

## **Regular Board of Education Meeting**

Monday, July 19, 2021 6:00 PM

City of Gering Council Chambers  
1025 P Street  
Gering, NE 69341



## **Minutes**

1. **GPS Board of Education Information**
2. **Opening Procedures**
  1. Call to Order  
**Present:** Brian Copsey, Brent Holliday, Josh Lacy, B.J. Peters, Brady Shaul, Mary Winn.  
Meeting was brought to order at 6:07pm by BJ Peters.
  2. Roll Call
  3. Excuse Absent Board Member(s)
3. **Pledge of Allegiance**
4. **Opening Meetings Act**
5. **Consent Agenda**
  1. Minutes from the previous month's board meeting(s)
    - i. June 21,2021 Board Meeting Minutes
  2. Approval of Claims/Bills
  3. Board Policy Adoption
    - i. First Reading of Board Policies
    - ii. Second Reading of Board Policies
      1. Policy 1005.7 Visitors to School
      2. Policy 1005.08 Public Conduct
      3. Policy 1005.9 Skateboarding and Rollerblading
      4. Policy 1005.9 Skateboarding and Rollerblading

5. Policy 1005.10 Distribution of Materials
  6. Policy 1005.11 Volunteers in the Schools
  7. Policy 1005.12 Title 1 Parent and Family Member Engagement
  8. Policy 1005.50 Adult Sponsors
  9. Policy 1006.01 Community Use of Facilities
  10. Policy 1006.02 Tobacco Free Environment
  11. Policy 1007.00 Education Agency Relations
  12. Policy 1005.07 Visitors to Schools
4. Personnel Items
- i. Approval of Certified Staff Contract(s)
    1. Erin Sittner - Northfield Elementary, Fifth Grade Teacher.
    2. Melissa Woodson - Gering Junior High, COVID-19 Response Registered Nurse
  - ii. Certified Staff Resignation
5. Appoint Josh Lacy Board Treasurer for the remainder of the calendar year.

6. **Patron Comments**

Ron Walker- Tennis Coach at Gering High School.  
Melissa Morino- Parent of tennis player for Gering High School.  
Amy Seiler- Employee of the City of Gering.  
Dennis Sullivan-Participant of Adult Tennis Club

7. **Reports and Discussions**

1. Curriculum/Personnel Committee Report

Mary Winn reported on the VALTS meeting held June 21.  
Summer school going (no specific enrollment figures).  
Creek Valley, Leyton, and Potter-Dix will access VALTS through the Sidney Location.  
Lastly, June 21 was the last meeting for George Schlothauer's as administrator.
2. Business/Facilities Committee Report

We went over accounts payable.

We went over Ending Fund Balances.

Had an update from Alan Doll on the JR High, the city was helping, this line we need to tie into handles 40% of the city's sewer so it's very important it gets done correctly. Alan mentioned the commons area floor was in very bad shape, so they plan to put concrete in and polish it rather than trying to re tile it. Alan also stated he

is hopeful to still stay on budget (this includes the gym floor) and still plan to be completely done by the end of August.

Curt Hanson was also present and at this time and he filled us in on the Geil Elementary RFP for the roof. He also mentioned the engineers were out on the 7<sup>th</sup> for the HVAC at the Jr. High and they were going to get back to us with 4 to 5 options to replace our current system.

We discussed the Esser III, this could be what we use to fund the new HVAC at Jr. High as we are very limited as to what we can use these funds, but the HVAC is one of the things we can use it for. Before we can use we must have a plan in place and also involvement from Parents.

We were given a current timeline for the tennis courts.

Last, Tim shared with us he will be done at the end of the month but have us contracted with some help to keep things going smooth until we can hire a replacement.

- i. Trial Balance Summary
  - ii. Fund Balances
  - iii. Schedule of Investments
  - iv. Financial Statements
3. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Regan gave an update regarding the districts American rescue Plan (ARP) and the Elementary and Secondary Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) for Gering Public Schools. It is posted to the website.

It is our responsibility to follow required ESSER regulations as follows:

1. First, post on website the Back to School Roadmap that outline COVID-19 protocols for this school year.
2. The ESSER III presentation will also be posted on the website and updated every 6 months about how funding will be used for Gering Public Schools.
3. A link will be included on the website to a survey for our stakeholders to provide feedback on the Back to School Roadmap and the ESSER II funding. The feedback will be reviewed and connected to the areas that meet federal regulations with regard to accelerate learning; professional development, extended instructional time, staffing, facilities or technology.
4. Dual Enrollment with WNCC has an increase from 63 students to 134 for the 2021-22.

4. Announcements of Upcoming Events for the Board

**Future Board Meeting**

No Work/Special Meeting in July

Regular Board Meeting

Fri, July 23 @ 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Sat, July 24 @ 7:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Wildcat Hills Nature Center.

Regular Board Meeting - Mon, August 16 @ 6:00 p.m.

(City Council Chambers)

Second Special Meeting - Tues, August 24 @ 12:00 p.m. (Central Office)

**Tentative Committee Meeting Dates:**

Personnel/Curriculum Committee -- Tues, August 3 @ 7:00 a.m. (Central Office)

Business/Facilities Committee -- Thurs, August 5 @ 4:30 p.m. (Central Office)

Policy Review Committee -- Thurs, August 12 @ 4:30 p.m. (Central Office)

**8. Action Items**

1. Discuss, consider and take necessary action regarding the continuation of using NASB's services for superintendent evaluation.
2. Discuss, consider and take action to allocate \$200,000 of the FY21-22 budget for the Gering High School Tennis Court improvement project.
3. Discuss, consider and take action regarding the approval of the elementary and secondary student handbooks.

Tabled until next Board Meeting July 23, 2021

4. Discuss, consider and take action regarding Policy 504.19 Student Fees.

**9. Board Comments**

Josh Lacy thanked the community and City of Gering for the support they are giving to improve the Tennis Courts at the High School.

Brent Holliday commented favorably about the upcoming Board Retreat. It will be a time to discuss topics to improve the functionality of the District.

Mary Winn commented how the class reunions this year enjoyed the tours of the High School. Especially considering, all the changes that have been made.

**10. Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 6:54pm by BJ Peters

## Regular Board of Education Meeting

Monday, June 21, 2021 6:00 PM

City of Gering Council Chambers  
1025 P Street  
Gering, NE 69341



# Minutes

## 1. GPS Board of Education Information

## 2. Opening Procedures

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Excuse Absent Board Member(s)

## 3. Pledge of Allegiance

## 4. Opening Meetings Act

## 5. Consent Agenda

A motion to Approval of the Consent Agenda was presented by Mary Winn, seconded by Brian Copey. After voting, motion Passed.

Brian Copey: Yea

Brent Holliday: Yea

Josh Lacy: Yea

B.J. Peters: Yea

Brady Shaul: Yea

Mary Winn: Yea

1. Minutes from the previous month's board meeting(s)
2. Approval of Claims/Bills
3. Board Policy Adoption
  - i. First Reading of Board Policies:
    1. Policy 1005.7 Visitors to School
    2. Policy 1005.08 Public Conduct
    3. Policy 1005.9 Skateboarding and Rollerblading
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7. Policy 1005.50 Adult Sponsors
8. Policy 1006.01 Community Use of Facilities
9. Policy 1006.02 Tobacco Free Environment
10. Policy 1007.00 Education Agency Relations
11. Policy 1005.07 Visitors to Schools

#### 4. Personnel Items

##### i. Approval of Certified Staff Contract(s)

1. Kristina Mueller - Lincoln Elementary, Fifth Grade Teacher
2. Vanessa Hernandez - Early Childhood Teacher, Lincoln Elementary

##### ii. Certified Staff Resignation

5. Approve Corporate Resolution for First State Bank
6. Approve Corporate Resolution for Platte Valley Bank
7. Approve Corporate Resolution for US Bank
8. Approve Corporate Resolution for Valley Bank
9. Approve Corporate Resolution for Nebraska Liquid Asset Fund
10. Approve Corporate Resolution for Wells Fargo Corporate Trust
11. Appoint Superintendent Nicole Regan as the Authorized Representative to secure Local, State, and Federal funds for the district.
12. Approve Superintendent Nicole Regan or her designee as the Authorized Representative for Gering Public Schools for Local, State, and Federal Programs.

#### 6. Patron Comments

#### 7. Reports and Discussions

##### 1. Curriculum/Personnel Committee Report

Committee Chair, Mary Winn provided an update about the HVAC systems at the Jr. High building and stating the next steps are to seek an engineer to evaluate the scope of the project. Also, discussed were upcoming changes to the High School Attendance Policy the handbook. Dean of Students, Crystal Palser, confirmed that the handbooks will be in digital form this year and available for download on the website.

Mary also reported on the Professional Learning Community Live Summit held June-2-4 by Curriculum Director, Kory Knight. The summit introduced 32 staff members the training. Additional training will be held in July for 22 staff members. The new ESL curriculum has arrived and the scope and sequence for 6-8th grade has been covered, 9-12th will be covered in August.

Brent Holliday shared concerns regarding student absenteeism and addressing the "why" of students missing class. It's important that we continually evaluate.

Discontinued curriculum books have been gathered, sold and shipped to a used book store for resell.

The behavior matrix was consolidated and simplified to better serve our educational community. Mary Winn advocated to change the days for intervention for absenteeism from 15 days to 12 days.

## 2. Business/Facilities Committee Report

Chairman, Josh Lacy, reported committee review of accounts payable and distribution of ARP funds for HVAC repairs and Curriculum. An engineer is scheduled to evaluate the HVAC system at the Jr. High.

Repairs on the roof at Geil is on temporary hold in order evaluate the building codes for repair.

Insurance will cover some cost for the damage. There are four sections of the Jr. High roof which need replaced, insurance will cover some of these costs as well.

### i. Trial Balance Summary

### ii. Fund Balances

### iii. Schedule of Investments

### iv. Financial Statements

## 3. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Cooper reported on the proposed tuition agreement with WNCC and the Gering High School.

Also reported was the addition of 33 dual credit courses in the upcoming year and the benefit it will provide to students without adding additional cost to the district.

Food Service Director, Mary Carman, reported about the possible changes in adult lunch prices. The Federal Register will soon come out soon from the Federal Government to give the guidelines for adult pricing.

Discussions regarding the improvements for the tennis courts were also held. Further discussions will be scheduled.

## 4. Announcements of Upcoming Events for the Board

### **Future Board Meetings**

Second Special Meeting - Tues, June 29 @ 12:00 p.m. (Central Office)

Regular Board Meeting - Mon, July 19 @ 6:00 p.m. (City Council Chambers)

Second Special Meeting - Tues, July 27 @ 12:00 p.m. (Central Office)

### **Tentative Committee Meeting Dates:**

Personnel/Curriculum Committee -- Tues, July 6 @ 7:00 a.m. (Central Office)

Business/Facilities Committee -- Thurs, \*\*\*\*\* @ 4:30 p.m. (Central Office)

Policy Review Committee -- Thurs, July 8 @ 4:30 p.m. (Central Office)

i. Board of Education Retreat Friday July 23 and Saturday July 24 at the Wildcat Hills State Recreation Area. Tentative times 12:00-4:00 on Friday and 7:30-11:00 on Saturday.

5. Report from the attendees/coordinator of June's Professional Learning Communities professional development days.

## 8. Action Item

1. Discuss, consider and take necessary action regarding Policy 504.20 "Bullying Prevention"  
A motion to approve policy 504.20 as read was presented by Brian Copsey, seconded by Brent Holliday. After voting, motion Passed.

Brian Copsey: Yea

Brent Holliday: Yea

Josh Lacy: Yea

B.J. Peters: Yea

Brady Shaul: Yea

Mary Winn: Yea

2. Discuss, consider and take necessary action regarding Policy 1005.03 "Parental and Family Involvement in the Schools"

A motion to Approve policy 1005.03 as read was presented by Josh Lacy, seconded by Brian Copsey. After voting, motion Passed.

Brian Copsey: Yea

Brent Holliday: Yea

Josh Lacy: Yea

B.J. Peters: Yea

Brady Shaul: Yea

Mary Winn: Yea

3. Discuss, consider and take necessary action regarding the approval for the amended Interlocal Cooperative Agreement and amended VALT bylaws.

A motion to to approve the amended Interlocal Cooperative Agreement and Amended VAULT Bylaws for 2021-2022 was presented by Mary Winn, seconded by Brian Copsey. After voting, motion Passed.

Brian Copsey: Yea

Brent Holliday: Yea

Josh Lacy: Yea

B.J. Peters: Yea

Brady Shaul: Yea

Mary Winn: Yea

4. Discuss, consider and take necessary action regarding the approval for the amended Interlocal Agreement for Day School/Treatment Facility

A motion to to approve the Tuition Agreement. was presented by Mary Winn, seconded by Josh Lacy. After voting, motion Passed.

Brian Copsey: Yea  
Brent Holliday: Yea  
Josh Lacy: Yea  
B.J. Peters: Yea  
Brady Shaul: Yea  
Mary Winn: Yea

5. Discuss, consider and take necessary action regarding a tuition reimbursement agreement related to the School Librarian endorsement and authorize superintendent to sign with any changes deemed necessary.

A motion to to Approve the memorandum agreement with ESU13 was presented by Brent Holliday, seconded by Brian Copsey. After voting, motion Passed.

Brian Copsey: Yea  
Brent Holliday: Yea  
Josh Lacy: Yea  
B.J. Peters: Yea  
Brady Shaul: Yea  
Mary Winn: Yea

6. Discuss, consider and take necessary action regarding the approval of memorandum agreement with ESU13 Head Start.

#### **9. Board Comments**

In Closing, since this was Mr. Cooper's last board meeting as interim superintendent, all the board members expressed their gratitude and appreciation for all his work through a difficult year. Mr. Cooper responded, that it is because of the team everyone is recognized for having a successful year. President, BJ Peters, brought attention to the recognition of Gering Schools as being an accredited school for the 2021-22 school year. Mr. Cooper finished the meeting by handing the key of Central Office to Superintendent Dr. Regan.

#### **10. Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 7:17pm

<b>Payee Name</b>	<b>Account Description Element</b>	<b>Check Date</b>
Airgas Intermountain Inc.	Supplies	6/28/2021
Allo Communications	Telephone	6/28/2021
Amsterdam Printing & Litho Co.	District Stock	6/28/2021
Arctic Air Llc	Supplies	6/28/2021
Asset Management Technologies, Llc	Contracted Services/Repairs	6/28/2021
Benzel Pest Control	Supplies	6/30/2021
Bierfreund, Glenda	Contracted Services/Repairs	6/28/2021
Bio Company, Inc	Supplies	6/28/2021
Black Hills Energy	Natural Gas Services	6/28/2021
Brandy Foos	Supplies	6/30/2021
Bytes Computer & Network Solutions	Contracted Services/Repairs	6/16/2021
Capital Business Systems, Inc.	Copier Costs	6/28/2021
Capital Business Systems, Inc.-Texas	Copier Costs	6/28/2021
Cengage Learning Southwestern/Itp	Business & Computer Materials	6/28/2021
Charter Communications	Internet Service	6/28/2021
City Of Gering	Electricity	6/10/2021
City Of Gering	Contracted Services/Repairs	6/28/2021
Connell, Jamie	Mileage Reimbursement	6/28/2021
CSSI	District Stock	6/30/2021
Culligan Of Scottsbluff	Supplies	6/28/2021
Culligan Of Scottsbluff	Supplies	6/30/2021
Dennis Supply Company	District Stock	6/30/2021
Docu-Shred	Contracted Services/Repairs	6/28/2021
Door Closer Service	Supplies	6/30/2021
E3 Diagnostics, Inc.	Supplies	6/28/2021
Edclub, Inc.	Contracted Services/Repairs	6/28/2021
Egan Supply Co.	District Stock	6/30/2021
Engineered Controls, Inc.	Supplies	6/30/2021
ERH Technology Solutions	Contracted Services/Repairs	6/28/2021
Esu #13 _5760	Contracted Services/Repairs	6/28/2021
ESU 13 Head Start	Supplies	6/28/2021
Fbg Service Corporation	Supplies	6/28/2021
FBG Service Corporation.	Supplies	6/28/2021
FBG Service Corporation.	Supplies	6/30/2021
First Student	BUS/VAN	6/28/2021
Foos, Brandy	Mileage Reimbursement	6/30/2021
Frank Parts Company	Supplies	6/30/2021
Gering Public Schools	Accounts Payable	6/16/2021
Gering Public Schools Foundation	Furniture and Equipment	6/28/2021
Grease N Go	Supplies	6/28/2021
Hi Performance Car Wash-Blt, Inc.	District Stock	6/30/2021
Hillyard	Supplies	6/28/2021
Hillyard/Sioux Falls	District Stock	6/28/2021
Hillyard/Sioux Falls	District Stock	6/30/2021

Holiday Inn Kearney	Prof Devel	6/28/2021
Holiday Inn Kearney	Dues & Fees	6/30/2021
Independent Plumbing & Heating	Supplies	6/30/2021
Johnson Cashway _8920	District Stock	6/30/2021
Kory Knight	Other Expenses	6/28/2021
KSB School Law.	Legal Services	6/28/2021
Logoz Llc	Other Expenses	6/28/2021
LRP Publications	Periodicals	6/28/2021
Matheson Tri-Gas	Supplies	6/28/2021
Menards	Supplies	6/30/2021
Midwest Technologies	District Stock	6/30/2021
Mike'S Husker Stuff	Supplies	6/28/2021
Money Wise Office Supply	Supplies	6/28/2021
Money Wise Office Supply	Supplies	6/30/2021
Moravek, Michael	Mileage Reimbursement	6/28/2021
NAEA	Prof Devel	6/28/2021
Nebraska Council of School Administrator	Dues & Fees	6/30/2021
Nebraska Safety & Fire Equipment Inc.	Supplies	6/28/2021
NWEA	Achievement Tests	6/28/2021
Olsen, Byron	Prof Devel	6/28/2021
One Source	Contracted Services/Repairs	6/28/2021
Paper101	District Stock	6/30/2021
Pearson Education Inc.	Social Studies Materials	6/28/2021
Petty Cash-Geil	Supplies	6/28/2021
PowerSchool Group, LLC.	Contracted Services/Repairs	6/28/2021
Presencelearning, Inc.	Contracted Services/Repairs	6/28/2021
Print Express	Pupil Services	6/30/2021
Protex Central	Supplies	6/30/2021
Pszanka, Brett	Contracted Services/Repairs	6/28/2021
PT Hose and Bearing	District Stock	6/30/2021
Quill Corporation	Supplies	6/28/2021
Regan, Nicole	Other Expenses	6/28/2021
Regan, Nicole	Contracted Services/Repairs	6/30/2021
Regional Care, Inc.	IRS 125 Plan	6/28/2021
Roth, Ronda	Mileage Reimbursement	6/28/2021
S&S Worldwide	District Stock	6/30/2021
Safety-Kleen Systems, Inc.	Contracted Services/Repairs	6/28/2021
Sandberg Implement, Inc.	District Stock	6/28/2021
Schank Roofing Service	Supplies	6/30/2021
Schindler Elevator Corporation	Supplies	6/30/2021
School Health Corporation	District Stock	6/30/2021
Scott Electric	District Stock	6/30/2021
Scottsbluff Adv	Advertising & Printing	6/28/2021
Scottsbluff Adv	Advertising & Printing	6/30/2021
Scottsbluff Public Schools	Gas & Oil	6/28/2021
Shaylah Stephens	Supplies	6/28/2021
Sherwin-Williams Company	Supplies	6/30/2021

Simmons Olsen Law Firm, P.C.	Legal Services	6/28/2021
Simply Clean	Supplies	6/28/2021
SmartDeploy.	Tech Supplies under \$5000	6/28/2021
Solution Tree	Prof Devel	6/28/2021
Spectrum Photographics	Supplies	6/28/2021
Spic & Span Cleaners	District Stock	6/30/2021
Staples	District Stock	6/30/2021
State of Nebraska - Department of Admin	Internet Service	6/28/2021
Subway - Gering	School Improvement	6/28/2021
Svoboda, Megan L.	Mileage Reimbursement	6/28/2021
Taher, Inc	Other Expenses	6/10/2021
Taher, Inc	School Improvement	6/28/2021
University of Nebraska-Lincoln.	Contracted Services/Repairs	6/28/2021
Verizon Wireless	Telephone	6/30/2021
Visa	Other Expenses	6/28/2021
Western Ne Community College	Student Tuition	6/28/2021
WPCI.	Contracted Services/Repairs	6/28/2021
Aguallo, Angie	Activity Acct. Expenses	6/16/2021
Aguallo, Angie	Activity Acct. Expenses	6/16/2021
Aguallo, Raul	Activity Acct. Expenses	6/16/2021
AirBorne Athletics, Inc.	Activity Acct. Expenses	6/26/2021
Harco Athletic Reconditioning, Inc.	Contracted Services/Repairs	6/26/2021
Jensen Publishing	Activity Acct. Expenses	6/26/2021
Kristi Mueller	Fund Balance	6/26/2021
La Quinta By Wyndham North Platte	LODGING	6/26/2021
Logoz, LLC	Activity Acct. Expenses	6/26/2021
New Victorian Suites - Lincoln	LODGING	6/26/2021
Nsaa	Dues & Fees	6/26/2021
Papa Murphy's.	Fund Balance	6/26/2021
Scottsbluff High School _15901	Activity Acct. Expenses	6/11/2021
Scottsbluff High School _15901	Activity Acct. Expenses	6/11/2021
Scottsbluff High School _15901	Activity Acct. Expenses	6/26/2021
Varsity Brands Holding Co., Inc.	Activity Acct. Expenses	6/26/2021
Weissman's Theatrical Supplies, Inc.	Activity Acct. Expenses	6/26/2021
Yanda's Music & Pro Audio	Activity Acct. Expenses	6/26/2021

