

PALMER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2026-27

STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK



House of Integritas
Last Year's Winner

2026-27 STUDENT-PARENT HANDBOOK

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Foreword

Section 1 Intent of Handbook:

The intent is that this handbook is to be used by students, parents and staff as a guide to the rules, regulations, and general information about Palmer Public 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 this 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:

Kathy Wolfe - President	Daniel Hake - Secretary	Justin Valasek - Member
Todd Weller - Vice-President	Brian Friedrichsen- Member	Heather Shotkoski - Treasurer

Section 3 Administrative Staff:

Dr. Joel Bohlken, Superintendent	Kristin Reimers, 7-12 Principal/K-12 Curriculum Coordinator
Sherise Loeffelbein, PK-6 Principal/K-12 SPED Coordinator	

Section 4 Teaching Staff:

Whitney Mamot, Early Childhood	Kayla Dobson, Technology Integration
Lizzy Shotkoski, Early Childhood	Brenda Starkey, 7-12 Counselor
Tayma Rasmussen, Early Childhood	Payden Woodruff, 7-12 Ag Ed
Whitney Hake, Kindergarten	James Chvala, 7-12 Foreign Language/DL
Becky Meyer, Grade 1	Natalie Bohlken, 7-12 Resource
Shelbea Hinrichs, Grade 2	Jaime Green, 7-12 Language Arts
Sheryl Norman, Title 1/Resource	Cindy Doggett, 7-12 Math / Assessment Coordinator
Haley Santin, Grade 3	Wendy Louder, 7-12 Business / Technology
Brenda Thompson, Grade 4	Mary Gregoski, PK-12 Media/ 7-12 Lang Arts
Brandon Rolf, Grade 5	Luke Thompson, 7-12 Social Sciences
Joanie Samuelson, Grade 6	Angela Berger, 7-12 Natural Sciences
Melissa Kriz, PK-6 Resource	Kyndsay Herrick, 7-12 Art / FCS
Carissa Valasek, PK-6 Counselor/Resource	Jim Sake, Health/PE & Weight Training
Anna Sake, K-12 Music	Heath McClellan, 7-12 Math
Ryan Johnson, K-12 Music	Darius Williams, A.D./Weight Training

Section 5 Support Staff:

Kristi Blauhorn, Secretary/Bookkeeper	Marlene Meyer, Paraprofessional
DeEtta Rose, Driver/Lunch/Para	Shyann Eilers, Driver/Lunch/Para
Kelly Kunze, Paraprofessional	Jazmin Reyes, Paraprofessional
Judy Bennett, Paraprofessional / Bus Driver	Veronica Lane, Secretary/Paraprofessional
Trish Harrahill, Paraprofessional	Ashley Scheer, Nutrition Services Manager
Selena Johnson, Library Aide	Emma Stapanek, Nutrition Services Assistant
Becky Mottl, Paraprofessional	Jessie Lauber, Nutrition Services Assistant
Bill Gregoski, Head Custodian	Dezarae Cole, Nutrition Services Assistant
Kathleen Williams, Assistant Custodian	Candice Pettigrew, Paraprofessional
TBD, Assistant Custodian	David Nielson, Bus Driver
Kevin Bremer, Bus Driver	Tom Weller, Bus Driver
Dani Scheer, Paraprofessional	Rodney Meyer, Bus Driver

Section 6 School Calendar:

The School Calendar is on the website www.palمرتigers.org

Article 1 – MISSION AND GOALS

Section 1 School Mission Statement

The mission of Palmer Public Schools is to be a community that prides itself on commitment, growth, and achievement.

Section 2 Goals and Objectives

1. We believe the future of the community is dependent upon the school's ability to develop productive and responsible citizens.
2. We believe in providing all students an opportunity for the highest quality education within the resources of the District.
3. We believe in integrating technology into all areas of the curriculum.
4. We believe Palmer Public School shall meet student's goals by encouraging positive motivation and open communication through staff, family and community.
5. We believe we should provide the opportunity for each student to develop to their fullest potential through a variety of learning strategies.

Section 3 Mutual Respect

The Palmer Public 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 the student will not be tolerated.

Section 4 Multicultural Policy

It is the policy of the Palmer Public School system to utilize the resources of curriculum, instruction, in-service, counseling and guidance to reflect the racial, ethnic, language and cultural heritage of both the historical and modern-day United States of America by observing the following objectives:

1. To select materials and methods that will eliminate bias and stereotypes in our schools.
2. To conduct in-service programs for our staff that will help them to understand a multicultural approach and to reflect it in their teaching and administrative duties.
3. To encourage all students to grow in self-esteem and to understand and develop their academic and human potential.
4. To guard against the grouping of students that reflects racial, ethnic, language or cultural bias.

Section 5 Complaint Procedures

Good communication helps to resolve many misunderstandings and disagreements, and the board encourages patrons and school staff to discuss their concerns with appropriate school personnel in an effort to resolve problems. When such efforts do not resolve matters satisfactorily, a complainant should follow the procedures set forth below:

1. The first step is for the complainant to speak directly to the person with whom he or she is dissatisfied, or to who is responsible for the practice or regulation with which he or she is dissatisfied. For example, a parent who is unhappy with a classroom teacher should initially discuss the matter with the teacher.
2. The second step is for the complainant to speak to the building principal, superintendent of schools, or president of the board of education, as set forth below.
 - a) Complaints about the operation, decisions, or personnel within a building should be submitted to the principal of the building.
 - b) Complaints about the operations of the school district or a building principal should be submitted to the superintendent of schools.
 - c) Complaints about the superintendent of schools should be submitted to the president of the board of education.
3. When a complainant submits a complaint to an administrator, the administrator shall:

- a) Determine whether the complainant has discussed the matter with the staff member involved.
 - (a) If the complainant has not, the administrator will urge the complainant to discuss the matter directly with that staff member.
 - (b) If the complainant refuses to discuss the matter with the staff member, the administrator shall, in his or her sole discretion, determine whether the complaint should be pursued further.
 - b) Strongly encourage the complainant to reduce his or her concerns to writing.
 - c) Interview the complainant to determine:
 - 1) All relevant details of the complaint;
 - 2) All witnesses and documents which the complainant believes support the complaint;
 - 3) The action or solution which the complainant seeks.
 - d) Respond to the complainant.
4. A complainant who is not satisfied with the building principal's decision regarding a complaint may appeal the decision to the superintendent.
 - a) This appeal must be in writing.
 - b) The superintendent will investigate as he or she deems appropriate.
 - c) Upon completion of this investigation, the superintendent will inform the complainant in writing of his or her decision.
 5. A complainant who is not satisfied with the superintendent's decision regarding a complaint may appeal the decision to the board.
 - a) This appeal must be in writing.
 - b) The board may, but is not required to, receive statements from interested parties and witnesses relevant to the complaint appeal.
 - c) The board will notify the complainant in writing of its decision.
 - d) There is no appeal from a decision of the board.
 6. When a formal complaint about the superintendent of schools has been filed with the president of the board, the president shall:
 - a) Determine whether the complainant has discussed the matter with the superintendent.
 - 1) If the complainant has not, the board president will urge the complainant to discuss the matter directly with the superintendent.
 - 2) If the complainant refuses to discuss the matter with the superintendent, the board president shall, in his or her sole discretion, determine whether the complaint should be pursued further.
 - b) Strongly encourage the complainant to reduce his or her concerns to writing.
 - c) Determine, in his or her sole discretion, whether to refer the matter to the board of education for consideration at a regular or special meeting.

The school district prohibits retaliation against any person for filing a complaint or for participating in the complaint procedure in good faith.

SEE FORM A – SCHOOL PERSONNEL COMPLAINT FORM

Article 2 – SCHOOL DAY

Section 1 Daily Schedule

The school day for all students starts at 8:00 a.m. Non-bus riders will be served breakfast between 7:20 and 8:00 a.m. Elementary students arriving prior to 8:00 may eat breakfast or go to the playground. The school day ends at 3:30 p.m. Doors will open at 7:20 a.m. to enable students to eat breakfast. There will be no supervision provided by the school before or after these times. Parents must make arrangements for their children to leave school promptly at the end of the day. From time to time, the schedule will be changed for various reasons such as activities or weather. Palmer School uses the following standardized daily schedules:

Typical Bell Schedule

Period 1	8:00 – 8:50
Period 2	8:50 – 9:40
Period 3	9:40 – 10:30
Period 4	10:30 – 11:20
Period 5	11:20 – 12:10
Lunch/SH	12:10 – 1:00
Period 6	1:00 – 1:50
Period 7	1:50 – 2:40
Period 8	2:40 – 3:30

A Lunch - 11:16 – 11:44 (Elem)
B Lunch - 11:44 – 12:10 (Elem)
C Lunch - 12:10 – 12:35 (7-12)
D Lunch - 12:35 – 1:00 (7-12)

* 50 minute periods

Late Start (10:00) Schedule

Period 1	10:00 – 10:35
Period 2	10:35 – 11:10
Period 3	11:10 – 11:45
Period 4	11:45 – 12:20
Lunch/SH	12:20 – 1:10
Period 5	1:10 – 1:45
Period 6	1:45 – 2:20
Period 7	2:20 – 2:55
Period 8	2:55 – 3:30

A Lunch - 11:24 – 11:52 (Elem)
B Lunch - 11:52 – 12:20 (Elem)
C Lunch - 12:20 – 12:45 (7-12)
D Lunch - 12:45 – 1:10 (7-12)

*35 minute periods

Early Out (1:30) Schedule

Period 1	8:00 – 8:35
Period 2	8:35 – 9:10
Period 3	9:10 – 9:45
Period 4	9:45 – 10:20
Period 5	10:20 – 10:55
Period 6	10:55 – 11:30
Period 7	11:30 – 12:05
Lunch/SH	12:05 – 12:55
Period 8	12:55 – 1:30

A Lunch - 11:06 – 11:34 (Elem)
B Lunch - 11:34 – 12:00 (Elem)
C Lunch - 12:05 – 12:30 (7-12)
D Lunch - 12:30 – 12:55 (7-12)

*35 minute periods

House Day (2:50) Schedule

Period 1	8:00 – 8:45
Period 2	8:45 – 9:30
Period 3	9:30 – 10:15
Period 4	10:15 – 11:00
Period 5	11:00 – 11:45
Lunch/SH	11:45 – 12:35
Period 6	12:35 – 1:20
Period 7	1:20 – 2:05
Period 8	2:05 – 2:50
House Period	2:50 – 3:30

A Lunch – 10:51 - 11:19 (Elem)
B Lunch – 11:19 - 11:45 (Elem)
C Lunch – 11:45 - 12:10 (7-12)
D Lunch – 12:10 - 12:35 (7-12)

* 45 minute periods

Section 2 Severe Weather and School Cancellations

In case of bad weather or for any reason school cannot be held announcements will be made via the Palmer Mass Notification System (MNS), utilizing email and phone (voice or text). Parents can sign up for this service by completing the necessary forms. Additionally, the announcements of this fact will be made through select local news media. Parents should assume that school is open and a regular schedule is being followed if there is no announcement concerning the district. Please do not call the school or individual staff members to find out whether school is being canceled.

Parents should predetermine where to send your children in case of early school dismissal. Parents of elementary students: Please notify the school office so we can assist your child in reaching the

proper destination.

Section 3 Open-Closed Campus

After arrival on the school grounds and until the close of the school day, no student is allowed to leave the campus (for any reason, e.g. bank, hardware store, etc.) without permission from the administration.

Seniors who scored proficient in all ACT tests as Juniors will be allowed open campus lunch. Students that choose to leave campus for lunch will not be allowed to leave early and will be expected to be back to school on time. Any student returning late from open campus lunch will lose the privilege. Late is defined as being tardy to the classroom they are expected to be in following their lunch period (being in the building is not considered on time). In addition, students who choose to take advantage of the open campus option will be expected to eat lunch off campus. They will not be allowed to bring their lunch into the school and will not be allowed to bring lunch back for other students. If this is done, this will also be grounds for losing the privilege of open campus lunch.

Section 4 Vehicles

Students who drive privately owned motor vehicles to school must obey the following rules:

1. Students may not move their vehicles during the school day without the permission of the building principal or superintendent. Students will not be allowed to sit in or be around their vehicles during the school day, without administrative permission.
2. Students must drive with care to ensure the safety of the pedestrians. Students may not drive carelessly or with excessive speed. Students must exit using the far west driveway after school. Students must also park appropriately in designated parking areas. If students are unable to do this, they may be asked to park elsewhere.
3. By driving personal vehicles to school, students consent to having that vehicle searched by school officials when they have reasonable suspicion that such a search will reveal a violation of school rules.

Article 3 – USE OF BUILDING AND GROUNDS

Section 1 Entering and Leaving the Building

Students will be admitted in the building at 7:20 a.m. Secondary students are tardy if they are not in their rooms at 8:00; elementary by 8:00. After school all students are expected to leave the building before 3:50 p.m. unless DIRECTLY supervised by a member of the faculty.

Parents/guardians of elementary students will be notified by their child's teacher before students are required to stay after school. Students will not be required to stay after 5:00 p.m. unless other arrangements have been made with the parents/guardians.

During the school day students are to remain in the building unless excused in accordance with school policies. Upon return to school during the day, students are to report to the school office.

Section 2 Visitors

Anyone not enrolled at Palmer Public School wishing to see a student during the school day must check in with the office immediately upon entering the building. Students wishing to bring a guest to school must pre-approve such a visit with the guidance counselor or principal one full day prior to the visit.

We welcome parents to visit their child's classroom, as it is a boost to your child's pride when you come to school. When or if you come for a visit, we would ask that you contact the classroom teacher beforehand as schedules and out-of-class opportunities may alter the day's activities.

We recommend that you do not visit during the first two weeks or the last two weeks of school. During these times, it is impossible to get a "true picture" of our regular school activities.

Parents are asked not to bring small children as students are distracted by them.

Section 3 Smoke-Free Environment

Palmer Public School declares all of our school buildings to be smoke-free, including electronic cigarettes or vaping devices. We would appreciate your help in meeting the goal of a smoke and tobacco free environment for our children.

Section 4 Water Bottles/Drinks/Snacks

The water bottle must be a clear see-through bottle as viewed from the side of the bottle. It must not be larger than a 20-ounce bottle. Per state law, carbonated drinks are not allowed to be consumed during school hours unless given to the student by the teacher. Teachers have the right to not allow drinks in class if that is their rule. Drinks stored in lockers need to be tightly sealed. No outside beverages are allowed 7:20-3:30. Privilege will be suspended if there are problems that occur with the use of water bottles or beverages. For celebrations, we ask that any snacks are pre-packaged with nutritional information available. If you have questions, please ask administration.

Section 5 Care of School Property

All property belongs to the school and has been provided at taxpayers' expense. Any person who loses, mars, or damages school property should expect to pay for all such damages. In addition, a \$5.00 service charge will be assessed for each occurrence. School policy and Civil Law will also determine the consequences of such action. The District provides certain equipment for student use (i.e. computers, shop equipment, etc.). Special care should be taken when this equipment is in use. All problems encountered with this equipment must be immediately reported to the supervising teacher.

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 6 Lockers

Each secondary student will be assigned a locker for the school year on the day of registration or the first day of school. If there are insufficient lockers, they may be assigned and shared with another student. Lockers are to be kept clean at all times. Any school property lost or student materials lost are the responsibility of the student and school property must be paid for. At no time should money or valuables be left in lockers. These lockers remain the property of the school and are not the personal property of the student. Do not write in or on the lockers, deface them in any way, or put any stickers on that will not come off easily. **GYM LOCKERS ARE OFF LIMITS DURING THE SCHOOL DAY EXCEPT FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE IN P.E. CLASS.** Students wanting to get into their gym lockers during the day need to see the Principal.

