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**HAY SPRINGS SCHOOL
BOARD POLICY MANUAL**

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FISCAL MANAGEMENT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The school board recognizes that money and money management comprise the foundational support of the whole school program. To make that support as effective as possible, the board intends:

1. To encourage advance planning through the best possible budget procedures.
2. To explore all practical and legal sources of financial income.
3. To guide the expenditure of funds so as to achieve the greatest educational returns.
4. To require maximum efficiency in accounting and reporting procedures.
5. To maintain a level of per pupil expenditure needed to provide high quality education.

As trustee of community, state, and federal funds allocated for use in local education, the school board has the responsibility to protect the funds and use them wisely.

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FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year is defined as beginning annually on September 1 and ending on August 31 inclusive.

Annual financial records shall refer to records based on the fiscal year.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 79-1091

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BUDGET PLANNING, PREPARATION AND SCHEDULES

Prior to certification of the budget, the board will review the projected revenues and expenditures for the school district and make adjustments where necessary to carry out the education program within the revenues projected.

A budget for the school district shall be prepared annually for the board's review. The budget shall include all items called for in the budget adoption process policy 702.03.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to prepare the budget for review by the board and place it on file with the district prior to publication of the budget hearing notice.

The board shall adopt and certify a budget for the operation of the school district to the county assessor by September 30. It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to file the adopted and certified budget with the county levying board and county clerk.

The board may amend the budget for the fiscal year in the event of unforeseen circumstances or correct a clerical, mathematical or accounting error. The board shall follow the procedures for public review and adoption of an amended or corrected budget as outlined by statute.

The board will review the financial condition of the district monthly, and shall require the superintendent to prepare a monthly reconciliation statement. This statement will show the amount expended during the month, total (to date) for the fiscal year, receipts and remaining balances in each fund. This statement will be used as a guide for projected purchasing and as a guide for budget transfers.

During the budget year, the superintendent may transfer any unencumbered balance or portion thereof from the expenditure authorization of one (1) account to another, subject to limitations provided by state laws and approval by the Board.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 13-501 et seq.
79-1083 et seq.

Cross Reference: 204.03 Public Hearings
704 Accounting System
705 Revenue
706 Expenditures

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BUDGET ADOPTION PROCESS

Members of the school district community shall have an opportunity to review and comment on the proposed budget at a public hearing held separately from any regularly scheduled meeting before the adoption of the proposed budget by the board. The public shall be apprised of the proposed budget for the school district by its publication in the newspaper of record and on the newspaper's website, if it has one, at least 4 calendar days prior to the hearing, including the day of publication. The hearing shall not be limited by time and any member of the public who wishes to speak on the proposed budget statement must be allowed to address the board for a reasonable amount of time. The board must make at least three copies of the proposed budget statement available to the public and shall make a presentation outlining key provisions of the proposed budget statement, including a comparison with the prior year's budget.

The published hearing notice shall contain the following information:

1. The certified taxable valuation under section 13-509 for the prior year;
2. The certified taxable valuation under section 13-509 for the current year;
3. The percentage increase or decrease in such valuations from the prior year to the current year;
4. The dollar amount of the prior year's tax request;
5. The property tax rate that was necessary to fund that tax request;
6. The property tax rate that would be necessary to fund last year's tax request if applied to the current year's valuation;
7. The proposed dollar amount of the tax request for the current year;
8. The property tax rate that will be necessary to fund that tax request;
9. The percentage increase or decrease in the property tax rate from the prior year to the current year; and
10. The percentage increase or decrease in the total operating budget from the prior year to the current year.

If the board's budget resolution setting its property tax request exceeds the district's property tax request of the prior year, it shall include at a minimum the following information:

1. Budget Resolution for the _____ School District;
2. The property tax request for the 20__-__ year is \$_____;
3. The total assessed value of property differs from last year's total assessed value by _____ percent.
4. The tax rate that would fund the same amount of tax request as last year, when multiplied by the new total assessed value of property, would be \$_____ per \$100 of assessed value.
5. The _____ School District proposes to adopt a property tax request that will cause its tax rate to be \$_____ per \$100 of assessed value.
6. Based on the proposed property tax request and changes in other revenue, the total

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operating budget of the _____ School District will exceed last year's by ____ percent.

7. The record vote of the board in passing this resolution is _____.

Prior to final adoption of the budget, if the district's budget will increase its property tax more than the allowable growth percentage, it shall designate one representative to attend a joint public hearing in the county in which the district's central office is located. The hearing will be held after September 17th and before September 29th, after 6:00 p.m. The presentation will include items 1 through 7 above, and the following:

- To obtain more information regarding the increase in the property tax request, citizens may contact the (name of district) at (telephone number and email address).

