goal of the Gering Public School District is to report grades that are accurate, consistent, meaningful, and supportive of learning, and the change to standards-based grading is an effort to reach that goal. Subjects will be assessed using a standards-based system. Standards-based learning measures your student's mastery of the essential standards for a class, or how well your student understands the material in class.

At the beginning of every unit, the teacher will break down the standards for the unit into smaller objectives and criteria using a detailed rubric. During the unit, students are assessed to see if they truly know the material using a variety of assessments, such as traditional pencil-and-paper tests, projects, discussions, or reports. The class grade will be based solely on the evidence the teacher collects demonstrating mastery of the essential standards.

The goal of this system is to provide the teacher, student, and parent as accurate a picture as possible of the student's learning to encourage a dialogue about how the student can master the material for the class. In particular, because learning is a process that takes place over time, each assessment will provide feedback for the student about what to focus on next, and the student will be allowed to retake assessments. If the new assessment shows a higher level of mastery, that new score replaces the old one.

Standards - Based Learning Scale

The following are general explanations of the levels of the rubric scales:

<p>3 - Meets Standards/on Grade Level: The student consistently meets grade level standards and expectations. Performance is characterized by the ability to apply skills with accuracy, independence and quality with minimal assistance. This is an excellent level of achievement, and one that a student should be working toward as developmentally appropriate.</p>	<p>2 - Partially Meets Standards/Reaching Grade Level: The student is progressing toward grade level standards and expectations. Performance varies in consistency with regard to accuracy and quality. The student requires additional practice and support.</p>	<p>1 - Below Standards/Not at Grade Level: The student is not meeting grade level standards and expectations. Additional instruction, practice and support is necessary to move toward grade level standards and expectations.</p>
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Promotion and Retention

The Gering Public School’s administration and teachers have an interest in each individual student and all staff members are willing to work with students and parents to ensure that academic progress is achieved. When academic progress has not been achieved, the decision must be made as to whether or not to retain the child in a grade for another year. The following policy will be followed when considering the promotion or retention of a child:

Generally speaking, the District does not support retention of a student in the same grade for the next school year. Several significant factors should be considered and certain procedures should be followed during the retention process if it is considered:

1. The attitude of principals and teachers toward promotion and retention must be positive so that the best interests and the future of the student are the primary consideration for decisions regarding grade placement.
2. In reaching a decision to retain a child, the teacher and/or principal, and when necessary, the school psychologist and specialists involved, should study all available data before a decision is reached.
3. Poor attendance and physical and emotional immaturity may be justification for retention.
4. Teacher judgment should always be a prime factor in reaching a decision to retain a child; however, to help the teacher, principal, and specialist reach this decision, achievement test results may be considered.
5. The final responsibility for the promotion or retention of an individual student rests with the principal as with any other official action taken within his/her school.
6. As the study of all factors is carried out to determine whether to prompt or retain a child, close contact with parents should be maintained. Conferences with teacher, principal, and parents and/or guardians involved are necessary.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Summer School

Summer School may be provided for those students meeting district criteria. If you need more information regarding summer school, please contact your building principal.

School-Wide Title I

Students who receive a good education have a better chance for being successful in life. Title I is a federally funded program that helps students achieve academic standards and improve their scholastic performance.

Schools that meet income requirements can use Title I money to improve the whole school through school-wide programming. That means all students can benefit from Title I. Geil, Lincoln and Northfield elementary schools qualify for school-wide Title I programs. Each of these three buildings has a comprehensive plan to ensure high quality learning and continuous school improvement. The program currently focuses on the areas of reading/language arts, math, and behavior.

Parents are encouraged to be involved with the school and their children's education. This can be done by reading newsletters and notes, attending meetings and parent-teacher conferences, volunteering some time to the school, reviewing and updating the parent policy, pledging to support learning at home by signing the compact, and participating in activities sponsored by the school.

Positive Behavior Support (PBS)

In order to ensure a safe learning environment for all students, the school staff is committed to the following:

- Using a positive, preventative, and educational approach to student behavior
- Having a plan with clear direction for staff
- Explicitly teaching student behavior expectations
- Empowering all staff to implement the plan
- Students taking responsibility for their own behavior
- Using natural and logical consequences when behavior problems occur
- Seeking parent support for appropriate student conduct and disciplinary procedures

In order to carry out the philosophy and beliefs stated above, our school has chosen to implement the Positive Behavior Support (PBS) model. PBS is a program designated to teach students to build a more positive school-wide atmosphere. The ultimate goal is to teach students to be self-managers, who encourage and challenge each other to higher behavioral and academic standards.

This is accomplished through the use of clear expectations which are explicitly taught, regularly acknowledged and fairly corrected. Students are “set-up” for success in school.

Behavior Intervention Support Team (BIST)

BIST is an evidence based program adopted by the Gering School District to help staff implement the following systems.

- A communications system of regular meetings, checklists for student/administrator referral, information feedback and checkups.
- A proactive, rather than reactive, behavior system which fits with the goals of Positive Behavior Support.
- A common language which builds and develops responsibility.
- Safe places where students who are in trouble can go to process and get help.
- Mentors who will support teachers of difficult students. (Mentors can be teachers, colleagues, volunteers and others)
- A behavior intervention team of school staff to give back-up for teachers and administration.

BIST operates on these basic life goals:

- I can do what I don't want to do.
- I can be productive and follow directions even when I don't want to.
- I can be angry or upset and make good choices.
- I can be okay when others are not okay.

Response-to-Intervention (Rtl)

Rtl is a system of service delivery designed to provide effective instruction for all students using a comprehensive and preventive problem solving approach. It employs a tiered method of instructional delivery in which the core curriculum addresses and meets the needs of most students (Tier 1), additional instruction is provided for those needing supplementary support (Tier 2), and intensive and individualized services are provided for the students who continue to demonstrate more intensive needs (Tier 3).

At its foundation, Rtl includes measuring the performance of all students, and basing educational decisions regarding curriculum, instruction, and intervention intensity on student response to instruction.

Discovering Accountability with Guidance & Support (DAWGS)

DAWGS is an alternative to an out of district placement. It is an intensive behavior program for students in grades K-5th whose behavior is the primary disruption for their learning. DAWGS is an option used only when exhaustive interventions have been implemented without success in the child's general/resource program.

The mission of the program is to provide a positive environment with clear expectations and immediate consistent feedback to assist students in developing appropriate behavior management skills. DAWGS believes that students should be served in the least restrictive environment allowing for academic and behavioral success.

Along with academic skills, students in DAWGS will participate in individual and group social skills counseling. These skills provide the student with the necessary social guidance that is relevant to their success in DAWGS, as well as in their home schools.

Students attending DAWGS will be provided behavior intervention through the use of the Behavior Intervention Support Team (BIST), Crisis Prevention Institute strategies, and a four tier leveling system. When a student has completed the requirements for transition, the IEP team will consult with the student, parents, and home school concerning the transition.

The targeted population for this program includes students who have a current verification according to their Individual Education Plan. Students will only be considered for this placement when it has been determined that all other interventions and placement options have been exhausted.

The program is located at Lincoln Elementary. Classes are held from approximately 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. daily. For more information, contact Byron Olsen, Director of Student Services.

Special Education Identification and Placement Procedures

What Does Special Education Mean?

Special education means specially designed instruction, curriculum, and services through the use of staff, facilities, equipment and classrooms which have been adapted to provide special instruction for students with disabilities.

In addition, special education provides the support services necessary for evaluation, placement and instruction for students with disabilities. These services are free to parents, unless they elect to place their child in a program other than one approved by the school district.

How are Students With Disabilities Identified?

The first step is for parents to provide written permission to have their child evaluated. The request for permission will include a description of the action to be taken and a description of each evaluation procedure. Written statements showing the results of the evaluation and the reasons for placement in a special education program must be kept on file. Within 30 days after a student has been verified as having a disability, a conference will be held with parents. Advance notice will be given. At the conference, an Individual Education Program (IEP) will be developed.

Students Who May Benefit

A student verified as having autism, behavior disorder, hearing impairment, mental handicap, orthopedic impairment, other health impairment, specific learning disability, speech language impairment, traumatic brain injury, or visual handicap may be placed in regular education with support services or may benefit from a special education classroom or service.

Independent Evaluation

If a parent disagrees with an evaluation completed by the school district, the parent has a right to request an independent educational evaluation at public expense. Parents should direct inquiries to school officials to determine if the school district will arrange for further evaluation at public expense. If school district officials feel the original evaluation was appropriate and the parents disagree, a due process hearing may be initiated. If it is determined that the original evaluation was appropriate, parents still have the right to an independent educational evaluation at their own expense.

Re-evaluation

Students identified for special education will be re-evaluated at least every three years by the IEP team. The IEP team will review existing evaluation data on the student and will identify what additional data, if any, are needed. The school district shall obtain parental consent prior to conducting any re-evaluation of a student with a disability.

Individual Education Program (IEP)

Each student with a disability must have a written IEP prepared by the staff in cooperation with parents specifying programs and services which will be provided by the schools. If necessary, the district will arrange for interpreters or other assistants to help parents in preparing and understanding the IEP. Once in place, the program is reviewed on a regular basis with the parent.

An IEP is developed in a conference setting. Parents will be notified of the persons who will be in attendance. The IEP conference shall include at least the following:

1. A representative of the school district;
2. An individual who can interpret the instructional implications of evaluation results;
3. One or both parents or guardian;
4. The child (when appropriate)
5. At least one regular education teacher if the child is or may be participating in the regular education environment;
6. At least one special education teacher;
7. A representative of the nonpublic school if the child is attending a nonpublic school;
8. A representative of a service agency if the child is receiving services from an approved service agency; and
9. Other individuals, at the discretion of the parent or school district.

It is permissible for parents to bring other persons to the IEP meeting, but it is a good idea to inform the school before the scheduled meeting. The school district will provide parents with a copy of the IEP.

Special Education Placement

The student's placement in a special education program is dependent on the student's educational needs as outlined in the Individual Education Program (IEP). The school district must assure that students with disabilities are educated with students who do not have disabilities, to the maximum extent possible. Students with disabilities may be placed in special classes, separate schools or other situations outside the regular educational environment when the nature of the child's needs require specialized educational techniques which are not available in current settings. Determination of a student's educational placement will be made by a team of persons who know the student and who understand the tests and procedures that assess the student's learning abilities.

Parents are asked for written consent to determine whether or not they approve the educational placement recommended for their child. If the parent does not speak English or is hearing impaired, an interpreter may be requested. Written notice shall be given to parents a reasonable time before the school district: 1) Proposes to initiate or change the identification, evaluation, verification or educational placement of a child or the provision of a free appropriate public education; or 2) Refuses to initiate or change the identification, evaluation, or educational placement of the child or the provision of a free appropriate public education to the child.

Transportation of Students Receiving special Education

The district special education staff will make arrangements for transportation for eligible students to the extent such is required by the student's IEP. Students assigned to special education programs requiring attendance at schools outside their regular attendance area will be transported. Special conditions may warrant that special education students receive transportation to their assigned schools. If parents are dissatisfied with a transportation decision, they may contact the Superintendent for a review.

Access to Student Records

Parents have the right to inspect and review any education records relating to their child which are collected, maintained or used by the school district in providing educational services.

Parental Review of Programs

Parents who want to review their child's placement for any reason should request an IEP team meeting. If parents are not satisfied with the results of the conference, they may appeal to the Nebraska Department of Education for a formal hearing to be conducted by a state hearing officer. Parents dissatisfied by the findings and decisions made in a state level hearing have the right to bring civil action.

Plan and Budget

With the exception of personally identifiable student records, district special education plans and budgets are available for public inspection.

This is a summary of the Gering Public Schools district plan for special education students. Anyone interested in obtaining a copy of the complete district policy or a copy of the Nebraska Department of Education Rule 51 (complaint procedures) or Rule 55 (appeal procedures) may contact the Director of Student Services at the Gering Public Schools District Offices.

Multi-Tier System of Supports Team (MTSS)

The staff of Gering Elementary Schools recognizes that students can have experiences that may affect their academic and social life. The primary goal of the MTSS Team is preventative in nature, designed to help students before their experiences become overwhelming. Experiences may include:

Depression

Dropping Out

Single Parent Families

Students Not Living at Home
Divorce
Eating Disorders
Self Esteem
Death

Abuse
Time Management
Suicide
Test Anxiety
Under Achievement

Absenteeism/Tardiness
Failing Grades

Students in need of information or help may be referred by various concerned individuals including self, peers, family, or school staff. Referral forms can be obtained from any staff member. Completed forms should be returned to the counselor. After the referral, information will be gathered to help identify the problem(s) the student is experiencing. The MTSS Team will then meet to formulate an appropriate plan of action.

Team members may include the parent, student, teacher, guidance counselor, Title I teacher, Special Education teacher, psychologist and/or administrator. Team members will consider possible options to resolve the student's problem.

For specific information regarding the MTSS process, please contact your building principal or the Director of Student Services.

Guidance Services

Gering Public Schools employs a guidance counselor(s) for the purpose of assisting with the District's testing program and to assist with scheduling and attendance and for students to discuss problems and resolve conflicts in classroom visits, small group counseling, and individual counseling. If you wish to see a counselor, stop by a counselor's office and make arrangements for an appointment.

