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# **BUSINESS and FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

**7.1—FISCAL YEAR**

The District’s fiscal year shall begin July 1 and end on the following June 30.

Legal Reference:       A.C.A. § 6-20-410

Date Adopted: 05/19/05

Last Revised:

## **7.2—ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET**

The Superintendent shall be responsible for the preparation of the annual operating budget for the District. The Superintendent shall present the budget to the Board for its review, modification, and approval.

The budget shall be prepared in the electronic format as prescribed by the State Board of Education and filed with the Arkansas Department of Education no later than September 30 of each year.

The approved budget shall provide for expenditures that are within anticipated revenues and reserves. The District Treasurer shall present monthly reconciliation reports and a statement on the general financial condition of the District monthly to the Board.

Line item changes may be made to the budget at any time during the fiscal year upon the approval of the Board. Any changes made to the budget shall be in accordance with District policy and state law.

Legal References:      A.C.A. § 6-13-701 (e)(3)  
                                 A.C.A. § 6-20-2202

Date Adopted: 05/19/05

Last Revised: 05/19/14

### **7.3—MILLAGE RATE**

The Board shall publish one time in some newspaper published in the county in which the district lies, at least sixty (60) days in advance of the school election at which the annual ad valorem property tax for the district is decided by the electors, the District's proposed budget, together with a millage rate sufficient to provide the funds necessary for the District's operation.

Legal References:       A.C.A. § 6-13-622  
                              Arkansas Constitution: Article 14 Section 3 (c) as amended by Amendment 74

Date Adopted: 05/19/05  
Last Revised: 06/16/11

## **7.4—GRANTS AND SPECIAL FUNDING**

The Superintendent or his/her designee may apply for grants or special funding for the District. Any grants or special funding that require matching District resources shall receive Board approval prior to the filing of the grant's or special resource's application.

Date Adopted: 05/19/05

Last Revised:

## **7.5—PURCHASES AND PROCUREMENT**

Purchases shall be made in accordance with State laws and procurement procedures governing school purchases that are deemed to be in the best interest of the District and are the result of fair and open competition between qualified bidders and suppliers. No bids shall be taken for professional services.

### **DEFINITIONS**

“Commodities” are all supplies, goods, material, equipment, computers, software, machinery, facilities, personal property, and services, other than personal and professional services, purchased on behalf of the District.

“Micro-purchases” are purchases with a value of less than three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500) when purchased with Federal funds.

“Professional services” are legal, financial advisory, architectural, engineering, construction management, and land surveying professional consultant services.

“Specifications” means a technical description or other description of the physical and/or functional characteristics of a commodity.

### **Commodities**

The superintendent shall develop procedures for the procurement of micro-purchases that provide for the distribution of purchases between eligible vendors to the extent possible.

Purchases of commodities with a purchase price of more than \$20,000.00 require Board approval; however, if an emergency exists, the Superintendent may waive this requirement. The Superintendent shall serve as the designated agent of the district in all purchases related to day to day operations of the district.

The district shall notify in writing all actual or prospective bidders, offerors, or contractors who make a written request to the district for notification of opportunities to bid. The notification shall be made in sufficient time to allow actual or prospective bidders, offerors, or contractors to submit a bid or other appropriate response. The board shall accept bids submitted electronically by email or fax for any and all district purchases, unless specified to be submitted by other means or methods, and except those bids which have been specified to have a designated date upon which the bids shall be opened. The superintendent shall be responsible for ensuring submitted bids, whether written, faxed, or emailed, are retained in accordance with policy 7.15—RECORD RETENTION AND DESTRUCTION.

The district will not solicit bids or otherwise contract for a sum greater than twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) with vendors that are on the “excluded parties list” if the contract is to be paid from federal grant funds.

All purchases for a Federal program with an estimated purchase price between three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500) and twenty thousand five hundred dollars (\$20,500) and all purchases of commodities within estimated purchase price that equals or exceeds twenty thousand five hundred dollars (\$20,500) shall be procured by soliciting bids. Specifications shall be devised for all commodities to be bid that are specific enough to ensure uniformity of the bid and yet not so restrictive that it would prevent competitive bidding. The bid specifications shall not include the name or identity of any specific vendor. The Board reserves the right to reject all bids and to purchase the commodity by negotiating a contract. In such an instance, each responsible bidder who submitted a bid shall be notified and given a reasonable opportunity to negotiate.

Bids shall be awarded after careful examination of the details of the bid to determine the best overall value to the District. In instances where the low bid was not accepted a statement of the reasons shall be attached to the bid. Bidders submitting written bids shall be notified in writing of the bid award.

Whenever possible, a preference will be given to minority and women owned businesses.

The following commodities may be purchased without soliciting bids provided that the Superintendent determines in writing that it is not practicable to use other than the required or designated commodity or service, and a copy of the written documentation is attached to the purchase order:

1. Commodities in instances of an unforeseen and unavoidable emergency;
2. Commodities available only from the federal government;
3. Utility services;
4. Used equipment and machinery; and
5. Commodities available only from a single source;
6. Personal or professional services.
7. Fuel

Prospective bidders, offerors, or contractors may appeal to the district's superintendent if they believe the district failed follow district bidding and purchasing policy or state law.

Any award of a contract shall be subject to revocation for ten (10) working days from:

- The initial awarding of the contract; or
- If an appeal is received, resolution of the appeal.

The intent is to provide prospective bidders, offerors, or contractors the opportunity to appeal the bid award if they believe the facts warrant an appeal. Any appeal shall be **in writing by certified mail** and received by the district office, "attention to the superintendent" within seven (7) calendar days following the initial and revocable award of the contract.

If the district receives an appeal of a bid award, they shall notify, in writing, those prospective bidders, offerors, or contractors who have made a written request to the district for notification of opportunities to bid that an appeal has been submitted. The notification shall state:

- that the contract award has been halted pending resolution of the appeal and could be revoked;
- the reasons for the appeal;
- that the recipient of the letter may respond to the protested issues identified in the appeal;
- the date the decision on the appeal will be made and notification sent;
- that if the appeal is upheld, the bidding process will start all over again;
- that if the bidding is re-opened, changes will be made to the request for bids as necessary to satisfy the reasons for upholding the appeal.

The sole authority to resolve any appeal made relating to this policy shall rest with the superintendent. The superintendent's decision shall be final and conclusive. In the event the district upholds an appeal, the sole responsibility of the district to the aggrieved bidder(s) shall be the re-opening of the bidding process.

The District reserves the right to extend or renew a contract that was previously awarded under the process governed by this policy and law, provided the extension or renewal meet the following criteria.

1. The equipment and services provided under the extended or renewed contract meets or exceeds the specifications of the original bid.
2. The extended or renewed contract agreement complies with the state of Arkansas's documentation requirements.
3. The cost of the extended or renewed contract is the same or less than the original contract.
4. The extension or renewal is approved by the local school board.

### **Professional Services**

The District does not use a bidding process when procuring professional services. Instead, when the District needs to procure professional services, the District shall:

1. Select three (3) qualified firms;
2. Determine the most qualified firm by considering, at a minimum, the:
  - Specialized experience and technical competence of the firm with respect to the type of professional services required;
  - Capacity and capability of the firm to perform the work in question, including specialized services, within the time limitations fixed for the completion of the project;
  - Past record of performance of the firm with respect to such factors as control of costs, quality of work, and ability to meet schedules and deadlines; and
  - Firm's proximity to and familiarity with the area in which the project is located;
3. Negotiate a contract for the project with the most qualified firm.