<b>Check Number</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Fund</b>
204078	\$472.29	01
204079	\$4,542.19	01
204080	\$37.25	01
204081	\$1,211.39	01
204082	\$4,913.00	01
204147	\$69.55	01
204083	\$275.80	01
204084	\$102.00	01
204085	\$1,885.57	01
204148	\$120.00	01
204076	\$30,860.48	01
204086	\$10.81	01
204087	\$3,186.94	01
204088	\$280.00	01
204089	\$135.00	01
204074	\$39,183.83	01
204090	\$15,027.25	01
204091	\$196.57	01
204149	\$189.83	01
204092	\$54.00	01
204150	\$32.50	01
204151	\$506.11	01
204093	\$162.50	01
204152	\$100.00	01
204094	\$365.00	01
204095	\$1,232.50	01
204153	\$461.97	01
204154	\$346.07	01
204096	\$2,560.00	01
204097	\$20,644.74	01
204098	\$560.00	01
204099	\$7,364.00	01
204100	\$2,890.00	01
204155	\$7,364.00	01
204101	\$46,959.44	01
204156	\$424.48	01
204157	\$96.18	01
204077	\$126,559.39	01
204102	\$2,500.00	01
204103	\$222.95	01
204158	\$18.27	01
204104	\$187.18	01
204105	\$5,015.72	01
204159	\$705.60	01

204106	\$499.75	01
204160	\$219.90	01
204161	\$65.96	01
204162	\$71.61	01
204107	\$41.95	01
204108	\$392.00	01
204109	\$120.00	01
204110	\$2,099.00	01
204111	\$71.24	01
204163	\$585.78	01
204164	\$25.06	01
204112	\$48.00	01
204113	\$218.80	01
204165	\$33.83	01
204114	\$55.67	01
204115	\$235.00	01
204166	\$220.00	01
204116	\$621.00	01
204117	\$2,900.00	01
204118	\$56.25	01
204119	\$150.00	01
204167	\$19,010.94	01
204120	\$6,658.20	01
204121	\$106.09	01
204122	\$3,720.49	01
204123	\$6,066.00	01
204168	\$468.10	01
204169	\$182.40	01
204124	\$50.00	01
204170	\$279.73	01
204125	\$307.86	01
204126	\$4,511.50	01
204171	\$7,500.00	01
204127	\$610.00	01
204128	\$17.92	01
204172	\$50.70	01
204129	\$400.00	01
204130	\$715.87	01
204173	\$821.00	01
204174	\$1,714.68	01
204175	\$1,450.88	01
204176	\$5.50	01
204131	\$331.85	01
204177	\$199.70	01
204132	\$9,042.34	01
204133	\$96.00	01
204178	\$1,742.02	01

204134	\$703.00	01
204135	\$549.86	01
204136	\$5,922.00	01
204137	\$1,750.00	01
204138	\$100.00	01
204179	\$300.00	01
204180	\$196.58	01
204139	\$232.49	01
204140	\$95.88	01
204141	\$58.74	01
204075	\$0.00	01
204142	\$984.00	01
204143	\$120.70	01
204181	\$40.01	01
204144	\$21,721.87	01
204145	\$11,303.06	01
204146	\$1,020.00	01
9281	\$599.00	05
9282	\$200.38	05
9283	\$599.00	05
9284	\$3,995.00	05
9285	\$5,850.00	05
9286	\$35.00	05
9287	\$49.14	05
9288	\$267.00	05
9289	\$192.00	05
9290	\$739.90	05
9291	\$1,530.00	05
9292	\$319.00	05
9279	\$350.00	05
9280	\$350.00	05
9293	\$500.00	05
9294	\$2,646.00	05
9295	\$713.70	05
9296	\$1,255.00	05

**GERING PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
GERING, NE**

**POLICY ADOPTION**

The board shall give notice of proposed policy changes or adoption of new policies by placing the item on the agenda of two regular board meetings. The proposed policy changes shall be distributed and public comment will be allowed at each meeting prior to final board action. This notice procedure shall be required except for emergency situations. If the board adopts a policy in an emergency situation, a statement regarding the emergency and the need for immediate adoption of the policy shall be included in the minutes. The board shall have complete discretion to determine what constitutes an emergency situation.

The final action taken to adopt the proposed policy shall be approved by a simple majority vote of the board at the next regular meeting after the meeting allowing public discussion. The policy will be effective on the later of the date of passage or the date stated in the motion.

In the case of an emergency, a new or changed policy may be adopted by a majority vote of a quorum of the board. The emergency policy shall expire at the close of the third regular meeting following the emergency action, unless the policy adoption procedure stated above is followed and the policy is reaffirmed.

Legal Reference:               Neb. Statute 79-520 (Class III)  
  79-521 (Class IV)  
  79-522 (Class V)  
  79-523 (Class VI)  
  79-526  
  84-712 et seq.  
NDE Rule 10.004.01A1

Cross Reference:               201.1 Board Powers and Responsibilities

| Approved    1/20/03

Reviewed ~~8/17/09~~2/23/15

Revised 9/14/09

## VISITORS TO SCHOOL

The Board encourages parents and other district citizens to visit the school and classrooms at any time to observe the work of students, teachers and other employees. All visitors, which includes persons other than employees or students, must notify the principal of their presence in the facility upon arrival and request authorization to visit elsewhere in the building.

Persons who wish to visit a classroom while school is in session are asked to notify the principal and obtain approval from the principal prior to the visit so appropriate arrangements can be made and so class disruption can be minimized. Teachers and other employees shall not take time from their duties to discuss matters with visitors.

Visitors shall conduct themselves in a manner fitting to their age level and maturity and with mutual respect and consideration for the rights of others while attending school events. Visitors failing to conduct themselves accordingly may be asked to leave the premises. The board and administration will not tolerate any person or persons whose presence disturbs classes or school activities or hinders the instructional process. Children who wish to visit school must be accompanied by a parent or responsible adult.

It shall be the responsibility of employees to report inappropriate conduct. It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent and principals to take the action necessary to cease the inappropriate conduct. If the superintendent or principals are not available, a school district employee shall act to cease the inappropriate conduct.

The Board discourages using the school as a site for parents without custody to visit their children. The principal may deny the parent without custody the opportunity to deliver packages, gifts, messages, etc., to the child and/or to see the child during the school day without the approval of the custodial parent or legal guardian. In this paragraph, "without custody" means the parent lacks joint legal custody under Nebraska law.

The district may restrict the use of its buildings and grounds or restrict access to school property by issuing no trespassing commands and/or stay away/no trespassing letters when deemed necessary by the superintendent when any individual or group:

1. is determined to present a risk to the safety of others,
2. presents a disruption to the learning environment,
3. fails to follow proper check-in and identification procedures, or
4. does not have a legitimate purpose to be present on school grounds or activities.

In the event a person prohibited by this or other board policies is on district property or is attending a district-sponsored event, the superintendent or building principal will tell the person he or she must leave and will notify the person they are not permitted back on district property, except if their presence is required by the district. The superintendent or building principal may contact the proper legal authorities if necessary to enforce this policy and may file a report or sign a complaint on behalf of the district.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 79-8,100

Cross Reference: 1004 Press, Radio and Television News Media

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Reviewed \_\_\_\_\_ Revised \_\_\_\_\_

## PUBLIC CONDUCT ON SCHOOL PREMISES

No person on district property will:

- Injure or threaten to injure another;
- Damage the property of another or of the district;
- Violate parking regulations;
- Drive a vehicle in an unsafe manner;
- Impede, delay or otherwise interfere with the orderly conduct of the district's educational program or any other activity taking place on district property which has been authorized by the Board, superintendent, principal or other authorized administrator;
- Enter any portion of district premises at any time for purposes other than those which are lawful and authorized by district officials;
- Possess an unauthorized loaded or unloaded firearm or any other instrument used as a dangerous or deadly weapon as defined in law and Board policy;
- Possess, consume, sell, give or deliver unlawful drugs including drug paraphernalia and alcoholic beverages;
- Smoke or use tobacco products;
- Wear, possess, use, distribute, display or sell any clothing, jewelry, emblem, badge, symbol, sign or other things which are evidence of membership or affiliation in any gang. Use speech or commit any act or omission in furtherance of the interests of any gang or gang activity. A "gang" is defined as a group that identifies itself through the use of a name, unique appearance or language including hand signs, claiming of geographical territory or the espousing of a distinctive belief system that frequently results in criminal activity;
- Willfully violate other district rules and regulations designed to maintain public order on school property.
- Conduct business or promote sales for any purpose unless authorized by the administration.

Spectators are permitted to attend extracurricular activities only as guests of the school district, and, accordingly as a condition of such permission, they must comply with the school district's rules and policies. Spectators will not be allowed to interfere with the enjoyment of the students participating, other spectators, or with the performance of employees and officials supervising the extracurricular activity. Spectators, like the student participants, are expected to display mature behavior and sportsmanship. The failure of spectators to do so is not only disruptive but embarrassing to the students, the school district, and the entire community.

To protect the rights of students to participate without fear of interference, and to permit the sponsors and officials of extracurricular activities to perform their duties without interference, the following provisions are in effect:

- Abusive verbal or physical conduct of spectators directed at participants, officials, sponsors of extracurricular activities, or at other spectators will not be tolerated.
- Verbal or physical conduct of spectators that interferes with the performance of students, officials, or sponsors of extracurricular activities will not be tolerated.
- The use of vulgar or obscene language directed at students, officials or sponsors participating in an extracurricular activity or at other spectators will not be tolerated.

If a spectator at an extracurricular activity becomes physically or verbally abusive, uses vulgar or obscene language, or in any way impedes the performance of an activity, the spectator may be removed from the event by the individual in charge of the event and the superintendent may recommend the exclusion of the spectator at future extracurricular activities.

Upon recommendation of the superintendent, the board shall cause a notice of exclusion from extracurricular activities to be sent to the spectator involved. The notice shall advise the spectator of the school district's right to exclude the individual from school district activities and events and the duration of the exclusion. If the spectator disobeys the school district's order, law enforcement authorities will be contacted and asked to remove the spectator. If a spectator has been notified of exclusion and thereafter attends an extracurricular activity, the spectator shall be advised that his/her attendance will result in prosecution.

Persons having no legitimate purpose or business on district property or violating or threatening to violate the above rules may be ejected from the premises and/or referred to law enforcement officials.

Cross Reference:     506     Student Activities  
                          903.08 Vandalism  
                          1006    Use of District Facilities and Equipment

Approved 2/16/2004   Reviewed 4/28/2014, 6/21/2021   Revised 6/16/2014

## SKATEBOARDING AND ROLLERBLADING

In the interest of maintaining a safe injury-free environment and preventing damage to school equipment, skateboarding and rollerblading are prohibited on the sidewalks, driveways, and playgrounds of the school at all times.

Cross Reference: 905 Safety Program

Approved 2/16/2014 Reviewed 4/28/2014, 6/21/2021 Revised \_\_\_\_\_

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Cross Reference: 905 Safety Program

Approved 2/16/2014 Reviewed 4/28/2014, 6/21/2021 Revised \_\_\_\_\_

## DISTRIBUTION OR POSTING OF MATERIALS

The board recognizes that students, employees, parents, or citizens may want to distribute materials within the school district that are non curricular. Non-curricular materials to be distributed must be approved by the building principal and meet certain standards prior to their distribution.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent, in conjunction with the building principals to draft administrative regulations regarding this policy.

Materials shall be reviewed based on legitimate educational concerns. Such concerns include:

- The material is or may be defamatory;
- The material is inappropriate based on the age, grade level and/or maturity of the reading audience;
- The material is poorly written, inadequately researched, biased or prejudiced;
- The material contains information that is not factual;
- The material is not free of racial, ethnic, religious, or sexual bias;
- The material contains advertising that violates public school laws, rules, and/or policy;
- The material is deemed inappropriate for students;
- The public might reasonably perceive the content to bear the sanction or approval of the district.

The superintendent or designee shall determine distribution procedures for non curricular materials. Such procedures may include:

1. Distribution to each student before or after class if materials are not directly related to the instructional goals;
2. Notification to students or parents of the availability of the materials in a specified location if this procedure is deemed less disruptive to the educational process; or
3. Solicitation of school-related groups such as parent organizations to distribute materials.

The practice of distributing pamphlets, booklets, flyers, brochures and other similar materials shall be periodically reviewed to ensure that the mere volume of requests has not become an interruption to the educational process.

The facilities, the staff, or the students of the district shall not be used in any manner to advertise or promote commercial, cultural, organizational, or other nonschool interests except that the district may:

1. Utilize films and other instructional aids furnished by private sources when the advertising content is reasonable in the judgment of the building principal;

2. Cooperate through announcements and distribution of program material with nonprofit community organizations that supplement the school program when such cooperation will not interfere with the school program;
3. Permit participation on a student option basis in essay, art, science and similar contests sponsored by outside interests when such activities parallel the curriculum and contribute to the educational program;
4. Release promotional material for non school athletic and cultural events only through appropriate school departments;
5. Accept, but not actively solicit, limited advertising on extracurricular activity schedules and programs at the discretion of the principal of the school involved;
6. Permit other exceptions when, in the judgment of the superintendent, students of the district will benefit. The superintendent may, at his/her option, refer specific cases to the board for decision.

Signs and Banners: Signs and banners will be allowed in or upon buildings and other district facilities only with the prior written approval of the [*superintendent; building principal*] with consideration for the health, safety and welfare of staff and students.

The following guidelines shall be applied in considering requests to display signs or banners:

1. Signs and banners on sticks require special authorization;
2. Signs and banners fastened to any structure of a building or structures immediately adjacent to an open space shall not be allowed without specific prior written permission;
3. Signs and banners presenting recognizable health or safety hazards are prohibited;
4. Signs and banners presenting false information shall be prohibited.
5. [Signs and banners may be removed at the discretion of the administration.](#)

Advertising displayed under contract for monetary or in-kind contributions, i.e., scoreboards, computers, and other equipment or materials with a value of more than \$2000.00 must have board approval.

Cross References:    504.03 Student Conduct  
                             504.08 Freedom of Expression  
                             506     Student Activities  
                             604.10 Academic Freedom

Approved 2/16/2004    Reviewed 4/28/2014    Revised 6/16/2014, 6/21/2021

## VOLUNTEERS IN THE SCHOOLS

The use of volunteers within the school program enhances the educational process, both for students and for the community. Volunteers may provide additional support in the classroom, promote community-school cooperation in facilitating the learning process and provide resource persons for the district who have expertise in various areas.

Building principals shall make the final determination whether an interested community member will serve as a volunteer. The safety and well being of the students, staff and volunteers of the district is the chief concern. Therefore, the district may conduct criminal background checks on all volunteers who work directly with and/or have access to students. Background checks, if completed, will be conducted prior to the first time the individual volunteers work with the students and the district reserves the right to conduct additional background checks periodically thereafter.

School volunteers shall be expected to abide by all applicable laws, district policies, and administrative procedures when performing their responsibilities. All district employees working directly with a volunteer are responsible for directing and supervising the activities of the volunteer with broad supervision provided by the building principal/administrators.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to implement this policy.

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Reviewed \_\_\_\_\_ Revised \_\_\_\_\_

## TITLE 1 PARENT AND FAMILY MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

The district commits to meeting all requirements of the **No Child Left Behind Act of 2001** including Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) amendments as they apply to all Title 1 programs conducted within the District. For the purpose of this policy “parents and family members” means “parents and persons in a parental relation to the student.” This Policy will be distributed to all parents annually, in a language that parents can understand.

The written District parent and family engagement policy has been developed jointly with, updated periodically, and distributed to parents and family members of participating children and the local community in an understandable and uniform format. This policy agreed on by such parents describes the means for carrying out the requirements as listed below.

1. Parents and family members of all students are welcomed and encouraged to become involved with their child’s school and education; this includes parents and family members that have limited English proficiency, limited literacy, are economically disadvantaged, have disabilities, racial or ethnic minority background or are migratory children. Information related to school and parent programs, meetings, school reports and other activities are sent to the parents of participating children in a format, and to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.
2. Parents are involved in the planning, review, evaluation and improvement of the Title I program, Parent and Family Engagement Policy and the School-Parent Compact at an annual parent meeting scheduled at a convenient time. This would include the planning and implementation of effective parent and family involvement activities.
3. Conduct, with meaningful parent and family involvement, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy. Use the evaluation findings to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise the Parent and Family Engagement Policy.
4. Opportunities are provided for parents and family members to participate in decisions related to the education of their child/children. The school and local educational agency shall provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities.
5. Parents of participating children will be provided 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.

6. 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.
7. 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.

Legal Reference:       Neb. Statute 79-530 to 533  
                              Title 92, Chapter 51, Nebraska Administrative Code  
                              No Child Left Behind, Title 1, Sec. 1118, P.L. 107-110  
                              Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

Approved 9/18/2017 Reviewed 8/27/2018, 6/21/2021 Revised 9/17/2018

ADULT SPONSORS

Adult sponsors must be in attendance at all school sponsored activities.

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Reviewed \_\_\_\_\_ Revised \_\_\_\_\_

## COMMUNITY USE OF SCHOOL DISTRICT BUILDINGS, SITES AND EQUIPMENT

School District facilities, sites and equipment will be made available to local nonprofit entities without charge. "Entities" shall include organizations, groups and individuals and their agents. Such use will be permitted only when the use does not interfere with or disrupt the education program or a school-related activity, the use is consistent with state law, and will end no later than midnight. It is within the discretion of the board to selectively allow for-profit entities to use school district facilities, sites and equipment on a fee basis. The fees established shall be consistent with the fee schedule in policy 705.02 (Usage Fees, Admissions and Royalties). It shall be within the discretion of the superintendent to allow use of school district facilities, sites and equipment on Sundays or holidays.

Those who wish to use school district facilities, sites or equipment must apply at the superintendent's office. It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to determine whether the school district facility or equipment requested is available and whether the application for use meets board policy and administrative regulations. It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to provide application forms, obtain proof of insurance, and draw up the contract (when required) for use of school district facilities, sites and equipment.

A school district employee shall supervise use of school district facilities, sites and equipment by entities unless special prior arrangements are made with the superintendent. The school district employee shall not accept a fee from the entity using school district facilities and equipment. If appropriate, the school district employee will be paid by the school district.

Entities that use school district buildings or sites must leave the building or site in the same condition it was in prior to its use. Entities that use school district equipment must return the equipment in the same working condition it was in prior to its use. Inappropriate use of school district facilities, sites or equipment may result in additional fees charged to, or the inability of, the entity to use school district facilities, sites or equipment in the future.

Legal Reference: Good News Club v. Milford

Cross Reference: 705.02 Usage Fees, Admissions and Royalties  
904.02 Lease, Sale or Disposal of School District Buildings  
and Sites  
1001 Principles and Objectives for Community Relations

Approved 2/16/2004 Reviewed 9/15/2014, 6/21/2021  
Revised 10/20/2014, 7/19/2021

## TOBACCO-FREE ENVIRONMENT

It is the policy of the Gering Public Schools' Board of Education that out of concern for the health and well-being of all students, staff, and patrons, and the belief that all tobacco products are harmful, a totally tobacco-free environment is instituted for the School District of Gering

School district facilities, including school vehicles, shall be off limits for smoking or other uses of tobacco products. For purposes of this policy, it includes all products such as cigars, cigarettes, chewing tobacco, nicotine products, vapor products (including e-cigarettes), and any products intended by appearance or effect to replicate tobacco products. This requirement extends to employees and visitors. This policy applies at all times, including school-sponsored and nonschool-sponsored events. Persons failing to abide by this request shall be required to extinguish their smoking material and may be required to leave the school district premises immediately. It shall be the responsibility of the administration to enforce this policy.

This policy will apply to all school activities and at all events where school facilities are made available to the public through lease agreements or other arrangements.

Notice of these policy requirements will be published and posted accordingly.

Legal Reference: Goals 2000: Educate America Act, Pub. L. No. 103-227, 108 Stat. 125 (1994).

Approved 2/16/2004 Reviewed 6/23/2014, 6/21/2021 Revised \_\_\_\_\_

## EDUCATION AGENCY RELATIONS

The Board desires that staff and students of this district benefit in every possible way from resources provided by the colleges and universities of our area. The superintendent is to keep the board informed of opportunities for shared and cooperative services between the district and institutions of higher learning. Additionally, staff members are encouraged to seek out and use the services of college and university faculty members who are willing to serve our schools as instructional resource persons.

## VISITORS TO SCHOOL

The Board encourages parents and other district citizens to visit the school and classrooms at any time to observe the work of students, teachers and other employees. All visitors, which includes persons other than employees or students, must notify the principal of their presence in the facility upon arrival and request authorization to visit elsewhere in the building.