Health Program

Health Program

As defined by the National Association of School Nurses, school nursing is a specialized practice of professional nursing that advances the well-being, academic success, and life-long achievement of students. School nurses facilitate positive student responses to normal development; promote health and safety; intervene with actual and potential health problems; provide case management services; and actively collaborate with others to build student and family capacity for adaptation, self-management, self-advocacy, and learning.

The school nurse role:

- Ensures compliance with school entry health requirements
- Provides care and case management for children with chronic health problems
- Monitors security and safe administration of medications
- Assures the health and safety of the school students and staff
- Manages disaster preparedness and emergency service plans
- Provides health education and staff wellness programs
- Provides resources and guidance in the areas of disease and infection control practices at school
- Assures student compliance with state and local regulations related to health and safety (Immunizations; Health Screens)
- Identifies school health needs and advocates for necessary resources

Parents and/or Guardians are responsible for the health care of their child, while the school is available to assist, assess, and monitor that care during regular school hours. Parents and/or Guardians are responsible for notifying the school of their student's:

- Chronic or Acute health related diseases, conditions, and/or issues (Examples include severe allergies, diabetes, epilepsy, asthma, urinary or bowel issues, etc.);
- Recent physical, vision, and/or dental exams;
- Updated immunizations (Records are reviewed annually, and summary reports are sent to Nebraska State Health Department);
- Need for medication administration during the regular school day (please refer to Medication Administration Policy);
- Absence from school due to illness. (please inform school of type of illness so that the number and type of illness and symptoms can be monitored and reported to local health department as necessary); Updated emergency contact information and a plan/arrangement in place if parent/guardian is unable to pick up their ill child from school and/or while the child is ill and needs to stay home.

In addition, parents and/or guardians have the following notification responsibilities:

- Students from out of state will need a physical/vision exam which was done within the last (six) 6 months of entering school. Provide a current immunization report that is compliant with the State of Nebraska guidelines. All documents need to be turned in and approved by the health office prior to the student's first day of school.
- Inform the school of PE or recess restrictions. If a student requires restricted PE or recess due to a health condition for more than (1) school day, then a healthcare provider note is required. If a student has a note limiting or restricting PE, this will include recess. If a student is out of school for five (5) consecutive days due to illness, a note from the student's health provider will need to be provided to the school's health office.
- Each school location has a First Responder Team and staff who are CPR/First Aid/AED certified, trained on Asthma & Anaphylaxis and Medication Administration to assist students. The schools are not staffed with full-time nurses. Basic first aid will be administered to students; if more extensive care is needed, then the parent/guardian (or emergency contact) will be notified, or 911 will be contacted.

Medication Administration Policy:

It is recognized that for effective treatment of chronic and/or acute illnesses, medication might need to be administered during school hours. A student who is required to take medication during the regular school day must comply with medication administration policy. The policy has been developed for the safety of the student receiving the medication and for the safety of all students. Medication will be administered by the school nurse, a registered Medication Aide, or other school staff member meeting the minimum competency standards for the Medication Aide Act.

For school personnel to administer prescription medication to a student, it is necessary to have a doctor and/or health care provider's authorization and written order and a parent/guardian's authorization. Medication must be brought to school in the original labeled prescription bottle by parent/guardian with proper label including child's name and an order from the healthcare providers with the student's name, medication name, instructions for use (time, dosage, duration) and the healthcare provider's signature. The authorization must be renewed on an annual basis and/or if the prescription changes. Loose capsules, tablets, unidentified or non-labeled medication will not be accepted for administration. Medication will not be administered without the above authorization and information.

A record of the medication administration will be kept for each student receiving medication including the student name, medication name, instructions for use, name and initials of personnel who administered medication, date, time and route of administration, drug count with signature of school personnel and parent/guardian to verify count, documentation of unusual circumstances, actions, or omissions. Administration of medication records shall be kept confidential. Records shall be available to the department of Health and Human Service Regulation and Licensure, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the State Department of Education.

1. Over-the-counter medication (such as Tylenol, ibuprofen, cough drops, saline eye drops, hydrocortisone cream, triple antibiotic ointment, insect sting swab, topical cooling gel) may be given with parents/guardians permission by trained school personnel by signing the pertinent section on the Student Health Information form at the beginning of the school year. That permission releases Gering Public Schools and employees from liability in case of choking, allergic reaction, side effects and/or health risks related to the medication. Parents/guardians may also supply over-the-counter medication for their student to be kept at the school.
2. Medication will be kept in a secured area. Students may carry medication only with the approval of the parents and building principal and the appropriate paperwork completed. Emergency protocol for medication-related reactions will be in place. Medications must be picked up by an adult on the last day of school, or they will be disposed of.
3. Schools are not staffed with a full-time nurse. The student has a responsibility to remember to report to the office at medication administration time.
4. The Superintendent shall be responsible, in conjunction with the school nurse or medication aide, for developing rules and regulations governing the administration of medication, prescription and nonprescription, including emergency protocols, to students and for ensuring persons administering medication have met the requirement of state statutes. Annually, each student shall be provided with the requirements for administration of medication at school.

Health Screenings

Health Screenings will be performed as recommended by the Department of Health and Human Services. Parents/Guardians will be notified in writing if medical, dental, vision, audiology, or other follow-up is recommended after the screening is completed.

Contagious and Infectious Diseases

As recommended by the Nebraska Department of health and Human Services, please refer to the list below for minimum isolation periods and control measures:

Please note: Susceptible=person with disease; Contacts=those who have been in contact with the diseased person. Day of onset of specific symptoms is counted as "day zero"; the day after onset is "day1"

1. Chickenpox: Exclude for at least 5 days after the eruption first appears or until vesicles become dry; Avoid contact with susceptibles. No exclusion of contacts. Alert parents of immunosuppressed child(ren) of possible exposure.
2. Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye): Exclude symptomatic cases. Urge medical care. May return when the eye is normal in appearance or with documentation from the physician that child is no longer infectious. No exclusion of contacts.
3. Common Cold: Exclusion unnecessary. No exclusion of contacts.
4. Diphtheria: Exclude cases. Return with a documented physician approval. Exclude inadequately immunized close contacts as deemed appropriate by school officials following investigation by the local and/or Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. Report immediately by telephone all cases to local and/or state health departments.

5. Enterobiasis (Pinworm, Threadworm, Seatworm): Exclude until treated as documented by physician. No exclusion of contacts. Careful hand washing essential.
6. Fifth Disease: Exclude until fever and malaise are gone. May return with rash with documented physician approval. No exclusion of contacts; however, alert any students or staff who are pregnant, have chronic hemolytic anemia or immunodeficiency to consult their physician.
7. Hepatitis A: Exclude for no less than 7 days after onset of jaundice. Return with documented physician approval. No exclusion of contacts. Immune globulin (IG) prevents disease if given within two weeks of exposure. IG to family contacts only. Careful hand washing essential.
8. Herpes Simplex (Type 1): Exclusion unnecessary. No exclusion of contacts. Avoid contact with immunosuppressed or eczematous persons. Good hygiene avoids sharing toilet articles.
9. Impetigo: Exclude until brought under treatment as documented by physician. No exclusion of contacts. Good personal hygiene essential. Avoid common use of toilet articles.
10. Influenza: Exclude for duration of illness. No exclusion of contacts.
11. Lice: The student is not sent home from school; however, it is acceptable for the parent/guardian to pick up the student. The parent/guardian is instructed that the student should be treated before returning to school and that nits should be removed.
12. Meningitis (Bacterial and Viral): Exclude for duration of illness. Return with documented physician approval. No exclusion of contacts. Chemoprophylaxis appropriate for family and intimate contacts.
13. Measles (Rubeola): Exclude for duration of illness and for no fewer than 4 days after onset of rash. Exclude unimmunized students on same campus from date of diagnosis of first case until 14 days after rash onset of last known case or until measles immunization received or laboratory proof of immunity is presented or until history of previous measles infection is verified as per records or the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. Report immediately by telephone all cases to local and/or state health departments.
14. Mumps (Epidemic Parotitis): Exclude until swelling has subsided. No exclusion of contacts. Inform parents of unimmunized students on campus of possible exposure and encourage immunization.
15. Pediculosis (head or body lice): Exclude until after appropriate treatment is started. No exclusion of contacts; however, they should be notified of exposure.
16. Pertussis (Whooping cough): Return as per written documentation. Exclude adequately immunized close contacts as deemed appropriate by school officials following investigation by the local and/or state Department of Health and Human Services. Chemoprophylaxis may be considered for family and close contacts. Report immediately by telephone all cases to local and/or state health departments.
17. Poliomyelitis: Exclude until physician approves return.
18. Ringworm: Exclude until treatment started. No exclusion of contacts. Good sanitation practices and don't share toilet articles.
19. Rubella (German Measles): Exclude for duration of illness and for no less than 4 days after onset of rash. Exclude unimmunized students on same campus from date of diagnosis of first case until 23* days after rash onset of last known case or until rubella immunization received or laboratory proof of immunity is presented. Report immediately by telephone all cases to local and/or state health department.
20. Scabies: Exclude until the day after treatment started. No exclusion of contacts.
21. Shingles/Herpes Zoster: Exclude children with shingles/zoster if the vesicles cannot be covered until after the vesicles have dried. Individuals with shingles/zoster should be instructed to wash their hands if they touch the potentially infectious vesicles.
22. Streptococcal infection (Scarlet Fever, Scarletina, Strep Throat): Exclude until afebrile and under treatment for 24 hours. No exclusion of contacts. Early medical care is important and usually requires 10 days of antibiotic treatment. Screening for asymptomatic cases not recommended.

23. Tuberculosis Pulmonary: Exclude. Physician treatment essential. May return with documented physician approval. No exclusion of contacts. Skin test contacts and chemoprophylaxis with INH if positive (in absence of disease). Exclusion of non-pulmonary tuberculosis unnecessary.

In addition, Gering Public Schools policy includes:

1. Elevated Body Temperature: A student with temperature over 100 degrees shall be sent home from school. The student can return to school once fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication (Tylenol, Ibuprofen, etc.). A fever is defined as 100-degrees Fahrenheit or 37.8-degrees Celsius. Or student may return with documented physician approval.
2. Hepatitis B and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) or acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS): Determination of the school attendance status of a student with Hepatitis B or HIV/AIDS will be on a case by case basis.
3. Missed school days from illness: If a student is absent for five consecutive school days due to illness, then doctor note is required to allow for his/her return to school.
4. Nausea and/or Vomiting: If student has nausea and/or vomiting, then remaining out of school for 24-hours is strongly recommended.
5. MRSA (Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus Aureus): May return with documented physician approval.

Procedures for students who become injured or ill at school

Any student who becomes ill or injured during the school day will report to the school nurse. An ill or injured student may not leave school until permission of the parent, or the person designated by the parent, has been received. Ill or injured students are not to leave the building without the knowledge of the health office staff and without signing out properly in the office. The Health Office is to be used for the purpose of receiving First Aid treatment for injuries or illness.

Requirements for Physicals, Vision Exams, and Immunizations:

- Physical Examination
Physical examination by a physician, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse within the six months prior to the entrance of a child into Early Childhood Education, beginner grade or Kindergarten, and 7th grade, or in the case of a transfer from out of state to any grade, is required. The parent/guardian has the right to submit a written statement refusing such examination.
- Vision Exam
Visual evaluation by a physician, a physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse, or an optometrist within six months prior to the entrance of a child into the beginner grade or Kindergarten, or in the case of transfer from out of state to any grade, is required. The visual evaluation must consist of testing for amblyopia, strabismus, and internal and external eye health, with testing to determine visual acuity. The parent/guardian has the right to submit a written statement refusing such an evaluation.
- Immunization Requirements
The State of Nebraska has immunization requirements for children entering school. Students will not be able to enter school until the school has written proof of their immunization status. To attend school, students in Nebraska are required to be immunized per current requirements from Nebraska Department of health and Human Services.

All students K-12 must be immunized for D.P.T., polio, measles, rubella, varicella, mumps and Hepatitis B. The Tdap vaccination is required for incoming 7th graders. Dates of immunizations are required.

Students with a history of varicella disease (chicken pox) must provide evidence of immunity in the form of signature of parent with date of illness, signature of health care provider with date of illness, laboratory evidence of varicella immunity or a clinical diagnosis of shingles.

Students who do not receive immunizations for health reasons must have a statement signed by a healthcare provider stating that, in their opinion, the specified immunization(s) required would be injurious to the health and well-being of the student or any member of the student's family or household.

Students who do not receive immunization due to religious reason must have a notarized affidavit signed by a legally authorized representative of the student, stating that the immunization conflicts with the tenets and practice of a recognized religious denomination of which the student is an adherent or member, or that immunization conflicts with the personally and sincerely followed religious beliefs of the student.

A student may be provisionally enrolled in school if he/she has begun the immunizations against the specified disease prior to enrollment and continues the necessary immunization against the specified disease prior to enrollment and continues the necessary immunizations as rapidly as is medically feasible. In addition, a student may also be 18 provisionally enrolled if he/she is the child of an officer or enlisted person, or the child of the spouse of such officer or enlisted person on active duty in any branch of military services of the United States.

For further information on immunizations, contact school health staff or refer to Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Control of Communicable Disease regulations.