The district shall send the required information to the county clerk by September 5th and the clerk shall notify the district of the date, time, and location of the joint public hearing. Publishing or posting notice of the meeting, along with the mailing of a postcard titled NOTICE OF PROPOSED TAX INCREASE to all affected property taxpayers, is the duty of the county assessor. The cost of creating and mailing the postcards, including staff time, materials, and postage, shall be divided among the political subdivisions participating in the joint public hearing. Any member of the public shall be allowed to speak at the joint public hearing and shall be given a reasonable amount of time to do so.

The superintendent will ensure the budget is filed with and certified to the county levying board by September 30th with a copy of the adopted budget statement which complies with sections 13-518 to 13-522 or 79-1023 to 79-1030, together with the amount of the tax required to fund the adopted budget, setting out separately (a) the amount to be levied for the payment of principal or interest on bonds issued by the governing body and (b) the amount to be levied for all other purposes. Proof of publication shall be attached to the statements.

A copy of the resolution setting a property tax request shall be certified and forwarded to the county clerk by October 15th.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 13-506
 77-1601.02
 79-1084

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING AND BOARD MEETING

The Board of Education of the School District of _____ will be meet at _____ for a Budget Hearing on _____, September __, 20__, to be followed by a (regular;special) meeting at _____. The meeting will be held at the Administrative Offices at _____.

An agenda for the Board Meeting which shall be kept continually current is readily available for public inspection at the Superintendent's Office during normal business hours. To view the agenda online go to http://_____ and find the meeting link.

Budget information for the _____ School District.

1. The district's certified taxable valuation under Nebr. Statute 13-509 for the previous year is \$_____.
2. The district's certified taxable valuation under Nebr. Statute 13-509 for the current year is \$_____.
3. The total assessed value of property differs from last year's total assessed value by _____ percent.
4. The dollar amount of the previous year's tax request was \$_____.
5. The tax rate that was necessary to fund the previous year's tax request was \$_____ per \$100 of assessed value.
6. The tax rate that would fund the same amount of tax request as last year, when multiplied by the new total assessed value of property, would be \$_____ per \$100 of assessed value.
7. The proposed property tax request for the current year is \$_____ .
8. The district's proposed property tax request will result in a tax rate of \$_____ per \$100 of assessed value.
9. The district's proposed property tax request will (increase;decrease) the property tax rate from the prior year by _____ percent.
10. Based on the proposed property tax request and changes in other revenue, the total operating budget of the district will (increase;decrease) last year's by _____ percent.

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PRESENTATION AT JOINT PUBLIC HEARING WHEN EXCEEDING
ALLOWABLE GROWTH PERCENTAGE

If the board's budget resolution setting its property tax request will increase its property tax more than the allowable growth percentage, it shall designate one representative to attend a joint public hearing in the county in which the district's central office is located and the presentation shall include at a minimum the following information:

1. Budget Resolution for the _____ School District.
2. The property tax request for the 20__-__ year is \$_____.
3. The total assessed value of property differs from last year's total assessed value by _____ percent.
4. The tax rate that would fund the same amount of tax request as last year, when multiplied by the new total assessed value of property, would be \$_____ per \$100 of assessed value.
5. The _____ School District proposes to adopt a property tax request that will cause its tax rate to be \$_____ per \$100 of assessed value.
6. Based on the proposed property tax request and changes in other revenue, the total operating budget of the _____ School District will exceed last year's by _____ percent.
7. The record vote of the board in passing this resolution is _____.
8. To obtain more information regarding the increase in the property tax request, citizens may contact the _____ School District at the following:
Phone Number _____ Email Address _____

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BUDGET HEARING AND RESOLUTION CHECKLIST PROCEDURES

1. Compare the proposed budget to prior year's budget – if the proposed budget amount is less than or equal to the prior year's budget amount, go to item 5.
2. If the proposed budget will increase the property tax more than the allowable growth percentage, go to item 3, if not go to item 5.
3. Prepare for the Joint Public Hearing by designating one representative to attend and supplying the 8 required information items to the clerk of the county in which the district's central office is located by September 5th. Wait to be notified of the date, time, and location of the Joint Public Hearing.
4. At the Joint Public Hearing, the presentation shall include the 8 items supplied to the county clerk including the phone number and email address for interested persons to contact the District. Any member of the public shall be allowed to speak at the Joint Public Hearing and shall be given a reasonable amount of time to do so.
5. The District shall give notice of the Budget Hearing at least 4 days prior to the hearing, including the day of publication, in the newspaper of record and on the newspaper's website, if it has one. The hearing notice shall include the 10 required items. The hearing must be held separately from any regularly scheduled meeting. It shall not be limited by total time although time limits may be set for each speaker. Any member of the public who wishes to speak on the proposed budget statement must be allowed to address the board for a reasonable amount of time. The board must make at least three copies of the proposed budget statement available to the public and shall make a presentation outlining key provisions of the proposed budget statement, including a comparison with the prior year's budget.
6. Following the Budget Hearing, the Board shall meet to approve and adopt its proposed budget. The budget resolution shall include the 7 required items of information.
7. The superintendent will ensure the budget is filed with and certified to the county levying board by September 30th as required with attached proof of publication and a copy of the resolution setting the property tax request shall be certified and forwarded to the county clerk by October 15th.