When negotiating a contract, the District and the selected firm shall jointly prepare a detailed, written description of the scope of the proposed services. If the District is unable to negotiate a satisfactory contract with the firm selected, negotiations with that firm shall be terminated and the District shall negotiate a contract with the next most qualified firm. In the event the District is unable to negotiate a contract with any of the original selected firms, the District

shall reevaluate the necessary professional services, including the scope and reasonable fee requirements, and return to step one.

The District encourages firms who provide professional services to submit annual statements of qualifications and performance data to the District. The District shall request any additional information as needed for a particular public project.

Legal References:   A.C.A. § 6-21-301, 303, 304, 305, 306  
                          A.C.A. § 6-24-101 et seq.  
                          A.C.A. § 19-11-801 et seq.  
                          2 C.F.R. § 200.67  
                          2 C.F.R. § 200.319  
                          2 C.F.R. § 200.320  
                          2 C.F.R. § 200.321  
                          2 C.F.R. § 200.324  
                          48 C.F.R. § 2.101

Date Adopted: 05/19/05  
Last Revised: 07/19/18

## **7.6—ACTIVITY ACCOUNT**

The District shall maintain an account of activity funds. The funds for the account are those revenues derived from the sale of tickets to athletic contests or other school sponsored activities; the sale of food other than that sold in the cafeteria; the sale of soft drinks, school supplies, and books; and fees charged by clubs and organizations.

Activity funds shall be maintained and accounted for according to guidelines and procedures established by the General Education Division of the Department of Education.

The Superintendent shall be the custodian of all activity funds and shall be responsible and accountable for the funds. The Superintendent may appoint a co-custodian for each school in the District who shall also be responsible for the activity funds he/she maintains.

Legal Reference:       A.C.A. § 6-13-701 (e)

Date Adopted: 05/19/05

Last Revised:

## **7.7—CASH IN CLASSROOMS**

No cash or checks are to be left in any classroom overnight. Staff, other than the District Business Manager, who collect funds in the course of their employment should deposit the funds daily. All employees should deposit daily, unless otherwise directed by the Superintendent or District Business Manager.

Date Adopted: 05/19/05

Last Revised: 06/28/12

## **7.8—PERSONAL PROPERTY**

To avoid confusion and the potential for misunderstandings, District staff who bring personal property to school to use in the performance of their jobs should label the items with their names. Any such items should be removed from the school at the close of school each year. The District assumes no responsibility for damage to, or the loss of, personal property brought to District facilities by District staff.

Date Adopted: 05/19/05

Last Revised:

## **7.9—PROPERTY INSURANCE**

The Superintendent shall be responsible, with approval of the Board, for maintaining adequate insurance coverage for all District properties. At a minimum, the District will purchase insurance coverage sufficient to meet the requirements by the Arkansas Commission for Public School Academic Facilities and Transportation.

Date Adopted: 05/19/05

Last Revised: 06/16/11

## **7.10—PUBLIC USE OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS**

It is the policy of the Board that District school buildings may be used by citizens of the District to conduct lawful meetings for social, civic, or recreational purposes provided such meetings do not interfere with the regular school work and proper protection is afforded the district against the potential costs of such use. The Superintendent shall be responsible, with Board approval, for establishing procedures governing such use of school buildings. The governing procedures shall be viewpoint neutral. Building principals shall be consulted to determine if there exists any conflict with planned school activities prior to other groups being allowed to use school facilities.

The District shall establish a fee schedule for the school facilities the District intends to make available for public use. The fee schedule shall be individualized for each school facility and shall be based on a formula that allows the District to reclaim the actual costs incurred by the District from the use of the facility.

School facilities that do not appear on the District's fee schedule shall not be available to the public.

The District shall also require any non-school related group using a district facility to provide proof of having purchased sufficient active and current general liability insurance to cover the damage to, or the cost to entirely replace the structure(s) and furnishing(s), if necessary due to the loss of, or damage to, District property.

Organizations using school facilities assume full and complete responsibility for the conduct of all persons, regardless of age, associated with their use of the facility while they are in or about the facility. Smoking or the use of tobacco or products containing tobacco in any form or the use of drugs or intoxicants is prohibited. Firearms of any kind are not allowed on school property unless the person carrying the firearm is a law enforcement officer.

The school owned school bus repair facilities and maintenance shop shall be used only for the repair and maintenance of school owned property.

Legal Reference:       A.C.A. § 5-73-119  
                              A.C.A. § 5-73-120  
                              A.C.A. § 6-10-130  
                              A.C.A. § 6-21-101  
                              Arkansas Constitution Article 14, § 2

Date Adopted: 05/19/05  
Last Revised: 06/09/16

## **7.11—USE OF SCHOOL FUNDS FOR NON-SCHOOL RELATED PURPOSES**

School operating funds shall not be used for political, charitable, or humanitarian purposes.

No employee of the District shall use school time, school property, school personnel, or school equipment for the purpose of furthering the interests of any political party, the campaign of any political candidate or the advocacy of any political issue or ballot issue whether partisan or non-partisan. School employees may participate as part of a community organization that is renting a school facility for a political purpose so long as the event is not during school time or the employee takes personal or vacation leave, with prior approval of his/her supervisor, for the time the employee is attending the event.

Any school employee found guilty or who pleads guilty, or nolo contendere to the use of District funds to support any ballot measure shall be immediately suspended, and recommended for termination by the superintendent.

The Board of Directors is not prohibited from expressing an opinion on a ballot measure through the passage of resolution or proclamation. School employees are allowed to verbally express their views on a ballot measure other than in an attempt to persuade a student to the employee's point of view.

District employees and members of the Board of Directors may incur incidental expenditure of District funds for travel costs when speaking at an event in which a ballot measure is discussed if the subject matter of the speaking engagement is within the scope of the person's official duties and responsibilities.

District funds may be used to disseminate public information at a public speaking engagement. The incidental use of District resources may be used to prepare an analysis of the public information if such information is within the scope of the person's official duties and responsibilities.

Legal References:     Arkansas Constitution Article 14 § 2  
                              A.C.A. § 7-1-103  
                              A.C.A. § 7-1-111  
                              A.C.A. § 21-8-402

Date Adopted: 05/19/05  
Last Revised: 06/09/16

## **7.12—EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT**

The requirements of this policy shall govern reimbursement for expenses related to travel and/or attendance at conferences and professional development activities incurred by district employees and/or members of the Board of Directors on behalf of the district. Original receipts must accompany all requests for reimbursement to the extent that such receipts are customarily available. For a receipt to be valid it should contain the name of the issuing company, the date, and the amount. Mileage, lodging, and meal expenses will not be reimbursed when incurred for the personal convenience of the employee and not required by the reason for the travel. Reimbursement for travel shall be for the lesser of the cost between travel by air or by car with some consideration allowed for length of time and the method of travel.

To the extent practicable, employees shall have the district pay initial conference and professional development registration fees and associated necessary materials. In the occasional circumstances where this is not practical, the district shall reimburse the employee for such fees if they were authorized in advance and are supported with proper receipts.

The District will not reimburse expenses of any non-school board member or non-employee who accompanies the school board member or employee during his/her school related travel.