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In the event a person prohibited by this or other board policies is on district property or is attending a district-sponsored event, the superintendent or building principal will tell the person he or she must leave and will notify the person they are not permitted back on district property, except if their presence is required by the district. The superintendent or building principal may contact the proper legal authorities if necessary to enforce this policy and may file a report or sign a complaint on behalf of the district.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 79-8,100

Cross Reference: 1004 Press, Radio and Television News Media

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Reviewed \_\_\_\_\_ Revised \_\_\_\_\_

THE MONTH ENDING JUNE 30, 2021  
TRIAL BALANCE SUMMARY - YEAR-TO-DATE

		target \$650K	target \$750						
	GENERAL	BUILDING	DEPREC'N	FEE	QUALIFIED CAPITAL	EMPL BEN	ACTIVITY	CAFETERIA	BOND
9/1/2020	\$2,625,075.91	\$751,534.93	\$435,895.17	\$14,451.64	\$0.00	\$11,376.57	\$68,079.34	\$186,076.85	\$1,210,122.89
CD Deposit									
+									
YTD RECPTS	\$19,952,225.29	\$110,153.20	\$2,137.58	\$9,024.65	\$0.00	\$3.52	\$279,714.65	\$880,822.73	\$1,920,753.11
+									
RECPT ADJ	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
=									
AVAILABLE FUNDS	\$22,577,301.20	\$861,688.13	\$438,032.75	\$23,476.29	\$0.00	\$11,380.09	\$347,793.99	\$1,066,899.58	\$3,130,876.00
-									
YTD EXPENSE	\$18,664,912.49	\$175,459.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,047.76	\$300,477.11	\$806,238.99	\$1,720,852.47
-									
EXPENSE ADJ	\$0.00	\$600,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,800.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
=									
RECEIPT-EXP BALANCES	\$3,912,388.71	\$86,229.13	\$438,032.75	\$21,676.29	\$0.00	\$9,332.33	\$47,316.88	\$260,660.59	\$1,410,023.53

IMPREST	\$0.00								
PAYROLL	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00				
CASH AT COUNTY	\$2,330,919.02								
+									
REGULAR CHECKING	\$71,432.45		\$41,020.34	\$23,475.83			\$47,316.88	\$260,660.59	\$1,106,377.13
+									
MMA ACCOUNT	\$2,257,955.07	\$86,283.24	\$397,032.36		\$0.00	\$9,332.31	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$300,057.36
+									
IMPREST SUSPENSE	\$0.00								
+									
DUE TO BUILDING									
DUE FROM BOND	(\$600,000.00)	\$0.00							
CD'S							\$0.00		
+ or -									
A/R or (A/P)	(\$147,917.20)								
=									
FUND BALANCES	\$3,912,389.34	\$86,283.24	\$438,052.70	\$23,475.83	\$0.00	\$9,332.31	\$47,316.88	\$260,660.59	\$1,406,434.49

THE MONTH EDN JUNE 30, 2021

TRIAL BALANCE SUMMARY

	target \$650K		target \$750k						
	GENERAL	BUILDING	DEPREC'N	FEE	QUALIFIED CAPITAL	EMPL BEN	ACTIVITY	CAFETERIA	BOND
06/01/2021 Balance	\$3,890,932.39	\$86,246.46	\$438,050.90	\$23,060.11	\$0.00	\$9,332.16	\$52,482.99	\$192,643.11	\$1,283,419.26
CD Deposit									
+									
MTD Receipts	\$1,781,490.39	\$16.78	\$1.85	\$415.72	\$0.00	\$0.15	\$13,347.49	\$68,017.48	\$126,606.27
+									
RECPT ADJ	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
=									
AVAILABLE FUNDS	\$5,672,422.78	\$86,263.24	\$438,052.75	\$23,475.83	\$0.00	\$9,332.31	\$65,830.48	\$260,660.59	\$1,410,025.53
-									
MTD EXPENSE	\$1,760,034.07	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$18,513.60	\$0.00	\$0.00
-									
EXPENSE ADJ	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
=					\$0.00				
RECEIPT-EXP BALANCES	\$3,912,388.71	\$86,263.24	\$438,052.75	\$23,475.83	\$0.00	\$9,332.31	\$47,316.88	\$260,660.59	\$1,410,025.53

IMPREST	\$0.00								
PAYROLL	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00				
CASH AT COUNTY	\$2,330,919.02								
+									
REGULAR CHECKING	\$71,432.45		\$41,020.34	\$23,475.83			\$47,316.88	\$260,660.59	\$1,106,377.13
+									
MMA	\$2,257,955.07	\$86,283.24	\$397,032.36		\$0.00	\$9,332.31	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$300,057.36
+									
IMPREST SUSPENSE	\$0.00								
+									
DUE TO BUILDING DUE FROM BOND	(\$600,000.00)	\$0.00							
CD'S + or -							\$0.00		
A/R or (A/P)	(\$147,917.20)								
=									
FUND BALANCES	\$3,912,389.34	\$86,283.24	\$438,052.70	\$23,475.83	\$0.00	\$9,332.31	\$47,316.88	\$260,660.59	\$1,406,434.49

<b>Gering Public Schools Building Fund 6/30/2021</b>			
Cash Balance	6/30/2021	\$	86,217.29
Projected Revenue	06/30/21-08/31/21		
Taxes		\$	-
Transfer from General		\$	600,000.00
Interest		\$	300.00
<b>Total</b>		\$	<b>600,300.00</b>
Projected Expenses		\$	-
Admin Building		\$	-
High School Project		\$	-
<b>Total</b>		\$	<b>-</b>
Cash Balance			<u>\$686,517.29</u>

<b>Gering Public Schools Depreciation Fund 6/30/2021</b>			
Cash Balance	6/30/2021		<u>\$435,859.72</u>
Projected Revenue	06/30/21-08/31/21		
Interest		\$	500.00
<b>Total</b>		\$	<b>-</b>
		\$	<b>500.00</b>
Projected Expenses		\$	-
		\$	-
<b>Total</b>		\$	<b>-</b>
Cash Balance			<u>\$436,359.72</u>

**SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS HELD**

**AS OF June 30, 2021**

<b>Depository</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Fund</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Date of Issue</b>	<b>Date of Maturity</b>
Valley Bank	1097688	Depreciation	\$340,065.88	1.25%	11-26-08	11-26-21
Valley Bank	1097480	Depreciation	\$55,959.22	.6485	03-18-08	03-18-22
Valley Bank	1097261	Activity- Whitney Parr	\$30,257.94	1.30%	08-16-07	08-16-21
US Bank	35050016148 3	Activity-Twyla Fulk	\$5,571.32	.45%		02-06-22



## LEADERSHIP ENCOMPASS 360 AGREEMENT

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This Leadership Encompass 360 Agreement (the "Agreement") is made this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ (the "Effective Date"), by and between Nebraska Association of School Boards, Inc. ("NASB"), a Nebraska non-profit corporation, and \_\_\_\_\_ ("Client"), a Nebraska political subdivision.

### RECITALS

A. NASB developed and owns a proprietary process by which a school board evaluates the performance of the superintendent (the "Proprietary Process"), and NASB provides certain services to the school board in connection with the Proprietary Process as described in Exhibit A (the "Services"). The Proprietary Process and the Services are collectively referred to in this Agreement as "Leadership Encompass 360".

B. Client is a school district whose school board (the "Board") is required to annually perform a comprehensive evaluation of the superintendent based on the job description, contract, and identified performance standards (the "Evaluation").

C. Client desires to use Leadership Encompass 360 to conduct the Evaluation in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises, covenants, and conditions contained in this Agreement, the parties agree as follows:

1. Recitals. The Recitals set forth above are incorporated herein by this reference and have full force and effect as if fully set forth within this Agreement.

2. License. Subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement, NASB grants to Client a limited, non-exclusive, non-transferable, non-sublicenseable license to use the Proprietary Process to conduct the Evaluation during the term of this Agreement.

3. Services. Subject to the terms and conditions of this Agreement, NASB shall provide the Services to Client during the term of this Agreement. The Services shall be limited to those described in Exhibit A, which may be amended by from time to time as provided herein. NASB shall provide the Services hereunder at such times and places as shall be mutually agreed upon by Client and NASB.

4. Service Fee; Payment Terms. Client shall pay NASB a service fee (the "Service Fee") in the amount set forth on Exhibit B. Client shall also reimburse reasonable travel and other expenses incurred by NASB in connection with performance of the Services. NASB shall provide an invoice to Client for the Service Fee and expenses incurred under this Agreement. Client shall pay NASB, in cash or other immediately available funds, all invoiced amounts within thirty (30) days of the invoice date. All fees are exclusive of any applicable taxes. Client shall be responsible for payment of such taxes of any kind.

5. Term. This Agreement shall be for a term of two (2) years commencing on the Effective Date, unless terminated earlier pursuant hereto.

6. Termination. NASB may terminate this Agreement if Client is in default of any of the terms and conditions of this Agreement and fails to correct such default within ten (10) days after written notice from NASB. Upon termination or expiration of this Agreement, Client shall immediately cease all use of the Proprietary Process.

7. Intellectual Property. Client acknowledges and agrees that: (i) all right, title, and interest in and to the Proprietary Process, together with all customizations, modifications, improvements, additions, updates, derivative works, and any other changes thereto, and any documentation or other materials provided by NASB to Client, is, and at all times shall remain, the exclusive property of NASB; and (ii) the Proprietary Process is protected by trade secret and other laws relating to intellectual property. Client shall not, directly or indirectly, or permit others to: (i) assert ownership rights in the Proprietary Process; (ii) challenge the proprietary and confidential nature of the Proprietary Process or the validity of NASB's ownership of the Proprietary Process; (iii) copy, modify, or create derivative works from or related to the Proprietary Process; (iv) distribute or furnish to others any materials provided by NASB to Client; or (v) remove any copyright or other notice contain or included in any materials provided by NASB to Client.

8. Use of Trademarks. Client shall not use the trademarks or service marks of NASB, or any adaptation thereof, in any promotional, advertising, or marketing materials, or in any other way, without the prior written consent of NASB.

9. Confidential Information.

a. Definition. For the purposes of this Agreement "Confidential Information" shall mean all nonpublic information relating to or in any way connected with the business, financial affairs, financial condition, operations, results of operations and/or intellectual property of the disclosing party, including, without limitation, and all nonpublic information relating to any one or more of the following: this Agreement, the Proprietary Process, the Services, the Evaluation, the Stakeholder Data, policies, practices, means, methods, processes, routines, research, know-how, trade secrets, all other data, and documents or other materials.

b. Exclusions. Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, Confidential Information does not include information that the receiving party can prove through written or electronic records or other physical evidence: (i) to have been generally known to the public at the time of disclosure; (ii) to have subsequently become generally known to the public through no fault of the receiving party or any third party having an obligation of confidentiality to the disclosing party; (iii) to have been already in the possession of the receiving party at the time of the disclosure and was not obtained from a third party having an obligation of confidentiality to the disclosing party; (iv) to have been later obtained by the receiving party from a third party who/which is not under any obligation of confidentiality to the disclosing party; or (v) to have been independently developed by the employees or agents of the receiving party who had no access to the Confidential Information of the disclosing party.

c. Ownership, Use and Disclosure of Confidential Information. The receiving party agrees that all Confidential Information shall be and at all times remain the sole and exclusive property of the disclosing party and that, except as permitted in paragraph d. below or any other way by this Agreement, neither the receiving party nor any of its officers, directors, members, managers, trustees, shareholders, partners, employees, agents, or representatives shall, directly or indirectly: (i) disclose or authorize, aid, assist or encourage any third party to disclose all or any part of such Confidential Information to any person, firm or entity other than the receiving party; or (ii) use or authorize, aid or encourage any third party to use all or any part of such Confidential Information for any purpose.

d. Permitted Disclosures. Notwithstanding the restrictions set forth in paragraph c. above, the receiving party may use or disclose the Confidential Information for the following purposes: (i) the receiving party may disclose the Confidential Information to its officers, directors, employees, agents and representatives, including, without limitation its lawyers and accountants and bankers on a "need to know" basis, to the extent such use or disclosure is required for the limited purposes of this Agreement; (ii) the receiving party may use or disclose the Confidential Information to the extent such use or disclosure is necessary to prosecute or defend any claim, demand, suit or other proceeding brought to enforce the terms of this Agreement; (iii) the receiving party may use or disclose the Confidential Information to the extent such use or disclosure is authorized in advance and in writing by the disclosing party, which authorization may be granted, conditioned or withheld by the disclosing party in its sole discretion; and (iv) the receiving party may use or disclose such Confidential Information to the extent such use or disclosure is required by the law or as a result of an order of a court or other government agency with legal authority to obtain such information, provided that the receiving party shall immediately notify the disclosing party of any such event and if requested, cooperate with the disclosing party to seek any protective order or take any other lawful action the disclosing party may desire to take in its reasonable discretion in order to protect the confidentiality of such Confidential Information.

e. Protection of Confidential Information. Except as is otherwise provided in this Section, the receiving party agrees that it will take all reasonable measures to protect the confidentiality of, and avoid disclosure or use of, the Confidential Information so as to prevent it from entering the public domain or falling into the possession of persons other than those authorized by this Agreement to have access to it.

10. Data. As part of the Services, NASB will generate, collect and maintain data from internal and external stakeholders with respect to the Evaluation (the "Stakeholder Data"). The Stakeholder Data shall be and at all times remain the sole and exclusive property of NASB. The Stakeholder Data is deemed the Confidential Information of NASB under this Agreement.

11. Limited Warranties. NASB warrants that the Services provided hereunder will be performed in a professional manner consistent with the quality of NASB's performance of services for similarly situated customers and in accordance with generally accepted industry standards. NASB makes no guarantees or assurances that the Proprietary Process or the Services will achieve Client's specific goals or provide additional functionality to Client. NASB EXPRESSLY DISCLAIMS ALL OTHER WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, ANY WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE OR NON-INFRINGEMENT, TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW.

12. Limitation of Liability. TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW, IN NO EVENT SHALL NASB BE LIABLE FOR ANY SPECIAL, CONSEQUENTIAL, INCIDENTAL, INDIRECT, PUNITIVE OR EXEMPLARY DAMAGES, HOWEVER CAUSED, WHETHER FOR BREACH OF WARRANTY, CONTRACT, TORT, NEGLIGENCE, STRICT LIABILITY, LOSS OF DATA, LOSS OF USE, OR OTHERWISE, EVEN IF NASB HAS BEEN ADVISED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH DAMAGES. NASB'S AGGREGATE LIABILITY TO CLIENT FOR ALL CLAIMS RELATED TO THIS AGREEMENT SHALL NOT EXCEED THE AMOUNTS ACTUALLY PAID TO NASB BY CLIENT UNDER THIS AGREEMENT.

13. Indemnification. Client shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless NASB from and against any and all claims, liabilities, costs, damages, losses, expenses or obligations of any kind or nature (including without limitation reasonable attorneys' fees and other costs and expenses of litigation) from: (i) third party claims arising out of or in connection with Client's use of Leadership Encompass 360; and/or (ii) a breach of this Agreement by Client, its employees, agents or contractors.

14. Governing Law. This Agreement shall be governed and interpreted by the laws of the State of Nebraska. Any action under or concerning this Agreement shall be brought exclusively in the District Court of Lancaster County, Nebraska. Both parties hereby consent to such personal and exclusive jurisdiction.

15. Severability. In the event any provision of this Agreement is determined to be illegal, void, or unenforceable, the remainder of this Agreement shall remain in full force and effect.

16. No Partnership or Agency. No agency, partnership, joint venture, or employment relationship is created by this Agreement and neither party shall have the authority to act in the name or on behalf of or otherwise bind the other in any way.

17. Force Majeure. NASB will not be held responsible for any delay or failure in performance of any part of this Agreement to the extent that such delay is caused by events or circumstances beyond NASB's reasonable control, including but not limited to fire, flood, storm, act of God, war, malicious damage, failure of a utility service or transport or telecommunications network.

18. Waiver. No delay or omission by a party in exercising any right under this Agreement shall operate as a waiver of that or any other right. A waiver or consent given by a party on any one occasion shall be effective only in that instance and shall not be construed as a bar or waiver of any right on any other occasion.

19. Entire Agreement; Amendments. This Agreement sets forth the entire understandings between the parties with respect to the subject matter hereof, and merges and supersedes all prior or contemporaneous understandings or agreements whether written or oral. No amendment or modification of this Agreement will be binding unless reduced to a writing signed by duly authorized representatives of the parties and such writing makes specific reference to this Agreement and its intention as an amendment hereto.

20. Survival. Any provision of this Agreement, which imposes an obligation after termination or expiration of this Agreement shall survive the termination or expiration of this Agreement.

21. Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed to be an original and all of which together shall constitute one and the same document. A signed copy of this Agreement delivered by email or facsimile is deemed to have the same legal effect as delivery of an original signed copy of this Agreement.

The above provisions are agreed to effective as of the date written above.

**"Client"**

**"NASB"**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Exhibit A**  
**Description of Services**

Year 1\*

Phase I: Preparation for Evaluation

- Present to the Board, the Leadership Encompass 360 Superintendent evaluation tool;
- Define and adopt a timeline to support the client's superintendent evaluation;
- Support Client's requirements to file evaluation with the Nebraska Department of Education;
- Request email addresses from the district for each Stakeholder group.

Phase II: Conducting the Evaluation\*

- Create client's Leadership Encompass 360 evaluation and leadership self-assessment within the online tool, to be distributed to Stakeholder groups;
- Distribute the online self-assessment tool to the superintendent;
- Provide self-assessment results to board;
- Distribute online evaluation tool to Stakeholder groups via email;
- Provide completion reminders to Stakeholders prior to deadline;

Phase III: Reporting the Evaluation\*

- Review results of evaluation and create an executive summary, to be forwarded to the client's board president;
- Design and distribute the Leadership Encompass 360 Evaluation report;
- Schedule a meeting to create superintendent goals and identify profile criteria to validate goal/performance indicator progress\*;
- Develop goals and forward to client's board president for the board's consideration.

*\*First-year superintendents are required to be evaluated twice the first year of employment. Thus, NASB will provide one evaluation with all stakeholders and a second including only the board and superintendent. The Client may determine the order of the two evaluations, but only one goal-planning session will be conducted.*

Year 2

Phase I: Preparation for Evaluation

- Define and adopt a timeline to support the client's superintendent evaluation;
- Option: If superintendent goals are included in Client's evaluation tool, support Client's requirements to file evaluation with the Nebraska Department of Education;

Phase II: Conducting the Evaluation

- Prepare client's Leadership Encompass 360 evaluation and leadership self-assessment within the online tool, to be distributed to the board;
- Distribute online self-assessment tool to the superintendent;
- Provide self-assessment results to board;
- Distribute online evaluation tool to all board members via email;
- Provide completion reminders prior to deadline;

Phase III: Reporting the Evaluation

- Review results of evaluation and create an executive summary, to be forwarded to the client's board president;
- Design and distribute the Leadership Encompass 360 Evaluation report;
- Schedule a meeting to create superintendent goals and identify profile criteria to validate goal/performance indicator progress;
- Develop goals and forward to client's board president for the board's consideration.

## Exhibit B

### Service Fee

**\*NOTE: The fees below have been modified to accommodate the board/superintendent *only* for the Year 1 evaluation (conducted once in Fall and once in Spring) and then involving all stakeholders in the Year 2 evaluation.**

#### First-Year Superintendent

Enrollment	Year 1 (Conducted Twice)	Year 2
0 to 1,000	\$1,200	\$400
1,000 to 3,000	\$1,500-\$1,000 Board/Supt Only in Fall and Spring*	\$500-\$1,000 All Stakeholders*
3,000 to 5,000	\$2,250	\$750
5,000+	TBD	TBD

#### Second-Year+ Superintendent

Enrollment	Year 1	Year 2
0 to 1,000	\$800	\$400
1,000 to 3,000	\$1,000	\$500
3,000 to 5,000	\$1,500	\$750
5,000+	TBD	TBD

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

**Introduction**

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**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

<b>AUGUST</b> 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
<b>SEPTEMBER</b> 6 No School: Labor Day 24 No School: Students Teacher In-service/Work Day
<b>OCTOBER</b> 14 End of 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter 15 No School: Students Teacher Work Day 18-21 PT Conferences 22 No School: Students/Staff
<b>NOVEMBER</b> 24-26 No School: Students/Staff
<b>DECEMBER</b> 21 K-12 Students & Staff – 11:30 a.m. Dismissal End of 1 <sup>st</sup> Semester 22-31 No School: Students/Staff
<b>JANUARY</b> 3 No School: Students Teacher Work Day 4 School Resumes 28 No School: Students Teacher In-Service
<b>FEBRUARY</b> 18 No School: Students/Staff 21-22 No School: Students Teacher In-Service/Work Days
<b>MARCH</b> 10 End of 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter 11 No School: Students Teacher Work Day 15-17 PT Conferences 16-17 No School: Students Teacher Work Day 18 No School: Staff
<b>APRIL</b> 15-18 No School: Students/Staff 19 No Students: Teacher Work Day
<b>MAY</b> 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](mailto: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](mailto:nregan@geringschools.net)
- Phone: 9308) 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**

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### ***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

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### ***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><b>3 - Meets Standards/on Grade Level:</b> 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><b>2 - Partially Meets Standards/Reaching Grade Level:</b> 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><b>1 - Below Standards/Not at Grade Level:</b> 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**

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***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<sup>®</sup> 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.

<b>General Control Measures in Schools</b>	
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"> <li>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.</li> <li>2. Nits are cemented to hair shafts and are very unlikely to be transferred successfully to other people.</li> <li>3. The burden of unnecessary absenteeism to the students, families and communities far outweighs the risks associated with head lice.</li> <li>4. Misdiagnosis of nits is very common during nit checks conducted by nonmedical personnel.</li> <li>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.</li> </ol>
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 know 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	
<b>Lice:</b> more than one louse.	<b>Nit:</b> Eggs, dead or alive, of a louse
<b>Louse:</b> small insect that lives on the scalp	<b>Parasite:</b> Lives off another, in this case the blood of humans
<b>Pediculosis:</b> Having an infestation of lice	<b>Infestation:</b> 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**

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### ***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

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### ***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 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.

“**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

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### ***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](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](mailto: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 applicatns 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 used 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.

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.

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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!!!**

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**Gering Public Schools**  
**PARENT-STUDENT PERMISSION INFORMATION RECORD SHEET**

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**\*\*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.

# **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 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 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](http://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

## **Table of Contents**

\*\*Handbook is organized mostly by alphabetical order

Bell Schedule	Page 5
Complaint Procedures	Page 6
Anti-discrimination/Harrassment Policy	Page 8
FERPA Rights	Page 9
Homeless Student Policy	Page 11
Breakfast/Lunch Programs	Page 14
STUDENTS Rules and Regulations	Page 14
Computer/Chromebook Use	Page 15
Due Process	Page 17
Suspension Definitions	Page 20
Reporting Student Law Violations	Page 21
Attendance	Page 22
Academic Integrity	Page 24
Arrival at School/Dismissal	Page 26
Asbestos Management Plan	Page 27
Cafeteria and Student Fines	Page 28
Dances	Page 30
Electronic Devices	Page 31
Emergency Procedures	Page 31
Grading System	Page 31
Guidance/Counseling Services	Page 31
Health Services/Information	Page 32
Concussion Information	Page 37
Honor Roll	Page 42
Medication Policy	Page 33
Pre-Arranged Absence	Page 44
Pro-Motion/Retention	Page 44
Searches	Page 46
Special Education Services	Page 47
Student Records	Page 49
Transcripts	Page 50
Transportation	Page 50
Video Surveillance	Page 51
Extra-Curricular Activities	Page 52
Student Control and Discipline Policy	Page 53
Progressive Discipline Levels	Page 64

### **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.

<b>Law, Policy or Program</b>	<b>Issue or Concern</b>	<b>Superintendent</b>
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
<b>Law, Policy or Program</b>	<b>Issue or Concern</b>	<b>Superintendent</b>
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 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Gering, NE 69341
- Email: [nregan@geringschools.net](mailto: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 21<sup>st</sup> 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](http://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 (5<sup>th</sup>) 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 19<sup>th</sup>** 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

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.