Determining Allowable Growth Percentage

Under the revisions of LB 644 to Nebraska Statute 77-1601.02, and district "that seeks to increase its property tax request by more than the allowable growth percentage shall participate in a joint public hearing."

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For purposes of the Property Tax Request Act:

1. Allowable growth percentage means a percentage equal to the sum of (a) two percent plus (b) the political subdivision's real growth percentage;
2. Excess value means an amount equal to the assessed value of the real property included in a tax increment financing project minus the redevelopment project valuation for such real property;
3. Property tax request means the total amount of property taxes requested to be raised for a political subdivision through the levy imposed pursuant to section 77-1601;
4. Real growth percentage means the percentage obtained by dividing (a) the political subdivision's real growth value by (b) the political subdivision's total real property valuation from the prior year;
5. Real growth value means and includes:
 - a. The increase in a political subdivision's real property valuation from the prior year to the current year due to:
 - 1) improvements to real property as a result of new construction and additions to existing buildings,
 - 2) any other improvements to real property which increase the value of such property,
 - 3) annexation of real property by the political subdivision, and
 - 4) a change in the use of real property; and
 - b. The annual increase in the excess value for any tax increment financing project located in the political subdivision.
6. Redevelopment project valuation has the same meaning as in section 18-2103; and

Tax increment financing project means a redevelopment project as defined in section 18-2103 that is financed through the division of taxes as provided in section 18-2147.

MANAGEMENT OF CAPITAL RESERVES

Capital reserve funds are to be managed in the best interests of the district. All capital reserve accounts shall be initiated by a resolution of the board. The superintendent will report to the board on a regular basis regarding rates of return and make recommendations as needed to best utilize the district's reserves. The superintendent shall specifically report to the board at any time the reserves have fallen below 30% of the annual budget. The sum of all reserves including contingency funds, depreciation funds and cash reserves may not exceed the percentage of the general fund budget as shown below:

<u>Average district daily membership</u>	<u>Allowable reserve percentage</u>
0 - 471	45
471.01 - 3,044	35
3,044.01 - 10,000	25
10,000.01 and over	20

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 79-1027

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DEPOSITS AND TRANSFERS

The board shall designate by resolution the name and location of the Nebraska located financial depository institution or institutions to serve as the official school district depository or depositories.

It shall be the responsibility of the board secretary to include the resolution in the minutes of the meeting.

When the necessity for a fund has ceased to exist, the balance may be transferred to another fund or account by board resolution. School district monies received without a designated purpose may be transferred in this manner. School district monies received for a specific purpose or upon vote of the people may only be transferred by board resolution when the purpose for which the monies were received has been completed.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to make recommendations to the board regarding transfers and to provide the information justifying the transfer.

Cross Reference: 203.01 Board Organizational Meeting
 203.05 Treasurer
 705.01 Local, State, Federal or Miscellaneous Revenue

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FINANCIAL RECORDS

The board shall receive monthly financial statements showing the financial condition of the school district as of the last day of the preceding month. Such statement will reflect the cash position of the respective accounts. Other financial records as may be determined necessary by either the board or the administration shall be presented periodically.

Financial records of the school district shall be maintained in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) as required or modified by law. School district monies shall be received and expended from the appropriate fund and/or account. The board, by board resolution, shall establish the following funds as needed:

- General Fund
- Depreciation Fund
- Employee Benefit Fund
- Contingency Fund
- Activities Fund
- Student Fee Fund
- School Lunch Fund
- Bond Fund
- Special Building Fund
- Qualified Capital Purchase Undertaking Fund
- Cooperative Fund

The resolution establishing such funds shall state the type of fund, name of the fund and purpose of the fund.

Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) #54 Requirements

At the end of the fiscal year, the School District will report the following:

- A. Restricted Fund Balances for amounts that have applicable legal restrictions. As per Nebraska State Statute, the fund balances of the Depreciation Fund, Employee Benefit Fund, Student Fee Fund and the Special Building Fund are restricted by purpose and will be reported as Restricted Fund Balances.
1. Fund Balance: The difference between assets and liabilities in governmental funds (i.e. general fund special revenue funds, capital project funds, debt service funds).
 2. Restricted Fund Balance: Includes the portion of the fund balance that reflects constraints on spending because of legal restrictions stipulated by outside parties, constitutional provisions, and enabling legislation including any legal restrictions based on state statutes or grant requirements placed on the use for specific purposed.