### **Reimbursable Expenses**

Mileage that is driven for a district sanctioned purpose in an employee's personal vehicle shall be reimbursed provided appropriate documentation is submitted establishing the date and time, place, and purpose of the travel. Mileage shall be reimbursed at the rate of 40 cents per mile and shall be based on the shortest, most reasonable, route available.

Meals may be reimbursed for travel which necessitates an overnight stay when submitted according to the dictates of this policy. Reimbursement shall be prorated based on the percent of a day the employee is away on travel. For example, if an employee returns from his/her travel in the afternoon, he/she is only eligible for reimbursement for breakfast and lunch expenditures. Meals shall be reimbursed at the following rate: \$7.00 breakfast, \$10.00 lunch and \$12.00 dinner.

Tips paid by a school employee for meals associated with travel as defined in this policy are not reimbursable.

Meal expenses incurred by the superintendent or other administrators as necessary, in the performance of their duties when meeting with state officials or consultants may be reimbursed on a prorated, per person basis in line with the mandates of this policy. Such expenses shall only be reimbursed when the expenditure is likely to result in a tangible benefit to the district.

Travel necessitating overnight lodging shall be reimbursed to the extent that it is not lavish and is reasonable based on circumstances of the expenditure. Proper documentation establishing the date and time, place, and purpose of the travel must be submitted along with a receipt for the overnight accommodations. Employees shall receive assistance from administrators or their designee in arranging travel plans to help keep expenses to a minimum.

## **Expenses Not Covered**

The district shall not reimburse the following items/categories of expenses,

- Alcoholic beverages;
- Entertainment expenses – including sports or sporting events; pay per view or game expenses at motels;
- Replacement due to loss of theft;
- Discretionary expenses for items such as clothing or gifts;
- Medical expenses incurred while on route to or from or at the destination of the reason for the travel;
- Optional or supplementary insurance obtained by the employee for the period covered during the travel

## **Credit Cards**

Only those employees specifically issued credit cards to be used in the performance of their jobs to purchase goods, services, or supplies on behalf of the district shall be allowed to use such cards. Employees who incur reimbursable expenses as defined in this policy are expected to pay for them initially by any means they choose and then submit their request for reimbursement. The district assumes no responsibility for the payment of any personal credit card charges incurred by a district employee. Reimbursement request must be accompanied by itemized receipts that are unaltered.

## **Airport Associated Expenses**

Receipts for airport associated expenses are required for reimbursement. All airline flights shall be by coach/economy class. Upon arrival at their destination, employees are expected to take the less expensive option between a taxi and an airport shuttle service to his/her hotel or meeting site. When circumstances dictate that a rental car is necessary and/or the most economical approach to the travel requirements, the least expensive car that will accomplish the job should be rented. The district shall not reimburse for any kind of rental car supplemental insurance.

Reimbursement for teacher purchased materials and supplies must be for purchases authorized in advance by the principal or superintendent. Proof of pre-authorization and unaltered itemized receipt must be presented for payment. Receipts should be turned in no later than 30 days following expenditure. Approved reimbursements will be made within 30 days.

Date Adopted: 05/19/05

Last Revised: 07/22/13

### **7.13-----FEDERAL GOVERNMENT GRANT FUNDS**

The superintendent or his/her designee shall develop procedures governing the procurement, use, management, and disposal of goods, materials, and equipment purchased with federal grant funds. At a minimum, the procedures will cover the following topics.

- Ensuring that expenditures of federal grant funds are done in accordance with the requirements placed on those funds by the federal government and/or the procurement requirements specified in Policy 7.5;
- Labeling all goods, materials, and equipment purchased with federal funds;
- Establishing adequate controls to account for their location, custody, and security;
- Annually auditing the inventory of equipment purchased with Title I funds and updating a listing of such equipment to reconcile the audit with the district's inventory system. The audit will be documented and account for any transfers and/or disposals of equipment purchased with Title I funds.

Date Adopted: 05/19/05

Date Revised: 05/17/07

## **7.14----USE OF DISTRICT CELL PHONES AND COMPUTERS**

Board members, staff and students shall not be given cell phones or computers for any purpose other than their specific use associated with school business. School employees who use a school issued cell phones and/or computers for non-school purposes, except as permitted by District's policy, shall be subject to discipline, up to and including termination. School employees may be issued District cell phones if their position requires the employee be available at all times for work related emergencies or the employee be available to speak with others on school related business when the employee is away from the office. Employees issued cell phones for such purposes may use the phone for personal use on an "as needed" basis.

Students who use a school issued cell phones, and/or computers for non-school purposes, except as permitted by the District's Internet/computer use policy, shall be subject to discipline, up to and including suspension or expulsion.

All employees are forbidden from using school issued cell phones while driving any vehicle at any time. Violation may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination.

Date Adopted:

Last Revised: 06/28/12

**7.15----NON DISCRIMINATION POLICY STATEMENT**

## Non Discrimination Policy Statement

In keeping with the guidelines of Title VI, Section 601, Civil Rights Act of 1964; Title IX, Section 901, Education Amendments of 1982; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; Manila School District assures that no person in the United States shall, on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or handicap be excluded for the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.

Coordinator: Title VI, Superintendent  
Address: PO Box 670  
Manila, AR 72442  
Phone: 561-4419

Coordinator: Title IX, Superintendent  
Address: PO Box 670  
Manila, AR 72442  
Phone: 561-4419

Coordinator: Section 504, Superintendent  
Address: PO Box 670  
Manila, AR 72442  
Phone: 561-4419

Any person having inquiries concerning compliance with Title VI (Race), Title IX (Sex), or Section 504 (Handicap) is directed to contact the above appropriate coordinator.

Date Adopted:  
Last Revised:

## **7.16----RECORD RETENTION AND DESTRUCTION**

It is necessary to maintain district records in a manner that provides for efficient document storage and retrieval and is conducive to eliminating unnecessary record retention. Due to the variety of records that may need to be retained and accessed, the superintendent shall ensure that all staff receive appropriate training to understand this policy. Staff shall also understand the possible ramifications to the district and/or themselves for failure to properly maintain records and follow the requirements contained in this policy.

### Definitions

"Directly or directly interested" (hereinafter "directly") means receiving compensation or other benefits personally or to an individual's household from the person, business, or entity contracting with the District.

"Indirectly or indirectly interested" (hereinafter "indirectly") means that a family member, business, or other entity in which the individual or a family member has a financial interest will receive compensation or benefits.

"Record" is defined for the purposes of this policy, as an item or items, whether electronic or material, that are created by, at the request of, or received by and purposefully retained by a board member, administrator, or employee in the ordinary course of District business.

Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Any kind of correspondence;
- Calendars;
- Computer files and documents (which may include drafts);
- Telephone logs;
- Expense records;
- Audio or video recordings that are created for the purpose of monitoring the security of District property or the safety of District students;
- Documentation related to transactions or contracts for:
  - Services with Board members, administrators, employees, or members of their families covered under the statutorily defined ethical restrictions associated with a contract for services provided for the District involving a Board member, administrator, or employee who "directly or indirectly" benefits from the contract;
  - An exemption granted by the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) from the statutorily defined ethical restrictions associated with a contract for employment or for services provided for the District that involves a District administrator, board member, or employee.