Section 7 PE/Athletic Padlocks

All students involved in school athletic or physical education programs may be issued a combination padlock by the Athletic Director and checked in at the end of the school year. If a lock is lost, stolen, or broken, the student will be required to purchase a new lock at a cost of \$10.00. Personal locks purchased by the student may not be used under any circumstances. These locks will not be issued for use on the book lockers in the hallways.

Section 8 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. This includes student vehicles parked on school property. 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 shall 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 must 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 shall be confiscated and delivered to law enforcement officials as soon as practicable.
3. Items that 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 0 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 10 Use of Telephone

A telephone/intercom system is in each classroom. Students are prohibited from using this system unless permission is given by the teacher or in case of an emergency (dial 911). Students will not be called to the telephone during class periods except in case of emergency. If necessary, the message will be written down and delivered to the student at the earliest convenience. When students are sick they will go to the office and school personnel will contact their parents. Calls concerning doctor's appointments, work, etc. will be done before school, after school or during lunch. Administrative discretion will be used to allow students the use of the phone during the school day. Teachers will not allow students to use a school phone unless directed by the teacher to do so.

The school telephone/intercom system will also be used to communicate announcements. Students are asked to be quiet and give these announcements their full attention.

Section 11 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. Students should not bring items such as athletic equipment, electronic games, toys, or other similar personal items to school unless they have the prior permission of their classroom teacher or school administrator. 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 safekeeping. 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 12 Lost and Found

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

Section 13 Accidents

Every accident in the school building, on school grounds, at practice sessions, or at any athletic event sponsored by the school must be reported immediately to the administration, followed by completing the accident report. When a pupil becomes ill or is injured in an accident of a serious nature, the parents of the child will be notified as soon as practicable and their wishes will be followed regarding medical services. If it is impossible to reach the parents, emergency treatment will be provided by the local or nearest medical service, or the pupil may be taken to his or her family doctor when circumstances indicate the necessity and practicality of doing so.

Section 14 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 15 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 secondary 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. Student accident insurance is available to the students through an outside insurance provider. Forms will be sent home the first week of school. You are not required to purchase this insurance.

Section 16 Bulletins and Announcements

Bulletin boards and display cases are available for school-related and approved materials to be posted and displayed. Posters to be used in the halls or materials for distribution will need to be approved by the Counselor or Principal. 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 17 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 or 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 18 Attending Athletic Events

Parents are responsible for their children during athletic events. During indoor activities such as volleyball and basketball games, students are to remain seated during the contest and will not be allowed to play in the hallway or on the front yard of the school.

Section 19 Safety Drills

Bus evacuation drills are conducted in the fall and spring. Fire drills will be held periodically throughout the year. In the interest of the safety of all, students must walk in an orderly fashion when they pass from their classes to the outside. Brisk but orderly exit is very important. Tornado drills are conducted in the fall and spring. Intruder drills may also be held.

Article 4 – ATTENDANCE

Section 1 School Entrance

A child shall be eligible for admission into kindergarten at the beginning of the school year if the child is five years of age or will be five years of age on or before July 31 of the calendar year in which the school year for which the child is seeking admission begins. The School Board may admit a child who will reach the age of five years on or after August 1 and on or before October 15 of such school year if the parent or guardian requests such entrance and provides an affidavit stating that (i) the child attended kindergarten in another jurisdiction in the current school year; (ii) the family anticipates a relocation to another jurisdiction that would allow admission within the current year; or (iii) the child has demonstrated through a recognized assessment procedure approved by the School Board that the child is capable of carrying the work of kindergarten.

Upon enrollment of a student for the first time in a public school district, the school shall notify in writing the person enrolling the student that within thirty days he or she must provide either (a) a certified copy of the student's birth certificate (with raised seal) or (b) other reliable proof of the student's identity and age accompanied by an affidavit explaining the inability to produce a copy of the birth certificate. Upon failure of the person, parent or guardian to comply with this, the school shall notify such person in writing that unless he or she complies within ten days the matter shall be referred to the local law enforcement agency for investigation. If compliance is not obtained within the ten-day period, the school shall immediately report such matter. Any affidavit received that appears inaccurate or suspicious in form or content shall be reported immediately to the local law enforcement agency by the school.

Section 2 Mandatory Ages of Attendance

The mandatory ages of attendance are age 6 (as of January 1 of the then-current school year) to age 18.

Attendance is also not mandatory for a child who has reached the age of 6 years of age prior to January 1 of the then-current school year, but will not reach age 7 prior to January 1 of such school year, if the child's parent or guardian has signed and filed with the school district in which the child resides an affidavit stating either: (1) that the child is participating in an education program that the parent or guardian believes will prepare the child to enter grade one for the following school year; or (2) that the parent or guardian intends for the child to participate in a school which has elected or will elect pursuant to law not to meet accreditation or approval requirements and the parent or guardian intends to provide the Commissioner of Education with a statement pursuant to section 79-1601 (3) on or before the child's seventh birthday.

Attendance is also not mandatory for a child who: (1) has obtained a high school diploma by meeting statutory graduation requirements; (2) has completed the program of instruction offered by a school which elects pursuant to law not to meet accreditation or approval requirements; or (3) has formally discontinued enrollment from school.

Discontinuing Enrollment – 16 and 17 Year Old Students

Only children who are at least 16 years of age may be dis-enrolled from the district. The person seeking to discontinue the child's enrollment shall submit a signed, written request that demonstrates that the student meets the district's legal criteria allowing for disenrollment to the superintendent using the applicable district form. The district will follow the procedures outlined on the attached form in considering requests to dis-enroll.

Only children dis-enrolling to attend a non-accredited school may be exempt from this policy. The person with legal or actual charge or control of the child must provide the superintendent with a copy of the signed request submitted to the State Department of Education for attending non-accredited schools. The superintendent may confirm the validity of the submission with the State Department of Education.

Section 3 Attendance Policy/Make-up Work

Students must attend school full-time while in session unless excused by the administration for approved reasons. If the student becomes or continues to be habitually truant,

the administration will serve a written notice to the person violating section 79-201, warning him or her to comply with its provisions. If, within one week after the notice, the student is still violating the section, the administration shall file a report with the county attorney.

A student is no longer a member of the school district when a transfer to another school district is affected or if he/she has been absent without an excuse from their school of attendance for more than 20 consecutive school days. The student that has been absent without an excuse for more than 20 consecutive days shall be removed from membership retroactive to the first day of absence.

Absences from school will be classified as either: Excused Absence, Medical Parent (Parent Note), Medical Doctor (Doctor's Note), Unexcused Absence, School Activity Absence, Suspended, Expelled or for Juniors and Seniors, College/Career Visit Absence.

1. Excused Absence – 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 (note, phone call, or email PRIOR to the absence if possible, or if not possible prior, within the next 24 hours):

- (1) Attendance at a funeral for a member of the immediate family (parents, siblings, and grandparents),
- (2) Illness, which causes a student to be absent from school,
- (3) Doctor or dental appointment which require student to be absent from school,
- (4) Court appearances that are required by a court order,
- (5) Family trips in which student accompanies parent(s)/legal guardian(s),
- (6) Other absences, which have received prior approval from the Principal.

The Principal shall have 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. Emergency absences are rare but do happen and will be handled as individual cases, depending entirely on the circumstances and if deemed valid by administration will be recorded as an excused absence. Students will be charged with an unexcused absence and shall stand the penalties described herein if the parent fails to notify the school within the time limit.

2. College Visit Absences – Students will be granted a total of six absences (64 class periods) throughout their combined Junior and Senior years so long as prior approval and documentation guidelines are met. Those guidelines are: Student must obtain a slip from the counselor or office prior to the anticipated absence. The prior absence slip must be completed, bearing each teacher's signature for any period to be missed, and returned to the counselor before departing. Off-campus visits will also require documentation of meeting with college or military recruitment personnel. Failure to comply with prior approval guidelines or failure to actually make the scheduled visit will result in an unexcused absence. College visit absence requirements apply to student visits to campus as well as to situations where students are released from class to meet college or military recruiters on the Palmer campus. College Visit Absences are excluded from the total absence count in determining excessive absences.

3. School Activity Absence – When a coach or sponsor takes a team or organization to an event, absences for students in that group will not be counted as absences from school. When a team or organization is to miss any part of a school day, it is the teacher/coach's responsibility to give students a make-up slip at least 2 days in advance. The students must complete the necessary work and have the teacher's signature for each period that will be missed. The make up slip must be completed and turned in to the team or organization sponsor the day before departing. Students who do not have make-up work or the make-up slip completed will not be permitted to

participate in that activity. Students who are absent for an activity without completing these requirements will be charged with an unexcused absence.

4. Necessary Extended Absence - In case of serious or long-term illness, it is assumed that medical treatment will be sought. Absences while under a doctor's care or because of a doctor's orders will be excused and will be credited beyond the limit of days allowed as leave if documented, in writing, by the physician in charge. Make-up work will be expected at the fastest rate possible under the individual circumstances and in good faith.

5. Unexcused Absence – Students shall be charged with an unexcused absence when: 1) The student fails to appear for class without a valid reason – may be applied even though the student may be on campus, 2) a student leaves campus without permission of the administration. A student may be charged with an unexcused absence, despite parental permission, if the administration determines the reason for the absence is invalid or the prior approval guidelines are not followed.

In case of unexcused absence, the student will receive zeros in each class missed and will make up the time missed at the rate of 30 minutes of detention for every period skipped. Three unexcused absences in any semester will result in loss of credit for that semester for all classes not attended during the unexcused absences.

After arrival on the school grounds and until the close of the school day, no high school student is expected to leave the campus without permission from the administration. Elementary absences are recorded by quarter days. Secondary absences are recorded by period. If students come to school after 8:00 or need to leave before 3:30 for any reason, the student is responsible for signing in/out in the office. Failure to do this may result in disciplinary action.

6. Making up Work – Work for reasonably foreseeable absences is to be made up in advance or at the teacher's discretion. In the case of unforeseeable absences, such as illness or other emergency, one day of grace will be allowed for each day missed. Make-up work for unexcused absences will not be accepted unless it is completed upon agreement of the student, parents, teacher, and administration. Any such work must be completed during detention.

7. Excessive Absences - Students exceeding 9 absences, whether excused or unexcused, within one semester may lose credit at the rate of one credit hour per absence in excess of the ninth absence. Example follows:

10 ABSENCES - LOSS OF 1 CREDIT HOUR

11 ABSENCES - LOSS OF 2 CREDIT HOURS

12 ABSENCES - LOSS OF 3 CREDIT HOURS

13 ABSENCES - LOSS OF 4 CREDIT HOURS

14 (OR MORE) ABSENCES - LOSS OF CREDIT FOR SEMESTER

Partial credit will NOT be given for any required classes, as there is not an option for partial credit recovery for core classes. However, partial credit will be given for elective classes.

Absences for sanctioned school activities, documented medical or legal visits, and for documented religious reason or for funerals will not count toward credit loss.

An attendance report is provided to the students who are at risk of exceeding 9 absences for a semester (Excluding documented medical, legal, funerals, and school activities). These reports are kept on file.

If the child is absent more than 10 days per semester or the hourly equivalent, the attendance officer shall file a report with the county attorney of the county in which the person violating the compulsory attendance laws (i.e., the child, the child's parent, or the person who has legal or active charge or control of the child) resides.

The Superintendent or designee shall report on a monthly basis to the Commissioner of Education as directed by the Commissioner regarding the number of, and reason for, any

long-term suspension, expulsion, or excessive absenteeism of a student; referral of a student to the office of the county attorney for excessive absenteeism; or contacting of law enforcement officials (other than law enforcement officials employed by or contracted with by the District as school resource officers) by the District relative to a student enrolled in the District.

Students whose sum total absences, excluding school activities, college visits, and DOCUMENTED religious observations or funerals or DOCUMENTED medically necessary reasons, are in excess of nine days will be subject to the sanctions detailed above. Student and parents may file an appeal with the Superintendent's office against loss of credit. Nothing in this policy shall be interpreted as prohibiting school administration from imposing or offering a student and/or parents less detrimental sanctions in lieu of loss of credit.

Section 4 Tardiness

Students are expected to be in school and in their first period classrooms by 8:00 a.m. Students arriving at school after 8:00 a.m. should report to the office to sign in and for a pass to be admitted to their class. Those at school prior to 8:00 but failing to report to class will be counted tardy but will not need to report to the office. Throughout the remainder of the day, a student who is late to class without an explanatory excuse/pass from a teacher will be counted tardy.

Any student reporting to class less than 15 minutes late at the start of the school day will be considered tardy. Those students reporting late to class periods 2-8 will be at the discretion of the classroom teacher when considering tardiness. For each 4 tardies, per class, per semester, a student accumulates will result in a 30 minute detention. In the event a situation arises which is unusual or extenuating, administrative discretion will apply.

Section 5 Leaving School

After arrival on the school grounds and until the close of the school day, no student is expected to leave the campus without permission from the administration. Students who leave without permission and without signing out in the proper manner will be considered truant.

Work Release Program

Purpose:

We believe learning takes place in a variety of settings. We believe the workplace is a setting in which many valuable experiences can be enjoyed by both the students and their prospective employers. These experiences can enhance the career awareness of the student and will help them to make more informed career choices about their future. By being involved in this program, the student may have a better idea of what type of education or training to undertake after graduation.

Students can also learn many valuable skills in the workplace such as: time management and meeting deadlines, following directions, problem-solving, interpersonal communication, working on a team, and leadership. A work experience can also provide the student the opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills they have learned in school. Not only can this program be extremely beneficial to the student, but it can also provide the community with a skilled and knowledgeable pool of candidates to choose from in the future.

Criteria for Placement:

The students eligible for this program are those students who are seniors and are on track to meet graduation and/or post-secondary school entrance requirements by their scheduled graduation. The following criteria will be essential for the student to be considered for this program:

1. The student must be enrolled in the Introduction to Internship class.
2. The student must be in good academic standing and be on track for graduation with their class.
3. The student should identify his/her goal(s) for participation in the early-release program, and should state how the employment will be beneficial to the student.
4. Agreement from the worksite provider to ensure a safe workplace that meets the goals of the student.

5. The student's dismissal time from school will be based on their start time of their workday with the employer, no earlier than the end of 6th period.
6. The student is not employed in a hazardous occupation, as defined by the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA).
7. A letter of support and agreement from the parent/guardian.

Program Expectations:

1. The student will work a minimum of one (1) or two (2) hours per day (M-F)
2. The student will provide documentation of the number of hours worked (from pay stubs, and/or time cards).
3. The student will be employed during the time he/she would normally be in school.
4. The school will provide the student credit toward graduation not to exceed five (5) vocational credits per semester based on pass/fail grading.
5. The student will keep a journal that will detail the following information:
 - a. Number of hours worked each day, signed by supervisor
 - b. Summary of the activities/duties performed
 - c. Summary of your learning for each time period
 - e. The employer will complete evaluations of the student's performance at work.

College/Career Pathways Release Program

Junior and Senior students may participate in the College/Career Pathways release programs given they meet the following criteria.

1. College/Career Pathways Release is only granted to juniors/seniors that meet or exceed graduation requirements.
2. Students must apply to Career Pathways Institute and be accepted to the program.
3. Students must maintain at least a 'C' average throughout the semester and may not be failing any classes. Grades will be verified weekly.
4. Students must attend classes the first four periods of the school day

The administration has the authority to remove students from the College/Career Pathways release program for various reasons including but not limited to: poor grades, misconduct, etc. Also, students in this program must sign out at the office before they may leave school. Students may not loiter in the parking lots or take other students from the school grounds unless given authorization.