- Summary of the School Immunization Rules and Regulations for 2021-2022 School Year

Student Age Group	Required Vaccines
Ages 2 through 5 year enrolled in a school based program not licensed as a childcare provider	4 does of DtaP, DTP or DT vaccine, 3 doses of Polio vaccine, 3 doses of Hib vaccine or 1 dose of Hib given at or after 15 months of age, 3 doses of pediatric Hepatitis B vaccine, 1 dose of varicella (chickenpox) or MMRV given on or after 12 months of age. Written documentation (including year) of varicella disease from parent, guardian, or health care provider will be accepted. 4 doses of pneumococcal or 1 dose of pneumococcal given on or after 15 months of age.
Students from Kindergarten through 12 Grade, including all transfer students from outside the State of Nebraska and any foreign students	3 doses of DTaP, DTP, DT or Td vaccine, one given on or after the 4th birthday, 3 doses of Polio vaccine, 3 doses of pediatric Hepatitis B vaccine or 2 doses of adolescent vaccine if student is 11-15 years of age. 2 doses of MMR or MMRV vaccine, given on or after 12 months of age and separated by at least one month, 2 doses of varicella (chickenpox) or MMRV if given on or after 12 months of age. Written documentation (Including year) of varicella disease from parent, guardian, or health care provider will be accepted. If the child has had varicella disease, they do not need any varicella shots.
Additionally, for 7th Grade Only	1 dose of Tdap (must contain Pertussis booster)

Source: Nebraska Immunization Program, Nebraska Department of health and Human Services, 2011.

For additional information, call 402-471-6423

The School Rules & Regulations are available on the internet: <http://www.hhs.state.ne.us/reg/t173.htm>

(Title 173: Control of Communicable Disease - Chapter 3; revised and implemented 2011)

Emergency Response to Life-Threatening Asthma or Systemic Allergic Reactions (Anaphylaxis) Protocol (NDE - Title 92 NAC Chapter 59):

The Nebraska State Board of Education mandated that this protocol be adopted and implemented in all accredited public schools, approved nonpublic schools and early childhood education programs. Through Attack on Asthma Nebraska and the Nebraska Department of Education, the protocol steps are designed to provide quick, effective care in order to prevent death due to severe asthma attack or anaphylaxis. Staff members have been trained to recognize signs and symptoms of a life-threatening breathing emergency, certain staff members are trained to respond to anyone experiencing a life-threatening asthma or anaphylaxis emergency at school.

The Emergency Protocol includes:

1. CALL 911
2. Summon school nurse if available. If not, summon designated trained, non-medical staff to implement emergency protocol
3. Check airway patency, breathing, respiratory rate, and pulse
4. Administer medications (EpiPen® and Albuterol) per standing order
5. Determine cause as quickly as possible
6. Monitor vital signs (Pulse, respiration, etc.)
7. Contact parents immediately and physician as soon as possible
8. Any individual treated for symptoms with epinephrine at school will be transferred to medical facility

If you know that your student has asthma or a known allergy, it is critically important that you communicate this information to school health staff. For each student with a known allergic condition or asthma, you must provide the school with (1) written medical documentation (Asthma/Allergy Action Plan), (2) medications as directed by a healthcare professional. In the event that your student experiences a life-threatening asthma attack or systemic allergic reaction, we will defer to the specific documents and medication that you have provided. If you do not have medical documentation and instructions on file with the school for your student, we will defer to the regulatory protocol as described above.

The protocol is in effect for the school day hours (7:30 AM - 3:30 PM) and after school programs. Emergency medication remains on school grounds. If your child has an EpiPen and/or inhaler in the health office, it will be sent with school staff on field trips. If your child participates in after school activities (sports, clubs, etc.), complete appropriate paperwork for him/her to carry and self administer medication. In the event of an emergency, 911 will be called. If you do not want your student to receive the above described emergency medication, contact school health staff.

The Gering School District employs three full time nurses who cover the district's locations. Each school location has a First Responder Team and staff who are CPR/First Aid/AED certified, Attach on Asthma and Medication Administration trained to assist as the schools are not staffed with a full-time nurse. Basic first aid will be administered to a student, if more extensive care is needed, then the parent/guardian (or emergency contact) will be notified, or 911 will be contacted.

Concussions

A concussion is a type of brain injury that changes the way the brain normally works. If your student has a concussion, his or her brain needs time to heal. After a concussion, physical and cognitive activities should be carefully managed and monitored with limited and gradual return to learn and play. If your student is diagnosed with a concussion, then please contact the school nurse, counselor, principal, athletic director, or coach. The student will follow the Return to Learn protocols for academic work. If the student is involved

in sports etc. (This includes recess) the student will need to have a clearance note from a healthcare provider to Return to Play.

Procedure for Head Lice Detection and Management at School.

1. When a student is found to have live lice and/or nits:
 - a. The parent/guardian is notified, and information related to detection and elimination of head lice will be provided at that time or sent home with the student in a sealed envelope.
 - b. The student is not sent home from school, however it is acceptable if the parent/guardian picks up the student.
 - c. The parent/guardian is instructed that the student should be treated before returning to school and that nits should be removed.
 - d. When the student returns to school, the school health staff is to confirm that treatment has been completed. If lice and/or nits are found, the parent is notified to keep nit-picking and combing.
 - e. Follow up head checks may be done by school staff to confirm lice management efforts. If future checks reveal an increased number of nits present or it is obvious to the screener that the student's hair has not been treated, the parent/guardian will be contacted for follow-up and support.
2. When to check beyond the identified student with live lice or nits:
 - a. If the student has siblings in the building and/or other buildings in the district, then the sibling(s) are to be checked.
 - b. Full classroom screenings for head lice or nits will not be done, unless otherwise determined by school nurse and/or building administrator.
3. Classroom Environment:
 - a. Notify the custodian to vacuum the affected classroom and all upholstered furniture within.
 - b. Stuffed animals and pillows can be bagged for two weeks.
 - c. No environmental pesticide treatments are to be used.
 - d. Encourage students to avoid sharing hats, combs, coats, pillows, or other personal items.
 - e. The school nurse and/or building administrator can use professional judgement to determine when unusual measures are necessary to respond to extraordinary cases.
4. Notification Procedures:
 - a. The customary notification for the presence of head lice is to be done on an individual/case by case basis to the parent/guardian of the infested student. Classroom notifications are not done with typical head lice cases.
 - b. In very unusual cases, it may be appropriate in the professional opinion of the school nurse and in consultation of the administrator to consider a general parent/guardian notification for a high number of identified cases of head lice.
5. Exclusion Procedure Support:
 - a. In the rare case that a student has either:
 - i. Chronic head lice infestation or
 - ii. Severe head lice infestation that is disruptive to the learning environment, the school nurse will be consulted.
 - b. If in the nurse's professional judgment, it is determined that exclusion needs to be considered, the nurse will consult with the administrator about implementing exclusion. This measure will be taken with careful consideration:
 - i. With chronic head lice infestation cases, the nurse will secure documentation of repeated and unsuccessful head lice management measures.
 - ii. The return of the student after exclusion will be predicated on a head check with evidence of progress in head lice management and progress toward eradication

of the head lice. Evidence will look like elimination of live lice and a decrease in the number of nits.

- iii. It may be appropriate in the judgment of the school nurse to monitor progress of lice management over a period of time. The goal is supporting the family in head lice eradication.

General Control Measures in Schools	
Recommendations	Rationale
Routine classroom or school-wide screening for head lice is not recommended	The American Academy of Pediatrics discourages head lice screenings, which have not been proven to have a significant effect over time on the incidence of head lice in the school setting and are not cost effective. Children should be checked only when demonstrating symptoms of head lice.
The American Association of Pediatrics, the National Association of School Nurses, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advocate that “no-nit” policies should be discontinued.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Egg cases farther from the scalp are easier to discover, but these tend to be empty (hatched) or nonviable and, thus, are of no consequence. 2. Nits are cemented to hair shafts and are very unlikely to be transferred successfully to other people. 3. The burden of unnecessary absenteeism to the students, families and communities far outweighs the risks associated with head lice. 4. Misdiagnosis of nits is very common during nit checks conducted by nonmedical personnel. 5. Research has shown that the survival of head lice when not on the head is usually less than one day and the eggs can only hatch when incubated by body heat found near the scalp.
Provide parent education program in the management of head lice in the school setting.	Head lice are not a medical or public health hazard as they are not known to spread disease. However, parents may have misconceptions and prejudices, which place pressure on school staff. Educating and supporting the child and parent with factual, nonjudgmental information is better than having policies and practices driven by misinformation.
School personnel involved in detection of head lice infestation should be properly trained.	The diagnosis of head lice infestation is best made by finding a live nymph or adult louse on the scalp or hair of a person. Because nymphs and adult lice are very small, move quickly, and void light, they can be difficult to find. The diagnosis should be made by a health care provider or other person trained to identify live head lice
Individual Case Management	
Recommendations	Rationale
A child with an active head lice infestation should remain in class but be discouraged from close direct head contact with others.	A child with an active head lice infestation has likely had the infestation for one month or more by the time it is discovered and poses little risk to others from the infestation. Transmission occurs primarily through head-to-head contact and infrequently through indirect contact with shared belongings. It is the position of the National Association of School Nurses (NASN), the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, and The American Pediatric Association that the management of head lice in the school setting should not disrupt the educational process.
Notify parent or guardian by telephone or by having a note sent home with the child at the end of the school day stating that prompt, proper treatment of this condition is the best interest of the child and his or her classmates.	The school can be most helpful by making available accurate information about the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of head lice in an understandable form. Information sheets in different languages and visual aids for families with limited literacy skills should be made available by schools.
Maintain confidentiality when a child is diagnosed with head lice.	

Criteria for Return to School	
Recommendations	Rationale
Students diagnosed with live lice do not need to be sent home early from school; they can go home at the end of the day, be treated, and return to class after appropriate treatment has begun.	Nits may persist after treatment, but successful treatment should kill crawling lice. Do not check for nits (dead or alive) or enforce a no-nit policy for those who have been treated. It is not productive.

Head Lice: Guiding Principles For School Policy. Rhode Island Department of Health. Divisions of Infectious Disease and Epidemiology, November 18, 2014,

LICE 101: MYTHS and REALITIES ABOUT HEAD LICE

Definitions	
Lice: more than one louse.	Nit: Eggs, dead or alive, of a louse
Louse: small insect that lives on the scalp	Parasite: Lives off another, in this case the blood of humans
Pediculosis: Having an infestation of lice	Infestation: Having an insect present, in this case, in your hair.
MYTHS	TRUTHS
Head lice are easy to get.	Lice are spread mainly by head-to-head contact. They are much harder to get than a cold, flu, ear infection, pink eye, strep throat, food poisoning, or impetigo.
You can get lice from your dog, guinea pig, or other animal.	Lice are species-specific. You can only get human lice from another human. You cannot get another animal's lice.
You can get head lice from hats and helmets.	Rarely, but possible. Hairbrushes, pillows, and sheets are also uncommon modes of transmission.
School is a common place for lice transmission.	School is an unlikely source of transmission. Much more common are family members, overnight guests, and playmates who spend a large amount of time together.
Poor hygiene contributes to lice.	Hygiene makes absolutely no difference. You get lice by close personal contact with someone else that has lice, not by being dirty.
Lice can jump or fly from one person to another.	Lice can only crawl. They can neither fly nor jump. They must crawl from one person to another.
Any nits left in the hair can cause lice to come back.	Any nits farther away than one quarter to one half on the hair shaft are ALREADY HATCHED and pose no risk to others.
Eggs or nits can fall out of the hair, hatch and cause lice in another person.	Nits are cemented on the hair and very hard to remove. They cannot fall off. Newly hatched lice must find a head quickly or will die.
Lice can live a long time.	Lice live only 1-2 days off the head. Each louse only lives about 30 days on the head.
All members of a family should be treated if one person has lice.	Only the person with lice should be treated. Lice shampoos are INSECTICIDES and can be dangerous if used incorrectly or too frequently. Household members and close contacts should be checked, but only treat those who actually have lice. The house should NOT be sprayed with insecticide, nor used on clothing or other items.
Checking a classroom when one student has lice can prevent lice from spreading.	Classroom transmission is EXCEEDINGLY RARE and checking students is a waste of valuable teaching time. Checking family members and close playmates is much more appropriate.

Avoiding lice is important as they spread disease.	Head lice do not spread any known disease. They are annoying and irritating, but not dangerous.
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Pontius, Deborah J. (2014). Demystifying Pediculosis: School Nurses Taking the Lead. *Pediatric Nursing* 40(5), 226-235

Birth Certificate Requirements

State law requires that a certified copy of a student’s birth certificate be provided within 30 days of enrollment of a student in school for the first time. You may obtain a certified copy from the Bureau of Vital Statistics in the state in which your child was born. Assistance in obtaining birth certificates may be obtained from Health Records Managements, P.O.Box 95065, Lincoln, NE 68509-5065. There is a fee per certificate.

Please note: The document parents receive from the hospital looks like a birth certificate, but it is not a certified copy. A certified copy has the raised seal of the state of Nebraska on it and is signed by the director of vital statistics.

If a birth certificate is unavailable, other reliable proof of a student’s identity may be used. These documents would include naturalization or immigration documents showing date of birth or official hospital birth records, a passport, or a translation of a birth certificate from another country. The documents must be accompanied by an affidavit explaining the inability to produce a copy of the birth certificate.

High Ability Learning (HAL)

Pursuant to Nebraska Department of Education Rule 3 Regulations, Gering Public Schools identifies learners of high ability and seeks to address their unique needs through a variety of instructional methods. The Gering Public Schools HAL identification matrix incorporates criteria including nationalized achievement test scores to identify students above the 94th percentile district-wide.