<b>General Control Measures in Schools</b>	
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"> <li>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.</li> <li>2. Nits are cemented to hair shafts and are very unlikely to be transferred successfully to other people.</li> <li>3. The burden of unnecessary absenteeism to the students, families and communities far outweighs the risks associated with head lice.</li> <li>4. Misdiagnosis of nits is very common during nit checks conducted by nonmedical personnel.</li> <li>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.</li> </ol>
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	
<b>Lice:</b> more than one louse.	<b>Nit:</b> Eggs, dead or alive, of a louse
<b>Louse:</b> Small insect that lives on the scalp.	<b>Parasite:</b> Lives off another, in this case the blood of humans
<b>Pediculosis:</b> Having an infestation of lice	<b>Infestation:</b> 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 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> 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**

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

# Personal or consumable **STUDENT-PARENT HANDBOOK**

Gering High School  
1500 U Street  
Gering, Nebraska 69341  
308-436-3121

Gering Public Schools Parent-Student Handbook  
2020-2021 School Year

## Foreword

### Section 1 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 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 it.

Although the information found in this handbook is detailed and specific on many topics, the handbook is not intended to be all encompassing so as to cover every situation and circumstance that may arise 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 school’s educational program and to assure the well-being of all students and the educational program. 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.

### Section 2 Members of the Board of Education

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

### Section 3 Administrative Staff

Name	Position	Contact Information
Bob Hastings	Superintendent	308-436-3125
Rocky Schneider	Principal	308-436-3121
Mario Chavez	Assistant Principal	308-436-3121

Crystal Palsler	Dean of Students	308-436-3121
Glen Koski	Activities Director	308-436-3121

# School Calendar 2020-2021



Learnners Today  
LEADERS TOMORROW

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
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				
SEPTEMBER				
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		
OCTOBER				
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30
NOVEMBER				
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				
DECEMBER				
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	

<b>AUGUST</b>
6-7 New Staff Orientation
10-13 Teacher In-Service
14 First Day of School
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>
7 No School: Labor Day
<b>OCTOBER</b>
15 End of 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter
16 No School: Students
Teacher Work Day
19-22 Parent-Teacher Conferences
23 No School: Students/Staff
<b>NOVEMBER</b>
25-27 No School: Students/Staff
<b>DECEMBER</b>
18 K-12 Students & Staff –
11:30 a.m. Dismissal
End of 1 <sup>st</sup> Semester
21-31 No School: Students/Staff
<b>JANUARY</b>
1 No School: Students/Staff
4 No School: Students
Teacher Work Day
5 School Resumes
<b>FEBRUARY</b>
12 No School: Students/Staff
15 No School: Students
Teacher In-Service
<b>MARCH</b>
11 End of 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter
12 No School: Students
Teacher Work Day
15-18 Parent-Teacher Conferences
19 No School: Students/Staff
<b>APRIL</b>
2-5 No School: Students/Staff
<b>MAY</b>
16 GHS Graduation
19 Last Day of School
11:30 a.m. Dismissal
Teacher Work Day

JANUARY				
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
FEBRUARY				
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
MARCH				
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	31		
APRIL				
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30
MAY				
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				

# **Article 1 – Direction/Vision/Goals**

## **Section 1 School Direction/Vision Statement**

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

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.

## **Section 2 Goals and Objectives**

The goals and objectives of the Gering Public Schools and are to provide:

1. A curriculum that is based on state standards, comprehensive, coordinated, and sequential and is directed toward locally approved goals and standards for student learning. It draws upon research, best practice, and reputable theory and provides the foundation for standards based instruction. The instructional program focuses on achievement and provides for the diverse learning needs of all students including learners with disabilities and high ability learners. Curriculum and instruction help students develop content and skill mastery, analytical thinking, problem solving, work ethics, creativity, and respect for diversity. It draws upon research, best practice, and reputable theory broad enough yet with sufficient depth to allow education for all of the students.
2. Assessment procedures and results that assist teachers in planning and providing appropriate instruction for all students. Assessment results also provide information for monitoring program success, and for reporting to parents, policy makers, and the community. The school periodically reviews procedures to improve assessment quality and increase student learning. The information assists schools in establishing and achieving improvement goals.
3. A library/media/technology program that provides a wide range of accessible print and electronic resources that expand opportunity for learning, contribute to information literacy, support the local curriculum, and enhance and enrich learning experiences for all students. The program provides materials through onsite and electronic access that complement, supplement, and enrich curriculum and instruction. It facilitates research, supports and encourages personal interest reading and the study of current events, and develops technological and other skills for accessing, evaluating, and using resources.
4. Instructional staff who have appropriate training and preparation to work with the students assigned to them, who are knowledgeable of principles of child growth and development and of the curriculum content for which they are responsible, who use teaching strategies that engage students actively in learning, and who help students understand and apply content across subject areas. Staff development activities that support the school's efforts in curriculum development, instructional improvement, assessment, and general school improvement to achieve school improvement goals.
5. Administration that exercises leadership in the development and implementation of school goals and policies. Administrators who demonstrate leadership in management and operation of the school system and in the improvement of curriculum and instruction. Building administrators who provide leadership to curriculum, instruction, assessment, and school improvement. They guide staff and students in achieving goals and fulfill other functions supportive of quality learning.
6. A systematic ongoing process that guides planning, implementation, and evaluation and renewal of school improvement activities to meet local and statewide goals and priorities. The school improvement process focuses on improving student learning. The process includes a periodic review by visiting educators who provide consultation to the school/community in continued accomplishment of plans and goals.
7. A school system that demonstrates accountability to the school community. School staff periodically assesses and reports student progress toward accomplishment of academic

- content standards. Results are used to plan and make needed changes to improve instruction for all students.
8. School facilities and a general environment that supports quality learning. Facilities and grounds are safe, orderly, and well maintained, and facilities that have adequate space, lighting, and furnishings. The system has plans or provisions for climate-controlled buildings to the extent feasible. The environment is emotionally safe and supportive and promotes respect, trust, and integrity.
  9. A Board of Education that governs through orderly procedures which focus efforts of the school upon quality learning, result in equitable opportunities for learning for all students, and insure accountability to the local community.
  10. An activities program that is scheduled outside the regular school day, focuses on active participation of all students involved in the activity, and promotes a positive image of the school and community.
  11. A welcoming environment for parents and the community.

**Section 3                      Surveys**

School personnel rarely administer surveys of students. 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 for the survey results. School officials shall honor any parental/legal guardian's request to have his/her student exempt from participation in the survey.

**Section 4                      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 students will not be tolerated.

**Section 5                      Complaint Procedures**

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 or 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. Written appeal should be made within five (5) days of the Superintendent's decision.

**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.

**Article 2 - School Day**

**Section 1                      Daily Bell Schedule**

**Daily Schedule (M, T, Th, F)**

**Wednesday Schedule**

<b>Block 1</b>	8:00-9:30		<b>Block 1</b>	8:00-9:20
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<b>Block 2</b>	9:35-11:05	<b>Block 2</b>	9:25-10:45
<b>Bulldog Time</b>	11:10-11:35	<b>Bulldog Time</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Lunch</b>	11:35-12:20	<b>Lunch</b>	10:45-11:30
<b>Block 3</b>	12:20-1:50	<b>Block 3</b>	11:30-12:50
<b>Block 4</b>	1:55-3:25	<b>Block 4</b>	12:55-2:15

## Section 2 Severe Weather and School Cancellations

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

- **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. 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 Emergency Exit system, Tornado Warning System, and Critical Incident Response.

## Section 3 Open-Closed Campus

All freshmen and sophomore students are required to remain on campus during the school day. Students leaving the building must first check out at the office. Upon return to school during the day, students are to sign in at the office. Refer to Article 2 Section 6 of the Handbook to sign a Freshman or Sophomore student out for lunch.

## Section 4 Identification Cards

Identification cards will be issued at the beginning of each school year. All students will be required to carry identification cards on their person during the school day and at all school activities. Students

must be able to produce them upon the request of a school official. A five dollar (\$5.00) fee will be charged for A replacement card..

### Section 5 Arrival to School/Dismissal From School

Students are expected to arrive at school no more than 15 to 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 dismissed at the end of the last period of the school day unless there are other circumstances (early dismissal, activities, 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.

### Section 6 Signing a Child In and Out of School

Parents or guardians are required to call in for their children 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 who leave before the end of the day must be signed out by a parent or guardian or an escort designated by the parent or guardian.

### Section 7 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, the parents have 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.

## **Article 3 - Use of Building and Grounds**

### Section 1 Visitors

All visitors must report to the office, upon entering the main entrance, to sign in and receive a visitor's pass. Visits by parents to classrooms are encouraged, provided that the visits do not disrupt the educational program or create a safety concern.

### Section 2 Smoke/Vape-Free Environment

Smoking, vaping, and tobacco use are prohibited in our school buildings and on school grounds. When you attend school events, including athletic events, please abide by our District's policy.

### Section 3 Care of School Property

Students are responsible for the proper care of all books, equipment, supplies and furniture supplied by the school. Students are responsible for cleaning up any messes made from their food and drink. 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.

**Section 4 Lockers**

Students will be assigned a locker. Students must use their own lockers and are not to share lockers with other students except as assigned by school officials. Students are also responsible for the cleanliness inside their locker and the door of their locker. Students may be assessed a fine for damage to lockers.

**Section 5 Searches of Lockers and Other Types of 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.

**Section 6 Video Surveillance**

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

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

**Section 7 Use of Telephone**

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 you receive a phone call, a message will be taken and delivered to you at the earliest possible convenience. If you are asked to call back, you will have to do so before classes, at noon, or after school.

### **Section 8                   Bicycles**

Bicycles must be parked in the racks provided. All bicycles should be equipped with locks and licenses. The school is not responsible for damage or theft of parts while bicycles are on school property.

### **Section 9                   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 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.

### **Section 10                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 articles are lost at school, report that loss to office personnel.

### **Section 11                Accidents**

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.

### **Section 12                Laboratory 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. All visitors to these areas must check out a pair of safety glasses when entering any of these areas.

### **Section 13                Insurance**

Under Nebraska law the District may not use school funds to provide general student accident or athletic insurance. The District requires that all student participants in athletic programs have injury and accident insurance and encourages all students who are in classes with risk of personal injury or accident to have insurance coverage. The District does not make recommendations nor handle the premiums or claims for any insurance company, agent or carrier. Information about student insurance providers will be available in the school office or on school bulletin boards.

### **Section 14                Bulletins and Announcements**

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

### **Section 15                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.

## Section 16 Media Center

The Mission of the Gering High School Media Center is to create a warm, safe and collaborative learning atmosphere that supports the district mission statement and the high school improvement goals. As the largest classroom in the school, we seek to provide equitable access to resources while promoting the integration of information literacy skills. The Media Center strives to foster a lasting appreciation of reading and lifelong desire to learn.

### Media Circulation Center Policies

The Media Center has been maintained to service staff, students and community members. Our hours of operation are Monday-Thursday from 7:30-4 and Friday from 7:30-3:30 or by appointment. The Media Center is open during lunch periods for students who want to study, use technology or just relax. The Media Center does have a water only policy. No other food or drink is allowed unless provided as a pre-arranged group activity.

### Check Out/Fine Policy

- Books are checked out for a period of 14 school days and renewals are allowed at the discretion of the Media Specialist.
- The maximum number of books to be checked out at one time is three.
- A fine of 5 cents per day per item may be applied for overdue items. The maximum fine will be \$5.00.
- If a book is lost, the student will pay the replacement cost of the book.
- A maximum of 3 holds can be placed on three different books. Ready holds expire in 7 days and pending holds expire in 21 days.
- If a student has overdue or lost items from the Media Center, the student will lose all privileges until the situation has been resolved.
- In the event that the student needs to borrow a chromebook or a chromebook charger from the library, a cell phone is required as collateral.

Other items such as headphones, Kindles, digital cameras, video cameras, markers, scissors, etc. have a loan period of three hours unless otherwise discussed with the Media Specialist.

## **Article 4 – Attendance**

### Section 1 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; 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.

### Section 2 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 make-up work in advance to the appropriate teacher, the student may receive a "0" in that class for the days missed.

### Section 3 Attendance and Absences

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 eighteen 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.

1. Reporting - Normal school hours for students are 8:00 A.M. to 3:25 P.M. PARENTS SHOULD CALL THE SCHOOL OFFICE (436-3121) ON THE DAY OF YOUR STUDENT’S ABSENCE. In the event a call is not possible, a written note will be required. Students are encouraged to conduct personal business errands outside of school hours.
2. Students must be in school for the entire day of a scheduled activity or performance in which the student is to participate. Exceptions to this rule must be granted by either the Principal or Assistant Principal.
3. When nine (9) absences have been recorded for a class or classes during the semester, exclusive of exceptional absences, the student will no longer receive semester credit for the class or classes missed.
  - 3.1 Pre-arranged absences must have schoolwork made-up prior to the absence.
  - 3.2 Makeup work must be accomplished according to procedures outlined in 8.
  - 3.3 School Administrators may require students to spend additional time at school to complete make-up work.
  - 3.4 The provisions of this section only apply through 8 absences.
4. DEFINITIONS:
  - 4.1 Exceptional Absences:
 

School Activities	Bereavement
Hospital Stay and Recovery	504/IEP plans
College Visitations(2)	Suspensions
Serious Illness, Dr. Verified. (Ex. Mononucleosis)	
Court Related(A)	
Spectator Attendance at GHS State Events	
  - 4.2 Excused Absences:
 

Illness	Club sport contests
College Visitations (3 or more)	Dr. Excused Illness
Court Related (B)	Planned Absence
Weather Related	3 Excused Tardies
Church activities	
  - 4.3 Unexcused Absences:
 

Truancy	Unverified Absence
3 Unexcused Tardies	
Planned absences without prior notification & makeup	
  - 4.4 Court Related A: Court related absences other than described in B.
  - 4.5 Court Related B: Court related absences due to a student’s civil or criminal misbehavior.
  - 4.6 Planned Absence: Discretionary absence. Examples include state tournament, college visitation, family trip, wedding, graduation, and club sport contest. All planned absences require prior office notification and schoolwork turned in to the teacher prior to the absence.
  - 4.7 Unverified Absence: Absence that is not excused by parent within 24 hours.
5. DUE PROCESS
  - 5.1 Students who exceed the 8 absence limit may petition the Attendance Committee to request

an extension.

- 5.2 Notification will be sent by mail when the student records his/her fifth (5) absence, in a class or classes.
  - 5.3 Notification will be sent by certified mail when the student records his/her eighth (8) absence, in a class or classes.
  - 5.4 Review procedures and review request forms will be provided with the 8th absence mailing.
  - 5.5 A student will have 5 days, upon receipt of written notification of his/her 8th absence to request a review with the attendance committee. The committee will be made up of the principal and/or the assistant principal and three appointed faculty members.
  - 5.6 Attendance decisions regarding students who are in the resource program, whose educational program is governed by an Individual Educational Plan (I.E.P.) will be made by the student's multidisciplinary team (M.D.T.) and the attendance committee.
  - 5.7 If the student does request a review, he/she will be allowed to remain in class until the review is held. He or she will audit the class without credit.
  - 5.8 At the beginning of the following semester, the student will be allowed to re-enroll in class(es).
  - 5.9 Students who skip school will be classified as truant. Truancy may result in detention(s), or in or out-of-school suspension. All absences except exceptional absences will be counted toward the nine-day limit.
6. TARDIES - Punctuality is a good work habit! Being tardy is defined as arriving to class after the tardy bell has rung. A student detained by a teacher, a counselor, or administrator must bring verification. This verification will excuse the tardy.
    - 6.1 When a student is tardy to class he/she will be required to serve a fifteen (15) minute detention before school, during lunch, or after school that day. All teachers will adhere to this policy with no exceptions made for students who need to go to work, athletics, appointments, etc.
    - 6.2 Tardies will count in the overall attendance policy.
    - 6.3 Every (3) tardies will be counted as a day's absence, which will be included in the eight day attendance limit.
  7. ONE CALENDAR DAY (consecutive - not a blue or a gold day) will be allowed for make-up work for each day of absence.

#### Section 4            Make-up Work

Written makeup work may be assigned for each day missed regardless of the type of absence. If makeup work is not completed, students will receive no credit for the work required. The time each student is allowed will be determined by the teacher.

The student has the responsibility to contact teachers, initially, regarding make-up assignments. Assignment sheets will be sent only for extended absences. Generally, assignment sheets will not be sent out until after three (3) days of absence. If the parents or students have concerns prior to the three (3) days, they are encouraged to contact the teacher.

#### Section 5            Truancy

A student who engages in unexcused absences may be considered truant as per state law. Truancy is a violation of school rules. The consequence of truanancies may include disciplinary action up to expulsion and referral to the county attorney for compulsory attendance violations.

Reporting and Responding to Truant Behavior. Any administrator, teacher, or member of the board of education who knows of any failure on the part of any child age 6 to 18 to attend school regularly without lawful reason, shall within three days report such violation to the Superintendent. The Superintendent shall immediately cause an investigation into any such report to be made. The Superintendent shall also investigate any case when, based on the Superintendent's personal

knowledge or based on a report or complaint from any resident of the district, the Superintendent believes that any child is unlawfully absent from school. The school shall render all services in its power to compel such child to attend some public, private, denominational, or parochial school, which the person having control of the child shall designate, in an attempt to remediate the child's truant behavior.

## Section 6 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 class basis. 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 person designated by the school administration and the parent/guardian and the student to report and attempt to solve the attendance problem. If the parent/guardian refuses to participate in such 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 behavioral 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 problem by the school social worker, or if such school does not have a school social worker, another person designated by the administration to identify conditions which may be contributing to the truancy 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 problem.

**Reporting Habitual Truancy** Students who accumulate twenty (20) unexcused absences or the hourly equivalent per year shall be deemed to be habitually truant. If the student continues to be or becomes habitually truant, the principal shall serve a written notice to the person violating the Nebraska truancy laws (i.e., the person who has legal or active charge or control of the student) warning him or her to comply with the provisions of that law. If within one week after the time the notice is given such person is still violating the school attendance laws or policies, the Principal shall file a report with the county attorney of the county in which such person resides.

## Section 7 Transferring from Gering High School:

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 all individuals have signed it. Failure to check out of school in this manner will cause records to remain incomplete, making it impossible to send credits to another school.

## Section 8 Withdrawal from School:

A person who has legal or actual charge or control of a child who is at least sixteen years of age but less than eighteen years of age may withdraw such child from school before graduation must have an exit interview with the superintendent's designee. Any withdrawal form signed by the person making the written request shall be valid only if the child signs the form unless the withdrawal is being requested due to an illness of the child making attendance impossible. The superintendent's designee signs the form that the interview was held, the required information was provided and discussed at the interview, and, in the opinion of the superintendent's designee the person making the written request does in fact have legal guardianship and the child is experiencing either financial hardship requiring the child to be employed to support the child's family or one or more dependents of the child or an illness making attendance impossible or impracticable. (Nebraska law LB -996)

# Article 5 - Scholastic Achievement

## Section 1 Grading System

Parents may check their child's academic progress, attendance, and behavior reports online using the Infinite Campus Portal on the Gering Public Schools website. [www.geringschools.net](http://www.geringschools.net). 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	

All teachers will define the grading procedures to be used in their classes.

## Section 2 High School Yearly Course Requirements

High school students in all grade levels are required to register in the following courses:

9th Grade	Math, English, Science, Social Studies, Information Technology, Physical Education and 3 electives
10th Grade	English, Science, Math, Physical Education and 4 electives
11th Grade	English, American History, Science, Math and 4 electives
12th Grade	English, American Government/International Relations and 6 electives

## Section 3 Graduation Requirements

All senior students who have met a prescribed curriculum established by the Board of Education are expected to participate in commencement exercises and related events. Students who have not met all graduation requirements will not be allowed to participate in the commencement exercises. Students who have not paid all of their fees and fines and/or made up all of their detentions will have their diploma withheld until the above has been rectified.

To be eligible for graduation from Gering High School, a student must have earned a minimum of 250 semester hours credit in grades 9 through 12 inclusive. A minimum of 40 earned semester hours credits must be earned during the school year in which the student intends to graduate. Credit hours will be computed in accordance with the Nebraska Department of Education.

### Graduation Requirements

Satisfactory completion of the following courses must be presented in the candidate's record:

English	40 semester hours
Social Sciences	30 semester hours
Science	30 semester hours

Math	30 semester hours
P.E. and Health	15 semester hours

Exceptions to these requirements may be made by the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, who will support the recommendation with justifiable reasons. A complete record of the recommendation and of the action taken upon it by the Board shall be included in the minutes. The candidates for graduation shall be presented to the Board of Education for approval.

A student who has not met the requirements for graduation but who has attended school regularly may, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, be granted a Certificate of Attendance.

**Section 4 Schedule Changes**

Students wishing to change their schedules must do so within the first 2 weeks of each semester. All schedule changes require parental permission and approval of a school counselor. Students who drop classes after the two-week limit will receive a withdraw/fail grade in the class and will be transferred to a study hall. Final approval of all schedule changes will be made by the Principal only.

**Section 5 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.

**Section 6 Incompletes**

A grade of “Incomplete” will be given when a student’s work for a nine-week period or semester period is not finished. . 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. 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 (SAT), due to a 504 Plan, or an IEP.

**Section 7 Parent-Teacher Conferences**

Parent-teacher conferences will be held at the end of the 1st and 3rd quarters. There will also be a parent night. Refer to the school calendar for the schedule. Conferences with teachers, at any other time, are possible by calling the school office and making arrangements with the teachers or via email.