Section 6 Attendance Required to Participate in Activities

Students are to be in school on the day of the event to participate in extracurricular activities. Students who have missed school must be in attendance for the second half of the day on the day of the event, or for at least half of the day on Friday for events held on Saturday. Exceptions may be made for family emergencies or other family events. Other exceptions may be granted for foreseeable, pre-arranged, absences if work is done in advance and approval has been obtained from the Principal.

Students must practice the day prior to the event, or have the practice made up with their coach/sponsor, before they will be allowed to participate in the game/activity. If the student misses multiple practices, then the coach/sponsor can have the student make up the practices over the same number of days missed. Exceptions may include absence due to a sanctioned school activity or for DOCUMENTED religious observation or funeral.

Further, students who fail to comply with the Unexcused Absence or Excessive Absence provisions of Policy 503.03 shall forfeit their eligibility for extracurricular activity participation.

Section 7 Credit Recovery

Credit Recovery is designed to give those students who have failed a class an opportunity to redo coursework or retake a course through alternate means (any costs are the students responsibility). Credit Recovery is designed for Seniors only and then only with the Principal's permission. Only under extraordinary circumstances may any non-senior take a credit

recovery class or take more than 2 credit recovery classes per subject area.

Article 5 – SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT

Section 1 Grading System

All students' reports will be made in number grades. The following scale is used:

A	96-100	4.0	C	80-82	2.0
A-	94-95	3.8	C-	78-79	1.8
B+	91-93	3.4	D+	75-77	1.4
B	88-90	3.0	D	72-74	1.0
B-	86-87	2.8	D-	70-71	.80
C+	83-85	2.4	F	0-69	0.0

Section 2 Minimum Requirements For Graduation

1. A student must earn a total of 210 credits; or, successfully complete the goals and objectives of his or her Individualized Education Plan (IEP).
2. Total hours credit required must include a minimum of:
 - 30 hours credit in Science
 - 40 hours credit in English
 - 30 hours credit in Mathematics
 - 30 hours credit in Social Studies
 - 25 hours credit in Career & Tech Education (must include 5 credits Personal Finance & 5 credits Information Tech)
 - 5 hours credit in Speech
 - 6 hours credit in Physical Education-Health
 - 5 hours credit in ACT test prep
 - 25 hours credit in Elective Courses
3. Minimum number of 7 classes to be taken each semester.
4. All 9-12 grade students are required to complete a minimum of 10 hours of community service for each year of attendance at Palmer Public School to be eligible for graduation (giving more than 10 hours per year is allowed and encouraged). Those not meeting the requirement during the academic year must schedule a conference with the administration to determine academic standing. Hours must not be done for immediate family members, for any compensation, during the school day, as part of a court ruling, or as part of the individual service project for NHS. Students cannot carry over any hours in excess of 10 to the following year. Students are required to turn in documentation of these hours by April 30. Students who have not completed the community service requirement will not receive a diploma and will not be allowed to participate in graduation exercises.

To complete community service hours, students must:

1. Obtain advance approval from a school administrator for all service experiences.
2. Obtain a time card from an administrator before completing the service.
3. Ask the supervisor to sign the timecard after each session worked.
4. Return the timecard to the school administrator to be placed in the student's community service file.

Participation in school activities below may count toward the service requirement. Completing these school activities will count for the following number of community service hours:

5.0 hours of community service: Basketball, Wrestling.

3.5 hours of community service: Volleyball, Football, Cross Country, Softball, Cheer, Track, Baseball.

2.0 hours of community service: Dance, Student Council, One-Act, NHS, FFA, All-School, Speech, Band.

0.5 hours of community service: Quiz Bowl, Choir, HUDL, Yearbook.

Section 3 High School Yearly Course Requirements

FRESHMEN REQUIRED

Algebra I or Business Math
American History II
English 9

General Science
Information Technology (Semester)
Speech (Semester)

SOPHOMORE REQUIRED

Applied Math or
Informal Geometry or
Geometry or
Business Math

English 10
Biology I
World History

JUNIOR REQUIRED

Algebra I or
Geometry or
Algebra II or
Applied Math or
Informal Geometry or
Business Math
English 11
Government and Economics

Anatomy and Physiology or
Earth Science or
Chemistry or
Chemistry II or
Physics
Earth Science
ACT Prep

SENIOR REQUIRED

English 12 or equivalent

Personal Finance

A Senior who has taken three years of English and a semester of speech will be eligible to take College English classes their Senior year. A senior who has taken three years of Math will be eligible to take College Math classes their senior year. Students must pass these classes in order to receive credit toward graduation requirements. It is the student's obligation to sign and pay for these college credits and required materials.

NON-ACADEMIC COURSES

Instrumental Music	2 credits per semester
Vocal Music	2 credits per semester
Physical Education Courses	3 credits per semester

8th grade Required classes:

American History I
Chorus/Band JH
English 8
Explore Ag (Semester)

JH Reading
Math 8
PE 8
Science 8

7th Grade Required classes:

Chorus/Band JH
English 7
Explore Technology (Semester)
World Geography

Explore Health (Semester)
Math 7
PE 7
Science 7
JH Reading

Section 4 Teacher Aides

A teacher aide program is open to junior and senior students with an overall average of 85 and the approval of the guidance counselor, the instructor, and the principal.

Students must show interest and ability and have no conflicts in their schedule to be eligible for this program. This program will be worth one credit per semester.

Section 5 Drop and Add

Classes may be dropped or added only during the first three days each semester. Permission to drop or add a class must be signed by the teacher whose class will be dropped, the teacher whose class will be added, principal, and the counselor.

Section 6 Progress Reports

Parents have access to student progress through the parent portal in PowerSchool throughout the year.

Section 7 Report Cards

Student report cards are issued on a quarterly basis.

Section 8 Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-teacher conferences will be held twice during the school year. The first conference will be held during the first quarter. The second conference will be held during the third quarter. In addition, whenever teachers feel it is in the interest of the students to hold a conference with a parent or guardian, the teacher should contact the parent or guardian to arrange a conference. Parents are to be encouraged to communicate with teachers about the progress of their child.

Section 9 Honor Roll

The qualifications for the High Honor Roll will be a 3.5 average or better, this being based on the above listed grade point system. Honor Roll will include students with an average of 3.0-3.49. Any student with a F, D, or D+ will be ineligible for recognition on the Honor Roll. Weighted classes will count towards the Honor Roll.

Section 10 Promotion, Retention

The professional staff at Palmer School will place students at the grade level and in the courses best suited to them academically, socially and emotionally.

Students will typically progress annually from grade to grade. A student may be retained at a grade level or be required to repeat a course or program when it is determined in the judgment of the professional staff to be appropriate for the educational interests of the student.

Section 11 Graduation

1. No student will be given a signed diploma unless he/she has met all requirements for graduation by the end of the final day of class for Seniors.
2. It shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent of Schools to recommend to the Board of Education at the regular April meeting, all students who are to receive a diploma. He will secure and have signed a suitable diploma or attendance certificate for each member of the class in relation to his achievement. In cases of transfer students, or other exceptions, the Superintendent may waive certain requirements for graduation.
3. A certificate of attendance will be awarded to any student who does not attain the requirements for the general high school diploma, and who has attended high school for four years. Only those fully meeting these requirements for the diploma shall be allowed to participate in the senior commencement exercises.
4. Each deserving student will be honored at graduation with one of the awards listed below:
 - a. Honor Certificates and Honor Medallions to students with grade point average of 3.5-4.0.
 - b. Honor Certificates to students with grade point averages of 3.0-3.49.
5. The top-ranking member of the graduating class will be named Valedictorian and give the farewell speech. The second ranking member of the class will be named Salutatorian and give the welcome address. If the Valedictorian or Salutatorian does not wish to give a speech the next ranking student will be asked.

Section 12 Class Rank

Certain "Upper Level" classes will be weighted for the student's GPA and will be used when determining class rank. The purpose of doing so is to encourage students to take the more

challenging classes. Upper Level classes will carry a value of 1.1.

Upper level classes include: Chemistry, Physics, Advanced Math, Anatomy & Physiology, Spanish III and IV, and any Dual Credit College Course.

Example: A chemistry grade of 90% would be a 99. ($90 \times 1.1 = 99$). This system will be used for class rank only.

In order for a course to be classified "Upper Level" the teacher must present the curriculum and syllabus to the principal. The principal will then select two other high school teachers; this committee of three will determine upper level status.

Student class rank shall be determined by using a percentage grade point average derived from all classes graded on a percentage basis. To be included in the class ranking, a student must have received a numeric grade for each core curriculum class in which he/she was enrolled. For the purposes of this policy, core curriculum shall include all courses in the areas of language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.

Students who transfer into the school district will be eligible to be included in class ranking after two semesters of attendance.

Students who transfer into the school district in the middle of their senior year will be eligible to be included in class ranking, although a mid-year transfer will not displace the ranking of a student who has not transferred mid-year. In those circumstances there will be two students holding the relevant class ranking. Mid-year transfer students will not be eligible to receive senior awards such as valedictorian and salutatorian unless the student has been enrolled in the district's high school for the last two semesters.

Section 13 Senior Schedule - ACT Proficient

Seniors who were proficient in all subject areas on the April ACT test as juniors, will have the option to not schedule and attend a 1st period class (or a class period at the discretion of the principal). The student must have parent permission and once the decision has been made it is not revocable (student may not join a class after the semester has started). If the student becomes academically ineligible, then the student would be required to attend 1st period study hall until eligibility is regained.

Article 6 – SUPPORT SERVICES

Section 1 Student Assistance

If your child has any learning, behavior, or emotional needs that you believe are not being addressed by the school district under existing circumstances, please contact your child's teacher. If appropriate, the teacher may convene the MTSS Team. The MTSS can explore possibilities and strategies that will best meet the educational needs of your child.

Section 2 Guidance Services

As an integral part of the total educational program, guidance and counseling services are concerned with the study, understanding, and adjustment of every student attending Palmer High School. The services are designed to assist students in developing their individual potentials and to assist school personnel, parents and the community in providing opportunities to students to obtain an education best suited to their potentials and goals.

These basic services include:

1. Individual and group counseling
2. Educational and occupational planning
3. Pupil appraisal
4. College and job placement assistance
5. Parent and staff conferences
6. Referrals
7. Follow-up
8. Local research

We believe that the primary purpose of education is to help each individual become increasingly self-directive and capable of creative and purposeful living. We accept the fact that each student is an individual with individual goals. It is the task of the guidance program to help

each student fulfill his own potential for growth.

Parents, teachers, administrators, the guidance counselor and other school and community personnel have roles in the guidance program. All of these persons, who in various ways are concerned with students, help students meet their special needs, explore or pursue selected goals, maintain good emotional health and develop an appropriate set of values.

Section 3 Health Services

Accident or Illness

When a pupil becomes ill or is injured in an accident of a serious nature, the parents of the child will be notified as soon as practicable and their wishes will be followed regarding medical services. If it is impossible to reach the parents, emergency treatment will be provided by the local or nearest medical service, or the pupil may be taken to his or her family doctor when circumstances indicate the necessity and practicality of doing so.

Concussion Management: Recommended Best Practice for Nebraska Schools

Once a concussion has been diagnosed by a healthcare professional, managing the concussion is best accomplished by creating a support system for the student/athlete. **Communication and collaboration** among parents, school personnel, coaches and athletic trainers, and healthcare providers in overseeing both the return to academics and return to play progressions is essential for the recovery process. Teamwork is required to adjust the treatment and management of the concussion. **Best practice indicates that the student should return to school with a RELEASE OF INFORMATION SIGNED BY THE PARENTS that allows for two-way communication between school personnel and the healthcare provider.**

Medications

Whenever possible, parents should arrange medication schedules to eliminate the need for giving medication during school hours. When necessary, it shall be the policy of the Palmer Public Schools to adhere to the following guidelines regarding the administration of prescription and non-prescription medication to students:

1. Any prescription or non-prescription (over-the-counter) medication sent to school by a parent/guardian should be sent in the original container, along with a note signed by the parent/guardian with complete instructions as to dosage, time, etc.
2. An authorization form must be completed and placed on file in the Administration office for those students who require a routine (daily), long-term (more than fourteen days) medication (i.e. insulin, Ritalin, inhalers, etc.) during school hours. This form is to be renewed annually. (See Attachment A)
3. The school will maintain a record of the administration of medication to students during school hours that includes the student's name, name of medication with dosage and date and time of administration. The medication record is initiated via the school secretary or the designated school personnel administering the medication. All medication logs will be filed and retained for a minimum of five years.
4. In the absence of the school secretary, the school administrator in collaboration with the school secretary will designate other school personnel who may assist the student with medication. Designated school personnel will receive in-service prior to providing such assistance. The in-service will include:
 - a. Method of administration.
 - b. Possible signs and symptoms of adverse side effects, omissions, or overdose.
 - c. Proper handling and storage.
 - d. Record keeping.
 - e. Emergency procedure.

The district reserves the right to review and decline requests to administer or provide medications that are not consistent with standard pharmacological references, are prescribed in doses that exceed those recommended in standard pharmacological references, or that could be taken in a manner that would eliminate the need for giving them during school hours. The district may request parental authorization to consult with the student's physician regarding any medication prescribed by such physician.

School Health Screening

Children in Kindergarten through sixth grade are screened for vision, hearing, dental defects, height and weight. Parents are notified of any health concerns as they are identified. Parents who do not wish their child to participate in the school-screening program must communicate this in writing to the school office at the start of the school year. Because Nebraska statutes require school-age screening, parents who remove their child from the screening program must submit findings from an alternate medical provider to the school by December 1.

Physical Examination

A physical examination by a licensed physician, physician's assistant or nurse practitioner within six months prior to the entrance of a child into the beginner grade or the seventh grade, or in the case of a transfer from out of state to any other grade of the local school. An objection in writing to a physical examination of such a child signed and dated by a parent or guardian of such a child may be submitted to the local school.

Immunizations

The Board of Education, in compliance with Nebraska law, requires each student be protected against measles, mumps, rubella, poliomyelitis, diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, Hepatitis B and varicella by immunization prior to enrollment. Any student not in compliance shall not be permitted to continue in school until this requirement is met (79-444.01). Students shall be provisionally enrolled if the immunization procedure has commenced and continues as rapidly as possible (79-444.07). Families shall be notified of this requirement prior to the date of registration (70-444.01).

Immunization shall not be required for enrollment if:

- (1) The school is provided with a written statement signed by a licensed physician, physician's assistant or nurse practitioner that the immunization would be injurious to the health and well-being of the student or any member of that student's family; ,or
- (2) The school is provided with a written affidavit signed by the student, or, if a minor, by the legal representative of the student, that the immunization conflicts with the tenets and practices of a recognized religious denomination and that the student is a practicing member of that religion (79-444.08).

The cost of such immunization shall be borne by the student's parent or guardian or by the Department of Health in situations where such cost would prohibit immunization (79-444.01).

Students who meet the statutory requirements for provisional enrollment shall be allowed to attend school for sixty days without the necessary immunizations.

Students who are excepted from the immunization requirement may be excluded from school in the event of an outbreak of any contagious disease in the school population.

Homeless students who are in need of immunizations will be referred to the homeless coordinator, who shall assist in obtaining necessary immunizations or medical records.

Asthma Plan

State regulations require that our school (or early childhood education program) be prepared to implement an emergency treatment plan, called a protocol, anytime a student or staff member experiences a life threatening asthma attack or systemic allergic reaction (anaphylaxis).