Admission

A pupil must be five (5) years of age on or before July 31 to be enrolled in Kindergarten. All students entering the Gering Public Schools for the first time must present a valid birth certificate and a complete record of immunizations in addition to a physical examination requirement specified in the Nebraska Statute 79-214. In addition, a visual evaluation by a physician, a physician assistant, an advanced practice registered nurse, or an optometrist within six months prior to entering Nebraska schools for the first time.

All students are required to have the following: 3 doses of DtaP, DTP, DT, one given on or after the 4th birthday; 3 doses of Polio vaccine; 3 doses of pediatric Hepatitis B vaccine; 2 doses of MMR or MMRV vaccine, given on or after 12 months of age and separated by at least one month; and 2 doses of varicella (chickenpox) or MMRV given on or after 12 months of age.

Written documentation (including year) of varicella disease from parent, guardian, or health care provider will be accepted. If the child has had varicella disease, he or she does not need any varicella shots.

008.02 From July 1, 1994, and thereafter, each student shall be protected prior to enrollment against the diseases listed, except as follows:

008-02A Immunization shall not be required for a student’s enrollment in any school in this state if he or she submits to the admitting official either of the following:

008.02A1 A statement (attachment 3, Refusal of Immunization for Medical Reasons, which is incorporated herein by this reference) signed

by a physician licensed under the Uniform Licensing Law stating that, in the physicians' opinion, the immunizations required would be injurious to the health and well-being of the student or any member of the student's family or household; or

008.02A2

An affidavit (attachment 4, Refusal of Immunization for Religious Reasons, which is incorporated herein by this reference) signed by the student or, if he or she is a minor, by a legally authorized representative of the student, stating that the immunization conflicts with the tenets and practice of a recognized religious denomination of which the student is an adherent or member or that immunization conflicts with the personal and sincerely followed religious beliefs of the student.

Student Fees

The board of Education of Gering Public Schools has adopted a student fees policy in accordance with the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act.

The District's general policy is to provide for the free instruction in school in accordance with the Nebraska Constitution. This generally means that the District's Policy is to provide free instruction which is required by state law or regulation and to provide the staff, facility, equipment, and materials necessary for such instruction, without charge or fee to the students.

Fees will be collected in specific classes pursuant to Nebraska state law. Students will pay for materials used in class projects that become the student's personal property.

DRUGS, ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO

Drug Free Schools

The District implements regulations and practices that will ensure compliance with the Federal Drug Free Schools and Communities Act and all regulations and rules promulgated pursuant thereto. The District's safe and drug free schools program is established in accordance with principles of effectiveness as required by law to respond to such harmful effects.

Comprehensive Substance Abuse Policy

PHILOSOPHY

All students have the right to attend school in a drug free environment conducive to good learning. The use of illicit drugs, alcohol, or other substances is not only illegal; but it interferes with both effective learning and the healthy development of young people.

The educational system has a fundamental and ethical obligation to prevent drug abuse and maintain a drug free and safe educational environment, not only throughout the schools, but also in all school related activities.

USE/POSSESSION OF HEALTH ENDANGERING SUBSTANCES

Pursuant to its statutory authority to adopt policies, rules and regulations necessary to protect the government and health of students in the School District, the Board of Education of the Gering Public

Schools has determined that the possession or use by students of tobacco or tobacco products, vapor products (including e-cigarettes), alcohol, narcotics, or other dangerous and/or illegal drugs or drug paraphernalia shall be prohibited.

- A. During the school day
- B. On school grounds
- C. By a participant in school activities
- D. As a spectator at school activities involving Gering participants
- E. Off school grounds, if there is a substantial interference with school purposes

Students who possess or use tobacco or tobacco products, vapor products (including e-cigarettes) alcohol or narcotics, or other dangerous drugs or drug paraphernalia, except as directed by a physician during the school day, on school grounds or while participating in or attending school activities, shall be subject to disciplinary sanctions, including but not limited to expulsion or suspension.

Enforcement of disciplinary sanctions shall be in accordance with the procedures established by the Gering Public Schools' Comprehensive Substance Abuse Policy and Guidelines for Students Participating in Extracurricular Activities.

Disciplinary Procedures and Actions

Any student charged with having violated school rules or Nebraska State laws relating to possession, use, or sale of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, mood-altering drugs, controlled substances, or any drug "look-alike" substance, on school premises, at school sponsored/sanctioned activities, or when being transported in vehicles dispatched by the school district, shall be immediately notified (along with the student's parents) of the charge, given a full written statement of the charge and accompanying suspension, and advised of his/her rights to a review of the validity of the charge in the form of a hearing before the school's Board of Education within a reasonable time. In order to insure the student's right to due process, the procedural requirements of Nebraska State Law. Student Suspension or Expulsion Act sections 79-4170 to 79-4205 shall be followed. Those students found to have violated school rules or Nebraska State laws shall be subject to the following disciplinary actions and procedures under the direction of the school principal or the school's site administrative staff, as determined by the number of prior offenses by the student.

- A. Procedures for Dealing with Students Under the Influence of Alcohol, Drugs or Other Harmful Substances Other than Tobacco**
 - 1. Any Staff member who believes that a student is under the influence of alcohol or drugs will notify a principal or designee immediately.
 - 2. The principal or designee will take the necessary disciplinary actions as outlined in the following section (Section B).
- B. Disciplinary Actions for Students Under the Influence of Alcohol, Drugs or Other Harmful Substance Other Than Tobacco**
 - 1. First Offense
 - a. A meeting is held with student and parents.
 - b. The student is given a five (5) day out of school suspension, but shall be offered the option of in school suspension if he/she agrees to have immediate testing for drugs/alcohol in the body and to seek diagnostic evaluation for substance abuse if the tests are positive.
The student must follow those recommendations made by a resource specialist for substance use/abuse or related problems. If the student fails to follow

treatment recommendations he/she shall be required to complete the remainder of the five-day out of school suspension. (The School District will provide a list of qualified specialists).

- c. A recommendation for a long-term suspension or expulsion will be considered, depending upon the severity of the case.
 - d. In an emergency case necessitating immediate health care services, the above procedures shall be put in place as soon as the student is physically and mentally functional.
2. Second Offense (occurring within three years of the first offense).
 - a. A conference will be held with the parents as soon as possible. Immediate drug/alcohol testing will take place.
 - b. Upon confirmation of a positive drug/alcohol test, the student will automatically be suspended ten (10) days.
 - c. Parents will be provided with information on qualified substance abuse treatment resources.
 - d. The student will be required to undergo assessment by a qualified substance abuse specialist and submit proof of an assessment by that specialist before being allowed to return to school. The student must agree to fulfil those recommendations made by the substance abuse specialist.
 - e. Failure to comply with the above will result in long term suspension or expulsion hearings being initiated against the student.
 3. Third Offense (occurring within three years of the first offense).
 - a. The student will be suspended pending expulsion proceedings which will be initiated according to the School district's expulsion policy.

C. Procedures for Dealing with Students in Possession

Students who possess alcohol, narcotics, other drugs, drug "look-alikes", or drug paraphernalia on school property or at school sponsored/sanctioned activities will be handled in the following manner:

1. Any staff member who comes in contact with evidence and/or contraband will notify a principal or a designee immediately.
2. Any staff member who has reasonable suspicion to believe that a student is in possession of alcohol, narcotics, other drugs, drug "look-alikes", or drug paraphernalia will notify a principal or designee immediately.
3. The principal or designee may call the local police department and request assistance in conducting a search for any illegal substances. All substances (contraband) found in the search will be given to the police department for analysis to determine if it is an illegal substance.
4. Upon notification by the appropriate agency for law enforcement that the contraband contains narcotics or other dangerous drugs, or if the possession of alcohol is involved, the principal or designee will take the necessary disciplinary action as outlined in Section **E**.

D. Disciplinary Actions for Students in Possession

Discipline is the same as outlined in the Disciplinary Actions for Students Under the influence of Alcohol, Drugs or Other Than Tobacco in Section B of Comprehensive Substance Abuse Policy.

E. Procedures for Dealing with Students Engaged in Selling, Giving or Exchanging

Students who are engaged in selling, giving or exchanging alcohol, narcotics, other drugs, drug "look-alikes", or drug paraphernalia on school property or at school sponsored/sanctioned activities will be handled in the following manner:

1. If an employee is witness to any act in which alcohol, narcotics, other drugs, drug “look-alikes”, or drug paraphernalia is transferred from one person to another, the employee will immediately attempt to detain the student(s) involved and request that they accompany him to a principal or designee. If the student refuses, the employee will notify a principal or designee immediately.
2. The principal or designee will attempt to obtain evidence by directly requesting it from the student or through search procedures outlined in the Section titled- “Searches”.
3. Follow the same procedure for handling evidence and/or contraband as outlined above in Section C.

F. Disciplinary Actions for Students Selling, Giving or Exchanging

Any student found to be in violation of school rules or Nebraska State laws by selling, giving, or exchanging any substance stated herein, shall be immediately notified (along with the parents) of the charge, and shall otherwise be entitled to the same right to a hearing according to School District policy.

1. First Offense
 - a. Student is given a **TEN** (10) day suspension.
 - b. The principal or designee will conduct a conference with parents and/or police representatives.
 - c. A recommendation for long-term suspension or expulsion will be considered, depending upon the severity of the case.
 - d. The school administration will cooperate fully with local law enforcement agencies when investigations and searches, related to drug offenses, are in progress.
2. Second Offense
 - a. The student will be suspended, pending a long-term suspension or expulsion proceeding, which will be initiated according to the School District’s expulsion policy.

G. Procedures for Dealing with Students in Possession of Tobacco Products

1. First Offense and Second Offense
 - a. Student will be given a written warning.
 - b. Parents will be contacted and receive a copy of the written warning given to the student.
2. Third and Subsequent Offense(s)
 - a. The student will be suspended from school for three (3) days or must successfully complete a smoking cessation class/rehabilitative program.
 - b. The principal or designee will conduct a conference with the student and parent.

STUDENT CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE

High School Activities

Elementary students are welcome at all high school sporting events. There are, however, no elementary student sections at these activities. Students are to sit in the stands with an adult. Students are not to be dropped off at an event without adult supervision. If a student attends an event and is running around without supervision, the parent will be contacted and an adult will need to pick him/her up. Students may also have activity passes taken away for the rest of the year if it is warranted.

Conduct and Discipline

Students in the Gering Elementary Schools are expected to conduct themselves in such a manner as to reflect credit to the school system and their families. Failure to do so will result in corrective action by school officials.

The Gering School officials feel that a child should, at all times, show proper respect for school property, personnel and fellow students. The majority of students show this respect, but to ensure that all students comply, it is necessary to have certain rules and regulations.

Each elementary school and classroom teacher will specify to students reasonable rules and regulations which will apply in the classroom, lunchroom, halls and on the playground. Compliance with these regulations is required and will enhance the education of all students.

The administrative Regulations of the Gering Public School District outlines the procedures to be followed in cases where disciplinary action is a necessity. These regulations are approved by the Board of Education and govern action in all the elementary schools.

Administrative Regulations

STUDENT DISCIPLINE

The primary objective of the public schools is the education of children and youth. It is recognized that this objective can be best realized with students who are happy, well-adjusted, law-abiding and healthy young citizens. Unfortunately, not all children and youth are socially adjusted to the extent that they conform to the recognized standards of good conduct. It is sometimes necessary for the schools to take disciplinary action, not only for the sake of the individuals who do not obey the laws and regulations of society generally, the schools particularly, but for the sake of their conduct on or in close proximity to the school grounds, on the playground and during an intermission, recess, field trips and all other school sponsored activities.

In the maintenance of a sound learning environment, the District shall expect acceptable behavior on the part of all students who attend school in the district. Discipline shall be enforced daily and consistently, regardless of race, creed, sex, color, age or national origin. Such discipline shall be consistent with applicable federal and state laws.

The overall responsibility for discipline and the welfare of the student is assumed by the principal. The principal will handle extreme behavioral cases.

The imposition of serious discipline on any student, including but not limited to suspension from interscholastic activities, suspension from school, and expulsion shall be governed by the provision of the Disciplinary Procedures for Students in the Gering Public School District as adopted by the Board of Education.

The primary responsibility for discipline in the classroom rests with the teacher. The teacher shall use reasonable and professional judgment in controlling and maintaining order and in administering prudent disciplinary measures.

Discipline Policy

1. Short-Term Suspension: Students may be excluded by the Principal or the Principal's designee from school or any school function for a period of up to five school days (short-term suspension) on the following grounds:

- a. Conduct that constitutes grounds for expulsion, whether the conduct occurs on or off school grounds; or, other violations of rules and standards of behavior adopted by the Gering Public Schools Board of Education or the administrative or teaching staff of the school, which occur on or off school grounds, if such conduct interferes with school purposes or there is a nexus between such conduct and school.

The following process will apply to short-term suspensions:

1. The Principal or Principal's designee will make a reasonable investigation of the facts and circumstances. A short-term suspension will be made upon a determination that the suspension is necessary to help any student, to further school purposes, or to prevent an interference with school purposes.
2. Prior to commencement of the short-term suspension, the student will be given oral or written notice of the charges against the student. The student will be advised of what the student is accused of having done, an explanation of the evidence the authorities have, and be afforded an opportunity to explain the student's version of the facts.
3. Within 24 hours or such additional time as is reasonably necessary following the suspension, the Principal or administrator will send a written statement to the student and the student's parents or guardian describing the student's conduct, misconduct or violation of the rule or standard and the reasons for the action taken.
4. An opportunity will be given to the student and the student's parent or guardian to have a conference with the Principal or administrator ordering the short-term suspension before or at the time the student returns to school. The Principal or administrator shall determine who in addition to the parent or guardian is to attend the conference.