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- B. Lunch Fund Balance as Committed Fund Balance. The Lunch Fund Balance is constrained by the creation of the fund, and also constrained by purpose through approving a yearly budget for the Lunch Fund.
1. Committed Fund Balance: Includes the portion of the fund balance that reflects constraints that the School District imposed upon itself by a formal action of the School Board. This constraint must be imposed prior to year end but the amount can be determined at a later date.
- C. Any fund balance whose intent has been designated by the Superintendent as Assigned Fund Balance.
1. Assigned Fund Balance: The portion of the fund balance that reflects funds intended to be used by the School District for specific purposes. The authority to assign fund balance is delegated to the Superintendent.
- D. Any General Fund Balance that has not been assigned to other fund balance classifications as Unassigned Fund Balance.
1. Unassigned Fund Balance: The residual classification for the School District's General Fund and includes all remaining amounts not contained in the other classifications and, therefore, is not subject to any constraints. Unassigned amounts are available for any purpose.

Legal Reference: NDE Rule 2

Cross Reference: 705 Revenue
706 Expenditures

INVENTORIES

The district will maintain a complete property inventory which lists all district-owned property such as land, buildings, improvements to property other than buildings (i.e., parking lots, athletic fields, playgrounds, etc.) and equipment with a value greater than \$1,000. The inventory shall also include all significant items of computer technology. All district supplies with a value greater than \$500 will be inventoried. The district's inventory will be updated annually to include property and equipment newly purchased or disposed.

Current records shall be maintained for the receipt, distribution/disposal and inventory of commodity foods as required by federal law.

The Board may authorize the employment of an appraisal company to assist with the inventory procedure.

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AUDITS

An auditing firm shall be retained at the close of each fiscal year for the purpose of auditing and making necessary reports to the board and the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE). The superintendent shall arrange with the firm for an audit examination of all financial, transportation, food service and attendance records of the district, in accordance with state law. Confidential and privileged communications between the district and its auditor, including all auditor work products, are hereby closed to the extent permitted by statute.

The audit examination shall be made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, to include such reviews and tests of the accounting system, books and records, and other underlying data as are necessary to come to an informed opinion as to the financial affairs of the district. The audit report shall include the requirements as enumerated in statute.

Each member of the board shall receive a copy of the audit report, and copies shall be furnished to the Commissioner of Education and the Auditor of Public Accounts no later than November 5. A copy of the auditor's letter to management, resulting from the audit, and the district's responses to that letter shall be filed with the Commissioner of Education no later than January 31. The superintendent shall be responsible for filing copies of the audit with the proper authorities.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 79-1089
 NDE Rule 1

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NOTICE

PREVENTION OF IMPROPER USE OF TAXPAYER FUNDS

This notice is posted in compliance with the Every Student Succeeds Act:

To report fraud, waste, abuse, misuse or mismanagement of taxpayer funds,
please contact the Office of Inspector General of the Department of
Education.

Phone: 1-800-MIS-USED

SETTLEMENT OF CLAIMS

The district shall maintain a public record of all settled claims. The record of claims settled in the amount of at least fifty thousand dollars, or one percent of the total annual district budget, whichever is less, shall include a written executed settlement agreement. The agreement shall contain a brief description of the claim, the party or parties released under the settlement, and the amount of any financial compensation paid by or to the district on its behalf.

Specific portions of the claim may be withheld from the public record only as provided by state statute. Upon settlement, the agreement shall be included as a board agenda item at the next regularly scheduled board meeting. This policy does not require the board or district employees to comment on the settlement agreement.

This policy does not apply to claims made in connection with insured or self-insured health insurance contracts.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 84-712
 LB742

Cross Reference: 706 Expenditures

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LOCAL, STATE, FEDERAL, OR MISCELLANEOUS REVENUE

Local

The Board of Education, through the adoption of the annual budget, shall prepare an estimate of the amount of money to be raised by taxation for the ensuing school year, the rate required to produce the amount, and the rate necessary to sustain the district meeting principal and interest payments on the bonded indebtedness and providing the funds to meet other legitimate district purposes.

Whenever it becomes necessary, in the judgment of the Board, to increase the tax rate beyond the authorized level (the amount last approved by the voters of the district or as subsequently revised according to law), the Board shall determine the rate of taxation necessary to be levied in excess of the existing rate and submit the proposition to the voters of the district.

State

The Board of Education will accept all available state funds to which the district is entitled by law or through regulations of the State Board of Education and/or Nebraska Department of Education. State funds, both categorical and general, are based upon objective formulae. The superintendent shall be responsible for ensuring that the district files the required reports and forms to secure the amount of state funds to which it is entitled.

Federal

Applications shall be made for federal funds when available, provided that none of the conditions of acceptance is in conflict with state law, the policies, rules and procedures of the Board of Education and the objectives of the district. The school district shall comply with all federal requirements governing these moneys, and shall account for each federal project separately and expend said funds as authorized by the approved project application only.

Legal reference: Neb. statute 79-1084
77-3444

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USAGE FEES, ADMISSIONS AND ROYALTIES

The board may permit the use of district facilities for civic and recreational purposes. A schedule of fees to be charged nonschool related groups for the use of school facilities for various events may be established and periodically reviewed by the board. This revenue shall be used for the purpose of furthering the educational opportunity of the district's students. All such transactions will be carried out in accordance with state law.