The protocol requires that 911 is called first. After that call is made, an EpiPen injection will be given and then albuterol is provided through a nebulizer. An EpiPen is a small pre-filled, automatic injection device that resembles a highlighter. It is used to deliver epinephrine. Epinephrine is a medication that is used to bring quick relief by improving breathing and lung function. Albuterol is another medication that is used to bring breathing relief (commonly found in metered-dose inhalers). The nebulizer is a machine that mixes the albuterol with air to provide a fine mist (aerosol) for breathing in through a mask or mouthpiece.

The protocol steps are designed to provide quick, effective care in order to prevent death from occurring due to a severe asthma attack or anaphylaxis. Staff members have been trained to recognize signs and symptoms of a life-threatening "breathing" emergency and to properly

administer the medications. The protocol is a standing medical order that has been signed by a doctor.

If you know that your student has asthma or a known allergy, it is critically important that you communicate this information to our school staff. You may contact the Superintendent. For each student with a known allergic condition or asthma, you must provide the school with (1) written medical documentation, (2) instructions, and (3) medications as directed by a physician.

If you have questions or concerns about the protocol or your student's health issues, please contact the Superintendent.

Birth Certificate Requirements

State law requires that a certified copy of a student's birth certificate be used when enrolling a new student in school. If your child is registering with Palmer School for the first time, you may obtain this document 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.

Communicable Disease

Because of the danger inherent to other students, any student suffering from a contagious or infectious disease may be restricted from attendance at school until such condition has been adequately controlled.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to assist in meeting the provisions of the State Health Department covering communicable and contagious diseases by promptly reporting to the school or county nurse and superintendent the presence of such diseases.

Parents are requested to inform the superintendent if their child has contracted a contagious or communicable disease.

The superintendent shall not re-enter any such student except under circumstances described below.

Students will be excluded from school for the following communicable diseases and prescribed periods of time. These diseases include but are not limited to:

1. Measles (Rubeola), measles (Rubella), mumps, diphtheria, pertussis, polio, and tetanus require verification by a physician and permission for the student to return.
2. Chicken pox, CMV (Cytomegalovirus), infectious mononucleosis, influenza, fifth disease, hepatitis and tuberculosis: a student may return to school when signs and symptoms have been altered, are absent, and/or return to school is permitted, by notification from a physician. (Includes telephone calls from parents.)
3. Pink eye, head lice, impetigo, intestinal worms, ringworm, scabies, scarlet fever and/or other strep infections. Students may return to school after verified treatment has been started and/or when a physician gives permission.
4. Elevated body temperature: Students with temperatures over 100 degrees will be sent home. Students must be below 100 degrees for 24 hours without medicine before returning to school.
5. Hepatitis B and Human Immunodeficiency Virus Infections (HIV) also referred to as (ARC) AIDS Related Complex and (AIDS) Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome: Hepatitis B and HIV are grouped together because the spread of these diseases appears to be similar.

The present information shows that HIV is a viral infection transmitted through body fluid contact. There is no evidence of transmission through daily casual contact with an individual with

HIV exposure or infection in the home or school settings.

Determination of the status of a student with Hepatitis B or HIV/ARC/AIDS shall remain on a case-by-case basis. If the superintendent receives information that a student attending any school in the district has become infected with Hepatitis B or HIV, the Superintendent shall contact the parents of the student to determine if their child is to continue to receive educational services from within this district.

If the student is to continue to receive educational services from within the district, the Superintendent shall immediately convene a planning team, which shall prepare a personal education program for the student. The planning team shall include the student's parents and/or representative, the student's personal physician, the school or county nurse, the school physician and the Superintendent.

The team shall receive a medical overview of the student's condition and listen to the concerns and desires of the parents or representative of the student. The team shall then consider the physical conditions, behavior and neurological development of the student and the interaction with employees and other students before developing an educational plan and recommendations for the Superintendent of Schools. The plan should include recommendations for the student, the family, and principal, the teachers, other students, the custodians and recommendations concerning the district, restroom facilities, lunchroom facilities, transportation, public relations and any emergency procedures.

It is the goal of the school for all Hepatitis B and HIV/ARC/AIDS affected students to be able to attend school and participate in activities in an unrestricted setting so long as such attendance and participation would be reasonable. However, exceptions will be made for students with neurological impairment resulting in a lack of control over body fluids and displays of behavior such as biting, or students who have uncovered oozing lesions. In such cases the student shall be removed from the classroom until an appropriate alternative education program can be established.

The privacy of the student and his/her family must be protected and the knowledge that a student has a communicable condition should be confined to persons with a direct need to know. If it becomes necessary to inform others, these persons will be provided with information concerning the necessary precautions and will be made aware of confidentiality requirements.

Child Abuse and Neglect

When any person has reasonable cause to believe that a child or an incompetent or disabled person has been subjected to abuse or neglect or observes such persons being subjected to conditions or circumstances which reasonably would result in abuse or neglect, he or she shall report such incident or cause a report to be made to the proper law enforcement agency or the department of welfare on the toll-free number 1-800-652-1999...agencies receiving any reports of abuse or neglect under this subsection shall notify the state central registry on the next working day by phone or mail.

Abuse shall mean knowingly, intentionally, or negligently causing or permitting a minor child or an incompetent or disabled person to be (a) placed in a situation that may endanger his life or health; (b) tortured, cruelly confined, or cruelly punished; (c) deprived of necessary food, clothing, shelter or care; or (d) left unattended in a motor vehicle, if such minor child is six years or younger. Legal reference LB207,1973.

SEE FORM B – ABUSE COMPLAINT FORM

Article 7 – DRUGS, ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO

Section 1 Drug-Free Schools

It shall be the policy of Merrick County School District No. 49 to provide age appropriate, developmentally based drug and alcohol education and prevention programs for all students of the schools. It shall be the policy of the District to require instruction at each grade level concerning the adverse effects resulting from the use of illicit drugs and alcohol. Such instruction shall be designed by affected classroom teachers or as otherwise directed by the Board to be appropriate to the age of the student exposed to such instruction. Such instruction should be

described in any curriculum guides of the District and should have as one of its primary objectives preventing the use of illicit drugs and alcohol by such students. It shall further be the policy of the District to encourage the use of outside resource personnel such as law enforcement officers, medical personnel and experts on the subject of drug and alcohol abuse, so that its economic, social, educational, physiological consequences may be made known to the students of the district.

It shall further be the policy of the district, through the instruction earlier herein referred to as well as by information and consistent enforcement of the Board's policy pertaining to student conduct as it relates to the use of illicit drugs and the unlawful possession and use of alcohol, that drug and alcohol abuse is wrong and is harmful to the student and the District, and its educational programs.

Standards Of Student Conduct Pertaining To The Unlawful Possession, Use, Or Distribution Of Illicit Drugs Or Alcohol On School Premises Or As A Part Of Any Of The School's Activities

It shall be the policy of Merrick County School District No. 49, to absolutely prohibit the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs or alcohol on school premises or as a part of any of the school's activities. This shall include such unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by any student of the District on District property, during regular school hours, during after school hours, and at school sponsored activities. Conduct prohibited at places and activities as hereinabove described shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Possession, or being under the influence, of any controlled substance (tobacco, alcohol, drugs, etc.), possession of which is prohibited by law.
2. Possession of any prescription drug in an unlawful fashion.
3. Possession of alcohol on school premises or as a part of any of the school's activities.
4. Use of any illicit drug.
5. Distribution of any illicit drug.
6. Use of any drug in an unlawful fashion.
7. Distribution of any drug or controlled substance when such distribution is unlawful.
8. The possession, use, or distribution of alcohol.

Disciplinary Sanctions:

It shall further be the policy of the District that violation of any of the above prohibited acts will result in disciplinary sanctions being taken within the bounds of applicable law, up to and including short term suspension, long term suspension, expulsion, referral to appropriate authorities for criminal prosecution.

DRUG AND ALCOHOL DISTRICT STUDENT STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

It shall be the policy of Merrick County School District No. 49 to provide each student of the District a copy of the standards of conduct for student behavior in the District which prohibit the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol on school premises or as a part of any of the school's activities. Such standards of conduct and the District's policy of disciplinary sanctions that may be taken for violation of such standards of conduct shall be given to each student and his or her parent or parents or guardian prior to the commencement of each school year on a form to be developed by the administration or Board of Education.

It shall be the further policy of the District to keep a file showing receipt of standards of conduct and a statement of disciplinary sanctions that may be taken for violations of such standards of conduct. The receipt shall be issued in duplicate and shall contain in prominent letters the following language:

"THIS RECEIPT SHALL SERVE TO DEMONSTRATE THAT YOU AS A PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF A STUDENT ATTENDING MERRICK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 49 HAVE RECEIVED NOTICE OF THE STANDARDS OF CONDUCT OF THIS DISTRICT EXACTED OF STUDENTS CONCERNING THE ABSOLUTE PROHIBITION AGAINST THE UNLAWFUL POSSESSION, USE, OR DISTRIBUTION OF ILLICIT DRUGS AND ALCOHOL ON SCHOOL PREMISES OR AS A PART OF ANY OF THE SCHOOL'S ACTIVITIES AS DESCRIBED IN BOARD POLICY OR ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION. THIS NOTICE IS BEING PROVIDED TO YOU PURSUANT TO P.L.101-226 and 34 C.F.R. PART 86, BOTH FEDERAL LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DISTRICT TO OBTAIN ANY FEDERAL

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. YOUR SIGNATURE ON THIS RECEIPT ACKNOWLEDGES THAT YOU AND YOUR CHILD OR CHILDREN WHO ARE STUDENTS ATTENDING THIS DISTRICT FULLY UNDERSTAND THE DISTRICT'S POSITION ABSOLUTELY PROHIBITING THE UNLAWFUL POSSESSION, USE, OR DISTRIBUTION OF ILLICIT DRUGS AND ALCOHOL ON SCHOOL PREMISES OR AS A PART OF THE SCHOOL'S ACTIVITIES AS HEREINABOVE DESCRIBED AND THAT COMPLIANCE WITH THESE STANDARDS IS MANDATORY. ANY NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THESE STANDARDS CAN AND WILL RESULT IN PUNITIVE MEASURES BEING TAKEN AGAINST ANY STUDENT FAILING TO COMPLY WITH THESE STANDARDS."

DRUG AND ALCOHOL COUNSELING, REHABILITATION AND RE-ENTRY PROGRAMS

It shall be the policy of Merrick County School District No. 49 to provide information to all students concerning available drug and alcohol counseling, rehabilitation, and re-entry programs within fifty miles of the administrative offices of the District or, where no such services are found, within the State of Nebraska. Information concerning such resources shall be presented to all of the students of the District.

Safe and Drug-Free Schools—Parental Notice

NOTICE TO PARENTS: Parents who object to their child's participation in school-sponsored safe and drug-free education programs or activities that are provided outside the regular classroom curriculum may submit a written request to the District. Upon receipt of the request, the District will review the request in accordance with applicable federal and state law and Board policy. If permitted under those laws and policies, the student will be excused from the applicable program or activity.

ARTICLE 8 – STUDENT RIGHTS, CONDUCT, RULES AND REGULATIONS

Section 1 General Standards of Behavior

Any 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 that interferes or creates a reasonable likelihood that it will interfere with the health, safety or well-being of the rights of other students is prohibited. Any time a student is sent to the principal's office for disciplinary reasons the parents will be notified.

The general standards of behavior outlined in this document will be followed throughout our school system. We have not attempted to itemize all acts or possible misconduct, which could occur during the course of a school year. Violations of any of the rules and regulations described in this document may result in temporary suspension from school for up to five days and, in extreme cases, exclusion from school for up to the remainder of the current semester.

Section 2 Codes of Conduct

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. This handbook is placed in the hands of all students, providing the guidelines to enable the student to observe the basic rules as outlined in Section 4, pages 22-24.

Section 3 Uniform Discipline System

It shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent to develop and maintain a system of uniform discipline. The discipline which may be imposed includes actions which are determined to be reasonably necessary to aid the student, to further school purposes, or to prevent interference with the educational process, such as (without limitation) counseling and warning students, parent contacts and parent conferences, rearrangement of schedules, requirements that a student remain in school after regular hours to do additional work, restriction of extracurricular activity, or requirements that a student receive counseling upon written consent of the parent or guardian, or

in-school suspension. The discipline may also include out-of-school suspension (short-term or long-term) and expulsion.

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
 - b. Other violations of rules and standards of behavior adopted by the 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:

- a. 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.
 - b. Prior to commencement of the short-term suspension, the student will be given oral and 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.
 - c. Within 24 hours or such additional time as is reasonably necessary, not to exceed an additional 48 hours, following the suspension, the Principal or administrator will send a written statement to the student and the student's parent or guardian describing (i) the student's conduct, misconduct, or violation of the rule or standard; (ii) the reasons for the action taken; (iii) the actions taken by the school to attempt to address or alleviate the behavior prior to suspension; (iv) resources the school is able to provide or recommend to assist the student; and (v) how the school plans to address the behavior moving forward, including strategies to maximize the student's continued participation in school.
 - d. 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. The Principal shall document their attempt to make a reasonable effort to hold a conference with the parent or guardian.
 - e. A student who is 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 notice will include a description of (i) the student's conduct, misconduct, or violation of the rule or standard; (ii) the reasons for the action taken; (iii) the actions taken by the school to attempt to address or alleviate the behavior prior to suspension; (iv) resources the school is able to provide or recommend to assist the student; and (v) how the school plans to address the behavior moving forward, including strategies to maximize the student's continued participation in school.
 3. Expulsion:
 - a. 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 the misconduct occurred (a) 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) 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) unless 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. A student who has been expelled 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 an expulsion. The notice will include a description of: (i) the student's conduct, misconduct, or violation of the rule or standard; (ii) the reasons for the action taken; (iii) the actions taken by the school to attempt to address or alleviate the behavior prior to suspension; (iv) resources the school is able to provide or recommend to assist the student; and (v) how the school plans to address the behavior moving forward, including strategies to maximize the student's continued participation in school.

b. **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 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. If the student is suspended pending the outcome of the hearing, the student may complete classwork and homework, including, but not limited to, examinations, missed during the period of suspension. During this period, the student will not be required to attend the alternative programs for expelled students in order to complete classwork or homework.

c. **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.

d. **Alternative Education:** Students who are expelled may be offered an alternative education program that will enable the student to continue academic work for credit toward graduation. A student will not be required to attend the alternative education program in order to complete classwork and homework. 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.

e. **Suspension of Enforcement of an Expulsion:** Enforcement of an expulsion action may be suspended 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.

f. **Students Subject to Juvenile or Court Probation.** Prior to the readmission to school of any student who is less than nineteen years of age and who is subject to the supervision of a juvenile probation officer or an adult probation officer pursuant to the order of the District Court, County Court, or Juvenile 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.

g. Returning from Expulsion. At the conclusion of an expulsion, the District will reinstate the student and accept nonduplicative, grade-appropriate credits earned by the student during the term of expulsion from any Nebraska accredited institution or institution accredited by one of the six regional accrediting bodies in the United States.

h. Exception for Pre-Kindergarten through Second Grade Students. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a pre-kindergarten through second grade student shall not be suspended unless the student (1) brings a deadly weapon to school grounds, a school vehicle, or a school activity, or (2) engages in violent behavior capable of causing physical harm to another student or school employee. In all other circumstances, the Principal or designee shall implement appropriate alternative disciplinary measures on a case-by-case basis. A student who brings a deadly weapon may be expelled in accordance with this Policy's disciplinary procedures.

i. Religious Freedom. The District will not substantially burden a student's right to religious exercise unless the student's religious exercise is disruptive to the school environment, not permitted by staff, may pose a safety risk, or would otherwise interfere with the school day.