A student on a short-term suspension shall not be permitted to be on school grounds without the express permission of the Principal.

2. Long-Term Suspension: A long-term suspension means an exclusion from school and any school functions for a period of more than five school days but less than twenty school days. A student who is on a long-term suspension shall not be permitted to be on school grounds without the express permission of the Principal. A notice will be given to the student and the parents/guardian when the Principal recommends a long-term suspension. The procedures will be those set forth in the Student Discipline Act.

- 3. Expulsion:** Expulsion means exclusion from attendance in all schools, grounds and activities of or within the system for a period not to exceed the remainder of the semester in which it took effect unless (a) the misconduct occurred within ten school days prior to the semester, or (b) the misconduct occurred within ten school days prior to the end of the second semester, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect for summer school and the first semester of the following school year, or (c) the expulsion is for conduct specified in these rules or in law as permitting or requiring a longer removal, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect for the period specified therein. Such action may be modified or terminated by the school district at any time during the expulsion period.

Suspensions Pending Hearing. When a notice of intent to discipline a student by long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment is filed with the Superintendent, the student may be suspended by the principal until the date the long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment takes effect if no hearing is requested or, if a hearing is requested, the date the hearing examiner makes the report of his or her findings and a recommendation of the action to be taken to the Superintendent. The suspension pending hearing may be imposed if the principal determines that the student must be suspended immediately to prevent or substantially reduce the risk of (a) interference with an educational function or school purpose or (b) a personal injury to the student himself or herself, or students, school employees, or school volunteers.

Summer Review: Any expulsion that will remain in effect during the first semester of the following school year will be automatically scheduled for review before the beginning of the school year in accordance with law.

Alternative Education: Students who are expelled may be provided an alternative education program that will enable the student to continue academic work for credit toward graduation. In the event an alternative education program is not provided, a conference will be held with the parent, student, the Principal or another school representative assigned by the Principal, and a representative of a community organization that assists young people or that is involved with juvenile justice to develop a plan for the student in accordance with law.

Suspension of Enforcement of an Expulsion: Enforcement of an expulsion action may be suspended (i.e., “stayed”) for a period of not more than one full semester in addition to the balance of the semester in which the expulsion takes effect. As a condition of such suspended action, the student and parents will be required to sign a discipline agreement.

Students Subject to Juvenile or Court Probation: Prior to the readmission of school of any student who is under 19 years of age and who is subject to the supervision of a juvenile probation officer or an adult probation office pursuant to a court order Court, who chooses to meet conditions of probation by attending school, and who has previously been expelled from school, the Principal or the Principal’s designee shall meet with the student’s probation officer and assist in developing conditions of probation that will provide specific guidelines for behavior and consequences for misbehavior at school (including conduct on school grounds and conduct during an educational function or event off school grounds) as well as educational objectives that must be achieved. If the guidelines, consequences, and objectives provided by the Principal or the Principal’s designee are agreed to by the probation officer and the student, and the court permits the student to return to school under the agreed to conditions, the student may be permitted to return to school.

The student may with proper consent, upon such return, be evaluated by the school for possible disabilities and may be referred for evaluation for possible placement in a special education

program. The student may be expelled or otherwise disciplined for subsequent conduct as provided in Board policy and state statute.

4. **Other Forms of Student Discipline:** Administrative and teacher personnel may take actions regarding student behavior, other than removal of students from school, which are reasonably necessary to aid the student, further school purposes, or prevent interference with the educational process. Such actions may include, but are not limited to, counseling of students; parent conferences; rearrangement of schedules; requiring that a student remain in school after regular hours to do additional work; restriction of extracurricular activity; or requirements that a student receive counseling, psychological evaluation, or psychiatric evaluation upon the written consent of a parent or guardian to such counseling or evaluation. The actions may also include in-school suspensions. When in-school suspensions, after-school assignments, or other disciplinary measures are assigned, the student is responsible for complying with such disciplinary measures. A failure to serve such assigned discipline as directed will serve as grounds for further discipline, up to expulsion from school.

Section 4 Student Conduct Expectations

Students are not to engage in conduct which causes or which creates a reasonable likelihood that it will cause a substantial disruption in or material interference with any school function, activity or purpose or interfere with the health, safety, well-being or rights of other students, staff or visitors.

1. **Grounds for Short-Term Suspension, Long-Term suspension, Expulsion or Mandatory Reassignment**

The following conduct has been determined by the Board of Education to have the potential to seriously affect the health, safety or welfare of students, staff and other persons or to otherwise seriously interfere with the educational process. Such conduct constitutes grounds for long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment, and any other lesser forms of discipline. The conduct is subject to the consequence of longer-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment where it occurs on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by the school and being used for a school purpose or in a vehicle being driven for a school purpose by a school employee or an employee's designee, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event.

- a. Willfully disobeying any reasonable written or oral request of a school staff member or the voicing of disrespect to those in authority.
- b. Use of violence, force, coercion, threat, intimidation, harassment, or similar conduct in a manner that constitutes a substantial interference with school purposes or making any communication that a reasonable recipient would interpret as a serious expression of an intent to harm or cause injury to another.
- c. Willfully causing or attempting to cause substantial damage to property, stealing or attempting to steal property of substantial value, repeated damage or theft involving property, or setting or attempting to set fire of any magnitude;
- d. Causing or attempting to cause personal injury to any person, including any school employee, school volunteer, or student. Personal injury caused by accident, self-defense, or other action undertaken on the reasonable belief that it was necessary to protect some other person shall not constitute a violation of this subdivision;
- e. Threatening or intimidating any student for the purpose of or with the intent of obtaining money or anything of value from such student or making a threat which causes or may be expected to cause a disruption to school operations;

- f. Knowingly possessing, handling, or transmitting any object or material that is ordinarily or generally considered a weapon or that has the appearance of a weapon or bringing or possessing any explosive devices, including fireworks;
- g. Selling, using, possessing or dispensing of alcohol, tobacco, narcotics, drugs, controlled substance, or an inhalant; being under the influence of any of the above; possession of drug paraphernalia, or the selling, using, possessing, or dispensing of an imitation controlled substance as defined in section 28-401 of the Nebraska statutes, or material represented to be alcohol, narcotics, drugs, a controlled substance or inhalant. Use of a controlled substance in the manner prescribed for the student by the student's physician is not a violation. The term "under the influence" has a less strict meaning than it does under criminal law; for school purposes, the term means any level of impairment and includes even the odor of alcohol or illegal substances on the breath or person of a student; also, it includes being impaired by reason of the abuse of any material used as a stimulant.
- h. Public indecency or sexual conduct.
- i. Engaging in bullying, which includes any ongoing pattern of physical, verbal, or electronic abuse on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose by a school employee or a school employee's designee, or at school-sponsored activities or school-sponsored athletic events;
- j. Sexually assaulting or attempting to sexually assault any person. This conduct may result in an expulsion regardless of the time or location of the offense if a complaint alleging such conduct is filed in a court of competent jurisdiction;
- k. Engaging in any activity forbidden by law which constitutes a danger to other students or interferes with school purposes. This conduct may result in an expulsion regardless of the time or location of the offense if the conduct creates or had the potential to create a substantial interference with school purposes, such as the use of the telephone or internet off-school grounds to threaten; or
- l. Violation of any rules established by the school district or school officials if such violations constitute a substantial interference with school purposes;
- m. Truancy or failure to attend assigned classes or assigned activities; or tardiness to school, assigned classes or assigned activities;
- n. The use of language, written or oral, or conduct, including gestures, which is profane or abusive to students or staff members. Profane or abusive language or conduct includes, but is not limited to, that which is commonly understood and intended to be derogatory toward a group or individual based upon race, gender, disability, national origin, or religion;
- o. Dressing or grooming in a manner which is dangerous to the student's health and safety or a danger to the health and safety of others or repeated violations of the student dress and grooming standards; dressing, grooming, or engaging in speech that is lewd or indecent, vulgar or plainly offensive; dressing, grooming, or engaging in speech that school officials reasonably conclude will materially and substantially disrupt the work and discipline of the school; dressing, grooming or engaging in speech that a reasonable observer would interpret as advocating illegal drug use.
- p. Willfully violating the behavioral expectations for those students riding Gering Public Schools buses.

A student who engages in the following conduct shall be expelled for the remainder of the school year in which it took effect if the misconduct occurs during the first semester, and if the expulsion for such conduct takes place during the second semester, the expulsion shall remain in effect for the first semester of the following school year, with the condition that such action may be modified or terminated by the school district during the expulsion period on such terms as the administration may establish:

- a. The knowing and intentional use of force in causing or attempting to cause personal injury to a school employee, school volunteer, or student, except if caused by accident, self-defense, or on the reasonable belief that the force used was necessary to protect some other person and the extent of force used was reasonably believed to be necessary, or
- b. The knowing and intentional possession, use or transmission of a dangerous weapon other than a firearm.
- c. Knowingly and intentionally possessing, using, or transmitting a firearm on school grounds, in a school-owned or utilized vehicle, or during an educational function or event off school grounds, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event. This conduct shall result in an expulsion for one calendar year. "Firearm" means a firearm as defined in 18 U.S.C. 921, as that statute existed on January 1, 1995. That statute includes the following statement: "The term 'firearm' means (a) any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; (b) the frame or receiver of any such weapon; (c) any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or (d) any destructive device." The Superintendent may modify such one year expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis, provided that such modification is in writing.
- d. Bringing a firearm or other dangerous weapon to school for any reason is discouraged; however, a student will not be subject to disciplinary action if the item is brought or possessed under the following conditions:
 - i. Prior written permission to bring the firearm or other dangerous weapon to school is obtained from the student's teacher, building administrator and parent.
 - ii. The purpose of having the firearm or other dangerous weapon in school is for a legitimate educational function.
 - iii. A plan for its transportation into and from the school, its storage while in the school building and how it will be displaced must be developed with the prior written approval by the teacher and building administrator. Such a plan shall require that such item will be in the possession of an adult staff member at all times except for such limited time as is necessary to fulfill the educational function.
 - iv. The firearm or other dangerous weapon shall be in an inoperable condition while it is on school grounds.

2. Additional Student Conduct Expectations and Grounds for Discipline

The following additional student conduct expectations are established. Failure to comply with such rules is grounds for disciplinary action. When such conduct occurs on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose or in a vehicle being driven for a school purpose by a school employee or by his or her designee, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event, the conduct is grounds for long-term suspension, expulsion or mandatory reassignment.

Restorative Practice Policy

Our school district supports proactive and reactive evidence-based initiatives to manage student misbehavior. Restorative Practices are grounded in principles and values that: are needs based, hold students accountable, are focused on repairing harms, and support meaningful outcomes. Restorative Practices will be integrated within existing discipline measures and utilized as deemed appropriate.

Restorative Practice Process:

Restorative Practices reflect the philosophy that when a misdeed occurs within a school, it affects those harmed, those causing the harm, and the wider school community. The goal of Restorative Practices is to address conflict using open and respectful dialogue that focuses on the harm caused strategies to repair this harm and the relationships of those involved. Restorative Practices can include group conferencing, peer mediation, victim-offender mediation, or classroom peace circles, and can be formal or informal. These processes may be handled by district personnel, school resource officers, or others that support the district such as, contractors, ESUs, volunteers, and those serving through Nebraska Supreme Court-approved mediation centers. In a Restorative Practice Conference, students and parents/guardians agree to the following:

- **CONSTRUCTIVE COMMUNICATION:** The goal of restorative practice is to foster new understanding through dialogue that results in a mutually-agreed resolution to the issues at hand. Students and parents agree to speak honestly and to listen respectfully without interruptions. The mediator/facilitator's role is to manage communication and help the parties work to discover solutions that meet the needs and interests of all parties to the fullest extent possible. The mediator/facilitator will not make judgements, give legal advice, or present parties with solutions to their problems.
- **CONFIDENTIALITY, PRIVILEGED, AND VOLUNTARY COMMUNICATIONS:** Pursuant to Neb. Rev. §§43-247.03, parties agree not to record or create transcripts of sessions and acknowledge they are responsible to maintain confidentiality and agree that communications during preparation, process, and follow up will not be shared with others, excepting:
 - Agreements reached in the restorative process.
 - When written permission by all participants is given.
 - When statements regarding unreported allegations of child abuse or neglect or threats to harm self or another are revealed.
 - When process information must be shared with funding or referring agencies, such as Diversion, Probation, County Attorneys, or Courts.
- **AGREEMENTS:** No agreement can be forced upon any party. Parties agree to take responsibility for carrying out any agreements made during the restorative process.
- **PROGRAM EVALUATION:** Participants may be asked to take part in evaluations of the process to comply with reporting requirements.

Student Appearance

Students at Gering Public Schools are expected to dress in a way that is appropriate for a school setting. Students should not dress in a manner that is dangerous to the health and safety of anyone or interferes with the learning environment or teaching process in our school. The following is a list of examples of examples of attire that **will not be** considered appropriate; **this list is not inclusive of all items which may be excluded:**

- Clothing or jewelry that is gang related;
- Clothing that shows an inappropriate amount of bare skin or underwear (Midriff, spaghetti straps, sagging pants);
- Clothing or jewelry that advertises beer, alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs;
- Clothing or jewelry that could be used as a weapon (chain, spiked apparel) or that would encourage “horse-play”;
- Head wear including hats, caps, bandannas, and scarves;
- Clothing or jewelry that exhibits nudity, makes sexual references or carries double meanings.