Although the board will avoid lease arrangements that involve it in property management activities, temporary use of surplus real property by another public agency, private individual, or other legal entity may be authorized by the board.

Such use will be for a fixed term and subject to regulations and written agreement designed to protect the school district from any expense, loss, or liability arising out of such use. These lease arrangements will be based on a sealed bid for no more than a three-year period, with the district retaining the right to redeem the property for school purposes, if necessary.

When an application for use of a particular school facility has been approved, responsibility for maintaining records and for collecting and remitting and/or disbursing fees will rest with the principal of the specific school involved. The principal will collect all fees from the user at the time the approved application is filed, and will make necessary arrangements for custodial services required.

The principal will establish and maintain a special account titled "Building Rental and Service" for all collections and disbursements in connection with community use of the property.

Rental fees and any fees collected for use of school facilities will be deposited in the district's general fund unless otherwise specified by the board.

Cross Reference: 710 Disposition of School Property
 1006.01 Community Use of School District Buildings,
 Sites and Equipment

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FREE ADMISSIONS PASSES

The following persons will be issued free guest passes for all school activities, including athletic events:

1. All full time district employees and current board members
2. Unpaid officials who perform frequently at athletic events (scorekeepers, public address personnel, photographers);

In addition, Panhandle Conference and Nebraska Schools Activities Association (NSAA) passes may be honored.

Children under age six, accompanied by an adult, may be admitted free.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 79-518

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GIFTS, GRANTS AND BEQUESTS

The board believes gifts, grants, and bequests to the school district may be accepted when they will further the interests of the school district. Gifts to the school district first require the approval of the superintendent, and the board encourages donors to consult with the superintendent prior to making the donation. Donations of a significant value should normally be made through the District Foundation to avoid unintended losses of state aid. The board, at the recommendation of the superintendent, shall have sole final authority to determine whether the gift furthers the interests of the school district and will be accepted directly by the district. Donations made to the District Foundation will need final approval from the Foundation Board after receiving the approval of the superintendent.

Prior to submitting application for any grants and due to the investment of time and resources needed for the application process, the superintendent must provide approval to make the application. The superintendent will consider whether the requirements and goals of the grant are in keeping with the educational plans and goals of the district, and whether acceptance of the grants will cause undue burdens on the district.

Gifts, grants, and bequests once accepted on behalf of the school district shall become the property of the school district. Gifts, grants, and bequests shall be administered in accordance with terms, if any, agreed to by the board.

Cross Reference: 403.04 Gifts to Employees
 509.01 Class or Student Group Gifts

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PURCHASING PROCEDURES

The Board recognizes the importance of a sound fiscal management program and expects the district to maintain an efficient and consistent procedure in purchasing materials and services for the school district.

All purchasing for the district will adhere to an approved purchase process that clearly establishes the contractual arrangement between the supplier and the school district.

Requests for equipment, materials, books, supplies, reimbursement claims and subsidiary accounts shall be made through the principal to the superintendent. No payment of a bill will be made without proper purchase documentation. The board may enter into multi-year contracts for periods not to exceed seven years, for the provision of utility services, refuse disposal, transportation services, maintenance services, financial services, insurance, security services, and instructional materials, supplies, and equipment.

The superintendent shall have the authority to authorize purchases costing under \$5,000 without prior board approval. When it is reasonable and practical to do so, the superintendent will request competitive bids for goods and services to ensure the best use of the district's financial resources. Competitive sealed bids are required in many instances for construction remodeling or repair of school-owned buildings or site improvements that cost \$40,000 or more.

When obtaining competitive bids, the purchase will be made from the lowest responsible bidder based upon total cost considerations including, but not limited to, the cost of the goods and services being purchased, availability of service and/or repair, delivery date, the targeted small business procurement goal and other factors deemed relevant by the board.

The district will follow NDE guidelines and applicable state statutes for any purchases made through the Nebraska Department of Administrative Services.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 73-106
 Neb. Statute 79-515
 Neb. Statute 79-10,104

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PETTY CASH

Petty cash funds will be established annually in the amount of \$200 for each school building and for the central administrative office. Such funds will be used for the payment of properly itemized bills of nominal amounts and under conditions calling for immediate payment. Allowances, responsibility, security and accounting of petty cash funds will be in accordance with Board policy and requirements of law.

The handling and processing costs of a single purchase order for nominal purchases are very expensive. To facilitate small expenditures, a petty cash revolving fund will be established for each building and the district administration office.

Administrative regulations will be developed establishing the amount of petty cash to be allowed, the maximum dollar amount for a single purchase, and the accounting system to be used for record keeping.

Petty cash will not be used to thwart or circumvent established purchasing procedures. It is a convenient accommodation to facilitate immediate acquisition of low-cost goods and services in an efficient manner.