4. Emergency Exclusion: A student may be excluded from school in the following circumstances:
 - a. If the student has a dangerous communicable disease transmissible through normal school contacts and poses an imminent threat to the health or safety of the school community; or
 - b. If the student's conduct presents a clear threat to the physical safety of himself, herself, or others, or is so extremely disruptive as to make temporary removal necessary to preserve the rights of other students to pursue an education.

Any emergency exclusion shall be based upon a clear factual situation warranting it and shall last no longer than is necessary to avoid the dangers described above.

If the emergency exclusion will be for five school days or less, the procedures for a short-term suspension shall be followed. If the Superintendent or his or her designee determines that an emergency exclusion shall extend beyond five days, a hearing may be held, upon a parent's timely request, and a final determination made within ten school days after the initial date of exclusion. Such procedures shall substantially comply with the procedures set forth in this policy for a long-term suspension or expulsion, and be modified only to the extent necessary to accomplish the hearing and determination within this shorter time period.

5. Other Forms of Student Discipline: Administrative and teaching personnel may also 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, requirements 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.
6. Detention

Palmer Public School District Policy 505.01 authorizes the Principal or a designee to establish rules covering time, place and procedures for student detention. All teachers have the right to detain students within reasonable limits. Students may be detained after school (or before school, at the discretion of the Superintendent/Principal or teacher involved) for

reasons related to academic performance as well as for disciplinary purposes. Specific rules regarding detention will be distributed at the start of the school year.

Detention shall be served the same day it is earned or the next day at 7:30 a.m. Failure to appear for detention may result in the following sanctions: 1) Double detention, restriction of privileges, solitary lunch, or in-school suspension; 2) Withholding of report cards and official transcripts; 3) Withholding students name from honor roll and academic awards; 4) Ineligibility for participation in or attendance at school activities. Repeated noncompliance with directives for detention will be deemed insubordination and will result in further disciplinary measures including but not limited to suspension or expulsion from school.

Section 4 Grounds for Various Forms of Discipline

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. Mandatory reassignment shall be subject to the same procedural requirements and protections as long-term suspension and expulsion.

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 a 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. Engaging in 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. Tobacco means any tobacco product (including but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, and chewing tobacco), vapor products (such as e-cigarettes), electronic nicotine delivery systems, alternative nicotine products, tobacco product look-alikes, and products intended to replicate tobacco products either by appearance or effect. 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.
8. Public indecency or sexual conduct. This includes “deep fakes” or other computer-generated images of other students or staff intended to bully, harass, intimidate, or humiliate another student or staff member.
 9. 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.
 10. 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.
 11. 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.
 12. A repeated violation of any rules established by the school district or school officials if such violations constitute a substantial interference with school purposes, including (but not limited to) a violation of the District’s dress code and electronic communication device 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 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.
 15. Willfully violating the behavioral expectations for riding school buses or vehicles.
 16. 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.

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. 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.

For purposes of this policy, the term "dangerous weapon" includes any personal safety or security device (such as tasers, mace and pepper spray). If a student desires to carry or possess a personal safety or security device, the student must obtain prior approval from the building principal before bringing such device on school grounds. If a student obtains prior approval from the building principal, the student must store the device during the school day in the student's locker, in the main office or in another secure location designated by the building principal. A student shall not carry a personal safety or security device during the school day.

Confiscation of Firearms.

Administrative and teaching personnel are statutorily authorized, without a warrant, to confiscate any firearm possessed in violation of this policy. By statute, any firearm that is confiscated by school personnel shall be delivered to a peace officer as soon as practicable. Such firearms are subject to being destroyed by law enforcement authorities. All school personnel are required to report any violation of this policy to a principal or the superintendent of schools. Any student who is expelled or suspended for violation of this policy will be referred to the Merrick County Sheriff's office.

A. Discipline and Make-up Work

It shall be the policy of Palmer Public Schools that students who are placed in in-school suspension shall be required to complete assignments or alternative assignments on schedule during the in-school suspension but at 50% of the assigned grade. It shall further be the policy of the Palmer Public School District that students suspended out-of-school pursuant to this policy shall be allowed an opportunity to complete class work for credit, including but not limited to examinations missed during the period of Out-of-School Suspension, but at 50% of the assigned grade.

B. Additional Student Conduct Expectations and Grounds for Discipline

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.

1. Student Appearance: Students are expected to dress in a way that is appropriate for the school setting. Students should not dress in a manner that is reasonably forecasted to interfere 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 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.
 - 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. Head wear including hats, caps, bandannas, and scarves.

- e. Clothing or jewelry which exhibits nudity, makes sexual references or carries lewd, indecent, or vulgar double meaning.
- f. Clothing or jewelry that is gang related

A student who is a member of an indigenous tribe of the United States or another country may wear tribal regalia in any location where the student is authorized to be on such school grounds or at any school function, as long as the tribal regalia does not interfere with the educational process and does not endanger another person, as determined by the administration. Further, students will also be permitted to wear attire, including religious attire, natural and protective hairstyles, adornments or other characteristics associated with race, national origin, or religion, as long as the attire does not interfere with the educational process and does not endanger another person, as determined by the administration.

No student shall be disproportionately affected by a dress code or grooming policy enforcement because of the student's gender, race, color, religion, disability, or national origin.

No school staff shall permanently or temporarily alter or cut a student's hair.

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.

A student dress code violation will be treated as a minor rule violation and may not require the student to miss substantial classroom time, instructional time, or school activities. However, a repeated violation of school rules may subject the student to further discipline, as outlined in this Policy.

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 provided proper attire 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.

2. Academic Integrity.

- a. 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.

- b. Definitions: The following definitions provide a guide to the standards of academic integrity:
 - (1) "Cheating" means intentionally misrepresenting 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):
 - (i) 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.

- (ii) Use of Unauthorized Materials: Using notes, textbooks, pre-programmed formulae 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.
- (iii) 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.
- (iv) 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.
- (v) 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):

- i) 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.

- (ii) 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.

- (iii) 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.

- (iv) 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.

- (v) 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 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.

(3) “Contributing” to academic integrity violations means to participate in 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.

Sanctions: The following sanctions will occur when a student engages in cheating, plagiarism, or contributing to an academic integrity offense:

(1) Academic Sanction. The instructor will refuse to accept the student's work in which the academic integrity offense 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.

(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 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.

3. CELL PHONES AND OTHER ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES

a. 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.

The District prohibits the use of cell phones or other electronic communication devices by students while on school property or attending a school instructional function except as provided otherwise below. Violation of this policy may include disciplinary measures under the district's student conduct policies up to and including suspension or expulsion.

Other electronic communication device means any device which transmits by electronic means any writing, sound, visual image, or data of any nature to another electronic communication device. This includes personally owned electronic tablets, "smart" watches, earbuds, headphones, and gaming devices. The term "electronic communication device" includes a cell phone.

Students are not prohibited from using an electronic communication device while on school property or attending a school instructional function under any of the following circumstances:

1. When required by a student's individualized education program developed under the Special Education Act and its rules and regulations or a plan developed under section 504 of federal statutes;
2. When authorized by the District for educational purposes during instructional time;
3. In the case of an emergency or perceived threat of danger;
4. When necessary to monitor or manage a student's health care; or
5. When appropriate under District policies or otherwise allowed by an appropriate school employee.

In addition to any prohibitions on electronic communication devices stated above, students shall not use such devices for recording or transmitting photographs, images or sounds of other persons without direct administrative approval and consent of all person(s) being recorded, other than the recording of persons participating in school activities that are open to the public. Students shall not use electronic devices at any time where there is an expectation of privacy.

b. Virtual Private Networks (VPN) are not allowed on any school computer or any personal device in use inside the school building.

c. Violations

(1) Students shall not use electronic devices at any time or place for: (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; or (f) 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.

(2) Personal electronic devices will remain off and out of sight from 8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. in all Palmer Public School buildings. This includes classrooms as well as all common spaces (halls, bathroom, lunch rooms, etc.). Failure to abide by these expectations will result in personal electronic devices being confiscated. For the first offense a phone is confiscated, it will only be returned to a parent/guardian during the times of 4:00-4:30 pm. For subsequent offenses, it will only be returned to the parent/guardian after the student serves the detention.

(3) Subsequent Violations: Students who are repeat offenders of this policy shall be subject to the imposition of any appropriate disciplinary action, which may include suspension and expulsion from school.

(4) 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.

4. 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:

1. 1st Offense: Student will be confronted and directed to cease.
2. 2nd Offense: Student will be confronted, directed to cease, and parents will be notified.
3. 3rd Offense: Student will be suspended from school for a minimum of 1 day, and parents and student will need to meet with Administrator(s) and/or counselor.

If this type of behavior continues, or if the IPDA is lewd or constitutes sexual conduct, the student could face long-term suspension or expulsion.

5. Law Violations

1. Any act of a student which is a basis for expulsion and which the principal or designee knows or suspects is a violation of the Nebraska Criminal Code will be reported to law enforcement as soon as possible. Conduct to be reported for law enforcement referral includes conduct that may constitute a felony, conduct which may constitute a threat to the safety or well-being of students or others in school programs and activities, and conduct that the legal system is better equipped to address than school officials. Conduct that does not need to be reported for law enforcement referral includes typical adolescent behavior that can be addressed by school administrators without the involvement of law enforcement. In making the decision of whether to report, consideration should be given to the student's maturity, mental capacity, and behavioral disorders, where applicable. When appropriate, it shall be the responsibility of the referring administrator to contact the student's parent of the fact that the referral to legal authorities has been or will be made.

The foregoing reporting standards shall be reviewed annually by the school Board on or before August 1 of each year, be annually reviewed in collaboration with the County Attorney each year, be distributed to each student and his or her parent or guardian at the beginning of

each school year, or at the time of enrollment if during the school year, and shall be posted in conspicuous places in each school during the school year.

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 shall 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, except when a minor has been taken into custody as a victim of suspected child abuse, in which case the principal or other school official shall provide the peace officer with the address and telephone number of the minor's parents or guardian.

BULLYING / HARASSMENT BY STUDENTS

Bullying of students, staff or visitors by other students will not be tolerated in the school district. This policy is in effect while students are on school grounds, school district property, or on property within the jurisdiction of the school district; while on school-owned and/or school-operated transportation; and while attending or engaged in school activities.

Bullying means 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 his or her designee, or at school-sponsored activities or school-sponsored athletic events." Bullying may also include, but not be limited to , intimidation, extortion and harassment. Students whose behavior is found to be in violation of this policy will be subject to the investigation procedure which may result in discipline, up to and including, suspension and expulsion.

Sexual harassment is misconduct, which interferes with work productivity and deprives employees of the opportunity to work and students of the opportunity to study and be in an environment free from unsolicited and unwelcome sexual overtones. Sexual harassment includes all unwelcome sexual advances and sexually oriented communication, requests for sexual favors and other such verbal or physical misconduct. Sexual harassment is a prohibited practice and is a violation of the law.

Sexual harassment as set out above may include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Verbal or written harassment or abuse, or unwelcome communication implying sexual motives or intentions;
- Pressure for sexual activity; repeated remarks to a person with sexual or demeaning implications;
- Unwelcome touching;
- Unwelcome and offensive public sexual display of affection;
- Suggesting or demanding sexual involvement, accompanied by implied or explicit threats concerning one's job, promotions, recommendations, etc.

Harassment on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, national origin, marital status or disability means conduct of a verbal or physical nature that is designed to embarrass, distress, agitate, disturb or trouble individuals when:

- Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of a student's education or of an individual's participation in school programs, activities or employment;
- Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for decisions affecting the individual; or
- Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's performance or
- Creating an intimidating, offensive or hostile learning or work environment.
- Bullying as set forth above may include, but is not limited to the following:
 - Verbal, physical or written harassment or abuse;
 - Repeated remarks of a demeaning nature;
 - Implied or explicit threats concerning one's grades, achievements, etc.;
 - Demeaning jokes, stories, or activities directed at an individual.

The district will promptly and reasonably investigate allegations of bullying/harassment.

The building principal will be responsible for handling all complaints by students alleging bullying/harassment.

Retaliation against an individual because the individual has filed a harassment complaint or assisted or participated in a bullying/harassment investigation or proceeding is also prohibited. A student who is found to have retaliated against an individual in violation of this policy will be subject to discipline, up to and including, suspension and expulsion.

Dating Violence

Palmer Public Schools strives to provide physically safe and emotionally secure environments for all students and staff. Positive behaviors are encouraged in the educational program and are required of all students and staff. Dating violence will not be tolerated.

For purposes of this policy "dating violence" means a pattern of behavior where one person uses threats of, or actually uses, physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse to control his or her dating partner. "Dating partner" means any person, regardless of gender, involved in an intimate relationship with another person primarily characterized by the expectation of affectionate involvement whether casual, serious, or long term.

Incidents of dating violence involving students at school will be addressed as the administration determines appropriate, within the scope and subject to the limits of the District's authority.

Staff training on dating violence shall be provided as deemed appropriate by the administration. The dating violence training shall include, but need not be limited to, basic awareness of dating violence, warning signs of dating violence, and the District's dating violence policy.

Dating violence education that is age-appropriate shall be incorporated into the school program. Dating violence education shall include, but not be limited to, defining dating violence, recognizing dating violence warning signs, and identifying characteristics of healthy dating relationships. If requested, parents or legal guardians shall be provided a copy of the dating violence policy and relevant information.

HARASSMENT BY STUDENTS INVESTIGATION PROCEDURES

Bullying or Harassment of students by other students will not be tolerated in the school district.

Bullying/Harassment is a violation of school district policies, rules and regulations and, in some cases, may also be a violation of criminal or other laws. The school district has the authority to report students violating this rule to law enforcement officials.

Students or individuals who feel that they have been bullied/harassed by other students should:

Communicate to the alleged bully that the individual expects the behavior to stop, if the individual is comfortable doing so. If the individual needs assistance communicating with the harasser, he/she should ask a teacher, counselor or principal to help.

If the harassment does not stop, or the individual does not feel comfortable confronting the harasser, he/she should:

Tell a teacher, counselor or principal; and

Write down exactly what happened, keep a copy and give another copy to the teacher, counselor or principal including:

- what, when and where it happened;
- who was involved;
- exactly what was said or what the harasser did;
- witnesses to the harassment;
- what the individual said or did, either at the time or later;
- how the individual felt; and
- how the harasser responded

Complaint Procedure

An individual who believes he/she has been harassed shall notify his or her supervisor or principal. If the supervisor or principal is the offending person, the aggrieved person should report to the next higher level of management.

The principal may request that the individual complete the Harassment Complaint form

and turn over evidence of the harassment, including, but not limited to, letters, tapes, or pictures. Information received during the investigation shall be kept confidential to the extent possible.

The principal, with the approval of the superintendent, or the superintendent has the authority to initiate a harassment investigation in the absence of a written complaint.

Investigation Procedure

The principal shall reasonably and promptly commence the investigation upon receipt of the complaint. The principal shall interview the complainant and the alleged harasser. The alleged harasser may file a written statement refuting or explaining the behavior outlined in the complaint. The principal may also interview witnesses as deemed appropriate.

Upon completion of the investigation, the principal shall make written findings and conclusions as to each allegation of harassment and report the findings and conclusions to the principal. The investigator will outline the findings of the investigation to the principal.

Resolution of the Complaint

The superintendent will complete the next step in the investigation reasonably and promptly upon receipt of the principal's report. Following the principal's report, the superintendent may investigate further, if deemed necessary, and make a determination of the appropriate next step which may include discipline, up to and including, discharge.