Harassment and Bullying

One of the missions of Gering Public Schools is to provide safe and secure environments for all students and staff. Positive behaviors (non-violence, cooperation, teamwork, understanding, and acceptance of others) are encouraged in the educational program and required of all students and staff. Inappropriate behaviors (bullying, intimidation and harassment are to be identified and corrected. Students and staff are to avoid such behaviors. Strategies and practices are implemented to reinforce positive behaviors and to discourage and protect others from inappropriate behaviors.

Law, Policy or Program	Issue or Concern	Superintendent
Title VI	Discrimination or harassment based on race, color, or national origin; harassment	Superintendent
Title IX Policy 504.24	Discrimination or harassment based on sex; gender equity	Superintendent
Law, Policy or Program	Issue or Concern	Superintendent
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disability Act (ADA)	Discrimination, harassment or reasonable accommodations of persons with disabilities	Director of Student Services
Homeless student laws	Children who are homeless	Superintendent
Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities	Safe and drug free schools	Superintendent

The Superintendent or Director of Student Services may be contacted at 1519 10th Street, Gering, Nebraska 69341-2999, (308) 436-3125.

TITLE IX Statement from the District:

"The Gering Public School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex in any educational program or activity that it operates. The District is required by Title IX (20 U.S.C. § 1681) and 34 CFR Part 106 not to discriminate in such a manner. This requirement not to discriminate also applies to admission and

employment. Any inquiries about the application of Title IX may be referred to the District Title IX Coordinator, to the Assistant Secretary of the Office of Civil Rights, or both. "

- . Title IX Coordinator: Superintendent and/or Designee
- . Address: 1519 10th Street, Gering, NE 69341
- . Email: nregan@geringschools.net
- . Phone: (308) 436-3125

"For information regarding the Gering Public School District procedure for complaints of sexual harassment including the complaint process, how to file a report or a complaint of sexual harassment, how to file a formal complaint of sexual harassment, and how the District will respond to such complaints see Board Policy 504.24 located at Gering Public Schools website (<https://www.geringschools.net>).

“Bullying” is behavior in which one person or group engages in harmful action towards another person or group acting on a real or perceived imbalance of power or view of superiority over a period of time. The behavior typically includes verbal (e.g. teasing or name-calling) and physical aggression (e.g., hitting, pushing), threatening, excluding or ignoring, spreading rumors, or taking, defacing or destroying the others’ property. “Harassment” includes the same actions, though not necessarily from a standpoint of perceived power. Harassment is prohibited. Bullying/harassment is a violation of student conduct rules, and appropriate disciplinary measures, up to expulsion, will be enforced. When bullying or harassment is done on the basis of gender, disability, race or other protected status, it is considered a very serious offense for which expulsion may be a likely consequence depending on the severity of the conduct.

Students who are the victim of bullying or harassment or who observe such occurrences are to promptly report the problem to their teacher or to the Principal so the problem can be addressed. Students who make reports of bullying activity will not be retaliated against for making the report.

Transportation

The privilege of riding a school bus is contingent upon a student’s good behavior and observance of established regulations for student conduct both at bus stops and onboard buses. Since bus transportation is provided to assist the education program, the board shall require students to conduct themselves on the bus in a manner consistent with established standards for classroom behavior. The driver of a school bus shall be responsible for the safety of the students on the bus, both during the ride and while students are entering or leaving the vehicle. Therefore, it is the bus driver’s duty to notify the supervisor of transportation and they notify the principal of the school involved if any student persists in violating the established rules of conduct.

After due warning has been given to the student and to parents/guardians, the principal may withhold from the student the privilege of riding the school bus. In such cases, the parents of the children involved will be responsible for seeing that their children get to and from school safely. The student may also face detention, suspension or expulsion, in accordance with established policies, for flagrant violation of school bus rider conduct regulations or conduct detrimental to the safe operation of the bus.

Bus transportation is a privilege offered for free to the students by the school district. Abuse of this privilege may result in a student being denied bus transportation.

See Application for Permission to Ride School Bus (distributed to all students who ride the bus)

Bus Etiquette

1. Students must get on and off the bus at their designated bus stop **ONLY**. (This is the bus stop closest to their home address.) **The district does not transport students to and from daycare addresses.**
2. Bus stops are at the side of the road or street. At these bus stops, order must be maintained to protect the safety of all students. There is to be no snowball or rock throwing, abusive language or horseplay.
3. Do not push or crowd when loading or unloading. Outside of ordinary conversation, classroom conduct is to be observed by students.
4. **Students must remain seated while the bus is moving.**
5. The driver is in full charge of the bus and students. Students are requested to comply promptly, cheerfully and fully with his or her requests.
6. There must be “**ABSOLUTE SILENCE**” at all railroad crossings.
7. Aisles are to be kept clear of anything that might prove to be hazardous. (Band instruments, books, backpacks, etc.)
8. Do not put hands, arms, or head out of windows. No litter is to be thrown on the bus floor or from the bus. Students are not to yell at anyone in the bus or outside the bus.
9. The emergency door is for emergency exits only. **DO NOT OPEN IT!**
10. Horseplay, wrestling, abusive language, harassing or infringing on other students’ rights or safety **WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.**
11. When the students leave the bus, they should walk to a distance of approximately twelve feet in front of the bus before crossing the roadway. Do not hide, crawl under the bus to recover anything, or hold onto the bus.
12. Always look both ways before crossing the street. Some drivers of cars ignore the bus signal, so be extremely careful with oncoming traffic.
13. Any damage to the bus is to be reported to the driver at once. **DO NOT** write on the seats or floor. Students will be held responsible for any damage they do to the bus.
14. **STUDENTS MUST BE AT THE BUS STOP ON TIME.** The bus **WILL NOT** wait for students who are tardy.
15. **NO FOOD OR DRINKS** are allowed on the bus with the exception of **LONG DISTANCE** activity and field trips. Trash must be put into the trash containers. If you spill, clean it up!
ABSOLUTELY NO SUNFLOWER SEEDS OR GUM CHEWING. If these rules are not obeyed, food and drink will be forbidden on the busses at all times.
16. **RESPONSIBLE USE OF ELECTRONICS.** Example: headphones, iPads, etc.
17. Students must abide by the rules posted in the bus.

PENALTY: Violations could be the cause of a student being suspended, temporarily or permanently from riding the school bus.

PUPIL SAFETY INSTRUCTION: During the school year, each pupil who is transported on a bus shall be instructed in safe riding practices and will be expected to participate in emergency drills.

PARENTS: We ask you to go over these regulations with your children so they have a safe trip to and from school.

FirstView

FirstView[®] by First Student is the industry’s most comprehensive and secure bus tracking and parent communication app. FirstView[®] helps you better manage your time during the hectic before- and after school rush by putting your student’s up-to-the-minute bus information in your hands. Easy to download,

set up and use, FirstView□ is packed with helpful features to give you peace of mind, including estimated bus arrival time, opt-in district messaging regarding delays or issues, customizable alerts for when the bus is chosen distance or number of minutes away, secure password protection and built-in customer support.

Acceptable Use Policy for Electronic Resources

The use of electronic resources is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use will result in the cancellation of your privilege. Students using electronic resources are required to follow District policy and procedures. The supervising staff member will determine what is appropriate use in accordance with the following guidelines, and may deny, revoke, or suspend your access.

1. The use of your account and/or access must be consistent with the educational objectives of the Gering Public Schools. Use of electronic resources for recreational games is prohibited.
2. To transmit or knowingly receive any materials in violation of any United States or state regulation is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, the following: copyrighted material, threatening, harassing, pornographic or obscene material, or material protected by trade secret.
3. Use for commercial activities is generally not acceptable. Use for product advertising or political lobbying is prohibited. Extensive use for personal and private business is also prohibited.
4. Abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. These include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - a. Be polite. Do not be abusive in your messages to others. Hate mail, harassment, discriminatory remarks and other antisocial behaviors are prohibited.
 - b. Use appropriate language. Do not swear, use vulgarities, or any other inappropriate language.
 - c. Do not reveal your full name, phone number, or home address, or that of other students.
 - d. Note that electronic mail (e-mail) is not guaranteed to be private. Network storage areas will be treated as school property. Files and communications may be reviewed by District personnel. Material relating to, or in support of, illegal activities will be reported to the proper authorities.
 - e. The sending of “chain letters” is considered a misuse of the system and may result in the loss of the account.
 - f. *Talk, Write and Chat* commands may be intrusive and should only be used after receiving permission from the other party.
 - g. Permission of the supervising staff member must be obtained before “downloading” any files due to potential “virus” infection.
 - h. Be reasonable in the amount of time you use the system. Be considerate of other individuals using the system. Time limits may be imposed.
 - i. Classroom use will take precedence over independent use.
5. Respect the integrity of the computing system. Do not intentionally develop or activate programs that harass other users, infiltrate a computer system or alter the software components of a computer or computer system. These include, but are not limited to: viruses, forging email, hacking, and attempting to use administrative commands.
6. Do not vandalize by harming or destroying the data or hardware on this system or any other system.
7. Security of any computer system is essential. Access to electronic resources is intended for the exclusive use by authorized individuals. Any problems which arise from the use of an account are the responsibility of the account holder. This may include, but is not limited to:
 - a. Trespassing in another’s work or files;

- b. Giving out your password or the password of others;
 - c. Attempting to login to another individual's account;
 - d. Failure to notify the supervising staff member of a security problem.
8. The Gering Public Schools will periodically revise the *Acceptable Use Policy* and will make determinations on whether specific uses of the network are consistent with the intent of policy.
9. Indemnity - Gering Public Schools makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the Internet service. GPS will not be responsible for damages you suffer. This includes loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, miss-deliveries, or service interruptions caused by negligence, errors, or omissions. GPS will not be responsible for any financial charges incurred by an account user or someone else using the account. Use of any information obtained via the Internet is at your own risk. GPS specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through its services.
10. Failure to follow this Acceptable Use Policy may result in suspension of account privileges as well as being subject to the school's discipline policies.

STATE AND FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Notice of Nondiscrimination

The United States Department of Agriculture's required nondiscrimination statement must be printed as follows:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants, for employment on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender, identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.)

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9999 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form to letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339; or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

PLEASE NOTE: As stated above, all protected bases do not apply to all programs. *The first six protected bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability and sex are the six protected bases for applicants and recipients of the Child Nutrition Programs.*

School Food Authorities (SFAs) participation in the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, After School Snack Program or Special Milk Program must include this statement in full, on all program materials used for public information, public education or public distribution.

Nebraska SFAs must include the nondiscrimination statement in their student handbook in the section that addresses access to or information about the school meals program. It must also be included on the school's website if school meal information is available.

If the material is too small to permit the full statement to be included, the material will at a minimum include this statement in print no smaller than the text:

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

The USDA "And Justice for All" poster must be displayed at each feeding site in a location that is visible to students during meal service.

Designation of Coordinator(s)

Any person having inquiries concerning this 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 the coordinator is: Gering Public Schools, 1519 10th Street, Gering, NE 69341, 308-436-3125.

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	Director of Student Services
Homeless student laws	Children who are homeless	Director of Student Services
Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities	Safe and drug free schools	Superintendent

Notice to Parents of Rights Afforded by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation act of 1973

The following is a description of the rights granted by federal law to qualifying students with disabilities. The intent of the law is to keep you fully informed concerning the decisions about your child and to inform you of your rights if you disagree with any of these decisions. You have the right to:

1. Have your child take part in, and receive benefits from, public education programs without discrimination because of his/her disability.
2. Have the school district advise you of your rights under federal law.
3. Receive notice with respect to identification, evaluation or placement of your child.
4. Have your child receive a free appropriate public education.
5. Have your child receive services and be educated in facilities that are comparable to those provided to every student.

6. Have evaluation, educational and placement decisions made based on a variety of information sources and by personnel who know the student and who are knowledgeable about the evaluation data and placement options.
7. Have transportation provided to and from an alternative placement setting (if the setting is a program not operated by the district) at no greater cost to you than would be incurred if the student were placed in a program operated by the district.
8. Have your child given an equal opportunity to participate in nonacademic and extracurricular activities offered by the district.
9. Examine all relevant records relating to decisions regarding your child's identification, evaluation and placement.
10. Request mediation or an impartial due process hearing related to decisions or actions regarding your child's identification, evaluation, educational program or placement. (You and your child may take part in the hearing. Hearing requests are to be made to the Superintendent).
11. File a local grievance.

Notification of Rights Under FERPA

The Gering Public Schools will on occasion release routine directory information (84-712.05) to the general public which includes: "Student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degree and awards received, the most recent previous educational agency or institution attended by the student, and other similar information." The information released may be to military recruiters, newspapers, colleges & universities, athletic and activity programs, etc. Parents may have their student's name and information withheld from dissemination upon written request to the office of the principal.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. They are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the district receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal (or appropriate school official) a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The principal will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading. Parents or eligible students may ask that school district to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write to the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the district decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the district will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.
3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception which permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the district as an administrator, supervisor, instructor or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the school board; a person or company with

whom the district has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as disciplinary or grievance committee or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Upon request, the district discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.

4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the district to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA is:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20202-4605

Notice Concerning Directory Information

This district may disclose directory information. The types of personally identifiable information that the district has designated as directory information are as follows: student's name, address, telephone listing, electronic mail address, photograph, date of and place of birth, major fields of study, dates of attendance, grade level, enrollment status (e.g. undergraduate or graduate, full-time or part-time), participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, degrees, honors and awards received, and most recent previous educational agency or institution attended. A parent or eligible student has the right to refuse to let the district designate any or all of those types of information about the student as directory information. The period of time within which a parent or eligible student has to notify the district in writing that he or she does not want any or all of those types of information about the student designated as directory information is as follows: two weeks from the time this information is first received. The district may disclose information about former students without meeting the conditions in this section.

The district's policy is for education records to be kept confidential except as permitted by the FERPA law, and the district does not approve any practice, which involves an unauthorized disclosure of education records. In some courses student work may be displayed or made available to others. Also, some teachers may have persons other than the teacher or school staff, such as volunteers or fellow students, assist with the task of grading student work and returning graded work to students. The district does not either approve or disapprove such teaching practices, and designates such student work as directory information and as noneducation records. Each parent and eligible student shall be presumed to have accepted this designation in the absence of the parent or eligible student giving notification to the district in writing in the manner set forth above pertaining to the designation of directory information. Consent will be presumed to have been given in the absence of such a notification from the parent or eligible student.

Notice Concerning Designation of Law Enforcement Unit:

The District designates the Gering Police Department as the District's "law enforcement unit" for purposes of (1) enforcing any and all federal, state or local law, (2) maintaining the physical security and safety of the schools in the District, and (3) maintaining safe and drug free schools.

Notice Concerning Staff Qualifications

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) gives parents/guardians the right to get information about the professional qualifications of their child's classroom teachers. Upon request, Gering Public Schools will give parents/guardians the following information about their child's classroom teacher:

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. You may also get information about other graduate certification or degrees held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree. We will also, upon request, tell parents/guardians whether their child is being provided services by a paraprofessional and, if so, the qualifications of the paraprofessional. The request for information should be made to an administrator in your child's school building. The information will be provided to you in a timely manner. Finally, Gering Public Schools will give timely notice to you if your 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 Act.

Student Privacy Protection

Gering Public Schools protects the privacy of students in accordance with applicable laws which include the following:

Right of Parents to Inspect Surveys Funded or Administered by the United States Department of Education or Third Parties:

Parents shall have the right to inspect, upon the parent's request, a survey created by and administered by either the United States Department of Education or a third party (a group or person other than the District) before the survey is administered or distributed by the school to the parent's child.

Protection of Student Privacy in Regard to Surveys of Matters Deemed to be Sensitive: The District will require, for any survey of students which contain one or more matters deemed to be sensitive (see section headed "Definition of Surveys of Matters Deemed to be Sensitive"), that suitable arrangements be made to protect student privacy (that is, the name or other identifying information about a particular student). For such surveys, the District will also follow the procedures set forth in the section entitled: "Notification of an Right to Opt-Out of Specific Events."

Right of Parents to Inspect Instructional Materials: Parents shall have the right to inspect, upon reasonable request, any instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum for their child. Reasonable requests for inspection of instructional materials shall be granted within a reasonable period of time after the request is received. Parents shall not have the right to access academic tests or academic assessments, as such are not within the meaning of the term "instructional materials" for purposes of this policy. The procedures for making and granting a request to inspect instructional materials are as follows: the parent shall make the request, with reasonable specificity, directly to the building principal. The building principal, within five (5) school days, shall consult with the teacher or other educator responsible for the curriculum materials.

In the event that the request can be accommodated, the building principal shall make the materials available for inspection or review by the parent, at such reasonable time and place as will not interfere with the educator's intended use of the materials.

In the event there is a question as to the nature of the curriculum materials request or as to whether the materials are required to be provided, the building principal shall notify the parent of such concern, and

assist the parent with forming a request which can reasonably be accommodated. If the parent does not formulate such a request, and continues to desire certain curriculum materials, the parent shall be asked to make their request to the Superintendent.

Rights of Parents to be Notified of and to Opt-Out of Certain Physical Examinations or Screenings. The general policy and practice of the District is to not administer physical examinations or screenings of students which require advance notice or parental opt-out rights under the applicable federal laws, for the reason that the physical examinations or screenings to be conducted by the District will usually fit into one of the following exceptions:

(1) hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings; (2) physical examinations or screenings that are permitted or required by an applicable State law; and (3) surveys administered to students in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. For physical examinations or screenings which do not fit into the applicable exceptions, the District will follow the procedures set forth in the section entitled: "Notification of an Right to Opt-Out of Specific Events."

Protection of Student Privacy in Regard to Personal Information Collected from Students: The practice of the District is to not engage in the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information. The District will make reasonable arrangements to protect student privacy to the extent possible in the event of any such collection, disclosure, or use of personal information. "Personal information" means individually identifiable information about a student including: (1) a student or parent's first and last name, (2) home address, (3) telephone number, and (4) social security number. The term "personal information," does not include information collected from students for the exclusive purpose of developing, evaluating, or providing educational products or services for, or to, students or educational institutions.

This exception includes the following examples: (i) college or postsecondary education recruitment, or military recruitment; (ii) book clubs, magazines, and programs providing access to low-cost literary products; (iii) curriculum and instructional materials used by elementary schools and secondary schools; (iv) tests and assessments used by elementary schools and secondary schools to provide cognitive, evaluative, diagnostic, clinical, aptitude, or achievement information about student, or to generate other statistically useful data for the purpose of securing such tests and assessments, and the subsequent analysis and public release of the aggregate data from such tests and assessments; (v) the sale by student of products or services to raise funds for school-related or education-related activities; (vi) student recognition programs.

Parental Access to Instruments use in the Collection of Personal Information: While the general practice of the District is to not engage in the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information, parents shall have the right to inspect, upon reasonable request, any instrument which may be administered or distributed to a student for such purposes. Reasonable requests for inspection shall be granted within a reasonable period of time after the request is received. The procedures for making and granting such a request are as follows: the parent shall make the request, with reasonable specificity, directly to the building principal and shall identify the specific act and the students for the purpose of marketing that information.

The building principal, within five (5) school days, shall consult with the school staff member or person responsible for the program which has been reported by the parent to be responsible for the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information is occurring or there is a plan for such to occur, the building principal shall consult with the Superintendent for determination of whether the action shall be allowed to continue. If not, the instrument for the collection of personal information shall not be given to any

students. If it is to be allowed, such instrument shall be provided to the requesting parent as soon as such instrument can be reasonably obtained.

Annual Parental Notification of Student Privacy Protection: The District shall provide parents with reasonable notice of the adoption or continued use of student privacy. Such notice shall be given to parents of students enrolled in the District at least annually, at the beginning of the school year, and within a reasonable period of time after any substantive change in such policies.

Notification to Parents of Dates of and Right to Opt-Out of Specific Events: The District shall directly notify the parents of the affected children, at least annually at the beginning of the school year, of the specific or approximate dates during the school year when any of the following activities are scheduled, or are expected to be scheduled:

The collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information. (Note: the general practice of the District is to not engage in the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information.)

Surveys of students involving one or more matters deemed to be sensitive in accordance with the law and this policy; and,

Any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening that is required as a condition of attendance; administered by the school and scheduled by the school in advance; and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of the student or of other students. (Note: the general practice of the District is to not engage in physical examinations or screenings which require advance notice, for the reason that the physical examinations or screenings to be conducted by the District will usually fit into one of the following exceptions to the advance notice requirement and parental opt-out right: (1) hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings; (2) physical examinations or screenings that are permitted or required by an applicable State law, and (3) surveys administered to students in accordance with the individuals with Disabilities Education Act).

Parents shall be offered an opportunity in advance to opt their child out of participation in any of the above listed activities.

In the case of a student of an appropriate age (that is, a student who has reached the age of 18, or a legally emancipated student), the notice and opt-out right shall belong to the student.

Definition of Surveys of Matters Deemed to be Sensitive: Any survey containing one or more of the following matters shall be deemed to be “sensitive” for purposes of this policy:

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).

Parental Involvement

General - Parental/Community Involvement in Schools

Gering Public Schools welcomes parental involvement in the education of their children. We recognize that parental involvement increases student success. Gering Public Schools fosters and facilitates, to the extent appropriate and in their primary language, parental information about, and involvement in, the education of their children. It is our philosophy to protect the emotional, physical and social well-being of all students.

1. Parental involvement is a part of the ongoing and timely planning, review and improvement of district and building programs.
2. Parents are encouraged to support the implementation of district policies and regulations.
3. Parents are encouraged to monitor their student's progress by reviewing quarterly report cards and attending parent-teacher conferences.
4. Textbooks, tests and other curriculum materials used in the district are available for review by parents upon request.
5. Parents are provided access to records of students according to law and school policy.
6. Parents are encouraged to attend courses, assemblies, counseling sessions and other instructional activities with prior approval of the proper teacher or counselor and administrator. Parents' continued attendance at such activities will be based on the students' wellbeing.
7. Testing occurs in this school district as determined to be appropriate by district staff to assure proper measurement of educational progress and achievement.
8. Parents submitting written requests to have their student excused from testing, classroom instruction and other school experiences will be granted that request when possible and educationally appropriate. Requests should be submitted to the proper teacher or administrator within a reasonable time prior to the testing, classroom instruction and other school experiences will be granted that request when possible and educationally appropriate. Requests would be submitted to the proper teacher or administrator within a reasonable time prior to the testing, classroom instruction or other school experience and should be submitted to the proper teacher or administrator within a reasonable time prior to the testing, classroom instruction or other school experience and should be accompanied by written explanation for the request. A plan for an acceptable alternative shall be approved by the proper teacher and administrator prior to, or as a part of, the granting of any parent request.
9. Participation in surveys of students occurs in this district when determined appropriate by district staff for educational purposes. Parents will be notified prior to the administration of surveys in accordance with district policy. Timely written parental requests to remove students from such surveys will be granted in accordance with district policy and law. In some cases, parental permission must be given before the survey is administered.
10. Parents are invited to express their concerns, share their ideas and advocate for their children's education with board members, administrators and staff.
11. School district staff and parents will participate in an annual evaluation and revision.

Title I Parent and Family Engagement

Gering Public Elementary Schools intend to follow the Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy guidelines in accordance with federal law, Section 1116(a-f) ESSA, (Every Student Succeeds Act) of 2015.

In General

Each school served under this part shall jointly develop with, and distribute to, parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy, agreed on by such parents, that shall describe the means for carrying out the requirements. Parents shall be notified of the policy in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, provided in a language the parents can understand. The policy shall be made available to the local community and updated to meet the changing needs of parents and the school.

- Schools shall provide opportunities for the participation of parents and family members including those with migratory children, limited English proficiency, or have disabilities. Parents shall be notified of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy, information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities in an understandable and uniform format and to the extent practicable provided in a language the parents can understand;
- convene an annual parent meeting scheduled at a convenient time, to which all parents of participating children shall be invited and encouraged to attend, to inform parents of their school's participation under this part and to explain the requirements of this part, and the right of the parents involved;
- involve parents in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of the school Parent and Family Engagement Policy;
- provide opportunities for parents and family members to participate in decisions relating to the education of their children. The school shall provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities;
- provide parents of participating children timely information about programs under this part, a description and explanation of the curriculum in use, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress and the achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards. The school will provide assistance, opportunities, and/or materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement in a format, and when feasible, in a language the parents and family members can understand.
- educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, with the assistance of parents in the value and utility of contributions of parents, how to reach out to, communicate with and work with parents as equal partners;
- coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with other Federal, State and local programs, including preschool programs that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children.

Homeless Children and Youth

A homeless child or youth is defined as one who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. The term includes-

- (1) Children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals.
- (2) Children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.
- (3) Children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
- (4) Migratory children (as defined in section 1309 of the ESSA of 1965, as amended), who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described in this definition.

This definition includes both youth who are unaccompanied by families and those who are homeless with their families. The district will comply with state and federal law as it relates to homeless children or youth.

Assurances

1. The district adopts these policies and practices to ensure that homeless children and youths are not stigmatized or segregated on the basis of their status as homeless.
2. The district will designate an appropriate staff person as the Local Educational Liaison (LEL) for homeless children and youths, to carry out the duties in compliance with state and federal law.
3. The district adopts these policies and practices to ensure that transportation is provided, at the request of the parent or guardian (or in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the liaison), to and from the school of origin. The “school of origin” means the school that the child or youth attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled. This will be done in accordance with the following, as applicable:
 - a. If the homeless child or youth continues to live in the district in which the school of origin is located, the child’s or youth’s transportation to and from the school of origin shall be provided or arranged by that district.
 - b. If the homeless child’s or youth’s living arrangements in the district served by the school of origin terminate and the child or youth, through continuing his or her education in the school of origin, begins living in an area served by another district, the school of origin and the local district in which the homeless child or youth is living shall agree upon a method to apportion the responsibility and costs for providing the child with transportation to and from the school of origin. If the two districts are unable to agree upon such a method, the responsibility and costs for transportation shall be shared equally.

Comparable Services

Each homeless child or youth shall be provided services comparable to those offered to other students in the school in which the child is placed including transportation services, educational programs for children with disabilities and students with limited English proficiency, educational services for which the child or youth meets the eligibility criteria, such as Title I, school nutrition programs, programs in vocational and technical education, and programs for gifted and talented students.