Administrative team members may purchase items costing less than \$100 from a petty cash fund. The principal will submit a request for establishing such a fund, not to exceed \$500 to the superintendent or business manager. Money expended from the fund will be replaced as needed.

Records will be kept of all expenditures from the petty cash fund and receipts will be furnished to account for all money expended. Expenses will be assigned to the proper budget account.

Petty cash funds are not to be used for the following purposes:

- travel;
- salaries and casual labor;
- school supplies in excess of \$100
- items costing more than \$100
- telephone; and
- loans to staff.

A petty cash voucher is required for each disbursement from a petty cash fund including refunds. Each voucher should have documentation attached in the form of receipts and invoices.

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BIDDING PROCEDURES

The purchasing procedure of the school district shall not only ensure the best possible price for goods and services, but shall also operate efficiently and economically. The construction of facilities which may exceed an expenditure of \$100,000, and an amount as periodically adjusted by state statute, shall be advertised and submitted for bid in the manner required by law. This limit does not apply to the acquisition of existing buildings, purchase of new sites or site expansions by the district. Other purchases or contractual services may be advertised and submitted for bid as directed by the Board or when, in the opinion of the superintendent, the welfare of the district will be served. All bids must be submitted in sealed envelopes, addressed to the Board and plainly marked with the name of the bid and the time of the bid opening. Bids shall be opened and examined publicly.

The Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part of any bid and accept that bid which appears to be in the best interest of the school district. The Board reserves the right to waive any informalities in any bid. Any bid may be withdrawn prior to the scheduled time for the opening of bids. Any bid received after the time and date specified shall not be considered.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 73-106
 Neb. Statute 79-10,104

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VENDOR RELATIONS

The district welcomes business and bids from all eligible vendors. Preferential treatment will not be extended to any vendor. Orders will be placed on the basis of quality, price and delivery, with past services being a factor if other considerations are equal.

Salesmen or agents may not solicit staff members during hours when students are present. Superintendent or principals may allow sales representatives or agents of educational products to contact staff members at times that will not interfere with the educational program.

No district employee will receive direct compensation of any kind from any vendor in return for the sale of supplies or services. This does not exclude minor gratuities commonly provided by a business to all of its customers.

Cross Reference: 403.04 Gifts to Employees

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PURCHASING ON BEHALF OF EMPLOYEES

Generally, the school district shall not purchase items on behalf of employees. The school district may in special circumstances do so. It shall be within the discretion of the board to determine when such circumstances exist.

No purchase shall be made unless the employee has paid the school district prior to the order being placed and the employee has agreed to be responsible for any taxes or other expenses due.

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PAYMENT FOR GOODS AND SERVICES

The board will give final approval to all payments of bills. Payment of bills shall be submitted by the superintendent for the board's approval only after verification of delivery and satisfaction by the department or staff receiving the item(s). No payment for goods or services shall be made unless both an itemized invoice showing the name of the person or firm to whom payment is due is presented, and a receiving document bearing the signature of an authorized school employee is on file. Furthermore, the invoice must have been issued in response to an approved purchase order. The superintendent shall audit all claims, and shall submit the same to the Board of Education for approval and authorization for payment.

School district moneys shall be disbursed only upon final board approval of the monthly list of bills. Each district check shall show the legal identification of the district by name and address, and the depository or investment account upon which the check is drawn. It shall also specify the amount to be paid and to whom payment is made, from what funds, for what purpose, the date of payment and the number of the check.

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SUSPENSION AND DEBARMENT

The district may not subcontract with or award sub grants to any person or company equal to or in excess of \$25,000 in any Federal assistance program who is debarred or suspended and is required to check for excluded parties at the System for Award Management, SAM (formerly the Excluded Parties List System, EPLS) website before any procurement transaction. This list is located at: <http://www.sam.gov/>.

In the event a vendor, person or company under consideration to be awarded a bid or contract for goods or services to be funded by any Federal assistance program is on the ineligibility list at SAM the district shall comply with the contracting restrictions as outlined in accordance with Federal regulations.

The following language shall be inserted into all vendor contracts equal to or in excess of \$25,000 funded wholly or in part by Federal Assistance Programs:

Certification Regarding Suspension, Debarment and Ineligibility

To the best of its knowledge and belief, neither the contractor or its principals are presently suspended, debarred, proposed for debarment or otherwise declared ineligible for the award of contracts by any Federal agency by the inclusion of the contractor or its principals in the current "LIST OF PARTIES EXCLUDED FROM FEDERAL PROCUREMENT OR NONPROCUREMENT PROGRAMS" published by the U.S. Government's System for Award Management. The contractor shall provide immediate written notice to the District if at any time the contractor learns that its certification was erroneous when submitted or has become erroneous by reason of changed circumstances.