Prior to the determination of the appropriate remedial action, the superintendent may, at the superintendent's discretion, interview the complainant and the alleged harasser. The superintendent shall file a written report closing the case and documenting any disciplinary or other action taken in response to the complaint. The complainant, the alleged harasser and the principal shall receive notice as to the conclusion of the investigation.

Points to Remember in the Investigation

Evidence uncovered in the investigation is confidential to the extent allowed or provided by law

Complaints must be taken seriously and investigated

No retaliation will be taken against individuals involved in the investigation process

Retaliators will be disciplined up to and including discharge/expulsion

Conflicts

If the principal (investigator) is a witness to the incident, an alternate investigator shall take the principal's place in the investigation process.

SEE FORM C – BULLYING/HARASSMENT COMPLAINT FORM

INTERNET

The District provides use of the Internet as a research and learning tool to be used for educational purposes only. The access is being offered as a collaborative effort of the Palmer Public Schools and the Educational Service Unit #7. The service offers vast, diverse and unique resources to both teachers and students. The Internet is a vital tool in the educational process.

Throughout the year, students may encounter two types of Internet use: guided and independent. Guided use: the student uses the Internet under the direction of a teacher, which means all connection sites are controlled. Independent use: the student is able to search other sites on the Internet related to classroom objectives. The school has a filter for the Internet which blocks out email, chat rooms and inappropriate sites.

It is understood that a student may accidentally access a site that is inappropriate, at which time the student must, without delay, back out of the site and report it to his/her teacher. Any violation of this rule may result in a one calendar year suspension from Internet use.

Article 9 – EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES RIGHTS, CONDUCT, RULES AND REGULATIONS

Section 1 Extra-Curricular Programs

Participation in all extra-curricular activities is a privilege the school district extends to a student whose conduct and academic standing meet acceptable standards. Extra-curricular activities means student activities or organizations which are supervised or administered by the school district, which do not count toward graduation or advancement between grades, and in which participation is not otherwise required by the school district. Students who participate and are accepted into the program are expected to demonstrate cooperation, patience, pride,

character, self-respect, self-discipline, teamwork, sportsmanship, and respect for authority. It is the belief that accepting responsibility for one's actions is a part of that philosophy. Palmer Schools will adhere to the rules and regulations set forth in Title IX guidelines on sex discrimination as well as other pertinent rules and regulations.

Section 2 Student Council

Individual classes will elect candidates for Student Council during the school year. All officers are elected for a period of one year. The president must be from the senior class.

The Student Council is governed by a constitution and supervised by a sponsor appointed by the superintendent. The purposes of this organization shall be:

1. To promote citizenship, scholarship, and sportsmanship.
2. To promote better understanding between faculty and students and among students themselves.
3. To promote school activities.
4. To further school spirit and morals.

The duties of the Student Council shall be:

1. Assist with the elections that affect the entire student body, unless organizations desire otherwise.
2. Be responsible for assisting with special programs and assembly programs.
3. Be the agency through which student recommendations relative to the school activities are presented to the administration of the high school.
4. Shall have the power to make recommendations and suggestions for the good of the school to various extra-curricular departments. All recommendations to be made with the approval of the high school principal.

Section 3 National Honor Society

Selection of Members

- A. To be eligible for membership, a candidate must be at least a sophomore and have been in attendance at Palmer High School for one semester, unless waived by the principal.
- B. In order to qualify as a candidate for membership, students must have a cumulative weighted GPA of 3.2 from the freshman year to present.
- C. In order to qualify as a candidate for membership, students must participate in at least one extracurricular activity and participate in at least one community service activity.
- D. In order to qualify as a candidate for membership, students must also complete and return the NHS Candidate Resume Form and a brief essay.
- E. All faculty members will be asked to complete Faculty Evaluations of the candidates in the areas of Leadership, Character, and Service. The evaluations will consist of a ranking between 1 and 5: with 1 as rarely consistent and 5 as always consistent. Each faculty member must sign the evaluations or they will not be considered.
- F. Final selection for membership is by majority vote of the Faculty Council and will be based on three criteria: Leadership, Character, and Service.
- G. The Faculty Council shall review the NHS Candidate Resume Forms, the essay, and the Faculty Evaluations of all the candidates. The Faculty Council will consider the candidate's overall scores, as well as their scores within the areas of Leadership, Character, and Service. Candidates with an overall ranking below 3.5 will require more in-depth evaluation by the Faculty Council. The 3.5 score will be used as a cutoff guide and not an absolute determinant of membership by the Faculty Council.
- H. The Faculty Council shall determine the number of students that shall be awarded NHS membership. The names of the students shall not be made known until after the selections are completed. Faculty evaluations may only be shared with the Faculty Council and Principal, if necessary.

The final step in the process is a short meeting with the Advisor and Principal. This meeting takes place with all students who applied for membership, whether they were accepted or not. During this meeting, students are told why they were selected or not selected. There is an appeals process and students who are not selected do have the option to appeal the decision of

the Faculty Council at the time of the final meeting with the Principal and Advisor. A demerit system is also in place in the event that a member fails to meet the expectations set forth for membership in the National Honor Society. Students gaining membership will also be expected to do an individual service project that is determined at a later date.

Section 4 ExtraCurricular/School Activity Trips

School buses with adult sponsors will be permitted to leave for extracurricular/school activity trips. School bus drivers are instructed not to leave unless an adult sponsor is present in the bus. The sponsor needs to leave a complete list of passengers in the office before departure.

Section 5 Fund Raising Projects

Each class organization shall be limited to one major fundraising project each year. Administration must approve all projects at least two weeks prior to the date of the project.

Section 6 Student Trips

Parents must sign the student trip release form at registration for all trips.

Section 7 Riding To and From Activities

Students who are participating in any school activity must ride school transportation to and from the event, unless their parents or guardian have personally requested parental transportation for their child. The request for parental transportation must be made to the sponsor of the activity prior to departure for the event. If parental transportation is requested for the ride home, the parents must sign a second release form at the event prior to the departure of school transportation. A parent who wants their child to ride home with an adult over the age of 21 can sign a student off with the sponsor. The designated adult then has to sign the student off at the event prior to the departure of school transportation. Clearance is given only through the sponsor of the bus.

Students are not permitted to transport themselves, transport another student, or be transported by another student to an event/activity without prior approval from the Athletic Director and/or Principal. A signed consent form from a parent or guardian is required before the event or practice. In emergency situations, an email or text message from the parent or guardian may be accepted as temporary permission.

Section 8 Activity Code of Conduct

This activity code of conduct is supplemental to the Palmer School student code of conduct which is in Article 8 of this handbook and any action taken hereunder may be in addition to any action under the student code of conduct said policy.

The conduct rules apply to conduct of the student, 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.) The 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.

Section 9 Activity Participation Rules

All students associated with Palmer Public Schools and participating in extracurricular or school sponsored activities (including all NSAA and GRC activities) are required to avoid conduct that is detrimental to the integrity of and public confidence in the school. Rules promoting lawful, ethical, and responsible conduct serves the interests of all people associated with the school. Illegal and irresponsible conduct puts people at risk, tarnishes the reputation of the offender and everyone else associated with the school, and undermines the public support and respect of the school district.

Standard of Conduct. Participation in school-sponsored or extracurricular activities is a privilege and not a right. Participants must follow board policy, this code, and all the training rules and

rules of conduct of the coaches and/or activity sponsors. Students participating in school-sponsored or extracurricular activities are held to a high standard. Students are expected to conduct themselves in a way that is lawful, responsible, promotes the values upon which the school is based, and that brings credit to themselves and the school. Students who fail to live up to the required standard of conduct are guilty of detrimental conduct and subject to discipline under all school policies, the general student code of conduct, and these Activity Participation Rules.

Coach and Sponsor Rules. Coaches and/or activity sponsors may establish training rules or rules of conduct for participation in or attendance at the activity or event. General training rules or rules of conduct shall be established prior to the activity or event. This code of conduct shall control in the event that there is a conflict with coach or sponsor rules.

Prohibited Conduct. Students in school-sponsored and/or extracurricular activities may not engage in the following conduct:

1. Possession, consumption, use, distribution, or being under the influence of alcohol, illicit drugs, tobacco, controlled substances, or any lookalike or imitations thereof; or being in the presence of alcohol, illicit drugs, controlled substances, or any lookalike or imitations thereof that are being possessed, consumed, used, or distributed by any person under twenty-one (21) years of age without parental supervision. "Lookalike or imitations" means substances such as K2 and products like electronic cigarettes, vapor pens, etc. (Note: the term "under the influence" for school purposes 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 on the breath or person of a student; also, it includes being impaired by reason of the use or abuse of any substance for the purpose of inducing a condition of intoxication, stupefaction, depression, giddiness, paralysis, inebriation, excitement, or irrational behavior, or in any manner changing, distorting, or disturbing the auditory, visual, mental, or nervous processes).
2. Receipt of a criminal citation by law enforcement for any reason.
3. Conviction of a crime in adult court or the adjudication of a criminal charge in juvenile court.
4. Any behavior that is illegal under the laws of Nebraska or the United States of America regardless of whether it results in a criminal charge or conviction.
5. Any conduct that substantially interferes with the educational process or disrupts the activity or event.
6. Engaging in initiations, defined as any ritualistic expectations, requirements, or activities placed upon new members of a school organization for the purpose of admission into the organization, even if those activities do not rise to the level of "hazing" as defined below. Initiations are prohibited except by permission of the superintendent.
7. Engaging in hazing as defined by state law and this policy. Hazing is defined as any activity by which a person intentionally or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health or safety of an individual for the purpose of initiation into, admission into, affiliation with, or continued membership in any school organization. Under state criminal law, hazing activities include, but are not limited to, whipping, beating, branding, an act of sexual penetration, an exposure of the genitals of the body done with the intent to affront or alarm any person, a lewd fondling or caressing of the body of another person, forced and prolonged calisthenics, prolonged exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug, or harmful substance not generally intended for human consumption, prolonged sleep deprivation, or any brutal treatment or the performance of any unlawful act that endangers the physical or mental health or safety of any person. For purposes of school rules, hazing also includes any activity expected of someone joining a group, team, or activity that humiliates, degrades or risks emotional and/or physical harm, regardless of the person's willingness to participate; personal servitude; restrictions on personal hygiene; yelling, swearing and insulting new members/rookies; being forced to wear embarrassing or humiliating attire in public; consumption of vile substances or smearing of such on one's skin; binge drinking and drinking games; sexual simulation and sexual assault.
8. Bullying which shall include cyber-bullying, defined as the use of the internet, including but not limited to social networking sites such as Facebook, cell phones, or other devices to send, post or text message images and material intended to hurt or embarrass another person. This may

include, but is not limited to: continuing to send email to someone who has said they want no further contact with the sender; sending or posting threats, sexual remarks or pejorative labels (i.e., hate speech); ganging up on victims by making them the subject of ridicule in forums, and posting false statements as fact intended to humiliate the victim; disclosure of personal data, such as the victim's real name, address, or school at websites or forums; posing as the identity of the victim for the purpose of publishing material in their name that defames or ridicules them; sending threatening and harassing text, instant messages or emails to the victims; and posting or sending rumors or gossip to instigate others to dislike and gang up on the target.

9. Using any Internet or social networking websites to make statements, post pictures, or take any other actions that are indecent, vulgar, lewd, slanderous, abusive, threatening, harassing, or terrorizing.

10. Violating any school policy or a coach's or activity sponsor's training rules or rules of conduct.

11. Dressing or grooming in a manner which is (A) dangerous to the student's health and safety or a danger to the health and safety of others, (B) lewd, indecent, vulgar, or plainly offensive, (C) materially and substantially disruptive to the work and discipline of the school or an extracurricular activity, (D) interpreted to advocate the use of illegal drugs or other substances by a reasonable observer.

12. Failing to report for an activity at the beginning of a season unless excused by the coach or activity sponsor.

13. Failing to attend scheduled practices and meetings unless excused by the coach or activity sponsor.

Such conduct is prohibited year-round regardless of whether it occurs on-campus or off-campus. However, punishment for violations that occur during the summer break shall be administered by the coach at his or her discretion.

Discipline. Students who violate any provision of these Activity Participation Rules may be subject to discipline up to and including suspension or expulsion from extracurricular activities (including but not limited to graduation and related activities) and school-sponsored events. The disciplinary consequences described herein and these Activity Participation Rules are in addition to, and do not prejudice, diminish, impede, or reduce, any discipline that is authorized by the Nebraska Student Discipline Act, Board Policy, or the Student Handbook.

Disciplinary action may include a probationary period and conditions that must be satisfied prior to or following reinstatement.

Administrators and coaches will take the following into consideration when making disciplinary decisions:

1. Any prior or additional misconduct;
2. The nature and seriousness of the offense;
3. The motivation for the offense;
4. The amount of violence involved;
5. The student's demeanor and attitude regarding the violation;
6. The actual, threatened, or potential risk to the student and others due to the student's behavior;
7. Whether the student has compensated or will compensate the victim in the event of property damage or personal injury;
8. Whether the circumstances of the violation are likely to recur;
9. The student's willingness to participate in evaluations, counseling, or other programs;
10. Any mitigating factors;
11. Any other relevant factors.

Mandatory Minimum Discipline for Violations of Prohibited Conduct #1. Notwithstanding the foregoing and without limiting the same, students who violate item number 1 under "Prohibited Conduct" above (relating to conduct concerning alcohol, illicit drugs, tobacco, controlled substances, or any lookalike or imitations thereof), are subject to the following mandatory minimum discipline:

Palmer Public School will act on any notification by law enforcement officers/agencies of a violation of Prohibited Conduct #1, irrespective of whether criminal charges are filed or result in any criminal conviction. Additionally, any person having a genuine interest in the welfare of Palmer Public School students may initiate the procedures of this policy by presenting a signed, written statement expressing concern over or observation of a violation of Prohibited Conduct #1 (which statement shall include the name of the student(s), the approximate time, date, place, and nature of the infraction) and deliver the same to a school administrator.

First Offense: Upon a student's first violation of Prohibited Conduct #1 (inclusive of all conduct from the beginning of the student's freshman year through the end of the student's senior year in high school), such student will be suspended from competition/participation for at least six (6) consecutive contests/events, provided however that the mandatory minimum discipline described in this sentence for first offenses of Prohibited Conduct #1 does not necessarily include graduation activities (for graduating seniors) or the Washington D.C. school trip.

Second Offense: Upon a student's second violation of Prohibited Conduct #1 (inclusive of all conduct from the beginning of the student's freshman year through the end of the student's senior year in high school), such student will be suspended from competition/participation for at least twelve (12) consecutive contests/events, provided however that the mandatory minimum discipline described in this sentence for second offenses of Prohibited Conduct #1 does not necessarily include graduation activities (for graduating seniors) or the Washington D.C. school trip.

Third Offense: Upon a student's third violation of Prohibited Conduct #1 (inclusive of all conduct from the beginning of the student's freshman year through the end of the student's senior year in high school), such student shall be immediately ineligible for all activities (including but not necessarily limited to athletics, clubs, and graduation) and shall be suspended from competition/participation in all activities for at least one calendar year from the date of such violation. After one calendar year, the student may appeal to the Board of Education for reinstatement.

In a case where the school year ends before the full term of any consequence can be served, the penalty will carry over into the next school year.

In a case where the suspension was not completed prior to the end of a season, the penalty will carry over to the next season/activity in which the student participates. Completion of the suspension will be contingent on successful completion of the season/activity in which the suspension has been carried over.

Students unable to participate in fundraising activities due to activity suspension may be required to make a pro rata contribution to the organization.

If suspended, the student must continue to participate in practices and conditioning during the suspension if required by the coach or activity sponsor. The failure to comply with the practice and conditioning requirement will make the student ineligible for reinstatement to the activity.

Evaluation, Counseling, and Treatment. Apart from any other disciplinary procedures, students who violate any provision of these rules may be required to undergo a formal clinical evaluation at the coach's discretion. Based upon the results of that evaluation, the student may be encouraged or required to participate in an education program, counseling, or other treatment deemed appropriate by the evaluating professional.

Reporting of Incident. Students shall report any violation of these rules to the coach, activity sponsor, principal, or superintendent no later than thirty (30) minutes after the beginning of the next school day after the violation has occurred. *Failure to report an incident will constitute a violation of these rules and will be taken into consideration in making disciplinary determinations under this policy.* In cases where a student elects to self-report his or her violation of these rules, the resulting discipline may be reduced by no more than one-third of the original consequence at the discretion of the coach, activity sponsor, or school representative investigating the misconduct and determining the discipline.

Discipline Procedures. The following procedures apply to disciplinary action under this activities code:

As used in this "Discipline Procedures" section, "Activities Director" means the activities director for the school in which the student is enrolled or any teacher, school official, or school representative whom the Principal or the Superintendent has authorized to perform the duties and responsibilities of Activities Director as described below.

1. The Activities Director shall make an investigation of alleged violations and provide an opportunity for the student to present his or her version of the facts surrounding the alleged violation.
2. The Activities Director shall consider all information obtained as a result of the investigation, including the information obtained from the student, and shall render a decision regarding disciplinary action. Within a reasonable period of time of the Activities Director's decision, the student and the student's parent(s) shall be given written notice of the disciplinary action taken by the Activities Director.
3. Within five (5) calendar days of the date on which the Activities Director sends the written notice in step 2, above, the student or the student's parent(s) may notify the Principal in writing of his, her, or their request that the Principal review the Activities Director's determination, which written request shall identify with specificity all facts in dispute and all grounds on which the student or the student's parent(s) rely in support of any opposition to the Activities Director's decision. The Principal shall review the written notice for review, the information provided by the Activities Director, and any other information that the Principal deems appropriate, and shall render a written decision on the request for review within three (3) school days of the date that the Principal received the written request for review.
4. Within five (5) calendar days of the date on which the Principal sends the written decision on the request for review as described in step 3, above, the student or the student's parent(s) may notify the Superintendent in writing of his, her, or their request that the Superintendent review the Principal's decision, which written request shall identify with specificity all facts in dispute and all grounds on which the student or the student's parent(s) rely in support of any opposition to the Principals' decision. The Superintendent shall review the written notice for review, the information provided by the Activities Director, and any other information relied upon by the Principal, and shall render a written decision on the request for review within five (5) school days of the date that the Superintendent receives the written request for review. The Superintendent's decision shall be in writing and shall be final.

Misrepresentations. Any misrepresentation of fact by a student regarding any alleged violation of these rules shall be considered a separate violation of these rules, and the student shall be subject to additional disciplinary action.

Questions. Any parent or student who has questions about board policy, this code, training rules or rules of conduct of coaches or activity sponsors, or their interpretation or application shall consult with the Activities Director, Principal, or Superintendent.

Assistance. Students are encouraged to consult with their coach, activity sponsor, an administrator, a counselor, or a teacher to obtain access to educational, counseling, and other programs and resources that may be available to help avoid misconduct that may result in discipline under this policy.

Section 10 Academic Eligibility

Academic eligibility standards will apply to all extra-curricular activities. A student must have been enrolled in school and received the number of credit hours required by the Nebraska School Activities Association and state law in order to be eligible to participate in NSAA activities. Any student failing 2 or more classes (academic or non-academic) or failing the same class in consecutive weeks, will become ineligible for a period of 1 week (Monday through Sunday) including all extra-curricular activities. An ineligible list will be issued every week except the second week of the quarter. Students who are academically ineligible will not be excused from any classes to attend any activities. Ineligible students not attending activity trips that are graded will be expected to complete an alternate assignment. Exceptions to this rule are school sponsored class college visits.

Responsible students will complete assignments and homework on time or even ahead of schedule.

PK-8th grades: Late assignment penalties will be determined at each teacher's discretion. Each teacher will have their own late work practices and policies established in writing, approved by building administrators each school year.

9th-12th grades: In the event that a student is less than responsible and fails to submit a completed assignment on schedule, teachers will immediately record the grade as a zero (0). Students may submit and teachers shall accept late assignments, no more than one school day following the due date but ONLY with a standard penalty of 50%. Assignments will be accepted late, without penalty, for acceptable reasons. The principal shall hold final determination as to acceptable reasons.

Section 11 Student Fees Policy

The Board of Education acknowledges that the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act authorizes school districts to charge student fees for certain student activities and requires the district to adopt a policy addressing student fees. Further, the Board recognizes the fact that there are expenses relating to educational and extracurricular programs and activities that may require financial participation by students and their parents or guardians. In order to provide the district's students and their parents or guardians with guidance regarding the district's position on student fees, the Board of Education enacts the following Student Fee Policy. It is the intent of the Board to provide equal access for students to all programs while complying with the laws of Nebraska and the rules and regulations of the Nebraska Department of Education.

DEFINITIONS

Extracurricular activities means student activities or organizations which are supervised or administered by the school district, which do not count toward graduation or advancement between grades, and in which participation is not otherwise required by the school district.

Postsecondary education costs means tuition and other fees associated with obtaining credit from a postsecondary educational institution. For a course in which students receive both high school and postsecondary education credit or a course being taken as part of an approved accelerated or differentiated curriculum program pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 79-1106 to 79-1108.03, 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.

*Other Fees – shall include a \$35.00 computer fee to be paid by students to Palmer Public School.

B. FEES AUTHORIZED. Except as provided otherwise herein, the district may require and collect fees or other funds from or on behalf of students or require students to provide specialized equipment or specialized attire for any of the following purposes:

Participation in extracurricular activities;

Postsecondary education costs;

Transportation pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 79-241, 79-605 and 79-611;

Copies of student files or records pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-2,104;

Reimbursement to the district for school district property lost or damaged by the student;

Before-and-after-school or pre kindergarten services offered pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-1104;

Summer school or night school; if not otherwise prohibited by IDEA, ADA or Section 504;

Breakfast and lunch programs;

Any other fee authorized by law.

C. PERSONAL OR CONSUMABLE ITEMS. The district shall require students to furnish minor personal or consumable items for specified courses and activities, including, but not limited to, pencils, paper, pens, erasers, crayons, scissors, basic clothing, notebooks, and similar personal or consumable items. Students shall be required to furnish the following personal or consumable items for the following courses and activities:

Per elementary student handbook supply list

Lunch money for field trips

Science classes: writing utensil, lined paper (in a notebook or loose-leaf), book cover

Immunizations and physicals as required by state law

D. NON SPECIALIZED ATTIRE (CLOTHING). Students shall be required to furnish and wear the following non-specialized attire meeting the following general written guidelines for the following specified courses and activities:

Junior High band - black pants

JH choir – black pants/skirt and white top

Track & Field – shirt, shorts, socks

Appropriate gym attire (shorts/t-shirts/tennis shoes). Can also be worn for athletic activities and personal use.

Shop/Ag Lab/Welding – coveralls, long sleeved shirts, boots or lace shoes. Students will provide these articles, which can also be used outside of school class for personal use

E. COURSE PROJECT MATERIALS. Students shall be required to furnish the following materials for the following course projects, which become the property of the students upon completion:

Materials for shop projects students will be taking home or giving away or making for someone else will be paid for by the student

FCS Projects: sewing, embroidery, crochet; High School art projects which we do not have materials for such as, canvas, frames and certain media.

Students, grades 7-12, will, if decided and supported by parents, be accorded the privilege of taking a laptop computer home for use on assignments and projects. The \$35 fee is an insurance premium; details are spelled out in the Laptop Checkout Form.

Various craft materials for making models such as dry pasta, legos, scrap lumber, etc. (whatever materials the student decides to use in his/her project).

F. MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS AND ACTIVITIES. Students shall be required to furnish musical instruments for participation in optional music courses that are not extracurricular activities except that a musical instrument shall be provided without charge for any student who qualifies for free or reduced-price lunches under United States Department of Agriculture child nutrition programs. The district shall not be obligated to provide a particular type of musical instrument for any student.

The fees for musical instruments, specialized attire and other specialized equipment shall be as follows:

Junior High band t-shirt

Instruments for Individual Music, e.g. guitar

Fine Arts Field Trip – Students interested in attending a Broadway style performance at a professional venue may be required to offset shortcomings of fundraising for tickets to such event.

G. NON-MUSIC EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES. Students shall be required to furnish the following specialized equipment or attire for the following non-music extracurricular activities:

All students involved in school athletic or physical education programs may be issued a

combination padlock by the physical education instructor. Students may rent a padlock at a cost of \$10.00. Students will be allowed to sell the locks back to the school for \$5.00 upon completion of use. If a lock is lost, stolen, or broken, the student will be required to purchase a new lock at a cost of \$10.00. Personal locks purchased by the student may not be used under any circumstances. These locks will not be issued for use on the book lockers in the hallways.

- Basketball shoes, socks, athletic supporters, knee pads, practice shorts, shirts
- Track & Field – running shoes, competition shoes, athletic bra, athletic supporter
- Wrestling shoes, shorts, shirt
- Cheerleading requires that participants purchase poms, skirt, shell, jacket, warm-up pants, socks, shoes and dance outfit.
- Football practice shorts, shoes (cleats), t-shirts, athletic supporters, compression shorts, socks
- FFA – students will provide shirt, shoes, slacks or skirt. They do not carry the school or organization logo. FFA jackets in the past have been borrowed. The FFA Chapter has also provided them.
- Students shall be required to pay the following fees for the following non-music extracurricular activities:
 - Track & Field – meal money, admission fee for state meet (non-qualifiers only)
 - Spanish Club –lunch for field trips
 - Jr./Sr. Washington D.C. trip – every other year – a non-required activity
 - The Palmer FFA Chapter may pay the dues for FFA.
 - Lunch for basketball tournaments
 - Physicals – Private office calls – physician's rate

H. POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION. Students shall be required to pay the following fees for postsecondary education:

ACT test – No writing, approx. \$40; with writing, approximately \$57

SAT test - approximately \$55

College course tuition at CCC – approximately \$250 for 3 credit hours

Possibility of lab fee for Anatomy and Physiology through CCC

I. BREAKFAST AND LUNCH PROGRAM. A schedule of fees required for any breakfast and lunch program offered at the district is available in the office or at www.palmertigers.org.

J. OTHER ITEMS. Charges for yearbooks, class rings, letter jackets and similar items are sold as a convenience to students and are not fees and are not covered by this policy. Fines for overdue library books, abuse of school property and other school rules, regulations and policies developed for the safe and efficient operation of the school are not student fees.

K. GRADUATION ITEMS. The Senior Class treasury (Activity Account) pays for the graduate's cap, gown and tassel when the account balance allows. Students are responsible for any flowers ordered.

L. PUBLIC HEARING. On or before August 1, 2002 and annually each year thereafter, the School Board shall hold a public hearing at a regular or special meeting of the Board on a proposed student fee policy, following a review of the amount of money collected from students pursuant to, and the use of waivers provided in, the student fee policy for the prior school year. The student fee policy shall be adopted by a majority vote of the School Board and shall be published in the student handbook. The board shall provide a copy of the student handbook to every student at no cost to the student. The student fee policy shall include specific details regarding those items required by law. In the event that the district would like to consider offering a service or materials for a fee which is not offered at the time that this policy is adopted or if the district would like to consider charging a fee for services or materials currently provided at no charge to the students or their parents or if any other change is desired, a public hearing shall be held at a regular or special meeting of the Board on the proposed changes to the student fee policy before any changes to the policy are adopted. If changes are made to the policy after the public hearing, written notice shall be provided to the students and their parents as soon as is practicable.

M. STUDENT FEES. Money collected from students shall be expended for the purposes for which it was collected from the students.

N. FEE WAIVER. Any fees to be charged or materials required to be provided for the following

shall be waived for students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunches under United States Department of Agriculture child nutrition programs and who apply for a waiver. Equipment and materials will be provided at the discretion of the elementary (PK-6) principal and secondary (7-12) principal and athletic director.

Participation in extracurricular activities;

Specialized equipment or specialized attire for participation in extracurricular activities;

“Course Project Materials” as provided in paragraph E;

Musical instruments both for participation in optional music courses that are not extracurricular activities and for participation in extracurricular activities.

O. PENALTIES. Students who fail to pay overdue student fees may be subject to administrative penalties including but not limited to exclusion from graduation and commencement ceremonies or related activities, exclusion from prom, withholding of the yearbook or annual, etc. Students shall not be denied a diploma, transcript, or credit for course work completed for failure to pay students fees.

P. FUND-RAISING. Students may be asked to partake in fund-raising activities in order to participate in extracurricular activities. If fund-raising is done for a particular extracurricular activity, any student participating in said activity shall earn money individually and will be required to offset shortcomings of fundraising.

Q. SEVERABILITY CLAUSE. If any section or part of this policy is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the declaration will not affect the validity or constitutionality of the remaining portions.

Article 10 – STATE AND FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Section 1 Notice of Nondiscrimination

This school district does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, disability, or age or in admission or access to, or treatment of employment, in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Any person having inquiries concerning this school district's compliance with the regulations implementing Title VI, Title IX, or Section 504 is directed to contact the Superintendent in writing at 202 Commercial Street, Palmer, NE 68864, or by telephone at 308-894-3065. For further assistance, you may also contact Office for Civil Rights (Kansas City Office), U.S. Department of Education, 8930 Ward Parkway, Suite 2037, Kansas City, MO 64114-3302, Telephone: 816-268-0550, FAX: 816-823-1404; TDD: 877-521-2172, Email: OCR.KansasCity@ed.gov.

Section 2 Designation of Coordinator

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 designated as the coordinator for such laws, policies or programs. The contact address for the coordinator is: Palmer Public School, PO Box 248, Palmer, NE 68864.

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	Principal
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disability Act (ADA)	Discrimination, harassment or reasonable accommodations of persons with disabilities	Superintendent
Homeless student laws	Children who are homeless	Superintendent
Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities	Safe and drug free schools	Superintendent

Section 3 Compliance with Titles and Rules

Compliance with Title VI, Title VII, Title IX, Revised Rule 51, Section 504, PL 94-142 Multicultural Education and Grievance Procedures for Title IX, Section 504 and Title VI are available in the Superintendent's office.

Section 4 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 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 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) to schools 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.

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.

Section 5 Law Enforcement Designation

Pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 1232(a)(4)(B)(ii) the School District, by and through the Office of Superintendent of Schools, shall officially designate and authorize the Merrick County Sheriff's Office, by and through commissioned police officers of the Merrick County Sheriff's Office as the School 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 School District and (3) maintaining safe and drug free schools in the School District..

Section 6 Notice Concerning Disclosure of Student Recruiting Information

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, as amended by the ESSA, requires Palmer School to provide military recruiters and institutions of higher education access to secondary school students' names, addresses and telephone listings. Parents (or a secondary student who reached 18 years of age) have the right to request that Palmer School not provide this information (i.e., not provide the student's name, address and telephone listing) to military recruiters or institutions of higher education, without their prior written parental consent. Palmer School will comply with any such request.

Section 7 Student Privacy Protection

The Protection of Pupil Privacy Act requires the District to protect the privacy of students. Further information about student privacy and the District's policies with regard to student privacy are found in Board policy and in the student handbook. In general, employees are expected to comply with these provisions of the PPRA and related Board policy, as follows:

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

2. Student surveys, which involve “sensitive” matters—make suitable arrangements to protect student privacy (that is, do not include the name or other identifying information about a particular student) and give parents the opportunity, in advance, to “opt-out” their child from the survey. Sensitive matters include:
 1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student’s parent;
 2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or the student’s parent;
 3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
 4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating or demeaning behavior;
 5. Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom the student has close family relationships;
 6. Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers;
 7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the students or the student’s parent;
 8. Income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program).
3. Instructional materials—permit parents upon reasonable request to inspect any instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum for their child. The term “instructional materials” does not include academic tests or academic assessments for purposes of this parent inspection requirement. If you receive such a request, direct the parent to contact your building principal and also inform the building principal yourself about the request to get instructions.
4. Collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information—the District policy is to not gather such information for such purposes.

Section 8 Student Records

School staff shall maintain student records in compliance with state and federal law.

Contents.

Provision shall be made for including at least the following:

1. Personal and family data including certification of names and date of birth.
2. Test data, including aptitude and social adjustment ratings; interest and personality inventories may be administered at the request of the student.
3. Medical records
4. All achievement records, as determined by tests and teacher evaluation.
5. Anecdotal records
6. Pupil questionnaires
7. Copies of correspondence with parents and others concerning the student.
8. Honors and recognition received by the student.
9. Other records that may contribute to understanding of the student.

Confidentiality of Student Records.

Student files and other education records shall not be released or divulged except in compliance with state and federal law.

School officials may have access to only those education records in which they have a legitimate educational interest, unless the parent has given written and dated consent for the access. A school official who violates this restriction shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination.

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.

A school official for purposes of access to education records 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.

To the extent permitted by law, contractors, consultants and volunteers may be 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.

Student and Parent Access to Student Records.

A parent or guardian of a student or former student, and a student or former student who is eighteen (18) years of age or older, shall be given the opportunity upon request to inspect and review the education records of the student or former student. Non-custodial parents will be provided full and equal access to the education records of his or her child unless there is a court order to the contrary.

Maintenance and Destruction.

Student files or records shall be maintained so as to separate academic and disciplinary matters. All disciplinary material in a student's file shall be removed and destroyed after the student's continuous absence from the school for a period of three (3) years.

Amendment of Student Records.

Parents and eligible students (a student who has reached 18 years of age or is attending an institution of postsecondary education) have the right to challenge any information contained in the records that they believe is inaccurate, misleading or violates the privacy rights of the student. Such a challenge may be made by making a written request to the Principal to amend the records. If a decision is made not to amend the education records in accordance with the request, the Principal shall inform the parents of the student and the Superintendent. The parent shall be advised of the right to a hearing.

If a hearing is requested, the Superintendent shall conduct a hearing (or delegate the role to another school official who does not have a direct interest in the outcome of the hearing) and provide the parent or eligible student a full and fair opportunity to present evidence relevant to the issues raised in conformance with applicable law.

Section 9 Parental and Family Involvement In The Schools

Palmer Public Schools, after having conducted a public hearing concerning parental involvement and participation, declares that it shall be the policy of the District:

1. In the event any parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker of a student has a complaint or objection to textbooks, tests, curriculum materials, activities, digital materials, websites or applications used for learning, training materials for teachers, administrators, or staff, and any other instructional materials, the parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker may request a personal conference with appropriate school personnel to discuss such concerns. The Superintendent or designee shall prepare a complaint form which may be used by a parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker to express objections to any such instructional material. Such complaint forms shall seek information including, but not limited to, the specific instructional material complained of, the reason for the complaint, and a proposed resolution of the complaint by the parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker.

2. Upon reasonable advance request, a parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker will be permitted to attend and monitor courses, assemblies, counseling sessions, and other instructional activities unless the school determines that such attendance would substantially interfere with a legitimate school interest, which includes the interests of the child, other students, and the educational staff.

3. Parents, guardians, and educational decisionmakers are encouraged to communicate to school staff when the parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker believes it to be appropriate for their child to be excused from testing, classroom instruction, learning materials, activities, guest speaker events, and other school experiences that the parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker finds objectionable. The Superintendent or designee shall make a provision on the complaint form

hereinabove referenced for receiving information from a parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker concerning what specific testing, classroom instruction, or other school experience the parent finds objectionable, the basis for the objection, and a proposed solution for dealing with the objection that would be satisfactory to the parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker and consistent with the mission of the District and legitimate school interests. Parents, guardians, and educational decisionmakers are encouraged to contact the building principal with any questions about any test, curriculum, or surveys.

4. Upon request of a parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker the District will provide access to the education records of their child consistent with applicable law. Access will be provided during regular business hours of the school.

5. The District will notify parents, guardians, and educational decisionmakers when their child may be subjected to a standard norm referenced or criterion referenced test or standardized tests. When reasonable to do so or required by law, the parents, guardians, or educational decisionmakers will be notified of where a sample of such test might be observed and the date upon which such test will be administered. As to all testing by the District, experimental evaluation methodologies, experimental testing instruments and any testing instrument which would tend to inquire into the values, beliefs, or privacy rights of any student, or parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker of such student shall be prohibited unless a parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker requests in writing that such tests be administered to their child.

6. Parents, guardians, and educational decisionmakers will be notified in advance of any school-sponsored survey administered to students of the District when the survey concerns one or more of the following areas:

- Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker;
- Mental or psychological problems of the student or the student's family;
- Sex behavior or attitudes;
- Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
- Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships;
- Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers;
- Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or student's parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker; or
- Income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program).

Any survey administered by the District that asks a student to disclose any of the aforementioned topics, including any non-anonymous survey requesting a student provide information relating to drug, vape, alcohol, or tobacco use, then the District will, at least fifteen days prior to the administration of the survey, notify parents, guardians, and educational decisionmakers that their students will receive the survey. This notice must describe the nature and types of questions included in the survey, the purposes and age-appropriateness of the survey, how information collected by the survey will be used, who will have access to such information, the steps that will be taken to protect student privacy, and whether and how any findings or results of such survey will be disclosed. After receiving such notice, parents, guardians, and educational decisionmakers may request a copy of the survey, review the survey, and/or exempt their student from participating in the survey.

No survey requesting sexual information of a student shall be administered to any student in kindergarten through grade six.

No personally identifiable information of any student survey shall be disclosed unless permitted or required by state and federal law.

7. As a general matter substantive decision-making processes will be left to the judgment of the professional staff, administration and the Board of Education, subject to an effort to receive information from parents, guardians, or educational decisionmakers as to any concerns, objections, or other information such parents, guardians, or educational decisionmakers would wish to provide to the

school district concerning a parent's, guardian's, or educational decisionmaker's access, involvement, and participation in activities of the school.

SEE FORM D - REQUEST FOR RE-EVALUATION OF MATERIALS

Section 10 Homeless Students

It shall be the policy of Palmer Public Schools to ensure that each homeless youth has equal access to a free, appropriate public education as provided to all other children and youth.

For the purposes of this policy, homeless children and youth shall mean:

Those children lacking a fixed regular and/or adequate residence; or those children having a nighttime residence in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter for temporary accommodations.

Section 11 Breakfast and Lunch Programs

Palmer Public Schools 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 school food authority assures the State Department of Education that the school system will uniformly implement state and federal guidelines to determine children's eligibility for free and reduced price meals in all National School Lunch Programs.

Palmer offers a Breakfast Program, Hot Lunch Program and milk break each day. All meals and extra milk must be paid in advance in the office. No student will be allowed to charge at any time. Applications for Free and Reduced Priced Meals are available in the office. Applications will be accepted throughout the school year.

SEE FORM E – LUNCH COMPLAINT FORM

Request for Meal Accommodation Form

This form may be used to request meal modifications for students who have a physical or medical impairment and participate in the National School Lunch & School Breakfast Programs. The district will work collaboratively with parents to ensure equal opportunity to participate in the School Meal Programs and receive program benefits. However, if the district is unable to accommodate your student's request within the meal pattern requirements; a Medical Statement completed by a State licensed Medical Professional will be needed (SP 59-2016). Parent/Guardian: Completing the Request for Meal Accommodation form helps the school provide meal modifications within the meal pattern requirements for students with a mental or physical impairment. Your participation in this process is very important and communication with the school team allows for advanced planning and preparation needed to provide the accommodation. The district is not required to provide a specific substitution (such as a particular brand name), but offer a reasonable modification that effectively accommodates your child's needs. The form is available in the school office and online at <https://cdn.education.ne.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Request-Meal-Accommodation.pdf>

Medical Statement Form

Parent/Guardian: You have requested a meal accommodation for your child that cannot be achieved within the federal meal pattern requirements for school meals (SP 59-2016). Therefore, in order to meet your child's needs, this form must be completed and returned to the school. The form must be completed by a State Licensed Health Care Professional (Physician (MD or DO), Physician's Assistant (PA), Advanced Practice Registered Nurse-Nurse Practitioner (APRN-NP), or Chiropractor. A Licensed Medical Nutrition Therapist (LMNT) may also complete and sign when acting under the consultation of the licensed physician. The form is available in the school office and online at <https://cdn.education.ne.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/NS-Special-Diet-Medical-Request-NSLP.pdf>

Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410
- (2) Fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) Email: program.intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider

Section 12 Asbestos Notification

Federal Law requires annual notification be given to all new students that there is some material containing asbestos in the buildings of the Palmer Public Schools. For the past several years, efforts have been made to relieve this problem. We will continue to utilize asbestos abatement procedures to help eliminate any health hazards.

Information concerning these hazards may be found in the office of the superintendent. If you have any questions concerning asbestos, please do not hesitate to contact any of the school administrators.

Section 13 Pregnant or Parenting Student

The district recognizes that pregnant or parenting students have the right and responsibility to attend school. This attendance right and responsibility applies to students regardless of their marital or parental status. The district will educate pregnant or parenting students and will provide reasonable accommodations to support and encourage all pregnant or parenting students to obtain their high school diploma. No student will be excluded from, denied the benefit of, or discriminated against under any educational program or activity because of pregnancy or parenting responsibilities.

Attendance and Leave of Absences:

Pregnant or parenting students will be permitted to attend to their own health care, their child's medical care, or other appointments related to pregnancy or parenting with the benefit of having any such absences or tardiness excused. A student will be permitted to take a leave of absence for pregnancy, childbirth, and any other prenatal and postnatal related medical needs, along with related recovery for the duration that is considered medically necessary by the student's licensed health care provider. At the conclusion of the leave of absence, a student will be immediately enrolled in the district at the same grade and status as when the leave began. Pregnant or parenting students shall be allowed to participate in all activities including extracurricular activities throughout the student's pregnancy and following unless administrators determine such participation poses a significant risk of injury to the student or to others. A pregnant or parenting student may be asked to obtain certification from the student's licensed health care provider regarding the student's safe participation in an extracurricular activity when such certification may be required of students for other conditions which require the attention of a licensed health care provider.

Any absences accumulated due to pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions, or care for an ill child, should not count towards any district policies in effect under compulsory attendance requirements. Pregnant or parenting students with excused absences or tardiness shall be treated like all other students with excused absences or tardiness for any other medical reasons.

Pregnant or parenting students will be provided with assignments, classwork and any additional support needed to help the student keep up with class requirements due to absences related to pregnancy or parenting.

Alternative means to complete course work:

The district will provide at least one alternate method, in addition to traditional classroom instruction to keep pregnant or parenting students in school. Such accommodation(s) may include accessing coursework online, home-based independent study, or at-home tutoring. Alternative methods of instruction or other alternative programs for pregnant or parenting students are voluntary for the student who may elect whether to engage in an alternative method of instruction or the traditional methods of instruction available to their peers. Pregnant or parenting students shall be allowed to attend their regular classrooms and complete regular coursework.

Lactation:

The district will provide reasonable time and space to accommodate lactating students to express breast milk or breastfeed during the school day. Such accommodations will be in a location, other than a bathroom or closet, that is private, clean, has an electrical outlet, a chair and is reasonably accessible. Students shall also be provided a food-safe refrigerator to store breast milk.

Child Care:

If in-school child care is not provided, a list of qualified licensed child care providers will be provided when requested by pregnant or parenting students. The list will be updated annually and include providers that participate in the quality rating and improvement system and meet all of the quality rating criteria for at least a step three rating in keeping with the Step Up to Quality Child Care Act. Nothing in this policy is intended to prohibit or limit any referral for a student or a student's child to an early Head Start program or any other available community resources.

Privacy and Confidentiality:

Pregnant or parenting students have the right to have their health and personal information kept confidential in accordance with law. School staff will make every effort to keep personal information and health records confidential and in compliance with Nebraska and federal law.

Information about students' pregnancies and related conditions will not appear in their cumulative record and will not be used when they are being considered for educational or job opportunities, awards or scholarships.

Other Accommodations:

Pregnant or parenting students are here notified that they may request additional reasonable accommodations to ensure continued participation and enrollment in school. Accommodation requests will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the building principal. Such accommodations may include but are not limited to: additional frequency allowed for bathroom breaks, additional time allowed in between class periods, a larger desk or additional work space, and adjustments to requirements for physical education as needed.

Bullying and Harassment:

Pregnant or parenting students have the same rights as other students to be free from discrimination, bullying, and harassment. Such school policies are in place and apply to all students.

SCHOOL PERSONNEL COMPLAINT FORM

Name and Address of Person Making Complaint

Date _____

Name and Address of Person(s) Being Complained Against

Date of Action Causing Complaint _____

Complaint: (Attach another sheet if necessary)

Supportive Evidence or Witnesses: (Attach copies of materials if necessary)

Signature of Person Making Complaint

ABUSE COMPLAINT FORM

Name of Complainant: _____

Position of Complainant: _____

Date of Complaint: _____

Name of alleged abuser: _____

Date and place of incident or incidents: _____

Description of misconduct: _____

Name of witnesses (if any): _____

Evidence of abuse, i.e., letters, photos, etc. (attach evidence if possible): _____

Any other information: _____

I attest that all of the information on this form is accurate and true to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

BULLYING/HARASSMENT COMPLAINT FORM

Name of Complainant:_____

Position of Complainant:_____

Date of Complaint:_____

Name of alleged harasser:_____

Date and place of incident or incidents:_____

Description of misconduct:_____

Name of witnesses (if any):_____

Evidence of harassment, i.e., letters, photos, etc. (attach evidence if possible):_____

Any other information:_____

I attest that all of the information on this form is accurate and true to the best of my knowledge.

Signature:_____

Date:_____

REQUEST FOR RE-EVALUATION OF MATERIALS

NAME_____

TELEPHONE_____

ADDRESS_____

ORGANIZATION REPRESENTED (if any)_____

TITLE OF MATERIAL_____

AUTHOR_____

PUBLISHER_____

PUBLICATION DATE_____

Have you read or viewed this material?_____

Are you familiar with other materials or books on this subject for children of this age?_____

Please cite examples:_____

_____On what do you base your comments? Please be specific. Cite examples:__________

Do you object to...

... your child reading or viewing this material? _____...to any child reading or viewing this material? _____

...children using this material with parental approval? _____

Explain the effect you believe this material might have on a child:

What action would you like to see taken?_____

SIGNED:_____

DATE:_____

LUNCH COMPLAINT FORM

NAME (complaining party):_____

DATE of meal complained about:_____

NATURE of complaint: Please set forth, in the space provided below, what was served and a specific description of what caused said grievance:

NAME of witnesses who could verify the above grievance:

Complaining Party's Signature

Date complaint filed