**Section 8 Academic Honors for Graduation**

Beginning with the Class of 2021 and all classes thereafter, Gering Public Schools will be utilizing the Latin Honors System which grants students summa cum laude, magna cum laude, and cum laude titles based on their cumulative grade point average at the end of eight semesters of high school. This allows students who earn at or above a clearly defined cumulative GPA to be recognized for their academic achievement. These changes are meant to further encourage students to challenge themselves in high school. Student course selection should have rigor but should also include courses that match with their interests and post-secondary goals. In order to be eligible for graduation honors, a student must complete all Gering High School graduation requirements and must be registered as a full-time Gering High School student during their entire senior year. In order to be recognized, seniors must meet the following criteria:

**Summa Cum Laude with Distinction-** A student in this category must have achieved a cumulative 4.0 grade point average and a 30 or higher on the ACT during his/her high school career.

**Summa Cum Laude-** A student in this category must have achieved a cumulative 4.0 grade point average during his/her high school career.

**Magna Cum Laude-** A student in this category must have achieved a cumulative GPA between 3.75-3.99 grade point average during his/her high school career.

**Cum Laude-** A student in this category must have achieved a cumulative GPA between 3.5-3.74

grade point average during his/her high school career.

## Section 9 Honor Roll

There are three honor roll designations for students attending Gering High School. If a student maintains an A average they qualify for the Superintendent's Honor Roll. If a student's GPA is between 3.5 and 3.9 they qualify for the Principal's Honor Roll. If they maintain a GPA between 3.0 and 3.4 they qualify for Secretary's Honor Roll. To be on the honor roll, juniors and seniors must carry at least 7 subjects, sophomores must carry 8 subjects and freshmen must be enrolled in 8 classes. All grades except Student Help, Study Hall, Library Aide, Upward Bound and Work Study are included in the average.

## Section 10 National Honor Society

To be considered for National Honor Society, a student must meet the following criteria:

- Be a sophomore, a junior, or a senior;
- Have demonstrated excellent scholarship and be enrolled in a full academic schedule where possible (Office Aide, Library Aide, and Study Hall may exclude students from membership.);
- Have a cumulative GPA of 3.8 or have a cumulative GPA of 3.6 with two or more honors/college prep or dual credit courses each semester;
- Meet the credit requirements outlined below.

<b>ENGLISH</b>	English 9 or Honors English 1 English 10/Speech or Honors English 2 Prep English 3 College Composition	<b>40 Credits</b>
<b>MATH</b>	AMPD Algebra or Algebra 1 Geometry in Construction or Geometry Algebra 2 Pre-Calculus/Trig, Calculus College Algebra/Stats  <b>*10 hours of Accounting can be substituted for the Math requirement</b>	<b>30 Credits</b>
<b>SOCIAL STUDIES</b>	Social Science 1 US History or Honors US History American Government/International Relations	<b>30 Credits</b>
<b>SCIENCE</b>	Physical Science Biology Chemistry 1 or Physiology 1 Chemistry 2 or Physiology 2 Physics  <b>*10 hours of Ag Science, Health Science, or Semester Science classes can be substituted for the Science requirement</b>	<b>30 Credits</b>

<b>OTHER</b>	World Language, Western Civilization, or Humanities/Comparative Religion	<b>10 Credits</b>
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All candidates must also have strong moral character, be active in service to the school and community, and exhibit positive leadership actions. Requirements are given to all faculty members who are asked to comment on any student they feel should or should not be invited into membership; these comments are used only as guidelines. A faculty committee then reviews the criteria for each eligible candidate, and invitations are extended to new members based on the consensus of the committee. Acceptance into the National Junior Honor Society does not automatically qualify a student for National Honor Society.

### **Removal from National Honor Society**

A student may be removed from the NHS by action of the Principal upon a determination by the NHS Faculty Committee that the student:

1. Engaged in conduct prior to induction which was not known at the time of induction and which, if known, would have caused denial of induction;
2. Engaged in conduct after induction which is grounds for a student to be long-term suspended or expelled from school under the student code of conduct; which is grounds for suspension or removal from any extracurricular activity of the school, or which would cause denial of induction if such conduct had taken place prior to the time of induction.

The student may appeal the Principal's decision to the Superintendent by giving written notice of appeal to the Superintendent within ten calendar days of receipt of the Principal's removal decision. The appeal procedures shall be established at the discretion of the Superintendent such as to allow a fair opportunity for the student's views and information to be considered. The decision of the Superintendent on the appeal shall be final.

## **Section 11 Academic Integrity**

### **1. 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.

### **2. 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 quizzes and other examinations or academic performances):
  - b. 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.
  - c. Use of Unauthorized Materials: Using notes, textbooks, pre-programmed formula 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.

- d. 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.
  - e. 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.
  - f. 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.
2. Papers (includes papers, essays, lab projects, and other similar academic work):
    - a. 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.
    - b. 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.
  6. 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.
  7. "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.
  8. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to the following:
    - 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 either place the work in quotations or 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.
  9. Sanctions

The following sanctions will occur for academic integrity offenses:

1. Academic Sanctions
  - a. First Offense- 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.
  - b. Second and Subsequent Offenses- A zero "0" will be assigned for the student's work in which the cheating or plagiarism took place with no opportunity to complete a test or assignment in place of the work.
  - c. 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.
2. Student Discipline Sanctions
  - a. 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 if a student has engaged in a serious or repeated academic integrity offense or other rule violations, and if the academic sanction is otherwise not a sufficient remedy, such as for offenses involving altering assigned grades or contributing to academic integrity violations.

## Section 12 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.

# Article 6 - Support Services

## Section 1 Positive Behavior Supports (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
- Having 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 "set up" for success in school.

## Section 2 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 needs 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>.

Section 3 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 nondisabled 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.

#### Section 4 Multi-Tiered Student Support Services (MTSS)

The staff of Gering Senior High Schools recognizes that students can have experiences that may affect their academic and social life. The primary goal of the Student Assistance Team 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, custodian 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 Student Assistance 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, the Student Assistant Team may elect to allow students to have a schedule that deviates from the listed requirements.

## Section 5 Guidance Services

The mission of Gering 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.

## Section 6 Alternative Education

**The Gering Alternative Program (GAP)** provides programming for Gering students in grades 9 through 12 and students integrating into the school at times not conducive to the school calendar. GAP also provides programming for students that may need alternative instruction or educational settings.

### **Valley Alternative Education School**

Students who have a need for an alternative educational plan may be referred to VALTS.

The Student Assistance Team based upon a predetermined set of criteria will determine priority for the VALTS positions.

Criteria for Admission:

1. Referred by the student's home district.
2. Expressed desire to be part of the program (self-referral).
3. Expressed desire to achieve graduation.
4. Referred by high school MTSS.
5. Complete a series of academic/interest/aptitude tests prior to placement (administered by VALTS).
6. Reasonable student expectation to complete the program within one year of graduation class.
7. Agrees to abide by conditions and rules established for the program.

## 8. Completion of a successful intake interview.

### Section 7 Health Services

#### Nurse's Office:

Any student who becomes ill during the school day will report to the school nurse. Students must have a pass to come to the health office and will be given a pass from the health office to return to class. Students must notify parents before they will be allowed to leave the building for illness.

#### 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.

In order 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 their name, drug name, and instructions for use (time, dosage, duration). 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 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.

#### 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, 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*

This protocol is in effect for the school day hours (7:30am-3:30pm). The school's protocol medication is kept on school grounds, and, therefore, will not be available at field trips, etc. If you do not want your student to receive this protocol, then please contact the school nurse.

If your child has an EpiPen and/or inhaler in the health office, it will be checked out of the health office and your child's emergency medication(s) will be sent with school staff on field trips. If your child participates in after school activities (sports, clubs, etc.) you will need to speak to the health office staff to obtain and complete appropriate paperwork for your student to carry and self-administer their 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.

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 consists of the following:

- 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 (For example, severe

allergies, diabetes, epilepsy, asthma, urinary or bowel issues, etc).

- Students who are from out of state will need a physical, vision exam (physical/vision exam must be done within the last 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.
- Provide recent sport physicals, vision, or dental exams to the health office.
- Updated immunizations. (Records are reviewed annually and a summary report sent to Nebraska State Health Department.)
- Need for medication administration during the regular school day; Please refer to Medication Administration Policy
- PE or Recess Restrictions: If a student requires restricted PE or recess due to health conditions for more than one (1) day, then a healthcare provider note is required. If a student has a note limiting or restricting PE, this will include recess.
- Absence from school due to illness. Please inform the school of the type of illness so that the number and type of illnesses and symptoms can be monitored and reported to the local health department as necessary.
  - If a student is out of school for a consecutive 5 days due to illness a note from the student's health provider will need to be provided to the school's health office.
- Updated emergency contact information and a plan/arrangements in place if parent/guardian is unable to pick up their ill child from school and/or when child is ill and needs to stay home
  - Each school location has a First Responder Team and staff who are CPR/First Aid/AED certified, trained on Attack on Asthma & Anaphylaxis and Medication Administration trained to assist 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

#### **Procedures for students who become injured or become ill at school**

- 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. If it is perceived that a student is in an emergency medical situation, an ambulance will be called to the scene and parent/guardian or emergency contact will be notified. If a student is transported to the hospital, a healthcare provider note releasing them to return to school is required. The student may not return on the same day.  
If you do not want your student to receive the above described emergency medication, contact school health staff.

- **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.

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.

## 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 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, avoid 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 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.

*Updated 1/2012*

## **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 4 <sup>th</sup> 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 Diseases - Chapter 3; revised and implemented 2011)  
 Updated 1/2012

GERING PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**PROCEDURE FOR HEAD LICE DETECTION AND MANAGEMENT AT SCHOOL**

## GERING PUBLIC SCHOOLS 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:

- 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 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"> <li>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.</li> <li>2. Nits are cemented to hair shafts and are very unlikely to be transferred successfully to other people.</li> <li>3. The burden of unnecessary absenteeism to the students, families and communities far outweighs the risks associated with head lice.</li> <li>4. Misdiagnosis of nits is very common during nit checks conducted by nonmedical personnel.</li> <li>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.</li> </ol>
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	
<b>Lice:</b> more than one louse.	<b>Nit:</b> Eggs, dead or alive, of a louse
<b>Louse:</b> Small insect that lives on the scalp.	<b>Parasite:</b> Lives off another, in this case the blood of humans
<b>Pediculosis:</b> Having an infestation of lice	<b>Infestation:</b> 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 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.

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 could 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.

**Section 8 Mediation Services**

**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, 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 to make judgments, 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.

## Section 9 Transportation Services

The school district maintains bus service for the convenience of its students and parents. Riding the bus is a privilege, not a right. Students who live outside the radius of one mile from Gering Freshman Academy, may apply for a bus pass. Students must ride the bus assigned and leave the bus only at their designated stop. Violations of the rules by a student will result in disciplinary action.

Students who miss a bus for any high school activity, event or field trip, are not to drive to the location using their own or another vehicle. Students shall report to the high school office for determination as to whether the student will attend school or the activity.

# Article 7 - Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco

## Section 1 Drug-Free Schools

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.

## Section 2 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 Gering Public Schools has determined that the possession or use by students of tobacco, tobacco products or

vapor products, alcohol, narcotics, or other dangerous and/or illegal drugs 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, tobacco products or vapor products, alcohol or narcotics, or other dangerous drugs, 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. Where there is "reasonable suspicion" that a student has been using alcohol, the administration may request the student to submit to a "breathalyzer" test to determine use. If the student refuses such test or does not admit to use where there is "reasonable suspicion" of use, the student may be subject to the disciplinary consequences as described in the GHS Parent Student Handbook.

Breathalyzers will be used at other school activities (in or out-of-town) when a reasonable suspicion exists that a student has been consuming alcohol prior to or during the event. Any positive test will result in parents being notified and school disciplinary consequences following the GHS Parent Student Handbook.

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.

### Section 3 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, vapor products, 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.

1. Procedures for Dealing with Students Under the Influence of Alcohol, Drugs, or Other Harmful Substances Other Than Tobacco.
  - a. Any staff member who believes that a student is under the influence of alcohol or drugs will notify a principal or designee immediately.
  - b. The principal or designee may request assistance from a trained drug recognition expert to help determine if a student is under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or other harmful substance (other than tobacco).
  - c. If the student is determined to be under the influence, the principal or designee will take the necessary disciplinary actions as outlined in the following section.
2. Disciplinary Actions for Students Under the Influence of Alcohol, Drugs or Other Harmful Substance Other Than Tobacco.
  - a. First offense
    - i. A meeting is held with student and parents.
    - ii. The student is given a five (5) day out-of-school suspension, but shall be offered the option of in-school suspension if s/he 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 s/he 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).

- iii. A recommendation for long-term suspension or expulsion will be considered, depending upon the severity of the case.
  - iv. 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.
- b. Second offense (occurring within three years of the first offense)
- i. A conference will be held with the parents as soon as possible. Immediate drug/alcohol testing will take place.
  - ii. Upon confirmation of a positive drug/alcohol test, the student will be automatically suspended for ten days.
  - iii. Parents will be provided with information on qualified substance abuse treatment resources.
  - iv. 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 fulfill those recommendations made by the substance abuse specialist.
  - v. Failure to comply with the above will result in long-term suspension or expulsion hearings being initiated against the student.
- c. Third offense (occurring within three years of the first offense)
- i. The student will be suspended pending expulsion proceedings which will be initiated according to the School District's expulsion policy.

### 3. 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:

- a. Any staff member who comes in contact with evidence and/or contraband will notify a principal or a designee immediately.
  - b. 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.
  - c. 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.
  - d. Upon notification by the appropriate agency for law enforcement that the contraband contains narcotics or other dangerous drugs, or if possession of alcohol is involved, the principal or designee will take the necessary disciplinary action as outlined in Section VI-E.
- ### 4. 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 Harmful Substance Other Than Tobacco in Section B of Comprehensive Substance Abuse Policy.
- ### 5. 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:

- a. 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.
  - b. The principal or designee will attempt to obtain evidence by directly requesting it from the student or through search procedures outlined in Section IV, “Searches.”
  - c. Follow the same procedure for handling evidence and/or contraband as outlined above in Section VI-C.
6. Disciplinary Actions for Students Selling, Giving, or Exchanging
- Any student found to be in violation of school rules or Nebraska State Laws by possessing, 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.
- a. First offense
    - i. Student is given a ten (10) day suspension.
    - ii. The principal or designee will conduct a conference with parents and/or police representatives.
    - iii. A recommendation for long-term suspension or expulsion will be considered, depending upon the severity of the case.
    - iv. The school administration will cooperate fully with local law enforcement agencies when investigations and searches, related to drug offenses, are in progress.
  - b. Second offense
    - i. 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.
7. Procedures for Dealing with Students in Possession of Tobacco or Vapor Products
- a. First and second offense
    - i. Student will be assigned In School Suspension and will complete an education course on the dangers of Tobacco/Vapor Products.
    - ii. Parents will be contacted and will receive a discipline notification by mail.
  - b. Third and subsequent offenses
    - i. The student will be assigned Out of School Suspension or must successfully complete a smoking cessation class/rehabilitative program.
    - ii. The principal or designee will conduct a conference with the student and parent.

## **Article 8 - Student Conduct Rules**

### **Section 1 Purpose of Student Conduct Rules**

These student conduct rules are established to maintain a school atmosphere which is conducive to learning, to aid student development, to further school purposes, and to prevent interference with the educational process. Violations of the rules will result in disciplinary action.

#### **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 receives an office behavior referral he/she will receive a specific number of points. Any points received shall be cumulative

throughout the school year. Accumulation of 90 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 High School will make an effort to provide counseling for all students who demonstrate need. The 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.

**Section 2 PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINE LEVELS**

Actions that are not disruptive in nature to the learning process, discipline would be the same as category 1 but without points. Failure to attend detention would result in points.

- A. Detention
- B. Detentions
- C. 1-5 Days In-School Suspension
- D. 5-10 Days In-School Suspension
- E. 1-5 Days Out-of-School Suspension
- F. 5-10 Days Out-of-School Suspension
- G. 10 Days Out-of-School Suspension
- H. Recommend Expulsion
- I. Police will be notified

Note: Parents will be notified at levels C through I. In-School Suspension may be substituted for Out-of-School Suspension

**PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINE LEVELS**

<b>OFFENSE</b>	<b>CAT</b>	<b>PTS</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
1. Public display of affection	I	A	B	B	C		
2. Dress code violations	I	A	B	B	C		
3. Other	I	A	B	B	C		
4. Sleeping in Class	II	8	A	B	B	C	
5. Disruption of class/school/assembly	II	8	A	B	B	C	
6. Parking illegally	II	8	A	B	B	C	
7. Inappropriate behavior/gestures	II	8	A	B	B	C	
8. Profanity/vulgarity	II	8	A	B	B	C	
9. Failure to attend detention	II	8	A	B	B	C	
10. Cell Phone (confiscation)	II	8	A	B	B	C	
11. Repeated violations of Category I	II	8	A	B	B	C	
12. Other	II	8	A	B	B	C	
13. Skipping Class/Leaving class without permission	III	10	B	B	C	C	E
14. Disorderly conduct	III	10	B	B	C	C	E
15. Failure to identify self to school officials	III	10	B	B	C	C	E
16. Inappropriate dress	III	10	B	B	C	C	E
17. Indecent material	III	10	B	B	C	C	E
18. Jeopardizing the safety of oneself or others	III	10	B	B	C	C	E
19. Leaving school grounds without permission	III	10	B	B	C	C	E
20. Lying	III	10	B	B	C	C	E
21. Misuse of school material & equipment	III	10	B	B	C	C	E

22. Classroom Non-Compliance	III	10	B	B	C	C	E
23. Trespassing	III	10	B	B	C	C	E
24. Skipping office assigned detentions	III	10	B	B	C	C	E
25. Other	III	10	B	B	C	C	E
26. Use/possession of tobacco or vapor products	IV	14	C	C	D	F	F
27. Cheating/Plagiarism	IV	14	C	C	D	F	F
28. Careless driving/speeding	IV	14	C	C	D	F	F
29. False call/Forgery of notes	IV	14	C	C	D	F	F
30. Vandalism 1	IV	14	C	C	D	F	F
31. Theft 1	IV	14	C	C	D	F	F
32. Disrespect to faculty members	IV	14	C	C	D	F	F
33. Other IV	IV	14	C	C	D	F	F
34. Gross Misbehavior	V	21	C	D	E	G	
35. Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying	V	21	C	D	E	G	
36. Vandalism 2	V	21	C	D	E	G	
37. Theft 2	V	21	C	D	E	G	
38. Insubordination	V	21	C	D	E	G	
39. Other	V	21	C	D	E	G	
40. Fighting	VI	28	E	F	H		
41. Indecent behavior	VI	28	F	G	G	H	
42. Open/persistent defiance of authority	VI	28	F	G	G	H	
43. Threatening behavior	VI	28	F	G	G	H	
44. Physical assault	VI	28	F	G	G	H	
45. Under the influence of alcohol/drugs	VI	28	F	G	G	H	
46. Possession of alcohol/ drugs/drug paraphernalia	VI	28	F	G	G	H	
47. Other	VI	28	G	H	H	I	
48. Extortion	VII	42	G/I	G/I			
49. False fire alarm	VII	42	G/I	G/I			
50. Selling, giving, or exchanging alcohol/drugs	VII	42	G/I	G/I			
51. Possession of weapon other than firearm	VII	42	G/I	G/I			
52. Possession or use of firecrackers	VII	42	G/I	G/I			
53. Terroristic Threats	VII	42	G/I	G/I			
54. Other	VII	42	G/I	G/I			
55. Arson	VIII	90	H/I				
56. Bomb threat	VIII	90	H/I				
57. Physical assault (school employee)	VIII	90	H/I				
58. Possession and/or use of explosives	VIII	90	H/I				
59. Use of any instrument as a weapon	VIII	90	H/I				
60. Possession of firearm	VIII	90	H/I				One calendar year
61. Other	VIII	90	H/I				

## Section 3 Forms of School Discipline

- A. **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:
- 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:

- The Principal or the 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.
- 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.
- 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 parent or guardian describing the student's conduct, misconduct or violation of the rule or standard and the reasons for the action taken.
- 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.

- B. **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 assigned 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 notice will include a description of the procedures for long-term suspension. The procedures will be those set forth in the Student Discipline Act.
- C. **Expulsion:** Meaning of 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 end of the first semester, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect through the second 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, other 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 to 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 officer 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.

- D. Other Forms of Student Discipline.** Administrative and teaching 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 be 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.

- A. 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.

- 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 a 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 device, 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

- I. 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 displayed must be developed with the prior written approval by the teacher and building administrator. Such 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.

## **B. 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.

### **C. Inappropriate Public Displays of Affection (IPDA):**

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. Students will face the following consequences for IPDA:

1st Offense: Students will be confronted and directed to cease.

2nd Offense: Students will be confronted, directed to cease, and parents will be notified.

3rd Offense: Students will face appropriate disciplinary consequences.

If this type of behavior continues, or if the IPDA is lewd or constitutes sexual conduct, the student could progressive disciplinary consequences.

## **D. Student Appearance:**

**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 that 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: Clothing that shows an inappropriate amount of bare skin or underwear (midriffs, spaghetti straps, sagging pants, tank tops) 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, or otherwise of an appropriate size and fit so as to be revealing or drag on the ground. Shirts and tops must have necklines that will be close to the collar bones in the front and back revealing no cleavage.

- a. Shorts, skirts, or skorts that do not reach mid-thigh or longer.
- b. Clothing or jewelry that advertises or promotes beer, alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs.
- c. 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).
- d. Headwear including hats, caps, bandannas, and scarves.
- e. Clothing or jewelry which exhibits nudity, makes sexual references or carries lewd, indecent, or vulgar language, or exhibits violence.
- f. Clothing must be "in reasonably good repair". Therefore, wearing jeans with large or excessive holes will not be permitted, whether skin is revealed or not (other examples: frayed shorts, or torn clothing, holes in clothing)
- 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. Students will not be allowed to leave campus to change clothes. Continual violations of the dress code will result in more stringent disciplinary actions. 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.

## **E. Electronic Devices**

**Philosophy and Purpose.** 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, 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**

It is our belief that we need to teach young men and women at Gering High School to manage their technology in a way that is not disruptive to their work or their education. It is the administration's expectation that students follow the individual teacher's classroom rules. Teachers have discretion to write a referral based on violations of their classroom rules.