The superintendent shall be responsible for establishing a schedule for the routine destruction of district records that accommodates the needs of the district. The schedule shall specify the length of retention for any records not specifically delineated by this policy and be distributed to staff on a need-to-know basis according to their respective employment duties and responsibilities. The schedule should accommodate the need for records to be stored as a blend of printed, bound and electronically recorded (e.g., audio tape, video tape, micro-fiche,

computer disk) material. The superintendent or designee shall ensure the effective and efficient securing, cataloging, storing, and appropriate scheduled destruction of all records.

The following records categories shall be retained for the time specified.

Board of Education Minutes – forever

Personnel files – forever

Student files – until the student receives a high school diploma or its equivalent, or is beyond the age of compulsory school attendance

Student records of attendance/graduation – forever

Financial Records – five (5) years

Documentation, including letters of approval, related to transactions or contracts for services covered by this policy and Arkansas statutes for Board members - thirteen years

Documentation relating to payments or reimbursements made by a vendor on behalf of a board member, administrator, or employee for travel, lodging, food, registration, entertainment, or other expenses- three (3) years.

Employment applications, including applicant lists, applicant interview evaluations, documentation in response to requests for reasons for a failure to be interviewed and/or hired, and hiring determinations - five (5) years

Expenditures made with federal grant monies - governed by the terms of each grant

Video Surveillance Recordings – the timeline established in Policy 4.48—VIDEO

#### SURVEILLANCE

Emails – whatever the district’s policy is on this subject Documents filed with the IRS, including those required in Policy 7.23-Health Care Coverage and the Affordable Care Act – four (4) years. Statewide assessment security agreement – three (3) years.

The superintendent or designee shall be responsible for determining when there is a need to interrupt the routine destruction of records. When the superintendent or designee makes the decision to cease the routine disposal of records, staff affected by the decision shall be promptly informed of the decision and of the nature of records that are to be retained. Such records shall be retained until the superintendent or designee has authorized their destruction. Employee training on the district’s records retention schedule shall specifically include information on the records that may need to be retained due to pending disciplinary or legal actions which otherwise are subject to routine disposal. If an employee has doubt about the need to retain any record otherwise scheduled for destruction, he/she shall consult with the superintendent or designee prior to destroying such records.

The records’ storage system devised by the superintendent and designee(s) shall be organized in a manner that enables the efficient retrieval of data and documents. The district shall have adequate backup of critical data which is stored electronically. The system shall be communicated to employees in a manner that enables them to understand and follow the system’s requirements.

In retaining and destroying records, no employee shall:

- Destroy, alter, mutilate, conceal, cover up, falsify, or make a false entry in any record that may be connected to a disciplinary matter or lawsuit or to a matter within the jurisdiction of a federal or state agency, in violation of federal or state law or regulations.
- Alter, destroy or conceal a document, or attempt to do so, with the intent to impair the document's availability for use in a disciplinary matter, lawsuit or an official proceeding or otherwise obstruct, influence or impede any lawsuit or official proceeding, in violation of federal or state law or regulations.
- Retaliate or discriminate against an employee who refuses to violate this policy or to coerce or threaten an employee to violate this policy.

Failure to follow the requirements set forth in this policy may result in disciplinary action against the employee(s), up to and including termination. The district's board of directors prohibits and will not tolerate any form of reprisal, retaliation or discrimination against any employee who, in good faith, has attempted to comply with this policy.

Legal References: A.C.A. § 5-1-109(c)(2), (g)

A.C.A. § 6-13-619

A.C.A. § 6-17-104

A.C.A. § 6-17-2301

A.C.A. § 6-18-901

A.C.A. § 6-24-102(8)(15)

A.C.A. § 6-24-105(d)

A.C.A. § 6-24-106(c)(6)

A.C.A. § 6-24-107(c)

A.C.A. § 6-24-115

A.C.A. § 21-3-302, 303

ADE Rules Governing Ethical Guidelines and Prohibitions for Educational Administrators, Employees, Board Members, and Other Parties

ADE Rules Governing the Arkansas Educational Support and Accountability Act

26 C.F.R. § 31.6001-1

34 C.F.R. § 99.2

Federal Rules of Civil Procedure Numbers 16, 26, 33, 34, 37, and 45

Date Adopted: 06/26/08

Last Revised: 07/19/18

## 7.17----INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SECURITY

### Wireless Internet Policy

By choosing to use the provided wireless service you agree to abide by the Manila Public School's Internet Policy that prohibits abusive or illegal activity while using the Manila Public School's Internet service.

This service is free of charge and subject to the terms and conditions of use as follows:

### Limitations & Disclaimers

- Wireless access is provided as a public service free of charge on an as-is basis with no guarantee and no warranty. The **Manila Public School's** Wireless network is subject to periodic maintenance and unforeseen downtime.
- Information passing through the **Manila Public School's** wireless access is not secured and could be monitored, captured, or altered by others. There are risks involved with connecting to a public wireless connection, such as possible viruses, malware, loss of data, possible hacking/snooping by others connected, possible hardware/software failure. It is your sole responsibility to protect your information from all risks associated with using the Internet, including any damage, loss, or theft that may occur as a result of your use of the **Manila Public School's** wireless access.
- All Wi-Fi users should have up-to-date antivirus software installed on their computers.
- The device owner is responsible for setting up their equipment to access the **Manila Public School's** Wireless network. District staff is not trained to handle your specific device or peripheral equipment. District staff may attempt to help with configuring users' devices, and will provide only general assistance in getting connected to the wireless network.
- The District assumes no responsibility for the safety of equipment; users must keep their equipment with them at all times.
- In using this free Internet access, you agree and hereby release, indemnify, and hold harmless, the **Manila Public School**, its officers and employees, and any affiliate, from any damage that may result from your use of this wireless access.
- While using this wireless access, you acknowledge that you are subject to, and agree to abide by all laws, and all rules and regulations of the **Manila Public School**, The

Arkansas Department of Education, the State of Arkansas, and the federal government that is applicable to Internet use.

- At its sole discretion, the **Manila Public School** may terminate this public service at anytime without prior notice.
- Printing is not available via the public wireless connection at this time. If the user desires to print, the file can be saved to a flash/thumb drive or emailed to them selves and printed from a computer in the Computer Lab.
- Device owners may only use designated electrical outlets fitted with surge protectors to connect up their equipment.
- Due to limited bandwidth, during peak hours District staff may limit the type of internet use.
- Any attempt to circumvent District procedures or any unauthorized attempt to access or manipulate co-op equipment will result in permanent disconnection from the **Manila Public School's** Wi-Fi network.
- If you do not agree to the above terms, please disable your wireless connection or turn off your computer.

Connecting to the network requires a device computer with wireless capability supporting the WiFi standard (also known as IEEE 802.11b/g/n).

This Policy is a guide to the acceptable use of Manila Public School's wireless network facilities and services (Services) and of the wireless security policies. Any individual connected to the Manila Public School's network in order to use it directly, or to connect to any other network(s), must comply with this policy and the stated purposes and Acceptable Use policies of any other network(s) or host(s) used.

The following guidelines will be applied to determine whether or not a particular use of the Services is appropriate:

1. Users must respect the privacy of others. Users shall not intentionally seek information on, or represent themselves as, another user unless explicitly authorized to do so by that user. Nor shall Users obtain copies of, or modify files, other data, or passwords belonging to others.
2. Users must respect the legal protection applied to programs, data, photographs, music, written documents and other material as provided by copyright, trademark, patent, licensure and other proprietary rights mechanisms.