Local Educational Liaison

The Superintendent or designee shall serve as the district’s Local Educational Liaison who will serve in tracking, monitoring and coordinating programs and activities for these children. The identity and duties of the LEL shall annually be provided to the NDE, school staff, providers and advocates of services to homeless persons, and to homeless students.

1. In general, the LEL shall coordinate:
 - a. The provision of services with local social services agencies, the NDE Homeless Education Liaison, community and school personnel, and other agencies or programs providing education, social and related services to homeless children and youths and their families; and
 - b. With other local educational agencies on inter-district issues, such as transportation or transfer of school records.
2. Coordination purpose- The coordination shall be designed to:
 - a. Ensure that homeless children and youths have access and reasonable proximity, to available education and related support services; and

- b. Raise the awareness of school personnel and service providers of the effects of short-term stays in a shelter and other challenges associated with homelessness.
3. The LEL shall receive appropriate time and training to carry out the duties required by law and this policy, and ensure that:
- a. Homeless children and youths are identified by school personnel and through coordination activities with other entities and agencies;
 - b. Homeless children and youths enroll in schools of the district, which includes attending classes and participating fully in school activities, and have a full and equal opportunity to meet the same challenging State academic standards as other children and youths;
 - c. Homeless families, children, and youths receive educational services for which such families, children, and youths are eligible, and referrals to health care services, dental services, mental health services, and other appropriate services;
 - d. The parents or guardians of homeless children and youths are informed of the educational and related opportunities available to their children and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children;
 - e. Receive individualized counseling from counselors to prepare and improve their readiness for college, including college selection, application, financial aid, and on-campus support;
 - f. Unaccompanied youths are informed of their status as independent students under the Higher education Act of 1965 and may obtain assistance from the LEL to receive verification of such status for purposes of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid;
 - g. Public notice of the educational rights of homeless children and youths is communicated where such children and youths receive services under the federal laws for homeless children, such as schools, family shelters, and soup kitchens;
 - h. Enrollment disputes are mediated in accordance with state and federal law; and
 - i. The parent or guardian of a homeless child or youth, and any unaccompanied youth, is fully informed of all transportation services, including transportation to the school of origin and is assisted in accessing transportation to the school that is selected for the youth.

Enrollment and Placement

The district will handle enrollment and placement of homeless children in compliance with state and federal law according to the child's or youth's best interest such that it shall:

1. Continue the child's or youth's education in the school of origin for the duration of homelessness-
 - a. In any case in which a family becomes homeless between academic years or during an academic year; or
 - b. For the remainder of the academic year, if the child or youth becomes permanently housed during an academic year; or
2. Enroll the child or youth in any public school that non-homeless students who live in the attendance area in which the child or youth is actually living are eligible to attend.
3. The choice regarding enrollment shall be made regardless of whether the child or youth lives with the homeless parents or has been temporarily placed elsewhere.
4. Issues of guardianship, proof of residency, and dress code requirements shall not be cause for delay or denial of enrollment. The district is not prohibited from requiring a parent or guardian of a homeless child to submit contact information.
5. If the school district is unable to determine the grade level of the student because of missing or incomplete records, the child will be placed in the appropriate grade level by the same procedures used for non-homeless children.

School Stability

In determining the best interest of the child or youth the district shall:

1. Presume that keeping a homeless child or youth in the school of origin is in the child's or youth's best interest unless doing so is contrary to the request of the child's or youth's parent or guardian, or (in the case of an unaccompanied youth) the youth.
2. The district must consider student-centered factors related to a child's or youth's best interest including the impact of mobility on achievement, education, health, and safety, giving priority to the request of the child's or youth's parent or guardian, or (in the case of an unaccompanied youth) the youth.
3. If the district determines that it is not in a child's or youth's best interest to attend the school of origin, or the school requested by the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth, it must provide a written explanation of the reasons for its determination, in a manner and form that is understandable.

Enrollment Disputes

The dispute procedure must be made available for resolving disputes over eligibility, as well as school selection or enrollment. If a dispute arises over school selection or enrollment in a school:

1. The district shall immediately provide the child's parent or guardian or, in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the youth a written explanation of the decision made regarding the school selection including the right to appeal the decision. It shall be provided in a manner and form understandable to such parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth and include the LEL contact information. The child or youth shall be immediately admitted to the school in which enrollment is sought, pending resolution of his dispute.
2. Within thirty (30) days of receipt of the initial complaint, the LEL shall carry out the dispute resolution process in accordance with 92 NEC 19-005.002
3. The parent/guardian (or student, if applicable) may file a written appeal of the decision to the Nebraska Commissioner of Education. The Commissioner or designee may file a written response to the appeal within thirty (30) calendar days of receipt of the appeal.
4. Within thirty (30) days of receipt of the Commissioner's decision, the parent/guardian (or student, if applicable) may file a written appeal of the decision with the State Board of Education and shall be governed by 92 NAC Rule 61.

Records

Any record ordinarily kept by the school, including immunization or medical records, academic records, birth certificates, guardianship records, and evaluation for special services or programs, regarding each homeless child or youth shall be maintained:

1. So that the records are available, in a timely fashion, when a child or youth enters a new school or school district;
2. The district will treat the student's homeless status as a Student Education Record, not deemed to be directory information; and
3. In a manner consistent with the Federal Education Rights and Privacy Act.

The LEL shall document the number of homeless children and youths receiving services, and maintain financial records regarding any federal funds used for providing such services.

Immunization Requirements

Homeless students will not be denied enrollment for lack of immunization records. The school district will make a reasonable effort to locate immunization records from the information provided or will assist the student in obtaining the necessary immunizations. Permanent exemptions for homeless students from the immunization requirement in this policy will be allowed only for reasons in accordance with the law.

Review and Revision

The district shall review and revise any policies that may act as barriers to the enrollment of homeless children and youths in the district. In reviewing and revising such policies, consideration shall be given to issues concerning transportation, immunization, residency, birth certificates, school records and other documentation, and guardianship. Special attention shall be given to ensuring the enrollment and attendance of homeless children and youths who are not currently attending school.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 79-215
 NDE Rule 19 and Rule 61
 42 U.S.C. §11431 and §11432 (McKinney-Vento Homeless
 Assistance Act) with amendments
 20 U.S.C. §1232g Federal Education rights and Privacy Act

School Breakfast and Lunch Programs

Gering Public Schools uses an automated scanning system to record payments and charges to family accounts. Parents/guardians are expected to maintain a positive balance in their family lunch account, as the system works basically like a checking account, which requires money in the account to provide meals to students rather than a credit card amount.

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability.

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TTY). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

At the start of the school year, a letter is sent home with students including an application for free or reduced lunches and breakfasts. We encourage you to complete the form and return it as soon as possible, as benefits from the prior year expire on September 30 of the current school year. Any charges incurred from that point until the new form is approved are the responsibility of the parent/guardian.

GUIDELINES REGARDING THE COLLECTION OF DELINQUENT MEAL CHARGES

The Gering Public School food service department utilizes a computerized point-of-sale system, Infinite Campus. Upon enrollment, all students are given a Student account. Money deposited into this account can be used for the purchase of breakfast, lunch, milk and ala carte items. Parents can check their child's account balance and make deposits in the Parent Portal at <http://www.geringschools.net/parents/>.

Payment Options:

The food service department recommends that money is pre-paid into the account prior to the point-of-sale. The following payment options are available:

- 1. Major credit card through the Parent Portal.**
- 2. Check:**
 - a. Must be made to Gering Public Schools.**
 - b. Must have student's full name in memo.**
 - c. If more than one student is on a single check, the check must specify how much money is to be deposited into each account.**

- d. **If a check is returned due to non-sufficient funds (NSF), we will attempt to collect all money owed. In the event it cannot be collected, a third party collection agency will be utilized.**
3. **Cssh: Must be submitted in a sealed envelope with students' full name and amount on the envelope.**

Account Balance Information:

Gering Public Schools expects parents to be responsible for monitoring their student's Café account and maintaining a positive balance . Free and reduced price meal assistance is available to all patrons at any time throughout the school year. Applications may be obtained from any of our school offices. The building Principal's office will notify parents of negative account balances. In the event a student's account reaches a negative balance, no extra meals or ala carte items can be charged.

In the event a student's Café account reaches a negative balance of \$10, the following will apply.

An alternate lunch will be served, consisting of a peanut butter or cheese sandwich and milk. The student will continue to receive an alternate meal until all charges are paid and the account has a positive balance. Free and Reduced eligible students are entitled to one reimbursable meal. Extra meals and ala carte items will need to be purchased.

At the end of the school year, if a family no longer has children attending school, moves out of the district, or becomes eligible for free meals, the family may request reimbursement of any balance in the family account. Funds for families with students continuing the following school year will remain in the family account for the next school year.

In accordance with Federal law and U.S.Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability.

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WE APPRECIATE YOUR HELP AND COOPERATION AS WE WORK TOGETHER TO PROVIDE THE BEST POSSIBLE EDUCATION PROGRAMS! PROVIDING QUALITY PROGRAMS -- WE CARE!!!

Gering Public Schools
PARENT-STUDENT PERMISSION INFORMATION RECORD SHEET

****Please check all appropriate responses**, list all children at grade levels, sign the signature line and return to the school office. All forms are due back five school days after you have received them. The parent(s)/guardian(s) and child(rens) signatures and checked responses are the only signatures required for the below listed forms.

STUDENT-PARENT HANDBOOK RESPONSE SHEET

Yes, I hereby acknowledge that I have received a copy of the Gering Elementary Student Handbook.

I have reviewed the handbook with my children, including the behavior guidelines and expulsion procedures.

FIELD TRIP/HEALTH INFORMATION

Yes, I hereby give permission for my child(ren) to accompany his/her teacher on school trips during the year.

No, I do not give permission for my child(ren) to accompany his/her teacher on school trips during the school year.

Yes, I hereby authorize the school to obtain, through a physician of its choice, any emergency medical treatment that may become reasonably necessary by a qualified physician, in his office or hospital emergency room, in the event of an accident or serious illness for the student(s) in the course of any school activity.

No, I do not authorize the school to obtain medical treatment for my child during the course of a field trip.

PICTURE – NEWS RELEASE

Yes, I hereby give permission for my child to be photographed, filmed (school website), or videotaped for use by Gering Elementary Schools.

No, I do not give permission for my child to be photographed, filmed, or videotaped for publication.

ILLNESSES

I give permission for any relevant health information of my child, necessary for educational planning and/or student safety, to be shared among appropriate school personnel.

INTERNET POLICY

Yes, I hereby give permission for my child for Internet Access through educationally screened and/or filtered websites. The Internet and Safety Policy, as approved by the Gering Public School Board in written format is available through the Gering Public School Elementary Handbook.

BUS REGULATIONS

Yes, I hereby acknowledge that I have read the Gering Public School transportation policy/regulations/etiquette in the Gering Elementary Student Handbook.

TITLE 1 REQUIREMENT

Yes, I have reviewed the Title I Parent Involvement Policy section of this handbook and the Elementary School-Parent Student Compact. I shall inform the school of any changes I would like to suggest be made to these documents.

EARLY DISMISSAL

Should severe weather occur, it is sometimes necessary to dismiss children from school early. It is important we know beforehand what you wish your child to do or where to go if an early dismissal occurs. Please make arrangements, other than having your child call you at the time of early dismissal, as we cannot accommodate all phone calls in such a short time. We only have one phone line and it must be kept open for incoming calls in such a situation. Should we need to dismiss early due to severe weather, you will be contacted by phone via Messenger with a recorded message from Gering Public Schools Central Office. Information will also be available on local radio and/or television stations. Please indicate below what procedure you expect your child to follow. Be specific – no phone numbers accepted.

_____ Child's Signature	_____ Date	_____ Parent's Signature	_____ Date
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Parent - School Compact

Gering Public Schools 2021-2022 School Year

This Title I School-Parent Compact has been jointly developed with parents and outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the State's high academic standards. At the annual parent-teacher conferences the compact shall be discussed as it relates to the individual child's achievement.

Teacher:

It is important that students achieve. I agree to do the following:

1. Provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment to enable children to meet the challenging state academic standards.
2. Regularly communicate with parents on their child's progress.
3. Demonstrate professional behavior and positive attitude.
4. _____

Teacher
Signature _____

Parent / Caring Adult:

I want my child to achieve; therefore I will encourage him/her by doing the following:

1. Communicate and work with teachers and school staff on an ongoing basis, be involved and support my child's learning.
2. Support my child's learning--volunteer in their classroom; participate, as appropriate, in decisions related to their education, guide positive use of extracurricular time.
3. Make sure my child is at school every day and on time, unless he/she is ill.
4. Provide a quiet place and time to do schoolwork and encourage my child to complete schoolwork.
5. _____

Parent Signature _____

Student:

I know my education is important to me. It is important that I work to the best of my ability. I agree to do the following:

1. Be at school every day and on time unless I am sick.
2. Come to school each day prepared with supplies and an attitude to learn.
3. Be responsible for my own behavior.
4. Respect and cooperate with other students and adults.
5. Return completed schoolwork on time.
6. _____

Student Signature _____

It is the policy of Gering Public Schools not to discriminate on the basis of gender, disability, race, color, religion, marital status, age, national origin or genetic information in its education programs, administration, policies, employment or other agency programs.