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

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PAYROLL PROCEDURES

The payroll period for the school district shall be monthly. Employees shall be paid on the 15th day of each month. If this day is a holiday, recess, or weekend, the payroll shall be paid on the last working day prior to the holiday, recess or weekend.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to issue payroll to employees in compliance with this policy.

The requirements stated in the Negotiated Contract between employees in a certified collective bargaining unit and the board regarding payroll periods of such employees shall be followed.

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SALARY DEDUCTIONS

Ease of administration shall be the primary consideration for payroll deductions, other than those required by law. Payroll deductions shall be made for federal income tax withholdings, state income tax withholdings, social security, and the School Retirement Fund.

Employees may elect to have payments withheld for professional dues, district-related and mutually agreed upon group insurance coverage, and/or tax sheltered annuity programs. Requests for these deductions shall be made in writing to the superintendent. Requests for purchase or change of tax-sheltered annuities may be made annually.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to determine which additional payroll deductions will be allowed.

The requirements stated in the Negotiated Contract between employees in a certified collective bargaining unit and the board regarding payroll deductions of such employees shall be followed.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 79-901 et seq.

Cross Reference: 407.06 Certificated Employee Tax Shelter Programs
413.05 Support Staff Tax Shelter Programs

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EXPENSE AUTHORIZATION AND REIMBURSEMENT

District employees who incur expenses in carrying out their authorized duties will be reimbursed upon submission of a properly completed and approved voucher and receipts as required by the business office.

Such expenses may be incurred and approved in line with budgetary allocations for specific types of expenses.

Expenses for travel will be reimbursed when the travel has the advance authorization of the superintendent. The superintendent may grant authorization without prior board action when the travel expense has been anticipated and incorporated into the operational budget of the program involved. The board will later ratify such approval.

Persons who travel at district expense will exercise the same economy as a prudent person traveling on personal business and will differentiate between business expenditures and those for personal convenience.

The board authorizes the superintendent to establish regulations controlling vehicle allowance payments to employees for use of private vehicles in transaction of school district business and reimbursement for educational meetings transportation and lodging costs.

The mileage rate, unless in a collective bargaining agreement or individual employment contract, for travel by private vehicle will be the rate set by the state unless the board at its annual organizational meeting sets a different rate.

Reimbursement for out-of-state travel by private vehicle will be made on the basis of air fare or mileage rate, whichever is lower.

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INSURANCE PROGRAM

The district administrators will work with providers of the district's health insurance program to obtain accurate and detailed information describing employee insurance benefits and the procedures governing those benefits. This may include the scheduling of an annual review by representatives of the insurance provider to explain changes to the benefits program.

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CASH IN SCHOOL BUILDINGS

The amount of cash that may be kept in the school building for the purpose of making change shall be sufficient for that day's operations.

A minimal amount of cash shall be kept in the central administration office at the close of the day. Excess cash shall be deposited in the authorized depository of the school district. Funds raised by students shall be kept in the central office and turned in weekly or an accumulation of greater than \$100.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to determine the amount of cash necessary for each day's operations and to comply with this policy.

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ESSA NON-REGULATORY BUSINESS REQUIREMENTS

In accordance with the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and other federal programs, the District will conform to the procedures stated here.

1. Supplement not Supplant

The District may use Title I funds only to supplement and, to the extent practical, increase the level of funds that would, in the absence of Title I funds, be made available from non-Federal sources for the education of students participating in Title I programs. In no case may Title I funds be used to supplant--i.e., take the place of--funds from non-Federal sources.

2. Maintenance of Effort

The District shall maintain its fiscal effort related to ESSA programs at 90 percent of prior funding in compliance with the requirements of federal law.

3. Equitable Allocation

Federal funds shall be used in a manner to ensure equitable allocation of resources. Staff assignments, curriculum materials, and instructional supplies shall be distributed to the schools so as to ensure equivalence of personnel and materials among them in compliance with the requirements of federal law.

4. Resources

The procurement of resources, including contracts and purchase or service agreements, related to ESSA programs shall be in accordance with the District's written procedures for purchasing and contracting. Purchase orders and invoices shall indicate an appropriate record of expenditures. All equipment purchased with federal funds, including those used in nonpublic and other facilities, shall be appropriately identified, inventoried, and when no longer useful to the program, properly disposed. Resources that have been funded by Title I and IDEA, such as staff, materials and equipment, shall be used only for children participating in the program.

5. Maintenance of Records

All federal program records shall be kept for at least 5 years after the start date of the project.

6. Standards and Expectations

Students receiving services under Title I will be held to the same standards and expectations as all other students.

7. Identification of Eligible Children

The Superintendent and the designees shall implement an appropriate process to identify children eligible for services provided under federal programs.

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8. Coordination of Services

Title I and IDEA services shall be coordinated and integrated with the regular classroom, with other agencies providing services and with other federal, state and local programs.

9. Assessments

Students receiving services in Title I are assessed with the regular population without accommodations.