3. Users must respect the integrity of other public or private computing and network systems. Users shall not intentionally develop or use programs that harass other users or infiltrate any other computer, computing system or network and/or damage or alter the software components or file systems of a computer, computing system or network.
4. Use should be consistent with guiding ethical statements and accepted community standards. Use of the Services for malicious, fraudulent, or misrepresentative purposes is not acceptable.
5. The Services may not be used in ways that violate applicable laws or regulations.
6. The Services may not be used in a manner that precludes or significantly hampers network access by others. Nor may the Services be used in a manner that significantly impairs access to other networks connected to the House network.
7. Connections which create routing patterns that are inconsistent with the effective and shared use of the Services may not be established.
8. Unsolicited advertising is not acceptable. Advertising is permitted on some Web pages, mailing lists, news groups and similar environments if advertising is explicitly allowed in that environment.
9. Repeated, unsolicited and/or unwanted communication of an intrusive nature is strictly prohibited. Continuing to send e-mail messages or other communications to an individual or organization after being asked to stop is not acceptable.
10. By logging on, you agree to hold the Manila Public School's harmless for any damages that may result from access to the Internet or inappropriate usage.
11. Users of the network are responsible for protecting sensitive data as well as data from state networks.
12. Users of the network are to log out of their devices, if sensitive data is visible or accessible, when not in use.
13. Cooperative staff will keep sensitive data in an encrypted folder or stored online in their Cooperative mail account.

The following guidelines will be applied to adhere to recommendations from the Arkansas State Security's Office Best Practices.

- All wireless devices will be protected by a personal firewall, except in instances where firewall technology is not available or controlled by the network.
- No agency or department is entirely dependent on wireless technology for connectivity. All rooms have Ethernet ports as well as wireless coverage.
- Service Set Identifier (SSID) of all Manila Public School's access points are changed from the manufacturers default settings.
- WPA2-PSK wireless encryption is used. Passwords are minimum 8 characters with 3 different types of characters used. Passwords are given to participants and staff.
- Wireless LAN Access Points (WAP) are located to provide the best coverage across the Cooperative building. Access Points do not broadcast past the intended coverage area.
- Software and firmware updates from the wireless manufacturer are applied to the WAP and affected wireless cards as soon as possible after release.
- The District is continually monitored to locate any devices that might be on the network without permission.

The intent of this policy is to identify certain types of uses that are not appropriate, but this policy does not necessarily enumerate all possible inappropriate uses. Using the guidelines given above, we may at any time make a determination that a particular use is not appropriate.

Date Adopted: 06/18/09  
Last Revised:

## **7.18----FOOD SERVICE PREPAYMENT**

### **Meal Charges**

The District does not provide credit for students to charge for meals, a la carte, or other food and beverage items available for purchase in the school food service areas. Meals, a la carte, or other food and beverage items may be purchased by either providing payment for the items at the time of receipt or by having a prepaid account with the District that may be charged for the items. Parents or students choosing to do so, may pay in advance for meals, a la carte, or other food and beverage items through any of the following methods:

- Submitting cash or check payment at the cafeteria or in principal approved locations.
- Depositing funds through the District's online services; EZ School Pay ([www.EZSchoolPay.com](http://www.EZSchoolPay.com)).

A student's parents will be contacted by authorized District personnel regarding a student's prepaid account balance at the following times:

- Beginning of the school year, intermittently throughout the year, and at the close of the school year.

### **Alternative Meals**

The District does not provide alternate meals for students. The District does not refuse regular meal service based on the provisions of this policy as outlined in the first paragraph.

Date Adopted: 07/16/09  
Last Revised:02/21/17

## **7.19—MANAGEMENT AND DISPOSAL OF DISTRICT PROPERTY**

### **Definitions**

For the purposes of this policy, the following definitions apply:

“Commodities” are all supplies, goods, material, computers, software, machinery and other equipment purchased on behalf of the district having a useful life of more than one (1) year and an acquisition cost of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or more per unit.

“Fair market value” means the amount a reasonable buyer would be willing to pay for a particular piece of property based on an objective set of criteria, which may include, but are not limited to: any improvements or damage to the property; the demand for similar property; the selling price for the property by the producer of the property or re-sale outlets; and the value of the property as determined by an independent appraiser.

“Real property” is land and whatever is erected or affixed to land, such as structures or buildings.

“Surplus commodities” are those commodities that are no longer needed, obsolete, irreparable, or worn out.

“Surplus real property” is real property that is not presently needed or foreseen to be needed by the District, and that has been authorized for sale as surplus real property by vote of the School Board. Surplus real property may include unused or underutilized facilities.

“Trash” are those items that would otherwise belong to another category of goods or property defined in this policy, but which, due to the property’s age or an act of God, have less value than it would cost to repair the item. Examples could include, but are not limited to, fire damage, vehicle accidents, extreme age, and/or decline in value of the item.

“Unused or underutilized facility” means a school facility or other real property that:

- As a whole or in a significant portion, is not being used for a public educational, academic, extracurricular, or administrative purpose and the nonuse or underutilization threatens the integrity or purpose of the school facility or other real property as a public education facility; and
- Is not subject to either a lease to a third party for fair market value or an executed offer to purchase by a third party for fair market value as of July 30, 2017.

### **General Policy**

The District’s purchases of commodities shall be in accordance with Policy 7.5—PURCHASES AND PROCUREMENT and, to the extent applicable, the procurement requirements of any granting source of funding used to purchase the commodity. The Superintendent shall develop procedures governing the use, management, and dispersal of commodities. At a minimum, the procedures will cover the following topics:

- labeling all commodities;
- establishing adequate controls to account for their location, custody, and security;
- annually auditing the inventory of commodities and updating a listing of such commodities to reconcile the audit with the district’s inventory records. The audit will be documented and account for any transfer and/or disposal of a commodity.

- Disposing of surplus commodities and surplus real property, whether purchased in whole or in part with federal grant funds or with local funds.

The disposal of school property must be for the benefit of the school district and consistent with good business principles.

### **Disposal of Surplus Commodities**

The Board of Directors recognizes that commodities sometimes become of no use to the District and thus meet this policy's definition of surplus commodities.

The Superintendent or designee(s) will determine the objective fair market value (FMV) of surplus commodities. The District will strive to dispose of surplus commodities at or near their FMV.

The Superintendent may declare surplus any commodity with an FMV of less than one thousand dollars (\$1,000). Surplus commodities with an FMV of less than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) will be periodically sold by the most efficient, cost effective means that is likely to result in sales at or near FMV.

The Superintendent may submit a list of surplus commodities deemed to have a FMV of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or greater to the Board of Directors for authorization to sell such surplus commodities. Once the Board of Directors has authorized the sale of such surplus commodities, the Superintendent or designee(s) may sell that surplus commodity as the need arises. Items with a FMV of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or greater will be sold by the most efficient, cost effective means that is likely to result in sales at or near FMV. If the Superintendent chooses to dispose of the surplus items by bid, the Superintendent or designee may set a minimum or reserve price on any item, and may reject all bids. The Superintendent or designee is authorized to accept the high bid provided the high bid is at or near FMV without further Board action unless the high bid comes under the jurisdiction of Arkansas ethics legislation, in which case the provisions of A.C.A. §§ 6-24-101–107 would apply.