Violations - Prohibited Use of Electronic Devices. Students shall not use electronic devices for:

1. activities which disrupt the educational environment;
2. illegal activities in violation of state or federal laws or regulations;
3. unethical activities, such as cheating on assignments or tests;
4. immoral or pornographic activities;
5. activities in violation of Board or school policies and procedures relating to student conduct and harassment;
6. 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;

7. "sexting;" or 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.

Students in violation of the cell phone policy will have their cell phones confiscated and be subject to the following consequences:

- a. First Offense -One detention (one of which must be served the day the violation occurs).
- b. Second and Third Offense - Two or more detentions
- c. Subsequent Offences - Will be handled will be handled in the same manner as a referral for insubordination. (See Section 2: Progressive Discipline Levels)

**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.

**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.

**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.

#### **F. 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.

1. **"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 other's' 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 occurring 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.

#### **G. Acceptable Use Policy for Electronic Resources**

The use of school electronic resources and accounts is a privilege, not a right. Inappropriate use may result in the cancellation or suspension of your privilege. Students using electronic resources are required to follow all district policies and procedures.

##### **District Accounts.**

Gering Public Schools accounts and services are to be used for educational purposes only. No GPS accounts or services are to be used for commercial purposes, political reasons, advertising purposes, or lobbying. Students may not use their GPS email account to sign up for any other accounts or services. Students may not use their District accounts to enter into any contracts on behalf of GPS. Students may not post, enter, or store any personal information about themselves or others. All accounts and network storage are the property of Gering Public Schools. GPS reserves the right to inspect and govern any District account and all included information to ensure proper use. GPS will strive to provide the best security possible for all student accounts and information.

##### **Passwords and Safety.**

Account safety and security are essential to the continued use of technology in the District. Access to electronic resources is intended exclusively for the authorized individuals. All passwords are private and must not be shared with anyone. Do not trespass into another's account or files, including attempting to log into any unauthorized accounts. Do not attempt to electronically or physically obtain passwords to any other person's accounts. Users must log out after each session, and must never leave a computer while an account is logged in.

##### **Student Conduct**

Users must abide by the rules of proper online etiquette. Users must act in a polite manner while using any online service or account. Using district technology for the use of entertainment or recreational games is prohibited. Users may not take part in any criminal acts using District technology or accounts. Such acts include, but are not limited to, "Hacking" or attempting to gain access to other computer systems without authorization, threatening or harassing digital communications, cyber-stalking, child pornography, vandalism, unauthorized tampering with computer systems, using another person's identity online, identity theft, and fraud. Users may not copy, sell, or distribute any copyrighted materials without the expressed written consent of the author or publisher. Users must not plagiarize in any form. Users must not publicly defame any other person through publishing online material. Obscene, profane, vulgar, inflammatory, threatening, disrespectful or otherwise inappropriate language cannot be used on any form of online communication or district accounts. Users may not create, search, retrieve, save, or circulate viruses, malware, offensive material, sexually explicit material, illegal material, or other harmful information. Users may not develop, download, upload or install any software on District devices without consent of an administrator or teacher. Tampering in any way with District files, programs, settings, or other digital information is prohibited.

##### **System Integrity**

Users may not attempt to bypass any security filters or internet filters. Users may not attempt to gain access to unauthorized District files or other digital information. Unnecessary files located on an individual's own network storage or account should be deleted regularly. Do not attempt to access, alter, or destroy other's online property or files. Do not vandalize, destroy, or tamper with any District technology including but not limited to computers, printers, Chromebooks, projectors, and tablets.

Gering Public Schools provides internet content filtering in an attempt to prevent access to websites that contain obscene, pornographic, violent, or otherwise harmful materials. Due to the limitations of content filtering, it is impossible to block all inappropriate sites.

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.

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, mis-deliveries, or service interruptions caused by negligence, errors, or omissions.

Gering Public Schools 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 Internet is at your own risk. GPS specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through its

Failure to follow this Acceptable Use Policy may result in suspension of account privileges. Students who violate the Acceptable Use Policy will also be subject to the school's discipline policy.

#### Section 5 Reporting Student Law Violations:

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.

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.

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:

1. Knowingly possessing illegal drugs or alcohol.
2. Assault.
3. Vandalism resulting in significant property damage.
4. Theft of school or personal property of a significant nature.
5. Automobile accident.
6. 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.

## **Article 9 - Extracurricular Activities Rights, Conduct, Rules and Regulations**

### Section 1 Extracurricular Activity Philosophy

Extracurricular activity programs enrich the curriculum of the school by making available a wide variety of activities in which a student can participate. Extracurricular activity programs are considered an integral part of the school's program of education that provides experiences that will help students physically, mentally, and emotionally.

The element of competition and winning, though it exists, is controlled to the point it does not determine the nature or success of the program. This is considered to be educationally and psychologically sound because of the experience for living in a competitive society. Students are stimulated to want to win and excel, but the principles of good sportsmanship prevail at all times to enhance the educational values of contests. Participation in activities, both as a competitor and as a student spectator, is an integral part of the students' educational experiences. Such participation

is a privilege that carries with it responsibilities to the school, team, student body, community, and the students themselves. In their play and their conduct, students are representing all of these groups. Such experiences contribute to the knowledge, skill and emotional patterns that they possess, thereby making them better individuals and citizens.

## Section 2 Safety

The District's philosophy is to maintain an activities program which recognizes the importance of the safety of the participants. To ensure safety, participants are required to become fully familiar with the dangers and safety measures established for the activity in which they participate, to adhere to all safety instructions for the activity in which they participate, to inform their coach or sponsor when they are injured or have health problems that require their activities be restricted, and to exercise common-sense.

## Section 3 Warning for Participants and Parents

The purpose of this warning is to bring your attention to the existence of potential dangers associated with athletic injuries. Participation in any intramural or athletic activity may involve injury of some type. The severity of such injury can range from minor cuts, bruises, sprains and muscle strains to more serious injuries to the body's bones, joints, ligaments, tendons, or muscles, to catastrophic injuries to the head, neck and spinal cord. On rare occasions, injuries can be so severe as to result in total disability, paralysis or death. Even with appropriate coaching, appropriate safety instruction, appropriate protective equipment and strict observance of the rules, injuries are still a possibility.

## Section 4 Extracurricular Activity Code of Conduct

Purpose of the Code of Conduct. Participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege. The privilege carries with it responsibilities to the school, team, student body, and the community. Participants are not only representing themselves, but also their school and community in all of their actions. Others judge our school on the student participants' conduct and attitudes and how they contribute to our school spirit and community image.

The student participants' performances and devotion to high ideals and values make their school and community proud. Consequently, participation is dependent upon adherence to this Code of Conduct and the school district's policies, procedures, and rules.

### Scope of the Code of Conduct.

Activities Subject to the Code of Conduct: The Code of Conduct applies to all extracurricular activities. Extracurricular activities include activities or organizations which are supervised or administered by the school district which do not count toward graduation or grade advancement, and in which participation is not otherwise required by the school.

Extracurricular activities include but are not limited to the following: all sports, cheerleading, dance team, Pep Band, vocal, band, speech and debate, play productions, Mock Trial, DECA, FCCLA, Spanish Club, Art Club, Student Council, Student Advisory Board, National Honor Society, and other school sponsored organizations and activities.

A participant means a student who participates in, has participated in, or will participate in an extracurricular activity.

**When:** The Code of Conduct rules apply to conduct which occurs at any time during the school year and also includes the time frame which begins with the official starting day of the fall sport season established by the NSAA and extends to the last day of the spring sport season established by the NSAA, whether or not the student is a participant in an activity at the time of such conduct.

The rules also apply when a student is participating or scheduled to participate in an extracurricular activity that is held outside the school year or the NSAA season. For example, if DECA or FCCLA student plans to participate in a conference in July and commits a Code of Conduct infraction in June, the student may be suspended from participating in the conference. Conduct during the summer months may also affect a student's participation under the team selection and playing time guidelines.

**Where:** The Code of Conduct rules apply regardless of whether the conduct occurs on and off school grounds. If the conduct occurs on school grounds, at a school function or event, or in a school

vehicle, the student may also be subject to further discipline under the general student code of conduct. A student who is suspended or expelled from school shall not be permitted to participate in activities during the period of the suspension or expulsion, and may also receive an extended activity suspension. Students assigned In School Suspension are eligible to practice. They are ineligible to participate in public performance or games while the student is in In School Suspension.

Grounds for Extracurricular Activity Discipline. Students who participate in extracurricular activities are expected to demonstrate cooperation, patience, pride, character, self-respect, self-discipline, teamwork, sportsmanship, and respect for authority. The following conduct rules have been determined by the Board of Education to be reasonably necessary to aid students, further school purposes, and prevent interference with the educational process. Such conduct constitutes grounds for suspension from participation in extracurricular activities and grounds for other restrictions or disciplinary measures related to extracurricular activity participation:

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 or extracurricular activity purposes or making any communication that a reasonable person 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, 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 a 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 another person shall not constitute a violation.
5. Threatening or intimidating any student for the purpose of, or with the intent of, obtaining money or anything of value from a 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, on school grounds or at a school function or event, or in a manner that is unlawful or contrary to school activity rules.
7. Selling, using, possessing or dispensing alcohol, tobacco/vapor products, narcotics, drugs, a 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. (Note: Refer to "Drug and Alcohol Violations" for further information).
8. Public indecency.
9. Sexual assault or attempting to sexually assault any person. Engaging in sexual conduct, even if consensual, on school grounds or at a school function or event.
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. Engaging in any activity forbidden by law which constitutes a danger to other students, interferes with school purposes or an extracurricular activity, or reflects a lack of high ideals.
12. Repeated violation of any of the school rules.
13. Truancy or failure to attend assigned classes or assigned activities; or tardiness to school, assigned classes or assigned activities.

14. The use of language, written or oral, or conduct, including gestures, which is profane or abusive to a school employee, school volunteer, or student. 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, national origin, or religion.
15. 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 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 or of an extracurricular activity; dressing, grooming, or engaging in speech that a reasonable observer would interpret as advocating illegal drug use.
16. Willfully violating the behavioral expectations for those students riding Gering Public School buses or vehicles used for activity purposes.
17. Failure to attend scheduled practices and meetings. If circumstances arise to prevent the participant's attendance, the validity of the reason will be determined by the coach or sponsor. Every reasonable effort should be made to notify the coach or sponsor prior to any missed practice or meeting.
18. All other reasonable rules or regulations adopted by the coach or sponsor of an extracurricular activity shall be followed, provided that participants shall be advised by the coach or sponsor of such rules and regulations by written handouts or posting on bulletin boards prior to the violation of the rule or regulation.
19. Failure to comply with any rule established by the Nebraska School Activities Association, including, but not limited to, the rules relating to eligibility.
20. Any activity that is deemed by the Gering High School administration to not demonstrate high ideals.

All terms used in the Code of Conduct have a less strict meaning than under criminal law and are subject to reasonable interpretation by school officials.

### **Consequences**

Students may be suspended from practices or participation in interscholastic competition or participation in co-curricular activities for violations of the Code of Conduct. The period of suspension or other discipline for such offenses shall be determined by the school administration.

The disciplinary consequence will be determined based on consideration of the seriousness of the offense, any prior violations, the student's compliance with the self-reporting obligations, the student's level of cooperation and willingness to resolve the matter, and the student's demonstration of a commitment to not commit future violations.

### **Section 5 Gering Public School Random Drug Testing Program**

Students who participate in school sponsored competitive extracurricular activities at the secondary school (Grades 7-12) level are eligible for random testing. Students who do not consent to participate in the testing program shall not be eligible to participate in school sponsored competitive extracurricular activities. Students may volunteer for participation in the testing program even if they do not participate in a school sponsored competitive extracurricular activity.

The following shall result from a positive test result:

- The student's parents or guardians will be contacted and a meeting will be held to discuss the positive test result, with the object of collaborating on a plan to assist the student in avoiding future substance abuse.
- The student's privilege of participating in extracurricular activities will be restricted as follows:
  - For a first offense the student is ineligible to participate in any extracurricular activities for two weeks or three events, whichever is longer. The student may not return to participate in extracurricular activities until the student shows proof that the student: (a) is participating in substance abuse counseling with a qualified professional and is following the

recommendations of the counselor and (b) tests negative in a District-administered drug test.

- For a second offense, the student is ineligible to participate in any extracurricular activity for 9 weeks. The student may not return to participate in extracurricular activities until the student shows proof that the student: (a) is participating in substance abuse counseling with a qualified professional and is following the recommendations of the counselor and (b) tests negative in a District-administered drug test, and (c) agrees to submit to monthly District-administered drug test during the next twelve month period.
  - For a third offense, the student is ineligible to participate in any extracurricular activity for one calendar year. The student may not return to participate in extracurricular activities until the student shows proof that the student: (a) is participating in substance abuse counseling with a qualified professional and is following the recommendations of the counselor and (b) tests negative in a District-administered drug test, and (c) agrees to submit to monthly District-administered drug test during the next twelve month period.
  - For a fourth offense, the student is ineligible to participate in any extracurricular activity for the remainder of the student's secondary school career.
- The parents or guardians are responsible for the costs of the rehabilitation program, which includes the substance abuse counseling and follow-up.
  - Positive results will not lead to the imposition of any academic consequence or disciplinary action, other than the above described limitations on the privilege to participate in extracurricular activities.

## Section 6 Drug and Alcohol Violations.

Meaning of Terms - Use or consume includes any level of consumption or use. Use of a controlled substance in the manner prescribed for the student by the student's physician is not a violation.

Under the influence means any level of impairment and includes even the odor of alcohol on the breath or person of a student, or the odor of an illicit drug on the student. Also, it includes being impaired by reason of the abuse of any material used as a stimulant.

Possession includes having control of the substance and also includes being in the same area where the substance is present and no responsible adult present and responsible for the substance. Possession includes situations where, for example:

- A. Alcohol is in a vehicle in which the student is present. The student is considered to be in possession if the student is aware that the alcohol is in the vehicle, even though the student has not touched or consumed the alcohol; and
- B. Alcohol is present at a party attended by the student. The student is considered to be in possession if the student is aware that alcohol is at the party and fails to immediately leave the party, even though the student has not touched or consumed the alcohol.

In these situations, a violation would not exist if the alcohol is in the control of a parent or guardian or other responsible adult (age 21 or older) such that students are not allowed to access the alcohol. A violation would also not exist if the student did not know or have a reasonable basis to know that alcohol would be present, and the student leaves the location where the alcohol is present as soon the student could safely do so. (Students are expected to leave immediately, but are not to do so in a manner that would endanger them. For example, you are not to leave in a car being driven by a person who has been drinking just to get away from the alcohol party immediately when there is no other way to get home. Instead, you should call for a safe ride home and, while waiting, clearly distance yourself from the alcohol).

## Drug and Alcohol Offenses

Because of the significance of drug and alcohol violations on the student participants and other students and the school, the following consequences are established for such violations:

1. Possessing or using tobacco, chewing, vapor product or smoking during the season
  - First offense: Suspension from all activities and events for one week or one event and

completion of a substance education course.

- Second and subsequent offenses: Suspension from all activities and events for two weeks or three events and completion of a smoking cessation class.

An activity participant who violates the drug or alcohol rules (other than steroids) shall be prohibited from participating in any extracurricular activity for the following minimum periods:

**First Offense:** For the first positive test, the student is ineligible to participate in any extracurricular activities for two weeks. The student may not return to participate in extracurricular activities until the student shows proof that the student: (a) is participating in substance abuse counseling with a qualified professional and is following the recommendations of the counselor and (b) tests negative in a District-administered drug test.

**Second Offense:** For the second positive test, the student is ineligible to participate in any extracurricular activities for nine weeks. The student may not return to participate in extracurricular activities until the student shows proof that the student: (a) is participating in substance abuse counseling with a qualified professional and is following the recommendations of the counselor and (b) tests negative in a District-administered drug test.

**Third Offense:** For the third positive test, the student is ineligible to participate in any extracurricular activities for ONE CALENDAR YEAR. The student may not return to participate in extracurricular activities until the student shows proof that the student: (a) is participating in substance abuse counseling with a qualified professional and is following the recommendations of the counselor and (b) tests negative in a District-administered drug test.

**Fourth Offense:** the student is ineligible to participate in any extracurricular activity for the remainder of the student's secondary school career.

The parents or guardians are responsible for the costs of the rehabilitation program, which includes the substance abuse counseling and follow-up. Positive results will not lead to the imposition of an academic consequence or disciplinary action, other than the above described limitations on the privilege to participate in extracurricular activities.

**Self-Reporting.** A student who violates the Code of Conduct must self-report. A failure to self-report will lead to a longer suspension or other discipline. The self-report must be made to the principal, athletic director, or the head coach or sponsor of an activity in which the student participates. The student's parent or guardian may initiate the self-reporting process, but the student will be later required to give a written statement of the self-report.

The self-report must be made : (1) before the end of the next school day after the conduct occurred and (2) before participation in an extracurricular or co-curricular activity.

In making a self-report, the student must identify the events that took place, the conduct which the student engaged in, and any witnesses to the student's conduct, and will be required to put this information in a written statement. In the event the student has received a criminal citation, charge, or ticket, and proclaims innocence of a violation, the student will be required to self-report such offense and provide information as to why they should be found innocent, not as it relates to the criminal offense, but as it relates to the Code of Conduct.

All students are expected to be honest and forthright with school officials. In the event the coach or activity sponsor or any school administrator asks a student participant for information pertaining to compliance (or lack of compliance) by the student or other student participants with the Code of Conduct or eligibility conditions for participation in activities, the student is expected to fully, completely, and honestly provide the information. Students may be disciplined for a failure to be honest and forthright.

**Reduction for Self-Reporting:** If the student has self-reported, the first violation shall be reduced to one week for the first violation. A commensurate reduction (approximately one-half, as determined by the administration) for a second or subsequent violation shall be given for self-reporting.

**More Serious Violations:** In the event of more serious drug or alcohol violations, such as students engaging in use of especially serious drug offenses (cocaine, meth, etc.) or procuring alcohol for

minors, the consequence of the violation is not restricted by the foregoing, and may be established in the good discretion of the administration.

**Steroid Offenses:** A student who possesses, dispenses, delivers, or administers anabolic steroids shall be prohibited from participating in any extracurricular activity for the following minimum periods:

- First Violation: 30 consecutive days.
- Second or Any Subsequent Offense: One calendar year.

**When Suspensions Begin:** All suspensions begin with the next scheduled activity in which the student is a participant, after the determination by school officials of the sanction to be imposed; provided that the school officials shall have the discretion to establish a time period for the suspension that makes the suspension have a real consequence for the student. During a suspension, participants may be required or permitted to practice at the sole discretion of the coach or activity sponsor. Suspensions in the spring will be carried over to the fall when the suspension has not been fully served or when determined appropriate for the suspension to have a real consequence for the student.

**Letters and Post-Season Honors:** A student who commits a Code of Conduct violation is subject to the following:

1. Eligible to letter, provided the student meets the criteria of the coach or sponsor.
2. Not eligible to receive honors during the sport or activity in which they are participating at the time of the offense and/or in sports or activities in which they have been suspended due to a code violation. The coach/sponsor, with the Athletic Director's approval, may make an exception if the student has self-reported or otherwise demonstrated excellence in character allowing for such honors.

**Determining a Violation Has Occurred:** A violation of the Code of Conduct will be determined to have occurred based on any of the following criteria:

1. When a student is cited by law enforcement and school officials have a reasonable basis for determining that grounds for the issuance of the citation exist.
2. When a student is convicted of a criminal offense. Conviction includes, without limitation, a conviction, a plea of no contest, and an adjudication of delinquency by a juvenile court.
3. When a student admits to violating one of the standards of the Code of Conduct.
4. When a student is accused by another person of violating one of the standards of the Code of Conduct, and school officials determine that such information is reliable.
5. When school officials otherwise find sufficient evidence to support a determination that a violation has occurred.

**Procedures for Extracurricular Discipline:** The following procedures are established for suspensions from participation in extracurricular activities:

1. Investigation. The school official(s) considering the suspension will conduct a reasonable investigation of the facts and circumstances and determine whether the suspension will help the student or other students, further school purposes, or prevent an interference with a school purpose.
2. Meeting. Prior to commencement of the suspension, the school official(s) considering the suspension or their designee will provide the student an opportunity to give the student's side of the story. The meeting for this purpose may be held in person or via a telephone conference.
3. The student will be given oral or written notice of what the student is accused of having done, an explanation of the evidence the school has, and the opportunity to explain the student's version. Detail is not required where the activity participant has made a self-report or otherwise admits the conduct. Names of informants may be kept confidential when determined to be appropriate.
4. The suspension may be imposed prior to the meeting if the meeting cannot reasonably be held before the suspension is to begin. In that case the meeting will occur as soon as reasonably

practicable. The student is responsible for cooperating in the scheduling of the meeting.

5. Notice Letter. Within two school days (two business days if school is not in session), or such additional time as is reasonably necessary following the suspension, the Athletic Director or the Athletic Director's designee will send a written statement to the student and the student's parents or guardian. The statement will describe the student's conduct violation and the discipline imposed. The student and parents or guardian will be informed of the opportunity to request a hearing.
6. Informal Hearing Before Superintendent. The student or student's parent/guardian may request an informal hearing before the Superintendent. The Superintendent may designate the Athletic Director or another administrator not responsible for the suspension decision as the Superintendent's designee to conduct the hearing and make a decision. A form to request such a hearing must be signed by the parent or guardian. A form will be provided with the notice letter or otherwise be made available by request from the Principal's office.

The request for a hearing must be received by the Superintendent's office within five days of receipt of the notice letter.

If a hearing is requested:

- a. The hearing will be held within ten calendar days of receipt of the request; subject to extension for good cause as determined by the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee.
- b. The Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee will notify the participants of the time and place of the hearing a reasonable time in advance to allow preparation for the hearing.
- c. Upon conclusion of the hearing, a written decision will be rendered within five school days (ten calendar days if school is not in session). The written decision will be mailed or otherwise delivered to the participant, parents or guardian.
- d. A record of the hearing (copies of documents provided at the hearing and a tape recording or other recordation of the informal hearing) will be kept by the school if requested sufficiently in advance of the hearing by the parent/guardian.