10. Parents Right to Know

At the beginning of each school year, if the District receives Title I funding, the District shall notify the parents of each student attending any school receiving Title I funds that the parents may request the District to provide, in a timely manner, information regarding the professional qualifications of the student's classroom teachers, including at a minimum, the following:

(A) Whether the student's teacher-

(i) has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;

(ii) is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived; and

(iii) is teaching in the field of discipline of the certification of the teacher.

(B) Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

11. Testing Transparency

At the beginning of each school year, if the District receives Title I funding, the District shall notify the parents of each student attending any school receiving Title I funds that the parents may request the District to provide, in a timely manner, information regarding any State or District policy regarding student participation in any State or District assessments, including the District's policy or procedure on the parental right to opt the child out of such assessment(s) where applicable. The District shall make widely available through public means (including by posting in a clear and easily accessible manner on the District's website) information on each State or District assessment, including:

(A) the subject matter assessed;

(B) the purpose for which the assessment is designed and used;

(C) the source of the requirement for the assessment;

(D) the amount of time students will spend taking the assessment, and the schedule for the assessment; and

(E) the time and format for disseminating results.

12. Parental Participation in Language Instruction Programs

At the beginning of each school year, if the District receives Title I funding, the District will implement an effective means of outreach to parents of English learners to inform the parents regarding how the parents can-

(A) be involved in the education of their children; and

(B) be active participants in assisting their children to-

- (i) attain English proficiency;
- (ii) achieve at high levels within a well-rounded education; and
- (iii) meet the challenging State academic standards expected of all students.

The District will also inform parents of any English learner identified student of opportunities to participate in various school programs such as hearing and responding to parents' recommendations, to comply with ESSA.

13. Suspension and Debarment

The District will follow the provisions of Policy 706.07 Suspension and Debarment in all applicable programs using federal funds.

14. Authority to Sign Applications

The Superintendent or Superintendent's Designee is authorized to sign applications for ESSA formula grants on behalf of the District. The Superintendent shall follow Board policies in determining whether acceptance of such grant funds is appropriate to the District.

15. Compliance with Federal Programs

The Superintendent shall be responsible for District staff to take appropriate action as required by law for the District to maintain compliance with ESSA and specific grant programs under ESSA in which the District participates.

DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY UNDER FEDERAL GRANTS

Management of Inventory

Procedures for managing equipment (including replacement equipment), whether acquired in whole or in part under a Federal award, until disposition takes place will, as a minimum, meet the following requirements:

- (1) Property records must be maintained that include a description of the property, a serial number or other identification number, the source of funding for the property including the Federal Award Identification Number (FAIN), who holds title, the acquisition date, and cost of the property, percentage of Federal participation in the project costs for the Federal award under which the property was acquired, the location, use and condition of the property, and any ultimate disposition data including the date of disposal and sale price of the property.
- (2) A physical inventory of the property must be taken and the results reconciled with the property records at least once every two years.
- (3) A control system must be developed to ensure adequate safeguards to prevent loss, damage, or theft of the property. Any loss, damage, or theft must be investigated.
- (4) Adequate maintenance procedures must be developed to keep the property in good condition.
- (5) If the district is authorized or required to sell the property, proper sales procedures must be established to ensure the highest possible return.

Disposition

When original or replacement equipment acquired under a Federal award is no longer needed for the original project or program or for other activities currently or previously supported by a Federal awarding agency, except as otherwise provided in Federal statutes, regulations, or Federal awarding agency disposition instructions, the district must request disposition instructions from the Federal awarding agency if required by the terms and conditions of the Federal award. Disposition of the equipment will be made as follows, in accordance with Federal awarding agency disposition instructions:

- (1) Items of equipment with a current per unit fair market value of \$5,000 or less may be retained, sold or otherwise disposed of with no further obligation to the Federal awarding agency.
- (2) Except as provided in 2CFR 200.312 Federally-owned and exempt property, paragraph (b), or if the Federal awarding agency fails to provide requested disposition instructions within 120 days, items of equipment with a current per-unit fair-market value in excess of \$5,000 may be retained by the district or sold. The Federal awarding agency is entitled to an amount calculated by multiplying the current market value or proceeds from sale by the Federal awarding agency's percentage of participation in the cost of the original purchase. If the equipment is sold, the Federal awarding agency may permit the district to deduct and retain from the Federal share \$500 or ten percent of the proceeds, whichever is less, for its selling and handling expenses.
- (3) The district may transfer title to the property to the Federal Government or to an

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eligible third party provided that, in such cases, the district must be entitled to compensation for its attributable percentage of the current fair market value of the property.

(4) In cases where a district fails to take appropriate disposition actions, the Federal awarding agency may direct the district to take disposition actions.

Legal Reference: 2 C.F.R. §§ 200 et seq.
NDE State and Federal Grant Management Rqmnts and Guidance

Cross Reference: 904.02 Lease, Sale or Disposal of School District Property