If attempts at public sales fail to produce any interested buyers or bidders, such remaining unsold commodities may then, at the discretion of the Superintendent, be disposed of as scrap or junk or be donated to appropriate charitable or education related entities. Computer or technology equipment will be cleansed of data prior to disposal.

### **Disposal of Surplus Real Property**

The Board of Directors recognizes that real property it owns sometimes becomes no longer of use to the District and thus meets this policy's definition of surplus real property.

By February 1 of each year, the District shall submit a report to the Division of Public School Academic Facilities and Transportation (Division) that identifies all unused or underutilized school facilities in the District and the unused or underutilized school facilities, if any, that are designated in the District's facilities master plan to be re-used, renovated, or demolished as part of a specific committed project or planned new construction project.

If the Division classifies a District facility or District real property as being unused or underutilized, the District may appeal the Divisions determination to the Commission for Public School Academic Facilities and Transportation (Commission).

The District shall make unused or underutilized public school facilities available for lease for no more than FMV to any open-enrollment public charter school (charter) located within the District's geographic boundaries that makes a request under the charter's statutory right of access unless the District makes an affirmative showing by a preponderance of the evidence to the Commission that:

1. The school facility, or the property to which the school facility is attached, will be needed by the District to accommodate future growth of the District; or
2. Use of the school facility or other real property by a charter would have a materially negative impact on the overall educational environment of an educational campus located within five hundred feet (500') of the school facility or other real property sought to be leased by the charter.

The terms of a lease executed between the District and a charter shall provide that the lease shall be cancelled and be of no effect if the charter:

- a. Fails to use the facility or other real property for direct student instruction or administrative purposes within two (2) years of the effective date of the lease;
- b. Closes, has its charter revoked, or has its charter application denied by the charter authorizer; or
- c. Initially uses the facility or other real property, but then leaves the facility or other real property unused for more than one hundred eighty (180) days.

If requested or agreed to by the charter, The District may sell the unused or underutilized facility or other real property to the charter for FMV.

If the District decides to sell, lease, or otherwise transfer ownership of a District facility, a charter located within the District's geographic boundaries shall have a right of first refusal to purchase or lease the facility for FMV. The charter's right of first refusal shall continue for two (2) years after the date the District last used the school facility or other real property as an academic facility.

If the District decides to sell or lease a District facility or other real property that has been identified by the Division as an unused or underutilized school facility to a third party that is not a charter, then the District may not sell or lease the facility until the later of:

- Two (2) years after the date the facility or other real property is identified by the division as an unused or underutilized public school facility, so long as no charter has claimed a right of access or a right of first refusal; or
- Three (3) years from the date the District facility or other real property has been identified by the division as an unused or underutilized public school facility if the District designated the facility or other real property to be reused, renovated, or demolished as part of a specific committed project or planned new construction project in the District's facilities master plan.

The District may petition the division for a waiver of the time restrictions for the sale or lease of a District's unused or underutilized facility. The petition shall include a statement that the District

believes that no charter would be interested in leasing or purchasing the unused or underutilized school facility. If the District receives a waiver, the District may immediately sell, lease, or otherwise dispose of the unused or underutilized facility. The District may appeal the denial by the Division of a waiver to the Commission.

The Superintendent may submit a request to the Board of Directors for authorization to sell surplus real property. Once the Board of Directors has authorized the sale of such surplus real property, the Superintendent or designated individual(s) may sell that surplus real property as the need arises and this policy allows. The Superintendent or designee(s) shall be responsible for getting a determination of the objective FMV of surplus real property<sup>5</sup>. The district will strive to dispose of surplus items at or near their FMV. The real property may be listed for sale with a real estate broker, and the Superintendent or designated individual may contract on behalf of the district to pay the usual and customary sales commission for such transactions, upon sale of the property.

If the Superintendent chooses to dispose of the surplus items by bid, the Superintendent or designee(s) may set a minimum or reserve price on any item, and may reject all bids. The Superintendent or designee is authorized to accept the high bid provided the high bid is at or near FMV without further Board action unless the high bid comes under the jurisdiction of Arkansas ethics legislation, in which case the provisions of A.C.A. §§ 6-24-101–107 would apply.

If attempts at public sales fail to produce any interested buyers or bidders, such remaining unsold real property may then, if agreed to by the Superintendent and Board of Directors, be donated to appropriate education related entities, not-for-profit organizations, the county, city, or incorporated town in accordance with the provisions of state law.

Items obtained with federal funds shall be handled in accordance with applicable federal regulations, if any.

The District may not make a part of the disposal of District real property a covenant that prohibits the sale or lease of former District facilities or other real property to a charter that is located within the District's geographic boundaries.

### **Disposal of Surplus Real Property After Consolidation**

Except as otherwise prohibited by this policy, real property of a consolidated school district that is no longer being used for educational purposes and has not been sold, preserved, leased, or donated two (2) years after the effective date of consolidation shall be made available for use by a publicly supported institution of higher education, a technical institute, a community college, a not-for-profit organization, a county, a city, or incorporated town by the Board of Directors for the following purposes:

- Having the real property preserved, improved, upgraded, rehabilitated, or enlarged by the donee;
- Holding of classes by statutorily authorized education related entities; or
- Providing community programs and beneficial educational services, social enrichment programs, or after-school programs.

### **Trash**

Trash, as defined in this policy, may be disposed of in the most cost efficient or effective method available to the district.

Legal References:      A.C.A. § 6-13-111  
                                 A.C.A. § 6-13-620  
                                 A.C.A. § 6-21-108  
                                 A.C.A. § 6-21-110  
                                 A.C.A. § 6-21-803  
                                 A.C.A. § 6-21-806  
                                 A.C.A. § 6-21-815  
                                 A.C.A. § 6-21-816  
                                 A.C.A. § 6-24-101–107  
                                 2 C.F.R. § 200.311  
                                 2 C.F.R. § 200.313

Date Adopted: 4/15/10      Last Revised: 07/25/17

## **7.20 – DISPOSAL OF NON-NEGOTIATED CHECKS OR UNCLAIMED PROPERTY**

State law specifies how the district is to dispose of retained funds in the form of issued but non-negotiated checks that have been not been presented for payment within one calendar year. The district shall dispose of these retained funds in accordance with the law and remit the amount of all non-negotiated checks to the Unclaimed Property Division of the Arkansas Auditor's Office.

The district shall make a good faith effort to return physical items that have been left on district property to their rightful owners. When contact information is known for the owner of an item of a non-perishable nature left at the district, the district shall use the information to attempt to contact the owner to inform him/her of the location of the item. Owners of such items shall be given at least three weeks to pick up the item he/she left at the district. If the owner fails to pick up the item within the time allotted, the district may dispose of the item in a manner of its choosing.

The district is under no obligation to retain an abandoned, perishable item left on district property.

Legal References:      A.C.A. § 18-28-201  
                                 A.C.A. § 18-28-202(11), (c), (d)  
                                 A.C.A. § 18-28-204  
                                 A.C.A. § 18-28-206  
                                 A.C.A. § 18-28-207  
                                 A.C.A. § 18-28-208(a)  
                                 A.C.A. § 18-28-210(b)(c)  
                                 A.C.A. § 18-28-217  
                                 A.C.A. § 18-28-221(a)  
                                 A.C.A. § 18-28-224

Date Adopted: 4/15/10

Last Revised:

## 7.21—SERVICE ANIMALS IN DISTRICT FACILITIES

In accordance with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, service dogs and trained miniature horses (hereinafter referred to as *service animals*) are permitted for use by individuals with disabilities on district property and in district facilities provided the individuals and their animals meet the requirements and responsibilities covered in this policy.