No Stay of Penalty. There will be no stay of the penalty imposed pending completion of the due process procedures

Opportunity for Informal Resolution. These due process procedures do not prevent the student or parent/guardian from discussing and settling the matter with the appropriate school officials at any stage.

**Gering Public Schools will conduct random drug testing for all students who are participants in the activity programs available through and sponsored by Gering Public Schools.**

## Section 7 Attendance

Student participants are expected to meet the following attendance expectations:

1. Attend school regularly. Students who have "excessive absences" as determined under the school's attendance policy are ineligible to participate in extracurricular activity contests or performances. Students who have excessive absences in the semester of participation may be ineligible to participate in extracurricular activity contests or performances.
2. Be on time for all scheduled practices, contests and departure for contests. In the event a participant is unable to attend a practice or contests the participant should contact the coach or sponsor in advance.
3. On the day of a contest, performance or other activity, be in attendance for the full day. A student who is not in attendance the full day is ineligible for the contest, performance, or activity. When events occur during the regular school day only eligible participants will be dismissed or students with prior administrative approval will be excused for the event.

Exceptions may be made for extenuating circumstances, such as doctor/dentist appointments or family emergencies. The exception must be approved by the Principal or Activities Director.

Every attempt should be made to be in attendance the day of a contest. Sleeping in to rest up for

the game will not be considered an extenuating circumstance, nor will going home ill and then returning to play in the contest later that day.

## Section 8 Academic Standards

Participation in extracurricular school activities is encouraged and desirable for all students. At the same time, the primary mission and responsibility for each student is to establish a firm academic foundation. A student participating in extracurricular school activities must show evidence of sincere effort towards scholastic achievement. To be eligible for participation in extracurricular activities students must:

1. Be enrolled in at least 40 credit hours in the semester of participation.
2. The student passed and received at least thirty credit hours the previous semester.
3. Student grades will be pulled from Infinite Campus gradebook upon completion of week 3, 6, and end of quarter/semester.
4. Students failing two classes will attend activity study hall Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday during the ensuing three weeks. Students absent during their morning classes will need to make that study hall up after school.
5. Failure to attend the study halls will result in the student being ruled ineligible for the performance or competition that week.
6. Students failing three or more classes will be ineligible during the first week, they must attend activity study hall, and meet with the activity director weekly. To regain eligibility during the next two week period, they must bring six of their classes to 70% or higher.

Extracurricular academic requirements do not apply to the following:

- a. Instructional field trips which are a part of the scheduled course learning experience; or
- b. Activities or events which are a consideration in determining the student's grade.

## Section 9 Relationships between Parents and Coaches/Sponsors

Parenting and coaching are very difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding between coaches and parents, both are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide a more positive experience for everyone.

Parents have the right to know the expectations placed on them and their children. Coaches and sponsors have the right to know that if parents have a concern, they will discuss it with the coach at the appropriate time and place.

### Parents' Role in Interscholastic Athletics and Other Extracurricular Activities

#### Communicating with your children

- Make sure that your children know that win or lose, scared or heroic, you love them, appreciate their efforts and are not disappointed in them. This will allow them to do their best without fear of failure. Be the person in their life they can look to for constant positive reinforcement.
- Try your best to be completely honest about your child's athletic ability, competitive attitude, sportsmanship, and actual skill level.
- Be helpful but don't coach them. It's tough not to, but it is a lot tougher for the child to be flooded with advice and critical instruction.
- Teach them to enjoy the thrill of competition, to be "out there trying," to be working to improve their skills and attitudes. Help them develop the feeling for competing, for trying hard, for having fun.
- Try not to relive your athletic life through your child in a way that creates pressure. If they are comfortable with you win or lose, then they are on their way to maximum enjoyment.
- Don't compete with the coach. If your child is receiving mixed messages from two different authority figures, he or she will likely become disenchanted.
- Don't compare the skill, courage, or attitude of your child with other members of the team.

- Get to know the coach(es). Then you can be assured that his or her philosophy, attitudes, ethics, and knowledge are such that you are happy to have your child under his or her leadership.
- Always remember that children tend to exaggerate, both when praised and when criticized. Temper your reaction and investigate before overreacting.

### Communicating with the coach

Communication you should expect from your child's coach includes:

- Philosophy of the coach
- Expectations the coach has for your child
- Locations and times of all practices and contests
- Team requirements
- Procedure should your child be injured
- Discipline that results in the denial of your child's participation
- Communication coaches expect from parents
- Concerns expressed directly to the coach
- Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance
- Specific concerns in regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations
- Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches:
  - The treatment of your child, mentally, and physically
  - Ways to help your child improve
  - Concerns about your child's behavior
  - Injuries or health concerns. Report injuries to the coach immediately!!
  - Tell the coach about any health concerns that may make it necessary to limit your child's participation or require assistance of trainers. Students are sometimes unwilling to tell coaches when they are injured, so please make sure the coach is told.
- Issues not appropriate to discuss with coaches:
  - Playing time
  - Team strategy
  - Play calling
  - Other student-athletes (except for reporting activity code violations)
- Appropriate procedures for discussing concerns with the coaches:
  - Do not confront a coach before or after a contest or practice (these can be emotional times for all parties involved and do not promote resolution)
  - Call to set up an appointment with the coach

What should a parent do if the meeting with the coach did not provide satisfactory resolution?

- Call the athletic director to set up a meeting with the athletic director, coach, and parent present. At this meeting, an appropriate next step can be determined, if necessary.

### Section 10 "Team Selection" and "Playing Time"

"Team selection" and "playing time" decisions are the responsibility of the individual coach or sponsor of the activity. Consistent, however, with the purposes of the activities program, the coaches and sponsors shall follow the following established guidelines for team selection and playing time decisions, along with such other guidelines as each individual coach and sponsor may develop which are not inconsistent with these established guidelines:

1. School Representative. Student participants must demonstrate that they can and will represent themselves and their school in a manner which reflects the development of high ideals and appropriate values, which shall include good citizenship in the school and in the community.

2. Success. Student participants must demonstrate that they can make the activity program more successful, both from a standpoint of competitive success and success in promoting a positive school spirit. Characteristics for purposes of these criteria include the student's: (1) talent or skill, (2) desire to improve the student's own skills or talents as well as those of others in the activity, and (3) attitude of respect towards teammates, the coach, the school, and the community.

## Section 11 School Dances

A school sponsored dance is a school activity subject to all provisions of the Student Activity Code and is a privilege available to students meeting all requirements for participation. In addition to all rules of student conduct in the Student handbook, students attending dances shall adhere to the following rules of conduct:

1. Attendees: Only students of Gering Public Schools and their guests may attend.
2. Students currently attending Gering High School or another Nebraska high school who have not been restricted from attending extracurricular activities at Gering High School or their own school are generally considered appropriate dates or invited guests.
3. Persons who are younger than 16 or older than 20 years of age and not attending high school are generally considered to not be appropriate dates or invited guests for our school dances.
4. Some school dances may be restricted to students attending specified grades levels at Gering Public Schools
5. The school reserves the right to exclude persons who may or do cause a disruption or detract from the event. Dates or invited guests not attending our school are expected to follow the same rules of conduct which apply to our students.
6. Rules for dances may restrict students and their guests from leaving dance until the dance ends without written parental permission on a form provided.
7. Students or their guests who engage in inappropriate behavior, whether on or off of the dance floor, may be asked to leave.
9. Prohibited Substances: Alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, and tobacco/vapor products are prohibited. Anyone using prohibited substances or showing the effects of use will not be allowed admission or, if discovered after admission, be removed from the dance. Their parents may be contacted.
10. Students and their dates may be required to submit to a breathalyzer prior to gaining entrance. Those who choose not to submit to a breathalyzer will not gain entrance. Law enforcement will be contacted if there is reasonable suspicion that the student or a student's date is under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
11. Appropriate Attire: Students and their guests must meet the dress code requirements established for each dance. Teachers or administrators will make the final decision as to whether or not a student's attire is appropriate. Students will be asked to change unacceptable items, which may mean that the student may have to return home to change the inappropriate clothing. It is advisable to check in advance of the dance with the Principal or staff sponsor for the event if you are uncertain about your attire.

**Eligibility for Selection as Royalty:** Nomination and selection as royalty for school sponsored dances is an honor awarded by students to those of their peers that exemplify the highest standards of integrity and achievement. Students nominated for dance royalty must have demonstrated through their conduct, academic achievement and activities that they have represented, and will represent, themselves, their classmates, and their school in a manner which reflects outstanding effort, commitment to their school and fellow students, and integrity and good citizenship in the school and in the community. The students selected to be the "royalty" for the Homecoming and Prom or any other school sponsored dance or activity shall meet that general standard as determined by the administration and, in addition, meet the following specific academic, activity and conduct standards: Achievement, Citizenship and Conduct Qualifications:

- The student must have exhibited sportsmanship and leadership in activity endeavors and participation.
- The student must have exhibited a cooperative and respectful attitude toward fellow students, teammates, opponents, sponsors, coaches, and officials.
- The student must have a cumulative grade average of a B or its equivalent.
- The student must not have had excessive violations of school policies:
  - Excessive Category I, II, III discipline referrals
  - Fewer than two Category IV, V, or VI referrals.
  - Repeated violations of the activity code of conduct.
  - No drug, alcohol, or tobacco/vapor product offenses disciplinary referrals in the last 24 months
  - No failed drug test in the last 24 months
  - The student may not, within twenty-four months of the of the dance, have engaged in criminal violations involving: (i) alcohol, drugs or tobacco; (ii) driving law violation in which the penalty is a loss of four points or more under the point system; (iii) a Class I, II, III, or IIIA or Class W misdemeanor; or (iv) a felony. Criminal violations will be deemed to have occurred where: (a) a student was cited by law enforcement and school officials have a reasonable basis for determining that grounds for the issuance of the citation exist or (b) a student is convicted of a criminal offense. Conviction includes, without limitation, a plea of no contest and an adjudication of delinquency by the juvenile court.

Royalty Candidate Eligibility and Selection: The determination of whether a student meets the foregoing conduct and citizenship qualification standards shall be made by a committee appointed by the Principal for each dance at which royalty is to be selected (“Royalty Candidate Eligibility and Selection Committee”). The committee will ordinarily include the Principal, Activity Director and the certificated staff sponsors.

Pre-Qualification of and Acceptance by Student: All students nominated for dance royalty shall meet with the Principal. At the meeting the Principal will review the eligibility requirements for the honor of dance royalty. The student will be required to confirm that the student meets all eligibility requirements. The student will be required to confirm his or her acceptance of the nomination for dance royalty and the responsibilities of such an all school honor. The Principal or designee may contact local, county and/or state law enforcement and judicial authorities to confirm a student’s eligibility for the honor of being nominated for or awarded dance royalty.

Specific Dance Royalty Eligibility and Selection Requirements:

Homecoming Queen & King:

- Only a senior girl shall be eligible to be Queen, and only a senior boy shall be eligible to be King.
- To be eligible, a candidate must agree to attend the entire Homecoming Dance and represent the school properly.
- Every student organization in GHS is contacted and asked to nominate a candidate from within their organization. If the organization has both male and female members, they may nominate a male and female candidate. Single gender organizations may only nominate candidates of that gender.
- Each organization will provide an alternate as well. If a student has already been nominated from another organization, the alternate will be added from the second organization. The interest is to provide as many students as possible with the opportunity to be selected for this honor.
- During Homecoming week, the student body will vote for all the candidates; this reduces the royalty to six finalists.
- The queen and king will be chosen from the qualified nominees by secret vote of the student body during Homecoming week.

The Student Council sponsors will count all ballots for both elections.

### Winter Royalty

Winter Royalty is held during the winter season. The crowning for Winter Royalty is done at either a basketball game or a wrestling match. G-Club and GGAA will select senior students as candidates. The student body will vote for the royalty candidates. GGAA sponsors Winter Royalty. The dress is semi-formal. The Gering Girls Athletic Organization (GGAA) and G-Club organize the Winter Royalty Coronation and Dance. The following procedures are used for the nomination and election of the Winter Royalty:

- GGAA nominates six senior girls and G-Club nominates six senior boys.
- Any senior who has not been selected as Homecoming King/Queen or attendant will be eligible for Winter Royalty.
- The members of each organization (GGAA and G-Club) will vote for six candidates from the list of eligible senior members in their organization.
- The top six vote getters are placed on the ballot. If there is a tie for the final position, all persons tied will go onto the ballot.
- The six queen candidates nominated by GGAA and the six king candidates nominated by G-Club are placed on the ballot.
- Student Council members will distribute the ballot so that the entire student body and teachers can vote for one candidate for king and one candidate for queen.
- The final candidates are announced as soon as possible after the balloting has occurred.
- To be eligible, a candidate must agree to attend the entire Winter Royalty Dance and represent the school properly.

### Prom Royalty

- Only a Senior girl shall be eligible to be Queen and a Senior boy shall be eligible to be King.
- The candidates may not have been previously selected as royalty at another school sponsored dance.
- The Senior Class Officers will nominate three queen and king candidates subject to a determination of eligibility by the Royalty Eligibility Committee.
- To be eligible, a candidate must agree to attend the entire Prom Dance and represent the school properly.

The queen and king will be chosen from the qualified nominees by secret vote of the junior and senior students

## Section 12 Student Fees Policy

The Board of Education of Gering Public Schools has adopted this 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 and state and federal law. This generally means that the District's policy is to provide free instruction for courses which are 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.

The District does provide activities, programs, and services to children which extend beyond the minimum level of constitutionally required free instruction. Students and their parents have historically contributed to the District's efforts to provide such activities, programs, and services. The District's general policy is to continue to encourage and, to the extent permitted by law, to require such student and parent contributions to enhance the educational program provided by the District.

Under the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act, the District is required to set forth in a policy its guidelines or policies for specific categories of student fees. The District does so by setting forth the following guidelines and policies. This policy is subject to further

interpretation or guidance by administrative or Board regulations which may be adopted from time to time. The Policy includes Appendix "1," which provides further specifics of student fees and materials required of students for the current school year. Parents, guardians, and students are encouraged to contact their building administration or their teachers or activity coaches and sponsors for further specifics.

- Guidelines for non-specialized attire required for specified courses and activities. Students have the responsibility to furnish and wear non specialized attire meeting general District grooming and attire guidelines, as well as grooming and attire guidelines established for the building or programs attended by the students or in which the students participate. Students also have the responsibility to furnish and wear non specialized attire reasonably related to the programs, courses and activities in which the students participate where the required attire is specified in writing by the administrator or teacher responsible for the program, course or activity.
- The District will provide or make available to students such safety equipment and attire as may be required by law, specifically including appropriate industrial-quality eye protective devices for courses of instruction in vocational, technical, industrial arts, chemical or chemical-physical classes which involve exposure to hot molten metals or other molten materials, milling, sawing, turning, shaping, cutting, grinding, or stamping of any solid materials, heat treatment, tempering, or kiln firing of any metal or other materials, gas or electric arc welding or other forms of welding processes, repair or servicing of any vehicle, or caustic or explosive materials, or for laboratory classes involving caustic or explosive materials, hot liquids or solids, injurious radiations, or other similar hazards. Building administrators are directed to assure that such equipment is available in the appropriate classes and areas of the school buildings, teachers are directed to instruct students in the usage of such devices and to assure that students use the devices as required, and students have the responsibility to follow such instructions and use the devices as instructed.
- Personal or consumable items & miscellaneous
  - Extracurricular Activities. Students have the responsibility to furnish any personal or consumable items for participation in extracurricular activities.
  - Courses
- General Course Materials. Items necessary for students to benefit from courses will be made available by the District for the use of students during the school day. Students may be encouraged, but not required, to bring items needed to benefit from courses including, but not limited to the following: pencils, paper, pens, erasers, notebooks, protractors and math calculators. A specific class supply list will be published annually in a Board-approved student handbook or supplement or other notice. The list may include refundable damage or loss deposits required for usage of certain District property.
- Damaged or Lost Items. Students are responsible for the careful and appropriate use of school property. Students and their parents or guardian will be held responsible for damages to school property where such damage is caused or aided by the student and will also be held responsible for the reasonable replacement cost of school property which is placed in the care of and lost by the student.
- Materials Required for Course Projects. Students are permitted to and may be encouraged to supply materials for course projects. Some course projects (such as projects in art and shop classes) may be kept by the student upon completion. In the event the completed project has more than minimal value, the student may be required, as a condition of the student keeping the completed project, to reimburse the District for the reasonable value of the materials used in the project. Standard project materials will be made available by the District. If a student wants to create a project other than the standard course project, or to use materials other than standard project materials, the student will be responsible for furnishing or paying the reasonable cost of any such materials for the project.
- Music Course Materials. Students will be required to furnish musical instruments for participation in optional music courses. Use of a musical instrument without charge is available under the

District's fee waiver policy. The District is not required to provide for the use of a particular type of musical instrument for any student.

- Parking. Students may be required to pay for parking on school grounds or at school-sponsored activities, and may be subject payment of fines or damages for damages caused with or to vehicles or for failure to comply with school parking rules.
  - Extracurricular Activities—Specialized equipment or attire. Extracurricular activities means student activities or organizations which are supervised or administered by the District, which do not count toward graduation or advancement between grades, and in which participation is not otherwise required by the District. The District will generally furnish students with specialized equipment and attire for participation in extracurricular activities. The District is not required to provide for the use of any particular type of equipment or attire. Equipment or attire fitted for the student and which the student generally wears exclusively, such as dance squad, cheerleading, and music/dance activity (e.g. choir or show choir) uniforms and outfits, along with T-shirts for teams or band members, will be required to be provided by the participating student. The cost of maintaining any equipment or attire, including uniforms, which the student purchases or uses exclusively, shall be the responsibility of the participating student. Equipment which is ordinarily exclusively used by an individual student participant throughout the year, such as golf clubs, softball gloves, and the like, are required to be provided by the student participant. Items for the personal medical use or enhancement of the student (braces, mouth pieces, and the like) are the responsibility of the student participant. Students have the responsibility to furnish personal or consumable equipment or attire for participation in extracurricular activities or for paying a reasonable usage cost for such equipment or attire. For musical extracurricular activities, students may be required to provide specialized equipment, such as musical instruments, or specialized attire, or for paying a reasonable usage cost for such equipment or attire.
  - Extracurricular Activities—Fees for participation. Any fees for participation in extracurricular activities for the current school year are further specified in Appendix "1." Admission fees are charged for extracurricular activities and events.
- Postsecondary education costs. Students are responsible for postsecondary education costs. The phrase "postsecondary education costs" means tuition and other fees only associated with obtaining credit from a postsecondary educational institution. For a course in which students receive high school credit and for which the student may also receive postsecondary education credit, the course shall be offered without charge for tuition, transportation, books, or other fees, except tuition and other fees associated with obtaining credits from a postsecondary educational institution.
- Transportation costs. Students are responsible for fees established for transportation services provided by the District as and to the extent permitted by federal and state laws and regulations.
- Copies of student files or records. The Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee shall establish a schedule of fees representing a reasonable cost of reproduction for copies of a student's files or records for the parents or guardians of such student. A parent, guardian or student who requests copies of files or records shall be responsible for the cost of copies reproduced in accordance with such fee schedule. The imposition of a fee shall not be used to prevent parents of students from exercising their right to inspect and review the student's files or records and no fee shall be charged to search for or retrieve any student's files or records. The fee schedule shall permit one copy of the requested records be provided for or on behalf of the student without charge and shall allow duplicate copies to be provided without charge to the extent required by federal or state laws or regulations.
- Participation in before-and-after-school. Students are responsible for fees required for participation in before-and-after-school or pre kindergarten services offered by the District, except to the extent such services are required to be provided without cost.
- Participation in summer school or night school. Students are responsible for fees required for

participation in summer school or night school. Students are also responsible for correspondence courses.

- Breakfast and lunch programs. Students shall be responsible for items which students purchase from the District’s breakfast and lunch programs. The cost of items to be sold to students shall be consistent with applicable federal and state laws and regulations. Students are also responsible for the cost of food, beverages, and personal or consumable items which the students purchase from the District or at school, whether from a “school store,” a vending machine, a booster club or parent group sale, a book order club, or the like. Students may be required to bring money or food for field trip lunches and similar activities.
- Waiver Policy. The District’s policy is to provide fee waivers in accordance with the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act. Students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunches under United States Department of Agriculture child nutrition programs shall be provided a fee waiver or be provided the necessary materials or equipment without charge for: (1) participation in extracurricular activities and (2) use of a musical instrument in optional music courses that are not extracurricular activities. Participation in a free-lunch program or reduced-price lunch program is not required to qualify for free or reduced-price lunches for purposes of this section. Students or their parents must request a fee waiver prior to participating in or attending the activity, and prior to purchase of the materials.
- Distribution of Policy. The Superintendent or the Superintendent’s designee shall publish the District’s student fee policy in the Student Handbook or the equivalent (for example, publication may be made in an addendum or a supplement to the student handbook). The Student Handbook or the equivalent shall be provided to every student of the District or to every household in which at least one student resides, at no cost.
- Student Fee Fund. The School Board hereby establishes a Student Fee Fund. The Student Fee Fund shall be a separate school district fund not funded by tax revenue, into which all money collected from students and subject to the Student Fee Fund shall be deposited and from which money shall be expended for the purposes for which it was collected from students. Funds subject to the Student Fee Fund consist of money collected from students for the following (1) participation in extracurricular activities, (2) postsecondary education costs, and (3) summer school or night school.

Appendix“1” to 2020-2021 Student Fees Policy of Gering Public Schools—

Additional Specification of Required Materials and Fees

Program	General Description of Fee or Material	\$ Amount of Fee (Anticipated or Maximum) <sup>1</sup> or Specific Material Required
Physical Education classes	Appropriate clothing (non-specialized attire)	Tennis shoes and white socks, running shorts, T-shirt
Art and shop classes and special projects	Appropriate clothing (non-specialized attire)	Old shirt for painting; other clothing which may get paint on it or otherwise be damaged; protective clothing for shop classes
Music—Optional band courses	Musical instruments	Musical instruments and accessories (reeds, valve oil, etc.) Limited

<sup>1</sup> Generally, dollar amounts are stated in terms of “maximums.” The actual fee or charge may be less during the 2019-2020 school year.

		instruments available for use by any student.
Classroom Supplies	General supplies, such as writing instruments (pens, pencils, crayons, markers), notebooks, etc.	None--necessary classroom supplies will be made available by the school. Students will be responsible for the replacement cost of damaged or lost supplies. Students are encouraged, but not required, to bring items from class supply lists which may be handed out by the office or individual teachers.
Advanced math or science classes	Specialized calculators	Students are encouraged, but not required, to purchase such equipment for their personal use.
Copies	Use of school copiers (except for one copy of the student file, which will be provided without charge)	Five cents (.05) per page when charges apply.
School Meals		Breakfast-- Lunch-- Prices are maximums based on one meal per day, will vary depending on the number of meals or items purchased by the student.
Post-secondary education classes	Tuition and fees for college courses taken for credit.	None--Any postsecondary education costs are to be paid directly by students to the college.
College entrance tests and preparation	Prep programs & tests	Costs of college entrance tests, such as the ACT test, are optional and to be paid directly to the private companies involved.
Extracurricular and other programs	General Description of Fee or Material	\$ Amount of Fee (Anticipated or Maximum) or Specific Material Required
Athletic Programs		
Admission	Spectator fees for admission to events	\$5.00 per event maximum. For District and Conference events hosted by the School, cost to be set by NSAA but not to exceed \$20.00 per event.
Athletic Physicals	NSAA required athletic physicals	Cost varies; payable directly to student's physician or clinic.
Equipment and attire	Students are responsible for required equipment and attire appropriate to the sport or	Required items include athletic undergarments (supporter, bra, socks and undershirts), practice attire

	activity which are not provided by the school, and are responsible for any optional clothing, equipment, or other items associated with the sport or activity.	including (shorts, shirts, socks and shoes suitable for the activity), and dress attire suitable for team travel. Optional items for which students are responsible include: personal athletic bags, hair ties, sweat bands, non-required gloves, swim goggles, towels, forearm pads and personal medical devices (braces, orthopedic inserts, etc.). Additional required items for particular sports or activities include:
Travel meals	Meals	Students are responsible for their own meals while traveling.
Camps and clinics	Registration and other costs of camps or clinics	Students are responsible for the cost of all clinics, camps and conditioning programs. Any personal items purchased at camps or clinics, such as t-shirts, shall be at the student's expense.
Marching Band and Musical Groups	Equipment and attire.	Students will be responsible for the same costs as are set out for the athletic program. Students will be responsible for supplying their own musical instruments and accessories and for their own uniforms. Uniforms for the marching band will be supplied by the school; students may be required to pay a refundable band uniform cleaning fee of up to \$20.00.
Clubs/Organizations	Annual Dues	Not to exceed \$50.00
Social & Recognition Activities		
School plays, musicals and social activities	Admission to events	\$15.00 maximum fee per play or activity
School dances	Admission to prom, homecoming, etc.	\$25.00 maximum fee per event
Class dues		Each of the four high school classes may assess its members an amount not to exceed \$50.00. The payment of such an assessment shall be strictly voluntary, but students who do not pay may be denied admission to extracurricular activities supported by the class dues.

Senior recognition assessment	Optional graduation activities	Participation in class activities attendant to graduation is not required in order for students to receive their high school diploma. Students who choose to participate will be required to pay the cost of the items involved in the graduation ceremony and attendant class activities. These may include the fee for graduation robes, caps, tassels, class flowers. A single Senior Class Recognition Assessment, not to exceed \$50, will be assessed to those Seniors who elect to participate in such activities.
Trips	Transportation, lodging, meals, admission to events, etc.	Students are responsible for costs of school sponsored trips where the trip is an extracurricular activity. The maximum costs of such trips will be \$2,500 per student. If the trip is not school sponsored, the costs of the trip are not subject to this policy and no fee waivers will apply. A trip is not school sponsored if the following apply: it is not supervised or administered by the school, attendance on the trip does not count towards graduation credit or grade advancement, and participation on the trip is voluntary for students.

## **Article 10 State and Federal Programs**

### Section 1 Notice of Nondiscrimination

The 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.

### Section 2 Designation of Coordinators

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

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	Discrimination, harassment or reasonable accommodations of	Superintendent

Disability Act (ADA)	persons with disabilities	
Homeless student laws	Children who are homeless	Superintendent
Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities	Safe and drug free schools	Superintendent

The Coordinator may be contacted at: 1519 10th Street, Gering, Nebraska 69341-2999, (308) 436-3125.

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

Elimination of Discrimination. The 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.

**Preventing Harassment and Discrimination of Students**

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

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

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

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

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

Sexual harassment may exist when:

Submission to such conduct is either an explicit or implicit term and condition of employment or of participation and enjoyment of the school's programs and activities;

Submission to or rejection of such conduct is used or threatened as a basis for employment related decisions such as promotion, performance, evaluation, pay adjustment, discipline, work assignment, etc., or school program or activity decisions such as admission, credits, grades, school assignments or playing time.

The conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or educational performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working, class room or educational environment.

Sexual harassment may include explicit sexual propositions, sexual innuendo, suggestive comments, sexually oriented "kidding" or "teasing", "practical jokes", jokes about gender-specific traits, foul or obscene language or gestures, displays of foul or obscene printed or visual material, and physical contact such as patting, pinching or brushing against another's body.

## Complaint and Grievance Procedures:

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

If the employee or student's complaint is not resolved to his or her satisfaction within five (5) to ten (10) calendar days, or if the discrimination or harassment continues, or if as a student you feel you need immediate help for any reason, please report your complaint to the Superintendent of Gering Public Schools. If a satisfactory arrangement cannot be obtained through the Superintendent, the complaint may be processed to the Board of Education.

The supervisor, teacher or the Superintendent will thoroughly investigate all complaints. These situations will be treated with the utmost confidence, consistent with resolution of the problem. Based on the results of the investigation, appropriate corrective action, up to and including discharge of offending employees, and disciplinary action up to expulsion against a harassing student, may be taken. Under no circumstances will any threats or retaliation be permitted to be made against an employee or student for alleging in good faith a violation of this policy.

## Section 4 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 the following: (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 contributions made by diverse cultures and races (including but not be 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.

## Section 5 Notice to Parents of Rights Afforded by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 SEE ARTICLE 6 SECTION 3

## Section 6 Notification of Rights Under FERPA (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, 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) afford 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 rights 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 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.

The District forwards education records (may include academic, health and discipline records) that have requested the records and 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

## Section 7 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.

## ADDITIONAL NOTICE CONCERNING DIRECTORY INFORMATION

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 designates such student work as directory information and as non-education 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.

#### Section 8 Notice Concerning Disclosure of Student Recruiting Information

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

#### Section 9 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.

#### Section 10 Student Privacy Protection Policy

It is the policy of Gering Public Schools to develop and implement policies which protect the privacy of students in accordance with applicable laws. The District's policies in this regard 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 and Right to Opt-Out of Specific Events."

Right of Parents to Inspect Instructional Materials: Parents 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 the request can be accommodated, the building principal shall make the materials available for inspection or review by the parent, at such reasonable times 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 requested 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 and Right to Opt-Out of Specific Events."

Protection of Student Privacy in Regard to Personal Information Collected from Students: The general policy and 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" for purposes of this policy means individually identifiable information about a student including: a student or parent's first and last name, home address, telephone number, and social security number. The term "personal information," for purposes of this policy, 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 used 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 school staff member or program responsible for the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information from 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 from students. In the event such 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 Policy: The District provides parents with reasonable notice of the adoption or continued use of this policy and other policies related to 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 will 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).

## Section 11 Parental Involvement Policies

### A. 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. It is the District's policy to foster and facilitate, to the extent appropriate and in their primary language, parental information about,

and involvement in, the education of their children. Policies and regulations are established 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 student's well-being.
  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 or other school experience and should be accompanied by a 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, if needed, of the content and effectiveness of the parental involvement policy.
- B. Title I Parental Involvement Policy:

The District's Title I Parental Involvement Policy is established in compliance with the No Child Left Behind Act. The District has a parental involvement policy applicable to parents of all children. The parental involvement policy applicable to parents of all children is not replaced by this Title I Parental Involvement Policy and shall continue to be applicable to all parents, including parents participating in Title I programs.

It is the policy of the District to implement programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of parents in Title I programs consistent with the Title I laws. Such programs, activities, and procedures shall be planned and implemented with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.

Expectations for Parental Involvement: It is the expectation of the District that parents of participating children will have opportunities available for parental involvement in the programs, activities, and procedures of the District's Title I program. The term "parental involvement" means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring—(A) that parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning; (B) that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school; (C) that parents are full partners in their child's

education and are included, as appropriate, in decision making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child; and (D) the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in this parental involvement policy. The District intends to meet this expectation through the following activities:

1. Involving parents in the joint development of the District's Title I plan and the processes of school review and school improvement.
2. Providing coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance.
3. Building the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement.
4. Coordinating and integrating parental involvement strategies under Title I with parental involvement strategies under other programs.
5. Conducting, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parental involvement policy in improving the academic quality of the schools served under the Title I program, including identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in Title I programs, with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background, and use the findings of such evaluation to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary, the parental involvement policies of the District.
6. Involving parents in the activities of the schools served under Title I.

Policy Involvement: Each school served under the Title I program will:

1. Convene an annual meeting, 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 the Title I program and to explain the requirements of the Title I program.
2. Offer a flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening. If sufficient funds are provided for this purpose, the District may assist parental involvement in such meetings by offering transportation, child care, or home visits.
3. Involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I programs.
4. Provide parents of participating children: (1) timely information about programs under Title I, (2) a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet; and (3) if requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children, and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible.
5. If the District operates a school-wide program under Title I and such plan is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, submit any parental comments on the plan when the school makes the plan available to the District.

Shared Responsibilities for High Student Academic Achievement: As a component of the District's parental involvement policy, each school served under the Title I program will jointly develop with parents for all children served under the Title I program a school-parent compact that 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 standards. Such compact shall: (1) describe the school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables the children served under Title I to meet the State's student academic achievement standards and the ways in which each parent will be responsible for supporting their children's learning, such as monitoring attendance, homework completion, and

television watching; volunteering in their child's classroom; and participating, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children and positive use of extracurricular time; and (2) address the importance of communication between teachers and parents on an ongoing basis through, at a minimum: (i) parent-teacher conferences in elementary schools, at least annually, during which the compact shall be discussed as the compact relates to the individual child's achievement; (ii) frequent reports to parents on their children's progress; and (iii) reasonable access to staff, opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class, and observation of classroom activities.

Building Capacity for Involvement: To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the District, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, each school participating in the Title I program and the District: (1) shall provide assistance to participating parents, as appropriate, in understanding such topics as the State's academic content standards and State student academic achievement standards, State and local academic assessments, the requirements of Title I and how to monitor a child's progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children; (2) shall provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement; (3) shall educate teachers, student service personnel, principals, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and the school; (4) shall, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, the Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, the Parents as Teacher Program, and public preschool and other programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children; (5) shall ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents of participating children in a format, and to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand; (6) may involve parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of such training; (7) may provide necessary literacy training from funds received under Title I if the District has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for such training; (8) may pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental involvement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions; (9) may train parents to enhance the involvement of other parents; (10) may arrange school meetings at a variety of times, or conduct in-home conferences between teachers or other educators, who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend such conferences at school, in order to maximize parental involvement and participation; (11) may adopt and implement model approaches to improving parental involvement; (12) may establish a district-wide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in programs supported under Title I; (13) may develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in parent involvement activities; and (14) shall provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under Title I as parents may request.

Accessibility: In carrying out the parental involvement activities for this Title I Parental Involvement policy, the District shall provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under Title I in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language such parents understand.

Use, Distribution, and Updating of this Policy: This Title I Parental Involvement Policy shall be incorporated into the District's Title I plan, shall be distributed to parents of participating children, shall be made available to the local community, and shall be updated periodically to meet the changing needs of the parents and the school.

## Section 12 Homeless Students Policy

Homeless children for purposes of this Policy generally include children who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, as further defined by applicable federal and state law.

No Stigmatization or Segregation of Homeless Students: It is the District's policy and practice to ensure that homeless children are not stigmatized or segregated by the District on the basis of their status as homeless.

Homeless Coordinator: The Homeless Coordinator shall serve as the school liaison for homeless children and youth and shall ensure that: (1) homeless children are identified by school personnel; (2) homeless children enroll in, and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed in, school; (3) homeless children and their families receive educational services for why they are eligible and referrals to health, dental, and mental health services and other appropriate services; (4) the parents or guardians of homeless children are informed of the educational and related opportunities available to their children and provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children; (5) public notice of the educational rights of homeless children is disseminated where such children receive services under the federal homeless children laws, such as schools, family shelters, and soup kitchens; (6) enrollment disputes are mediated in accordance with law; and (7) the parents or guardians of homeless children, and any unaccompanied youth, are fully informed of transportation services available under law. The Homeless Coordinator shall coordinate with State coordinators and community and school personnel responsible for the provisions of education and related services to homeless children. The Homeless Coordinator may designate duties hereunder as the Homeless Coordinator determines to be appropriate.

Enrollment of and Services to Homeless Children: A homeless child shall be enrolled in compliance with law and be provided services comparable to services offered to other students in the school in which the homeless child has been placed. Placement of a homeless child is determined based on the child's "school of origin" and the "best interests" of the child. The "school of origin" means the school that the child attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child was last enrolled. Placement decisions shall be made according to the District's determination of the child's best interests, and shall be at either: (1) the child's school of origin for the duration of the child's homelessness (or, if the child becomes permanently housed during the school year, for the remainder of that school year) or (2) the school of the attendance area where the child is actually living. To the extent feasible, the placement shall be in the school of origin, except when such is contrary to the wishes of the homeless child's parent or legal guardian. If the placement is not in the school of origin or a school requested by the homeless child's parent or legal guardian, the District shall provide a written explanation of the placement decision and a statement of appeal rights to the parent or guardian. If the homeless child is an unaccompanied youth, the Homeless Coordinator shall assist in the placement decision, consider the views of the unaccompanied youth, and provide the unaccompanied youth with notice of the right to appeal. In the event of an enrollment dispute, the placement shall be at the school in which enrollment is sought, pending resolution of the dispute in accordance with the dispute resolution process. The homeless child shall be immediately enrolled in the school in which the District has determined to place the child, even if the child is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment, such as previous academic records, medical records, proof of residency, or other documentation. The District shall immediately contact the school last attended by the homeless child to obtain relevant academic and other records. If the homeless child needs to obtain immunizations or medical records, the District shall immediately refer the parent or guardian of the homeless child to the Homeless Coordinator, who shall assist in obtaining necessary immunizations or medical records. The District may nonetheless require the parent or guardian of the homeless child to submit contact information.

Transportation will be provided to homeless students, to the extent required by law and comparable to that provided to students who are not homeless, upon request of the parent or guardian of the homeless child, or by the Homeless Coordinator in the case of an unaccompanied youth, as follows: (1) if the homeless child's school of origin is in the District, and the homeless child continues to live in the District, transportation to and from the school or origin shall be provided by the District; and (2)

if the homeless child lives in a school other than the District, but continues to attend the Gering Public Schools based on it being the school of origin, the new school and Gering Public Schools shall agree upon a method to apportion the responsibility and costs for providing the child with transportation to and from the school of origin and, if they are unable to agree, the responsibility and cost for transportation shall be shared equally.

### Section 13 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. In fulfilling its responsibilities the school food authority:

1. Agrees to serve meals free to children from families whose income meets eligibility guidelines.
2. Agrees to serve meals at a reduced price to children from families whose income falls between free meal scale and the poverty guidelines.
3. Agrees to provide these benefits to any child whose family's income falls within the criteria in Attachment A after deductions are made for the following special hardship conditions which could not reasonably be anticipated or controlled by the household: Unusually high medical expenses; shelter costs in excess of 30 percent of reported income; special education expenses due to the mental or physical condition of a child; disaster or casualty losses.
4. In addition, agrees to provide these benefits to children from families who are experiencing strikes, layoffs and unemployment which cause the family income to fall within the criteria set forth in federal guidelines.
5. Agrees there will be no physical segregation of, nor any other discrimination against, any child because of his inability to pay the full price of the meal. The names of the children eligible to receive free and reduced price meals shall not be published, posted or announced in any manner and there shall be no overt identification of any such children by use of special tokens or tickets or any other means. Further assurance is given that children eligible for free or reduced price meals shall not be required to do the following: work for their meals, use a separate lunch room, go through a separate serving line, enter the lunchroom through a separate entrance, eat meals at a different time, or eat a meal different from the one sold to children paying the full price.
6. Agrees in the operation of child nutrition programs, no child shall be discriminated against because of race, sex, color, or national origin.
7. Agrees to establish and use a fair hearing procedure for parental appeals to the school's decisions on applications and for school officials' challenges to the correctness of information contained in an application or to be continued eligibility of any child for free or reduced price meals. During the appeal and hearing the child will continue to receive free or reduced priced meals. A record of all such appeals and challenges and their dispositions shall be retained for three (3) years. Prior to initiating the hearing procedures, the parent or local school official may request a conference to provide an opportunity for the parent and school official to discuss the situation, present information, and obtain an explanation of data submitted in the application and decisions rendered. Such a conference shall not in any way prejudice or diminish the right to a fair hearing. The hearing procedure shall provide the following:
  - o A publicly-announced, simple method for making an oral or written request for a hearing.

- An opportunity to be assisted or represented by an attorney or other person.
- An opportunity to examine, prior to and during the hearing, the documents and records presented to support the decision under appeal.
- Reasonable promptness and convenience in scheduling a hearing and adequate notice as to the time and place of the hearing.
- An opportunity to present oral or documentary evidence and arguments supporting a position without undue interference.
- An opportunity to question or refute any testimony or other evidence and to confront and cross-examine any adverse witnesses.

The hearing be conducted and the decision made by a hearing official who did not participate in the decision under appeal or in any previous conference.

The parties concerned and any designated representative thereof be notified in writing of the decision of the hearing official.

8. Agrees to designate the Superintendent to review applications and make determinations of eligibility. This official will use the criteria outlined in this policy to determine which individual children are eligible for free or reduced price meals.
9. Agrees to develop and send to each child's parent or guardian a letter as outlined by State Department of Education including an application form for free or reduced price meals at the beginning of each school year. Applications may be filed at any time during the year. All children from a family will receive the same benefits.

The following information will be available in the office of the Superintendent:

- Eligibility criteria for free and reduced meals
- Parent letter and application
- Public release
- Collection procedure

## 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:
  1. Must be made to Gering Public Schools.
  2. Must have student's full name in memo.
  3. 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.

### 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.

## Section 14

### POLICY 503.9 GERING PUBLIC SCHOOLS GERING, NE 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:
  1. 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.
  2. 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:
  1. 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
  2. with other local educational agencies on interdistrict issues, such as transportation or transfer of school records.
2. Coordination purpose - The coordination shall be designed to:
  1. ensure that homeless children and youths have access and reasonable proximity, to available education and related support services; and
  2. 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:
  1. homeless children and youths are identified by school personnel and through coordination activities with other entities and agencies;
  2. 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;
  3. 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;
  4. 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;
  5. receive individualized counseling from counselors to prepare and improve their readiness for college, including college selection, application, financial aid, and on-campus supports;
  6. 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;
  7. 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;
  8. enrollment disputes are mediated in accordance state and federal law; and
  9. 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—
  1. in any case in which a family becomes homeless between academic years or during an academic year; or
  2. 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

1. In determining the best interest of the child or youth the district shall 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.

1. If a dispute arises over school selection or enrollment in a school, 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 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.

**POLICY 504.19R1  
GERING PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
GERING, NE**

STUDENT FEES  
2019-2020  
Gering High School

	<b>Fund</b>	<b>Waiver Eligible</b>	<b>Up to Maximum Cost</b>
<b>Marching Band</b>			
Uniform Cleaning	Activity	Yes	\$ 15.00
T Shirts	Activity	Yes	\$ 20.00
Marching Shoes	Activity	Yes	\$ 35.00
Black Slacks	Activity	Yes	\$ 25.00
Honor Band/Choir	Activity	No	\$ 40.00
Musical Groups	Activity	Yes	\$ 175.00
All School Musical (costume purchase)	Fee	No	\$ 100.00
Class Projects	Activity	No	\$ 150.00
College Classes	Fee	No	\$ 800.00
<del>Physiology —Cholesterol Check</del>	<del>Direct Pay</del>	<del>No</del>	<del>—\$ 25.00</del>
Cap & Gown	Activity	No	\$ 30.00
Specialized Uniforms (Custom Fitted Attire)	Activity	No	\$ 750.00
Club Apparel	Activity	No	\$ 40.00
Club Organization Dues	Fee	No	\$ 25.00
<del>Field Trips (required)</del>	<del>Activity</del>	<del>Yes</del>	<del>—\$ 20.00</del>
<del>Field Trips (not required)</del>	<del>Activity</del>	<del>No</del>	<del>—\$ 65.00</del>
Class Dues (annually)	Activity	No	\$ 10.00
Activity Tickets-Passes	Activity	No	\$ 25.00
<del>Test prep course fees</del>	<del>Activity</del>	<del>No</del>	<del>—\$ 20.00</del>
<del>Technology Usage Chromebook Fee</del>	Fee	Yes	\$ 20.00
Chromebook Replacement Fee	Fee	Yes	\$ 250.00
Banquet/Dinners	Activity	No	\$ 20.00

**Gering Junior High School**

	<b>Fund</b>	<b>Waiver Eligible</b>	<b>Maximum Cost</b>
Band T-Shirt	Activity	Yes	\$ 15.00
Band Black Slacks	Activity	Yes	\$ 25.00
Honor Band Audition	Activity	No	\$ 40.00
Class Projects	Activity	No	\$ 100.00
Club Dues Organization	Fee	Yes	\$ 5.00
Activity Tickets-Passes	Activity	No	\$ 25.00