When an individual with a disability seeks to bring a service animal into a district facility, the district is entitled to ask the individual if the animal is required because of a disability and what work or task the animal has been trained to perform. The district is not entitled to ask for documentation that the animal has been properly trained, but the individual bringing the animal into a district facility will be held accountable for the animal's behavior.

Any service animal brought into a district facility by an individual with a disability must have been trained to do work or perform tasks for the individual. The work or tasks performed by the service animal must be directly related to the handler's disability. Examples of work or tasks include, but are not limited to, assisting individuals who are blind or have low vision with navigation and other tasks, alerting individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing to the presence of people or sounds, providing non-violent protection, pulling a wheelchair, assisting an individual during a seizure, alerting individuals to the presence of allergens, retrieving items such as medicine, providing physical support and assistance with balance and stability to individuals with mobility disabilities, and helping persons with psychiatric and neurological disabilities by preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors.

The crime deterrent effects of an animal's presence and the provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship do **not** constitute work or tasks for the purposes of this policy; no animal brought solely for any of these reasons shall be permitted on school grounds.

Individuals with disabilities shall be permitted to be accompanied by their service animals in all areas of a public entity's facilities where members of the public, participants in services, programs or activities, or invitees, as relevant, are allowed to go.

A service animal shall be under the control of its handler. A service animal shall have a harness, leash, or other tether, unless either the handler is unable because of a disability to use a harness, leash, or other tether, or the use of a harness, leash, or other tether would interfere with the service animal's safe, effective performance of work or tasks, in which case the service animal must be otherwise under the handler's control by means of voice control, signals, or other effective means.

A service animal shall be groomed to prevent shedding and dander and shall be kept clean of fleas and ticks.

District staff (is there a better word) may ask an individual with a disability to remove a service animal from the premises if:

- (1) The animal is out of control and the animal's handler does not take effective action to control it; or
- (2) The animal is not housebroken.

If the district excludes a service animal due to the reasons listed above, the district shall give the individual with a disability the opportunity to participate in the service, program, or activity without having the service animal on the premises.

The District and its staff are not responsible for the care or supervision of a service animal brought onto district property or into district facilities by an individual with a disability. Students with service animals are expected to care for and supervise their animal. In the case of a young child or a student with disabilities who is unable to care for or supervise the service animal, the parent is responsible for providing care and supervision of the animal. Prior to working in the school, any person responsible for providing care and supervision of the animal must go through the same process for background checks as required of all employees of the school system.

The District shall not ask or require an individual with a disability to pay a surcharge, even if people accompanied by pets are required to pay fees, or to comply with other requirements generally not applicable to people without pets.

Legal References:    28 CFR § 35.104  
                          28 CFR § 35.136  
                          28 CFR § 36.302  
                          A.C.A. § 20-14-304  
                          A.C.A. § 20-14-308

Date Adopted: 04/21/11  
Last Revised: 05/19/14

## 7.21.1—THERAPY ANIMALS

### Definitions

“Therapy animal” means an animal that is a graduate of a program through an assistance dog organization that is a member of Therapy Dogs International or a similar nonprofit organization that attempts to select the highest standard of training for animals for the purpose of emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship to school district students. Therapy animals are the personal property of a school district employee or volunteer and are not owned by the school district. Therapy animals do not meet the definition of “service animals” under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

“Therapy animal handler” means an employee of the school district or volunteer who has received training and passed an evaluation from Therapy Dogs International or a similar nonprofit organization for handling a specific therapy animal and who will be handling and overseeing care of that specific therapy animal for the entire time the animal is on a District campus.

The District recognizes that specially trained therapy animals can provide educational benefits for District students. District staff who wish to have therapy animals made available to students shall submit a plan to the building principal. The proposal shall address all of the following areas:

1. The location for the therapy animal to be kept when the therapy animal is on campus, which must meet all of the following conditions:
  - a. Direct access to the outdoors to permit the therapy animal to enter and exit the building without using the building’s interior hallways;
  - b. Free of an intake for the building ventilation system or an independent ventilation system;
  - c. Non-porous surfaces, including carpet-free floors, for easy hair removal, cleaning, and sanitation;
2. The proposed therapy animal or the therapy animal service provider:
  - a. The certification the proposed therapy animal has received, including the training required to receive the certification;
  - b. the credentials of the certification providers ;
  - c. Copy(ies) of the temperance evaluation (s) of the proposed therapy animal;
  - d. The credentials of the temperance evaluator(s);
  - e. Proof Demonstrating the therapy animal is current on all vaccinations;
3. Students:
  - a. The set(s) of students whom the therapy animal is intended to serve;
  - b. Proposed training to be provided to students on the appropriate behavior and treatment of the therapy animal;
  - c. Consequences for inappropriate treatment of the therapy animal;
  - d. The anticipated goals for and intended uses of the therapy animal;
4. The therapy animal’s handler must provide:
  - a. The individual(s) who will be responsible for handling the therapy animal;
  - b. Training obtained by the proposed handler(s);
  - c. The credentials of the providers of the handler’s training;

- d. Proposed schedule for the handler(s) to provide necessary care for the therapy animal, including exercise, feeding, watering, bodily functions, and any cleanup resulting from caring for the animal; and
- e. Proof of an insurance policy that provides liability coverage for the therapy animal while on District property.

The building principal may reject the proposal if:

- The proposal does not meet the requirements of this policy;
- The principal does not perceive any educational benefit to be achieved based on the information contained in the proposal;
- The building principal believes that the time required to meet the needs of the therapy animal is inconsistent with the assigned duties of the school employee(s) proposed as the therapy animal's handler(s); or
- The proposal is otherwise inconsistent with the needs of the school or school building.

The building principal shall submit any proposal the principal desires to be approved to the superintendent, or designee, for final review and approval. If the superintendent, or designee, approves the proposal, the superintendent, or designee, shall submit written approval for an individual documented therapy animal or for a therapy animal service before the individual animal or an animal provided by the therapy animal service may be present on a District campus.

Any approved therapy animal program may have its approval suspended or curtailed, at any time, for any reason. District employees shall not receive any additional pay, stipend, or compensation for providing the therapy animal or for being the handler and/or the owner of the therapy animal. The supervision and care of the approved therapy animal is solely the responsibility of the therapy animal handler(s) when the therapy animal is on a District campus. The therapy animal handler will assume full responsibility and liability for any damage to school district property or injury to district staff, students, or others while the therapy animal is on a District campus. The therapy animal handler must maintain an insurance policy that provides liability coverage for the therapy animal while on District property.

Approved therapy animals must be clean, well groomed, in good health, house broken, and be current on all vaccinations and immunizations. An approved therapy animal shall have appropriate identification identifying it as a therapy animal at all times while on District property. The therapy animal shall be under the control of the therapy animal's handler(s) at all times, which requires the therapy animal be attached to the therapy animal's handler by means of a leash or harness whenever the therapy animal is on District property and outside of its designated room.

The building principal is to receive a verbal report within fifteen (15) minutes of any act of aggression or defensive behavior by the therapy animal towards a human, which includes vocalizations such as growling, or any aggressive or inappropriate behavior by a student directed toward a therapy animal. A full written incident report shall be submitted to both the

building principal and the superintendent, or designee, before the close of the following school day. An act of aggression or defensive behavior by a therapy animal shall result in:

- An immediate end of the current student's session with the therapy animal;
- The prohibition of any further interactions between the therapy animal and students for the remainder of the school day; and
- Exclusion of the therapy animal from campus until the superintendent, or designee, completes an investigation and authorizes the therapy animal's return to campus.

At no time will a therapy animal be taken through a District building to meet with a student. Students who have time scheduled with a therapy animal shall go to the room where the therapy animal is located. A student shall not schedule or attend a session with the therapy animal until the student's parents, or the student if over eighteen (18) years of age, provides written authorization for the student to use the services of a therapy animal.

If a student demonstrates symptoms of an allergic reaction during or after a session with the therapy animal, the student's parents shall receive written notification of the possibility of their student's allergy and that the student shall not have any future sessions with the therapy animal. If other student's in the same classroom demonstrate symptoms of an allergic reaction following a student's return to class after a session with the therapy animal, no further sessions with the therapy animal shall be scheduled for students in that classroom and the parents of a student who demonstrated symptoms of an allergic reaction shall receive written notification of their student's possible allergy.

This policy is not intended to, and does not, allow students, parents, or staff to bring emotional support animals onto any District campus. Individuals who bring an animal onto a District campus that does not meet the definition of a service animal under policy 7.21—SERVICE ANIMALS or that has not been approved under this policy shall be asked to leave campus. Repeated violations may result in disciplinary or legal action.

Cross Reference: 7.21—SERVICE ANIMALS

Date Adopted: 07/19/18

Last Revised:

## **7.22—ELECTRONIC TRANSFERS**

The Manila Board of Directors authorizes the District Business Manager/District Treasurer to initiate electronic fund transfers as necessary and appropriate for routine and/or recurring fund disbursements. Such authority is granted in all cases for each fiscal year, provided that applicable documentation is maintained by the District Business Manager/District Treasurer verifying that each disbursement is an approved obligation according to District policy, and pursuant to §6-13-701 (e) (1) (B) of Arkansas Code. Verification for each disbursement will be established by a copy of the check form with the date, transfer amount and signatures of both the superintendent and board check dispersing officer.

Date Adopted: 06/28/12

Last Revised:

## **7.23—HEALTH CARE COVERAGE AND THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT**

### **Definitions**

“Dependent”, for purposes of this policy, means an employee’s child(ren) and/or spouse who are enrolled by the employee in health care coverage through the District’s health care plans.

“Full-time employee”, for purposes of this policy, means an employee in a position requiring on average thirty (30) hours of actual performance per week during the annual school year.

“Responsible individual” means a primary insured employee who, as a parent or spouse, enrolls one or more individual(s) in health care coverage through the District’s health care plans.

"Variable hour employee", for the purposes of this policy, means an individual who has no base minimum number of hours of performance required per week.

### **Health Insurance Enrollment**

All full time District employees are eligible to enroll themselves; their spouse, so long as the spouse is not otherwise eligible for insurance through his/her employer's sponsored plan; and their child(ren) in one of the insurance plans through the Public School Employee Life and Health Insurance Program (PSELHIP). Variable hour employees are not eligible to enroll in a PSELHIP plan. If a variable hour employee’s measurement period finds that the employee averaged thirty (30) or more hours per week, then the employee is treated as a full time employee rather than a variable hour employee and is eligible for health insurance. New full time employees have sixty (60) days following the start date of the employee’s contract to elect to enroll in a PSELHIP plan; all new employees shall be informed in writing of the start date of the employee’s contract and that the employee has sixty (60) days from that date to elect PSELHIP coverage. Coverage for new employees who choose to enroll in a PSELHIP plan shall take effect on the first of the month following the date on the enrollment application. Coverage shall be in effect until the end of the calendar year. Employees who experience a Qualifying Status Change Event have sixty (60) days from the date of the Qualifying Status Change Event to file an application to change coverage information. All employees who continue to be eligible may elect to continue coverage and make changes to their PSELHIP plan for the following plan year during the yearly open enrollment period.

The District shall ensure all employees are provided education annually on the advantages and disadvantages of a consumer-driven health plan option and effective strategies of using a Health Savings Account (HSA).

### **District Contribution to Premiums**

At a minimum, the District shall distribute the statutorily required contribution rate to all employees who are enrolled in one of the PSELHIP plans, which shall include any mandatory increases to the contribution rate due to increases to the salary schedule. In accordance with the State Health Insurance Portability Rules (SHIP), the District shall continue to pay the premium contribution for an employee who transfers to another Arkansas school district that also participates in the SHIP through August 31 of the calendar year the employee leaves the district so long as the employee:

1. Completes his/her contract with the District;

2. Provides the District with notice that the employee is transferring to another district by no later than June 15<sup>th</sup> or the Friday following the last student contact day;
3. Provides the District with proof of employment at another Arkansas district; and
4. Has the employee portion of the premium deducted from his/her end-of-year checks or pays the District business office the employee's portion of the premium by the 15<sup>th</sup> of both July and August.

### **Measurement Method of Employee Hours**

The District uses the look-back method for determining if an employee qualifies as a full-time employee.

### **W-2**

For all full-time employees who are enrolled in a PSELHIP plan, the District shall indicate in box twelve (12) of the employee's Form W-2 the cost of the employee's health care coverage by using code "DD".

### **IRS Returns**

The District will electronically file with the IRS by March 31 of each year the forms required by the IRS on the health insurance coverage of each full-time employee for the previous calendar year, whether or not the full-time employee participates in a health insurance plan through the PSELHIP.

### **Statement of Return**

The District shall send to each full-time employee a Statement of Return (Statement) regarding the IRS Return filed on the employee. The Statement shall contain: The District's name, address, and Employer Identification Number (EIN) as well as a copy of the IRS Return filed on the employee. The District shall send a copy of the Statement to the employee on or before January 31 of the calendar year following the calendar year the information in the Statement covers. The District shall send only one Statement to the household of an employee who meets the definition of a responsible individual that will include all requisite information for both the responsible individual and the responsible individual's dependent(s).

### **Record Retention**

The District shall maintain copies of the Statements sent to employees in accordance with the requirements for documents transmitted to the IRS in Policy 7.15—RECORD RETENTION AND DESTRUCTION.

Cross Reference:	7.15—RECORD RETENTION AND DESTRUCTION
Legal References:	A.C.A. § 6-17-1117
	A.C.A. § 21-5-401 et seq.
	26 C.F.R. § 54.4980h-0 et seq.
	26 C.F.R. § 31.6001-1
	26 C.F.R. § 301.6056-1

Date Adopted: 05/19/14    Last Revised: 07/25/17

## **7.24—ADVERTISING ON SCHOOL BUSES**

Under the authority granted by A.C.A. § 6-19-129 and the Commission for Arkansas Public School Academic Facilities and Transportation Rules Governing Advertising on School Buses:

The Manila School District has chosen **NOT** to permit the selling of advertising space on District owned school buses and shall **NOT** use the space provided by law for any purpose.

Legal References:     A.C.A. § 6-19-129  
                          A.C.A. § 7-1-111  
                          Commission for Arkansas Public School Academic Facilities and  
                          Transportation Rules Governing Advertising on School Buses  
                          7 C.F.R. § 210.31

Date Adopted: 05/15/18  
Last Revised: