

## SECTION I: INSTRUCTION

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IA	Instructional Goals
IAA	Instructional Objectives
IB	Academic Freedom
IC	School Year
ICA	School Calendar
ID	School Day
IE	Organization of Facilities for Instruction
IF	Curriculum Development
IFD	Curriculum Adoption
IGAB	Human Relations Education
IGAC	Teaching About Religion
IGAE	Health Education
IGAG	Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Education
IGAH	Family Life Education
IGAI	Sex Education
IGBA	Programs for Students with Disabilities
IGBB	Programs for Gifted and Talented Students
IGBE	Remedial Instruction (Intervention Services)
IGBEA	Reading Skills Assessments and Intervention
IGBG	Home-Bound Instruction
IGBI	Limited English Proficiency
IGBJ	Title I Programs
IGBL	Parental Involvement in Education
IGBM	Credit Flexibility
IGCD	Educational Options (Also LEB)
IGCF	Home Schooling
IGCH	College Credit Plus (Also LEC)
IGD	Cocurricular and Extracurricular Activities
IGDA	Admission and Participation
IGDB	Student Publications
IGDF	Student Fundraising Activities
IGDG	Student Activities Funds Management
IGDH	Crowdfunding
IGDJ	Interscholastic Athletics
IGDJA	Interscholastic Athletics Checking Account

SECTION I: INSTRUCTION

(Continued)

IGDK	Interscholastic Extracurricular Eligibility
IGEE	Awarding of High School Diplomas to Veterans of War
IIA	Instructional Materials
IIAA	Textbook Selection and Adoption
IIAC	Media Center Materials Selection and Adoption
IIBH	District Websites
IIC	Community Instructional Resources (Also KF)
IICA	Field Trips
IICC	School Volunteers
IJA	Career Advising Policy
IK	Academic Achievement
IKA	Grading Systems
IKAB	Student Progress Reports to Parents
IKB	Homework
IKE	Promotion and Retention of Students
IKEB	Acceleration
IKF	Graduation Requirements
IKFB	Graduation Exercises
IL	Testing Programs
IM	Evaluation of Instructional Programs (Also AFE)
INB	Teaching About Controversial Issues
IND	School Ceremonies and Observances
INDA	Patriotic Exercises
ING	Animals in the Schools

## INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

The goals of the instructional program are considered guides rather than limits that are flexible enough to meet the changing needs of both students and society for all grade levels and subject areas.

The District's instructional goals include:

1. helping meet the physical, intellectual and emotional needs of students, particularly the need to inquire, learn, think and create;
2. helping students establish aesthetic, moral and ethical values;
3. helping students relate satisfactorily to others in circumstances involving their families, work, government and recreation;
4. giving students a mastery of the basic skills of learning, thinking, problem solving, reading, writing and computation;
5. teaching students to use the various media of self-expression;
6. instilling in students a knowledge of the social and natural sciences;
7. acquainting students with the richness of the national heritage;
8. stimulating students to work productively in the various areas of human endeavor and
9. acknowledging the importance of, and relating appropriately to, the home and other social agencies in developing the habits and attitudes which make for effective personal living and the maintenance of optimum physical and mental health.

[Adoption date: June 21, 2011]

LEGAL REFS.: Ohio Const. Art. VI, Section 2  
OAC 3301-35-06

CROSS REFS.: ADA, Educational Philosophy  
AE, School District Goals and Objectives  
AFE, Evaluation of Instructional Programs (Also IM)  
AFI, Evaluation of Educational Resources

## INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES

Instructors shall identify skills, knowledge and attitudes crucial to the student's successful movement to the next level of learning within each subject area and at each grade level.

A standards-based curriculum is developed and implemented according to state academic content standards and the requirements established by the Ohio Administrative Code.

Courses of study are reviewed and updated as needed under the supervision of the Superintendent/designee. This evaluation considers the achievement of learning objectives and learning outcomes. This evaluation promotes and guides appropriate revision and updating. The evaluated course of study is presented to the Board for adoption or re-adoption.

[Adoption date: June 21, 2011]

LEGAL REFS.: OAC 3301-35-04; 3301-35-06

CROSS REFS.: ADA, Educational Philosophy  
AE, School District Goals and Objectives  
AFE, Evaluation of Instructional Programs (Also IM)  
IA, Instructional Goals

## ACADEMIC FREEDOM

Public education in a pluralistic society must strive to present, as objectively as possible, varied events, activities and perceptions reflected in history, literature and other sources of humanity's thought and expression. A major goal of education in a free society is to develop persons who can think critically, understand their culture, live compassionately with others, make sound decisions and live with the consequences of their judgment. Because points of view differ and biases exist, students must have access to materials that express this diversity of perspective.

It is the responsibility of the teacher to make certain that such access to materials presenting various sides of an issue is available. Teachers must take into account the relative maturity of their students and the need for guidance and help in studying issues and arriving at balanced views. All instruction conforms to state academic content standards and adopted courses of study.

The principle of academic freedom presupposes intellectual honesty on the part of the person who exercises it and that he/she can and will discriminate among facts relating to an issue. In expressing a personal opinion, a teacher makes it known to students that the view is his/her own and does not attempt to bring students to a commitment to that personal viewpoint.

[Adoption date: June 21, 2011]

CROSS REFS.: AC, Nondiscrimination  
EDE, Computer/Online Services (Acceptable Use and Internet Safety)  
INB, Teaching About Controversial Issues  
JB, Equal Educational Opportunities

## SCHOOL YEAR/SCHOOL CALENDAR

The school calendar is prepared by administrators and teachers and presented to the Superintendent for Board approval. The number of days scheduled for students meets or exceeds the requirements of State law.

The calendar sets forth the days schools are in session, holidays, vacation periods, in-service training days, teacher orientation days and end of grading periods.

[Adoption date: June 21, 2011]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3313.48; 3313.481; 3313.482; 3313.483; 3313.62; 3313.63  
3317.01

CROSS REF.: EBCD, Emergency Closings

CONTRACT REF.: Teachers' Negotiated Agreement

## SCHOOL DAY

“School day is defined as the time during a calendar day that a school is open for instruction pursuant to the Board-adopted schedule. It is the responsibility of the Board to establish the beginning and dismissal times at the various grade levels.

[Adoption date: April 25, 2017]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3313.48; 3313.481

CROSS REF.: EBCD, Emergency Closings

CONTRACT REF.: Teachers’ Negotiated Agreement

## ORGANIZATION OF FACILITIES FOR INSTRUCTION

The Board recognizes that the grouping of grades and services within the facilities of the District can promote the efficient operation of the District and help achieve a more effective instructional program.

The housing of grade levels in school facilities and the administration of the instructional program is according to plans developed by the Superintendent and administrative staff, and approved by the Board.

Modifications in the organizational plan of each school may be made by the Board upon the recommendation of the Superintendent. The Superintendent continually monitors the effectiveness of the organizational plan and recommends to the Board modifications in the plan which is in the best interest of students; provides for the equivalency of instructional materials, equipment and personnel and makes the wisest use of resources and personnel to serve the educational goals of the Board.

The organization of facilities may be re-organized to comply with the provisions of Federal law.

[Adoption date: June 21, 2011]

LEGAL REFS.: The Elementary and Secondary Education Act; 20 USC 1221 et seq.  
ORC 3311.29  
3313.53; 3313.531; 3313.641  
OAC 3301-35-02; 3301-35-03; 3301-35-04; 3301-35-06; 3301-35-07;  
3301-35-09

CROSS REFS.: IGBI, Limited English Proficiency  
IGBJ, Title I Programs  
JECBD, Intradistrict Open Enrollment



## CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

Continuing curriculum study and development are necessary in order to ensure that the District meets the needs of the students in its schools.

Curriculum planning is based on the educational philosophy and goals approved by the Board. Specific objectives are developed by the staff and input from parents, community members and other stakeholders is considered by the Board. Such planning must also take into consideration the legal requirements for students in basic subjects.

To ensure improved instruction as a result of curriculum changes, there must be close coordination between new curriculum development and current instruction – program and process – and their evaluation. There must be coordination across subject areas and articulation of programs between grade levels. Implementation of new or revised curriculum must be closely coordinated with staff development programs.

The Superintendent/designee is responsible for authorizing curriculum studies and for establishing curriculum councils and advisory committees as needed.

The Board expects all certified staff to work together in evaluating the educational program and recommending additions and changes in courses, programs and instructional approaches. All staff members have a professional obligation to the educational program and are expected to play an active role in curriculum development.

The Superintendent/designee provides the Board with reports on the curriculum and on the work of curriculum committees and recommends courses and programs for adoption by the Board.

[Adoption date: June 21, 2011]

LEGAL REFS.: OAC 3301-35-02; 3301-35-03; 3301-35-04; 3301-35-06

CROSS REFS.: ABA, Community Involvement in Decision Making (Also KC)  
ABB, Staff Involvement in Decision Making (Also GBB)  
AFI, Evaluation of Educational Resources  
BCF, Advisory Committees to the Board

CONTRACT REF.: Teachers' Negotiated Agreement

## CURRICULUM ADOPTION

An effective curriculum requires continuous development, implementation, evaluation and improvement. The Board expects the certified staff to implement courses of study that promote the educational goals of the District and comply with legal requirements.

Legal responsibility for adoption of curriculum resides with the Board. The Board assigns responsibility for curriculum development to the Superintendent. The Board considers and acts on new courses and programs as recommended by the Superintendent. It officially approves courses of study for all subjects as required by State and Federal law.

The Superintendent supervises the evaluation of the curriculum. Courses of study are reviewed and updated as needed. After evaluation, courses of study are presented to the Board for adoption or re-adoption. The Board may initiate studies of prospective new courses and curriculum revisions.

[Adoption date: June 21, 2011]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3301.07  
3313.21; 3313.212  
3313.60; 3313.602; 3313.90  
OAC 3301-35-02; 3301-35-03; 3301-35-04; 3301-35-06

## HUMAN RELATIONS EDUCATION

This Board fosters good human relations dealing with race, color, national origin, ancestry, citizenship status, religion, gender, sexual orientation, economic status, age, disability or military status through its instructional programs, its student activities and the classroom environment.

The Board encourages and supports the following approaches to human relations education.

1. The curriculum for all students in grades kindergarten through 12 presents in context the accomplishments and contributions of the races and cultures of our world.
2. Methods and techniques of classroom teaching emphasize the similarities and likenesses of people of various backgrounds and cultures.
3. The staff refreshes its awareness of the facts that the public schools are among the primary instruments for improving human relations through in-service training.
4. The schools work for an integration of ideas, people and material resources to provide the best education to meet the demands of our society.
5. The schools strive to develop a positive self-image in each student's thinking. They:
  - A. recognize the dignity and worth of the individual;
  - B. provide students with the opportunity to acquire as broad an education as the student's capacity permits and
  - C. stimulate the development of respect for the laws of this country.

[Adoption date: June 21, 2011]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC Chapter 4112  
OAC 3301-35-04(B)(1)(b)

CROSS REFS.: AC, Nondiscrimination  
ACA, Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex  
ACB, Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability  
JB, Equal Educational Opportunities

## TEACHING ABOUT RELIGION

Schools must be neutral in matters of religion. The District must show no preference for one religion over another and must refrain from the promotion of any religion.

It is the responsibility of the public schools to foster mutual understanding and respect for all individuals and beliefs. In pursuing this goal, teaching in the public schools should recognize that holidays are observed differently by different religious groups. Teachers should also respect the fact that some individuals' beliefs do not include religious observances.

Teaching about religious holidays or about religion in general should:

1. be objective;
2. avoid any doctrinal impact and
3. avoid any implication that religious doctrines have the support of school authority.

[Adoption date: June 21, 2011]

LEGAL REFS.: The Elementary and Secondary Education Act; 20 USC 1221 et seq.  
U.S. Const. Amend. I  
ORC 3313.601

CROSS REFS.: INB, Teaching About Controversial Issues  
IND, School Ceremonies and Observances  
JB, Equal Educational Opportunities

## HEALTH EDUCATION

The Board is committed to a sound, comprehensive health education program as an integral part of each student's general education. At a minimum, the health education program meets the requirements established by State law and includes instruction in nutrition; drugs, alcohol and tobacco; venereal disease; personal safety and assault prevention (grades K-6) and dating violence prevention (grades 7-12) and prescription opioid abuse prevention and anatomical gifts.

The Board believes that one opportunity for effective health education lies with the public schools because of the opportunity to reach almost all students at an age when positive, lifelong health, wellness and safety habits may be instilled.

The health education program emphasizes a contemporary approach to the presentation of health, wellness and safety information, skills and knowledge necessary for students to understand the functioning and proper care of the human body and tools for recognizing the characteristics of healthy relationships and the warning signs of dating violence.

In an effort to promote a relevant approach to the instruction of health education, the Board continues to stress the need for curricular, personnel and financial commitments to ensure a health education program of high quality in the public schools.

[Adoption date: June 21, 2011]

Re-adoption date: March 21, 2017]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3313.60; 3313.666  
3319.073  
OAC 3301-35-04; 3301-35-06

CROSS REFS.: EB, Safety Program  
EBBA, Firth Aid  
EBBC, Bloodborne Pathogens  
EBC, Emergency Management and Safety Plans  
EFG, Student Wellness Program  
GBEA, HIV/AIDS (Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) (Also JHCCA)  
IGAG, Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco Education  
IGAH, Family Life Education  
IGAI, Sex Education  
JFC, Student Conduct (Zero Tolerance)  
JFCF, Hazing and Bullying (Harassment, Intimidation and Dating Violence)  
JHF, Student Safety  
JHG, Reporting Child Abuse

## DRUGS, ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO EDUCATION

The Board views with concern the serious implications of drug, alcohol and tobacco use by students. In keeping with its primary responsibility, the education of youth, the Board charges the staff to continue to investigate the causes of student involvement with drugs and alcohol and to develop suitable preventive measures whenever feasible.

The Board and the staff continue to seek ways to educate students about the dangers of the misuse and abuse of drugs, alcohol and tobacco. Instructional units include sessions about the causes and effects of drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse, especially in young people.

[Adoption date: June 21, 2011]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC Chapter 2925  
3313.60; 3313.95  
OAC 3301-35-04; 3301-35-06

CROSS REFS.: JFCG, Tobacco Use by Students  
JFCH, Alcohol Use by Students  
JFCI, Student Drug Abuse

## FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION/SEX EDUCATION

The Board believes that the purpose of family life and sex education is to help students acquire factual knowledge, attitudes and values which result in behavior which contributes to the well-being of the individual, the family and society.

Helping students attain a mature and responsible attitude toward human sexuality is a continuous task of every generation. Parents have the primary responsibility to assist their children in developing moral values. The schools should support and supplement parents' efforts in these areas by offering students factual information and opportunities to discuss concerns, issues and attitudes.

In addition to the requirements listed below, the policies and regulations concerning the approval of new curriculum content, units and materials apply to any course(s) dealing with family life and sex education.

1. Instructional materials to be used in family life/sex education are available for review by parents during school hours.
2. If, after review of materials used and a conference with the instructor and principal, a parent requests that his/her child not participate in a given aspect of the course, an alternate educational assignment is arranged for that student with the approval of the principal.
3. Teachers who provide age-appropriate instruction in family life/sex education have professional preparation in the subject area.
4. Instruction in sex education emphasizes the health benefits of abstinence.

[Adoption date: June 21, 2011]

LEGAL REFS.: The Elementary and Secondary Education Act; 20 USC 1221 et seq.  
ORC 3313.60  
OAC 3301-35-04

CROSS REF.: IGAE, Health Education

## PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

All students with disabilities living within the District are identified, evaluated and placed in appropriate educational programs. This includes children for whom the District is the district of residence who are being held or have been court ordered to juvenile detention centers or children who have been committed to community correctional facilities. Additionally, all parentally-placed private school children with disabilities who reside in a state other than Ohio and attend a private school within the District are located, identified and evaluated. Due process requirements, procedural safeguards and confidential treatment of information are adhered to as required by State and Federal law.

The Superintendent is expected to supervise all special education programs and to assign a member of the staff to coordinate efforts. The person designated is responsible for the identification of students with disabilities, the evaluation of disabilities and evaluation procedures, the design of individualized education programs (IEPs), plans and placement. All procedures are in accordance with State and Federal law.

The IEP determined for each identified student is developed in accordance with the student's individual needs. The plan provides for re-evaluation of the student's needs, progress and effectiveness of the program being offered.

Although the District requires all students with disabilities to be tested, each student with a disability is considered individually relative to his/her participation in the District's educational and testing programs. Alternative assessments may be required and students must make yearly gains.

The Board, by resolution, directs the administration to comply with and follow the Ohio Department of Education, Office of Exceptional Children's model special education policies and procedures.

[Adoption date: October 18, 2016]

LEGAL REFS.: The Elementary and Secondary Education Act; 20 USC 1221 et seq.  
Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act; 20 USC 1400 et seq.  
Rehabilitation Act; 29 USC 706(8), 794, 794a  
504 Regulations 34 C.F.R. Part 104  
504 Regulations 34 C.F.R.300.131  
Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008; 42 USC 12101 et seq.  
State Department of Education, Special Education Policies and Procedures,  
Free Appropriate Public Education-101  
ORC 3313.50  
3323.01 et seq.  
3325.01 et seq.  
OAC Chapter 3301-51  
3301-55-01



CROSS REFS.: ACB, Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability  
IGBJ, Title I Programs  
IL, Testing Programs  
JB, Equal Educational Opportunities  
KBA, Public's Right to Know

## PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

As an expression of its commitment to provide a free appropriate public education for students with disabilities in accordance with Federal and State laws, rules and regulations, the Board does hereby resolve to implement the following.

1. Child Identification

Ongoing efforts are made to identify, locate and evaluate children below 22 years of age who reside within the District and have a confirmed or suspected disability in accordance with all federal regulations and state standards. This includes children for whom the District is the district of residence who are being held or have been court ordered to juvenile detention centers or children who have been committed to community correctional facilities. Additional efforts are made to identify, locate and evaluate all parentally-placed school children who reside outside of the state, attend a private school within the District and have a confirmed or suspected disability.

2. Procedural Safeguards

The child with a disability and his/her parent(s) are provided with safeguards, as required by law, throughout the identification, evaluation and placement process and the provision of a free appropriate public education to the child.

3. Multifactored Evaluation

The District provides a multifactored evaluation for children with disabilities by ensuring that children are assessed in their native language or other mode of communication. Tests are used for their validated purposes. Children are evaluated in all areas related to their suspected disability. Testing is conducted by a multidisciplinary team. Testing materials and procedures are not racially or culturally biased. Tests are administered by trained personnel qualified in accordance with all federal regulations and state standards and in conformance with the instructions provided by the producer. Medical evaluation, when required as part of the multifactored evaluation, is provided at no cost to the parent(s) by a licensed physician designated by the Superintendent/designee when other no-cost resources are not available.

4. Individualized Education Program

An individualized education program (IEP) is developed for each child with a disability who needs special education. The IEP is designed to meet the unique educational needs of the child and developed in a planning conference. The parent(s) of the child are strongly encouraged to participate in the planning conference. The IEP is reviewed and revised as often as necessary, but at least annually.

5. Least Restrictive Environment

The education of children with disabilities occurs in the least restrictive environment. Special education programs and services are appropriate and designed to meet the unique needs of each child with a disability. To the maximum extent appropriate, children with disabilities, including children in public or private institutions or other care facilities, are educated with children who do not have disabilities. Special classes, separate schooling or other removal of children with disabilities from the regular educational environment occur only when the nature or severity of the disability is such that education in regular classes with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily.

6. Confidentiality of Data

The confidentiality of personally identifiable data relating to children with disabilities and their parents and families is protected at collection, storage, disclosure and destruction. One official of the District is assigned the responsibility for protecting the confidentiality of personally identifiable data. The District follows all federal regulations and state standards related to the confidentiality of data.

7. Due Process

The District utilizes procedures that allow differences of opinion to be aired and resolved between parent(s) or agencies and the District. The procedures provide for utilization of case conferences, administrative reviews, impartial due process hearings, state-level appeals and appeals to the courts that involve the District's proposal or refusal to initiate or change the identification, evaluation or educational placement of the child or the provision of a free appropriate public education to the child. Furthermore, the rights of children with disabilities are protected when the parents cannot be identified or located, when the child is a ward of the state or when the child is without a formally declared legal representative.

8. Surrogate Parent

Whenever the parent(s) of a child with a disability are not known or cannot be located, when the child is a ward of the state or when parents have otherwise lost legal decision-making abilities, the child's rights are protected through the assignment of an individual (who is not an employee of the state education agency, local education agency or other organization involved in the education or care of the child) who serves as the child's surrogate parent.

9. Testing Programs

Students with disabilities must participate in local and statewide testing programs. Individual accommodations and participation in an alternate assessment are determined only during an IEP conference.

(Approval date: October 18, 2016)

## PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE GIFTED

In accordance with the belief that all students are entitled to education commensurate with their particular needs, students in the District who are gifted are provided opportunities to progress as their abilities permit. The Board believes that these students require services beyond those offered in regular school programs in order to realize their potential contribution to themselves and society.

Students who are gifted are identified annually by qualified professionals using a variety of assessment procedures. The Board encourages efforts to provide services for students who are gifted as an integral part of the total kindergarten through grade 12 program.

### Identification

The District follows the identification eligibility criteria as specified in State law.

1. The District identifies students of the District, in grades kindergarten through 12, as students who are gifted who perform at remarkably high levels of accomplishment when compared to other students of the same age, experience and environment, as identified under State law. Accordingly, a student can be identified as exhibiting:
  - A. superior cognitive ability;
  - B. specific academic ability in one or more of the following content areas:
    - 1) mathematics;
    - 2) science;
    - 3) reading, writing or a combination of these skills and/or
    - 4) social studies;
  - C. creative thinking ability and/or
  - D. visual or performing arts ability such as drawing, painting, sculpting, music, dance or drama.
2. The District uses only those instruments approved by the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) for screening, assessment and identification of students who are gifted.
3. A student identified as gifted in accordance with State law remains identified as gifted regardless of subsequent testing or classroom performance.

### District Plan for Identifying Students Who are Gifted

The Board adopts and submits to ODE a plan for identifying students who are gifted. Any revisions to the District plan are submitted to the ODE for approval. A copy of this policy is provided at time of submission. The identification plan includes the following:

1. the criteria and methods the District uses to screen and select students for further assessment who perform or show potential for performing at remarkably high levels of accomplishment in one of the gifted areas;
2. a description of assessment instruments selected from the ODE-approved list to be used for the screening and identification of students who are gifted;
3. procedures for the provision of at least two whole grade screening opportunities to be administered for all students once prior to the end of second grade, and once for all students between grades three and six;
4. the sources of assessment data the District uses to select students for further testing and an explanation to parents/guardians of the multiple assessment instruments required to identify students who are gifted;
5. an explanation for parents/guardians of the methods the District uses to ensure equal access to screening and further assessment for all District students, including minority and disadvantaged students, students with disabilities and English learner students;
6. the process of notifying parents/guardians regarding all policies and procedures concerning the screening, assessment and identification of students, who are gifted, including the requirement to notify parents within 30 days of the District's receipt of a student's result on any screening procedure or assessment instrument;
7. an opportunity for parents/guardians to appeal any decision about the results of any screening procedure or assessment, the scheduling of students for assessment or the placement of a student in any program or for receipt of services;
8. procedures for the assessment of students who transfer into the District no later than 90 days after the transfer at request of the parent;
9. at least two opportunities a year for assessment in the case of students requesting assessment or recommended for assessment by teachers, parents or other students with the initial assessment to be completed no later than 90 days of referral regardless of the grade levels where gifted services are offered and
10. an explanation that the District accepts scores on assessment instruments approved for use by ODE that are provided by other school districts and trained personnel outside the District.

The District's plan may provide for the District to contract with any qualified public or private service provider to provide screening or assessment services under the plan. Gifted education coordinators provide the District with assistance in placing students, designing services, consulting on strategic planning, evaluating services on an ongoing basis and eliciting input from parents and staff.

### District Plan for Services

The District adopts and submits to ODE a plan for a continuum of services that may be offered to students who are gifted.

1. The District ensures equal opportunity for all students identified as gifted to receive any or all services offered by the District.
2. The District implements a procedure for withdrawal of students from District gifted programs or services, and for reassessment of students and assessment of students transferring into the District.
3. The District implements a procedure for resolving disputes with regard to identification and placement decisions.
4. Any District gifted education services are delivered in accordance with State law.
5. The District informs parents of the contents of this policy as required by State law.

The services likely to be provided to a student based on the nature of their identification are: outlined in the District Plan for the identification and service of children who are gifted.

The gifted services currently available within the District and the criteria for receiving these services are: outlined in the District Plan for the identification and service of children who are gifted.

### Written Education Plan

The District provides gifted services based on the student's areas(s) of identification and individual needs and is guided by a written education plan (WEP) developed in collaboration with an educator who holds a licensure or endorsement in gifted education. The District provides parents with periodic reports regarding the student's progress toward meeting goals and the effectiveness of the services provided in accordance with the WEP.

The WEP is provided to parents of gifted students and educators responsible for providing gifted education services and includes:

1. a description of the services provided, including goals for the student in each service specified, including but not limited to measurable academic goals;
2. methods and performance measurements for evaluating progress toward achieving the goals specified;

3. methods and schedule for reporting progress to students and parents;
4. staff members responsible for ensuring that specified services are delivered;
5. policies regarding the waiver of assignments and the scheduling of tests missed while a student is participating in any gifted services provided outside the general education classroom and
6. a date by which the WEP will be reviewed for possible revision.

At the commencement of services, and each year in which a student receives services, the District makes a reasonable attempt, in writing to obtain a parent/guardian signature on the WEP. A student will not be denied services due to lack of a parent/guardian signature.

The District will develop and disseminate a “no services” letter to parents/guardians of students identified as gifted but not receiving gifted services clearly communicating the student is not receiving gifted services. The letter may include a list of enrichment opportunities provided to the student by the District.

#### Gifted Education Personnel

Gifted education instruction is provided by gifted education intervention specialists by grade level in accordance with the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC). Gifted education instruction is offered during the regular school day and may be provided in large or small groups and/or individually in a variety of settings. The depth, breadth and pace of instruction based on the appropriate content areas may be differentiated. Where a general education teacher is designated as the provider of gifted services, instruction is provided in a regular classroom, the teacher meets the requirements of OAC including the requirements to receive professional development and ongoing assistance from a gifted education intervention specialist or gifted education coordinator.

#### Annual Report and Accountability

The District submits, as required, a gifted education annual report to ODE.

The District submits, as required, a gifted education data audit to ODE.

The Superintendent/designee implements all policies and procedures in accordance with laws, rules and regulations and follows the OAC rules regarding gifted education.

[Adoption date: June 11, 2011]

[Re-Adoption date: July 18, 2017]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3324.01 et seq.  
OAC 3301-51-15

CROSS REFS.: IKEB, Acceleration  
JB, Equal Educational Opportunities

***THIS IS A REQUIRED POLICY***



## PROGRAMS FOR GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS

In accordance with the belief that all children are entitled to education commensurate with their particular needs, children in the District who are gifted are provided opportunities to progress as their abilities permit. The Board believes that these children require services beyond those offered in regular school programs in order to realize their potential contribution to themselves and society.

Children who are gifted are identified annually by qualified professionals using a variety of assessment procedures. The Board encourages efforts to provide services for the children who are gifted as an integral part of the total kindergarten through grade 12 program.

### Identification

The District follows the identification eligibility criteria as specified in the Ohio Revised Code and the Ohio Administrative Code.

1. The District identifies children of the District, in grades kindergarten through 12, as gifted children who perform at remarkably high levels of accomplishment when compared to other children of the same age, experience and environment, as identified under the Ohio Revised Code and Ohio Administrative Code. Accordingly, a child can be identified as exhibiting:
  - A. superior cognitive ability;
  - B. specific academic ability in one or more of the following content areas:
    - 1) mathematics;
    - 2) science;
    - 3) reading, writing or a combination of these skills and/or
    - 4) social studies;
  - C. creative thinking ability and/or
  - D. visual or performing arts ability such as drawing, painting, sculpting, music, dance or drama.
2. The District uses only those instruments approved by the Ohio Department of Education for screening, assessment and identification of children who are gifted.

### District Plan for Identifying Gifted Students

The District adopts and submits to the Ohio Department of Education a plan for the screening, assessment and identification of children who are gifted. Any revisions to the District plan are submitted to the Ohio Department of Education for approval. The identification plan includes the following:

1. the criteria and methods the District uses to screen and select children for further assessment who perform or show potential for performing at remarkably high levels of accomplishment in one of the gifted areas;
2. the sources of assessment data the District uses to select children for further testing and an explanation to parents/guardians of the multiple assessment instruments required to identify children who are gifted;
3. an explanation for parents/guardians of the methods the District uses to ensure equal access to screening and further assessment by all District children, culturally and linguistically diverse children, children from low socio-economic backgrounds, children with disabilities and children for whom English is a second language;
4. the process of notifying parents/guardians regarding all policies and procedures concerning the screening, assessment and identification of children who are gifted;
5. an opportunity for parents/guardians to appeal any decision about the results of any screening procedure or assessment, the scheduling of children for assessment or the placement of a student in any program or for receipt of services;
6. procedures for the assessment of children who transfer into the District;
7. at least two opportunities a year for assessment in the case of children requesting assessment or recommended for assessment by teachers, parents or other children and
8. an explanation that the District accepts scores on assessment instruments approved for use by the Ohio Department of Education that are provided by other school districts and trained personnel outside the District.

The District's plan may provide for the District to contract with any qualified public or private service provider to provide screening or assessment services under the plan. Gifted education coordinators provide the District with assistance in placing students, designing services, consulting on strategic planning, evaluating services on an ongoing basis and eliciting input from parents and staff.

### District Plan for Services

The District adopts and submits to the Ohio Department of Education a plan for a continuum of services that may be offered to students who are gifted.

1. The District ensures equal opportunity for all children identified as gifted to receive any or all services offered by the District.
2. The District implements a procedure for withdrawal of children from District gifted programs or services and for reassessment of children.
3. The District implements a procedure for resolving disputes with regard to identification and placement decisions.
4. Any District gifted education services are delivered in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code and the Ohio Administrative Code.
5. The District informs parents of the contents of this policy as required by the Ohio Revised Code and the Ohio Administrative Code.

### Written Education Plan

The District provides gifted services based on the student's areas(s) of identification and individual needs and is guided by a written education plan (WEP). The WEP, which is provided to parents of gifted students and educators responsible for providing gifted education services, includes a description of the services provided, including goals for the student in each service specified, methods for evaluating progress toward achieving the goals specified and methods and schedule for reporting progress to students. The WEP also specifies staff members responsible for ensuring that specified services are delivered, policies regarding the waiver of assignments and the scheduling of tests missed while a student is participating in any gifted services provided outside the general education classroom and a date by which the WEP will be reviewed for possible revision.

### Gifted Education Personnel

Gifted education instruction is provided by gifted education intervention specialists by grade level in accordance with the Ohio Administrative Code. Gifted education instruction is offered during the regular school day and may be provided in large or small groups and/or individually in a variety of settings. The depth, breadth and pace of instruction based on the appropriate content areas may be differentiated. Where differentiated instruction is provided in a regular classroom, the teacher is either licensed in gifted education or has received professional development and ongoing assistance from a gifted education intervention specialist or gifted education coordinator.

Annual Report and Accountability

The District submits, as required, a gifted education annual report to the Ohio Department of Education.

The District submits, as required, a gifted education data audit to the Ohio Department of Education.

The Superintendent/designee implements all policies and procedures in accordance with laws, rules and regulations and follows the Ohio Administrative Code rules regarding gifted education.

[Adoption date: June 21, 2011]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3324.01 et seq.  
OAC 3301-51-15

CROSS REF.: JB, Equal Educational Opportunities

REMEDIAL INSTRUCTION  
(Intervention Services)

The educational program is designed and operated to be developmentally appropriate and avoid the necessity for intervention services. In those cases in which students have clearly not demonstrated satisfactory progress toward attaining the academic standards for their grade level, efforts are made to remedy the condition and attain the learning results sought.

The Board directs the Superintendent/designee to ensure that classroom teachers of students in kindergarten through third grades assess and identify by September 30 of each school year the reading skills of each student who is reading below grade level. The parent or guardian is notified of each student whose reading skills are below grade level and intervention services are provided to the student.

Students who are reading below grade are provided intensive reading instruction immediately following the identification of a reading deficiency.

The District involves the student's parent(s) and classroom teacher in developing the intervention strategy and offers to the parent(s) the opportunity to be involved in the intervention.

Intervention services are also offered to students who:

1. score below the proficient level on a fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh or eighth grade achievement test and
2. are not demonstrating academic performance at their grade level based on the results of a diagnostic assessment.

Any student who scores at below the proficient level on an Ohio Graduation Test must receive intervention services.

Certain specified students who are offered intervention services either after-hours or in summer classes are truant if they do not attend the intervention programs.

The Superintendent/designee is directed to maintain remedial instructional programs or intervention services that assist all students in meeting and maintaining minimum levels of student proficiency in communication and computation skills. These programs include procedures to evaluate student achievement related to the remedial program objectives and standards. Ongoing communication between teaching staff members and parents of students participating in remedial educational programs is coordinated by the Superintendent and the administrative staff.

The Superintendent is directed to evaluate the remedial education programs and report to the Board each school year as to their effectiveness in maintaining minimum levels of student proficiency.

[Adoption date: September 25, 2012]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3301.07; 3301.0710; 3301.0711(D); 3301.0712; 3301.0715  
3313.608; 3313.609; 3313.6010; 3313.6012, 3314.03  
OAC 3301-35-04; 3301-35-06

CROSS REF.: IGBEA, Reading Skills Assessments and Intervention (Third Grade Reading Guarantee)

IKE, Promotion and Retention of Students

READING SKILLS ASSESSMENTS AND INTERVENTION  
(Third Grade Reading Guarantee)

The Board believes in the importance of the development of English language skills. As a result the Board promotes the importance of reading skills through English diagnostic assessments and reading intervention services in order to provide a meaningful tool to identify and assist students in achieving proficiency in English language arts.

The District annually evaluates the English reading skills of each 1-3 student by November 1 and identifies students who are reading below their grade level. The District uses the reading diagnostic assessment that is appropriate for the grade level and is adopted under State law or is a comparable tool approved by the Ohio Department of Education. The student's classroom teachers are involved in the assessment and identification of students reading below grade level.

The District provides written notification to the parents or guardian of students who are reading below their grade level. Intensive reading instruction is provided to students immediately after they are identified as having a reading deficiency. The District develops a reading improvement and monitoring plan within 60 days of receiving the student's diagnostic results.

For students who have been retained at the end of third grade, the District provides intense remediation services that include intensive interventions that address the student's specific areas of deficiency. Further, the District provides each retained student with a teacher who meets set criteria and offers the option for such students to receive applicable services from one or more providers other than the District.

Students who have been retained and who have demonstrated proficiency in a specific academic field as defined by State law are provided with instruction which is commensurate to their achievement level.

The Board designates the Superintendent/designee to establish a district policy for the mid-year promotion of students who were retained but who now are reading at or above their grade level.

[Adoption date: March 19, 2013

[Re-adoption date: May 16, 2017]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3301.07; 3301.0710; 3301.0711(D); 3301.0715; 3301.079  
3313.608; 3313.609; 3313.6010; 3313.6012; 3324.01  
OAC 3301-35-04; 3301-35-06

CROSS REF.: IGBE, Remedial Instruction  
IGBI, Limited English Proficiency  
IKE, Promotion and Retention of Students

READING SKILLS ASSESSMENTS AND INTERVENTION  
(Third Grade Reading Guarantee)

The District is required annually to assess the reading skills of each K-3 student by September 30. The District uses an English diagnostic assessment either approved under State law or a comparable tool that has been approved by the Ohio Department of Education.

If the English diagnostic assessment shows that a student is not reading at grade level, the District will provide written notification to the parents or guardian that includes:

1. Notice that the school has identified a substantial reading deficiency in their child;
2. A description of current services provided to the student;
3. A description of proposed supplemental instruction services and supports;
4. Notice that the diagnostic assessment for third grade reading is not the sole determinant of promotion and that additional evaluations and assessments are available; and
5. Notice that unless the student attains the appropriate level of reading competency by the end of third grade, the student will be retained.

For a student not reading at grade level, the District will provide intensive reading instruction immediately following the identification of a reading deficiency. This instruction must:

1. Include research-based reading strategies that have been shown to be successful in improving the reading skills of low-performing readers, and
2. Be targeted at the student's identified reading deficiencies.

For each student receiving required reading intervention, the District will develop a reading improvement and monitoring plan. This plan will be developed within 60 days of receiving the student's results on the diagnostic assessment. The plan will include all of the following:

1. Identification of the student's specific reading deficiency;
2. A description of proposed supplemental instruction services that will target the student's identified reading deficiencies;
3. Opportunities for the student's parents or guardians to be involved in the instructional services;
4. A process to monitor the implementation of the student's instructional services;



5. A reading curriculum during regular school hours that assists students to read at grade level, provides for reliable assessments, and provides ongoing analysis of each student's reading progress; and
6. A statement that unless the student attains the appropriate level of reading competency by the end of third grade, the student will be retained.

For a student with a reading improvement and monitoring entering the third grade after July 1, 2013, the District will provide a teacher who has either passed a reading instruction test or has a reading endorsement on his/her teaching license.

The District has specific responsibilities for a student who has been retained at the end of third grade. The District must:

1. Establish a district policy for the mid-year promotion of a student who is reading at or above grade level that provides that a student who participates in remediation services and who demonstrates the required reading proficiency prior to the start of fourth grade will be promoted to that grade.
2. Provide intensive remediation that addresses the student's areas of deficiencies. This must include, but not be limited to, not less than ninety minutes of daily reading. In addition, the remediation may include any of the following:
  - A. Small group instruction
  - B. Reduced teacher-student ratios
  - C. More frequent progress monitoring
  - D. Tutoring or mentoring
  - E. Transition classes containing third and fourth grade students
  - F. Extended school day, week or year
  - G. Summer reading camps
3. Provide a high-performing teacher, as determined by available student performance data and performance reviews.
4. Offer the student the option to receive applicable services from one or more providers other than the District. These providers will be screened and approved by the District or by the Ohio Department of Education.
5. Provide instruction that is commensurate to the achievement level for a retained student who has a demonstrated proficiency in a specific academic field as defined by State law.

Approval Date: [September 25, 2012]

## HOME-BOUND INSTRUCTION

The home instruction program falls under the guidelines for Education of the Handicapped Children, Ohio Department of Education.

Home instruction is a program provided to a student who has a medical condition that hinders his/her attendance in a regular or special education program. The instruction is provided outside the school setting such as home, a hospital or other facility appropriate to the student's needs. The student receives a minimum of one hour of home instruction for each day the student is unable to attend school. The teacher shall hold an Ohio teacher's certificate/license.

The procedure is as follows:

1. The student is identified as having the need for home instruction.
2. A request for home instruction is submitted to the school principal or guidance counselor.
3. Copies of the request are given to the director of special education and/or psychologist.
4. The director of special education assumes the position of the placement committee.
5. Appropriate steps are taken to develop the IEP for the student. Those on the placement committee should include the classroom teacher, director of special education, psychologist and the guidance counselor.
6. The IEP will be reviewed by the committee at appropriate intervals.

The home instruction teacher shall:

1. provide the instructional program for the student;
2. provide, in cooperation with school personnel, periodic reports on the student's progress in a manner consistent with the school's grading system;
3. submit a Report of Home Instruction to the director of special education and
4. coordinate with school personnel in the successful return of the student to the regular education program or another special education program.

[Adoption date: June 21, 2011]

LEGAL REFS.: Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008; 42 USC 12101 et seq.  
ORC 3313.64  
3321.04  
3323.05; 3323.12  
OAC Chapter 3301-51

CROSS REFS.: IGBA, Programs for Students with Disabilities  
JEA, Compulsory Attendance Ages  
JECBC, Admission of Students from Nonchartered or Home Schooling

## LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY

The Board recognizes the need to provide equal educational opportunities for all students in the District. Therefore, if the inability to speak and understand the English language excludes a student from effective participation in the educational programs offered by the District, the District shall take appropriate action to rectify the English language deficiency in order to provide the student equal access to its programs. Students in a language minority or who have limited English proficiency are identified, assessed and provided appropriate services.

The Board directs the administration to develop and implement instruction programs that:

1. appropriately identify language minority students;
2. provide the appropriate instruction to limited English proficient students to assist them in gaining English language proficiency, as well as content knowledge, in reading/language arts and mathematics and
3. annually assess the English proficiency of students and monitor their progress in order to determine their readiness for the mainstream classroom environment.

The District requires all students with limited English proficiency to be tested.

Limited English proficient students who have been enrolled in U.S. schools for less than one full year are exempt from one administration of the reading/language arts assessment administered to their grade levels. However, students who choose to take these tests are permitted to do so. (Assessments in math, science and social studies are not exempt.)

The District provides parents with notice of and information regarding the instructional program as required by law. Parental involvement is encouraged and parents are regularly apprised of their child's progress.

[Adoption date: June 21, 2011]

LEGAL REFS.: 42 USC 2000d  
The Elementary and Secondary Education Act; 20 USC 1221 et seq.  
34 CFR 200  
ORC 3301.0711  
3302.01; 3302.03  
3313.61; 3313.611; 3313.612  
3317.03  
3331.04  
OAC 3301-35-04; 3301-35-06; 3301-35-07

CROSS REFS.: AC, Nondiscrimination  
IE, Organization of Facilities for Instruction  
IGBJ, Title I Programs  
IGBL, Parental Involvement in Education  
JB, Equal Educational Opportunities  
JK, Employment of Students

## TITLE I PROGRAMS

The Title I program is based on an annual assessment of educational needs. This assessment includes identification of educationally deprived children in the public and private schools in this District. Title I services are provided to all eligible, educationally deprived students.

The Board believes parental involvement is a vital part of the Title I program. The Superintendent/designee jointly develops with and distributes to parents of children participating in Title I programs within the District a written parental involvement policy and guidelines. The written parental involvement policy includes a School-Parent Compact jointly developed by the school and the parents. The requirements of the policy, compact and guidelines are consistent with Federal and State law.

Parental involvement includes, but is not limited to, parental contribution to the design and implementation of programs under this title, participation by parents in school activities and programs, and training and materials which build parents' capacity to improve their children's learning in both the home and the school. To build a partnership between home and school, the District:

1. informs the parents of the program, the reasons for their children's participation and the specific instructional objectives;
2. trains parents to work with their children to attain instructional objectives;
3. trains teachers and other staff involved in programs under this title to work effectively with the parents of participating students;
4. develops partnerships by consulting with parents regularly;
5. provides opportunities for parents to be involved in the design, operation and evaluation of the program and
6. provides opportunities for the full participation of parents who lack literacy skills or whose native language is not English.

Title I funds are used only to augment, not to replace, state and local funds. The Board uses these funds to provide equivalent or comparable educational services in all schools receiving Title I assistance.

The District is required to bring students up to a proficient level in reading and mathematics. Any school that receives Title I funds, and fails to make adequate yearly progress as defined by the State Board of Education two years in a row, is required to offer school choice for students to transfer from the low performing building to a building that is making the required progress. Among students exercising choice, priority is given to the lowest-achieving students from low income families.

If a school does not meet the adequate yearly progress three years in a row, it is required to offer supplemental (tutorial) services. The administration is directed to develop a plan to comply with school choice and supplemental services.

[Adoption date: June 21, 2011]

LEGAL REFS.: The Elementary and Secondary Education Act; 20 USC 1221 et seq.  
OAC 3301-35-04; 3301-35-05; 3301-35-06; 3301-35-07

CROSS REFS.: AC, Nondiscrimination  
IE, Organization of Facilities for Instruction  
IGBA, Programs for Students with Disabilities  
IGBI, Limited English Proficiency  
IGBL, Parental Involvement in Education  
JB, Equal Educational Opportunities

## PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT IN EDUCATION

The Board believes that parental involvement is an important part of the educational program. Current research indicates that a home-school partnership and greater involvement on the part of parents in the education of their children generally result in higher achievement scores, improved student behavior and reduced absenteeism. All parents and foster caregivers are encouraged to take an active role in the education of their children or foster children.

The Board directs the administration to develop along with parents and foster caregivers the necessary regulations to ensure that this policy is followed and that parental involvement is encouraged. The regulations are to:

1. encourage strong home-school partnerships;
2. provide for consistent and effective communication between parents or foster caregivers and school officials;
3. offer parents or foster caregivers ways to assist and encourage their children or foster children to do their best and
4. offer ways parents or foster caregivers can support classroom learning activities.

In addition, building administrators/designees of schools receiving Title I funds will jointly develop with and distribute to parents of children participating in Title I programs a written parental involvement policy and guidelines. The requirements of the policy and guidelines are consistent with Federal and State law.

[Adoption date: June 21, 2011]

LEGAL REFS.: The Elementary and Secondary Education Act; 20 USC 1221 et seq.  
ORC 3313.472; 3313.48  
OAC 3301-35-02; 3301-35-04; 3301-35-06

CROSS REFS.: IGBI, Limited English Proficiency  
IGBJ, Title I Programs  
Student Handbooks



## CREDIT FLEXIBILITY

The Board recognizes that an effective educational program is one that provides opportunities for students to customize aspects of their learning around their respective needs and interests. Credit flexibility is one method to motivate and increase student learning by allowing access to more resources, customization around individual student needs and the use of multiple measures of learning.

Credit flexibility shifts the focus from “seat time” to performance. The intent of credit flexibility is to meet increased expectations for high school graduation in response to globalization, technology and demographics, and to meet the demand for 21st century skills.

In accordance with State law, the District must develop and implement a credit flexibility plan. Seventh or eighth grade students may meet curriculum requirements or students ready for high school courses may earn high school graduation credit by:

1. demonstrating subject area competency through the completion of traditional course work;
2. testing out of or showing mastery of course content through the pursuit of an approved educational option and/or;
3. any combination of the above.

The Superintendent/designee develops the District’s credit flexibility plan consistent with the provisions of the following regulation.

[Adoption date: September 20, 2016]

LEGAL REFS.: Carnegie Design Team Report to the State Board of Education, *New Emphasis on Learning: Ohio’s plan for credit flexibility shifts the focus from “seat time” to performance* (March 2009)

ORC 3313.60; 3313.603; 3313.609; 3313.6013; 3313.611; 3313.613;  
3313.614; 3313.90  
3321.04  
Chapter 3324  
Chapter 3365  
OAC Chapter 3301-34  
3301-35-01  
3301-35-06  
Chapter 3301-46  
Chapter 3301-51  
Chapter 3301-61

CROSS REFS.: IGAD, Career-Technical Education  
IGBH, Alternative School Programs  
IGCB, Experimental Programs  
IGCD, Educational Options (Also LEB)  
GCD, Educational Options (Also LEB)  
IGCF, Home Schooling  
IGCH, Postsecondary Enrollment Options (Also LEC)  
IKA, Grading Systems  
IKE, Promotion and Retention of Students  
IKEB, Acceleration  
IKF, Graduation Requirements

## CREDIT FLEXIBILITY

In accordance with State law, the District's plan for credit flexibility must:

1. identify the multiple methods of communication and frequency of each method the District will use to communicate the aspects of the credit flexibility policy and plan to students and parents on an ongoing basis;
2. allow for demonstrated proficiency options on an ongoing basis;
3. allow for graded options for demonstrated proficiency;
4. allow demonstration of proficiency to count towards course requirements for graduation;
5. determine credit equivalency for a Carnegie unit;
6. prohibit capping or limiting the number of courses or credits earned through credit flexibility;
7. allow for both simultaneous credit and/or partial credit to be earned;
8. not prohibit access to online education, postsecondary options or services from another district, as approved by the Board;
9. allow, if so desired, for the acceptance of credit from other districts and educational providers;
10. establish provisions for instances when students do not or cannot complete requirements and
11. establish a review process and submit data to the Ohio Department of Education about the methods and frequency of communication with students and parents.

In addition, the Superintendent/designee collects performance data including, but not limited to, the number of participating students, total credits earned and extent to which student participation reflects diversity of the student body.

The Ohio Department of Education recommends that the Superintendent maintain a "library" of courses that were previously accepted to assist students, parents and teachers with understanding available options (or those unique to local contexts and regional economic development interests).

[Approval date: September 20, 2016]

## EDUCATIONAL OPTIONS

The Board recognizes that an effective educational program is one that provides opportunities for students to learn both within the classroom and, for specific reasons, beyond the traditional classroom and school day. These expanded opportunities are viewed as educational options to supplement the regular school program.

The intent of educational options is to allow educators, other professionals, parents and others to work together to provide opportunities for students to learn in an independent or individual setting and to study or work with recognized experts in specific fields. Educational options are seen as additional curricular opportunities to improve, expand and enrich student learning experiences and perspectives.

Independent study, distance learning, tutoring, educational travel, mentoring and study abroad programs are representative of experiences which the Board views as educational options supplementing the regular school program.

Fees are established for educational options as needed. Participating students are expected to pay fees upon beginning educational options.

The Superintendent develops regulations when the educational options are initiated. Each program option developed is presented to the Board for adoption; its regulations are presented for approval.

[Adoption date: June 21, 2011]

LEGAL REFS.: OAC 3301-35-01(B)(6); 3301-35-06

CROSS REFS.: IGBM, Credit Flexibility  
IGCH, Postsecondary Enrollment Options (Also LEC)  
IKE, Promotion and Retention of Students  
IKF, Graduation Requirements  
JN, Student Fees, Fines and Charges

## EDUCATIONAL OPTIONS

When initiated, educational options must adhere to the following criteria.

1. The parent(s) must provide written approval for students under 18 years of age to participate. A copy of the written approval must be retained in the school files. Students 18 years of age or older must submit a written request to participate. This request is kept on file.
2. An instructional plan which contains written measurable objectives must be submitted to, and approved by, the Superintendent. Instructional objectives must align with the District curriculum requirements.
3. The instructional plan includes an outline specifying major instructional activities and identifying materials, resources, facilities and equipment needed to achieve instructional objectives.
4. Promotion and retention decisions for students, kindergarten through eighth grade, participating in an optional instructional plan are based on student performance relative to the objectives of the option.
5. The instructional plan includes a written plan for the evaluation of student performance.
6. In tutorial and independent study programs, a certificated/licensed teacher provides both the instruction and evaluation of students. In all other cases, a certificated/licensed teacher provides only the evaluation of student progress.
7. The written instructional plan includes a time for the evaluation of the educational option. Continuance of the option is determined by the results of evaluation.

(Approval date: June 21, 2011)

## HOME SCHOOLING

The ESC Superintendent may excuse from compulsory school attendance, for not more than one school year at a time, any school-age child who is being home schooled in accordance with the State Board of Education rules in the Ohio Administrative Code.

The child being home schooled must be instructed by an individual with one of the following qualifications:

1. a high school diploma;
2. a certificate of high school equivalence;
3. standardized test scores that demonstrate high school equivalence or
4. other credentials found appropriate by the ESC Superintendent.

Lacking the above, the home teacher must work under the direction of a person holding a baccalaureate degree.

Any request to be excused must be made in writing by the parent(s) and must contain the information required by the Ohio Administrative Code.

The ESC Superintendent approves the home schooling request unless he/she determines that the information required by the Ohio Administrative Code has not been provided or unless he/she has substantial evidence that the minimum educational requirements of the Ohio Administrative Code have not been met, despite the fact that the required information has been provided by the parent(s).

If the ESC Superintendent intends to deny the request for home schooling, he/she notifies the parent(s) within 14 calendar days and informs the parent(s) of the reasons for the intent to deny the request and of the parent(s)' right to a due process hearing before the ESC Superintendent.

Upon substantial evidence of cessation of home schooling in accordance with the Ohio Administrative Code, the ESC Superintendent notifies the parent(s) of the intent to revoke the excuse and of the parent(s)' right to a due process hearing before the ESC Superintendent.

[Adoption date: June 21, 2011]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3321.04  
OAC Chapter 3301-34

CROSS REFS.: JECBC, Admission of Students from Nonchartered or Home Schooling  
JEG, Exclusions and Exemptions from School Attendance

## COLLEGE CREDIT PLUS

State law provides for student participation in the College Credit Plus (CCP) program for the purposes of promoting rigorous academic pursuits and exposing students to options beyond the high school classroom. Therefore, eligible 7th through 12th grade students may enroll at any public college/university and any participating nonpublic college/university on a full- or part-time basis and complete eligible nonsectarian, non-remedial courses for transcribed high school and/or college credit.

The Board directs the Superintendent/designee to develop and establish the necessary administrative guidelines to ensure that the CCP program is operating in accordance with state requirements.

[Adoption date: July 18, 2016]

[Re-adoption date: November 20, 2018]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3313.5314  
Chapter 3365  
OAC 3333-1-65 through 3333-1-65-11  
3301-83-01(C)

CROSS REFS.: IGBM, Credit Flexibility  
IGCD, Educational Options (Also LEB)

***THIS IS A REQUIRED POLICY***

## COLLEGE CREDIT PLUS

### District Obligations

The District is required to notify all 6th through 11th grade students and their parents about the College Credit Plus (CCP) program through multiple, easily accessible resources by March 1 of each school year. The notice includes all information required by State law. The District promotes the CCP program on the District website, including details of current agreements with partnering colleges.

Students and/or parent(s) are required to submit written notice of intent to participate to the principal by April 1 of the year in which the student wishes to enroll and may submit written notice as early as February 15. Failure to inform the principal by the April 1 deadline of intent to participate shall result in the student having to secure written permission from the principal in order to participate in the program.

The District holds an annual informational session between October 1 and February 15 to which partnering colleges located within 30 miles of the school (or the closest college if none are located within 30 miles) are invited. The informational session includes information on benefits and consequences of participation in CCP, and outlines any changes or additions to program requirements.

The District is required to provide counseling services to students prior to their participation in the program. Counseling services include but are not limited to:

1. program eligibility;
2. any necessary financial arrangements for tuition, textbooks and fees;
3. process of granting academic credits;
4. criteria for any transportation aid;
5. available support services;
6. scheduling;
7. the effect of the grade attained in the course being included in the student's grade-point average, if applicable;
8. consequences of failing or not completing a course under the program, including the effect on the student's ability to complete District graduation requirements;



9. benefits to the student of successfully completing a course under the program, including the ability to reduce the overall cost of, and the amount of time required for, a college education;
10. academic and social responsibilities of students and parents relative to this program;
11. information about and encouraging the use of college counseling services and
12. the standard program information packet developed by the Ohio Board of Regents.

The District develops both a 15-credit hour and a 30-credit hour model course pathway for courses offered under CCP in consultation with a partnering college. Each pathway must include courses, which once completed, apply to at least one degree or professional certification offered at the college. The pathways may be organized by desired major or career path, or may include various core courses required for a degree or professional certification by the college. The pathways are published among the school's official list of course offerings for participant selection. No participant is required to enroll only in courses included in a model pathway.

The District implements a policy for awarding grades and calculating class standing for CCP courses that is equivalent to the school's policy for other advanced standing programs or District-designated honors courses. Any grade weighting or class standing enhancements applicable to advanced standing programs or District-designated honors courses are similarly applied to CCP courses.

### Student Enrollment

To participate in CCP, a student must apply to, and be accepted by, a participating college in accordance with the college's established procedures for admission. The student also must meet the college's established standards for admission and course placement, including any course specific capacity limits. The student and his/her parent also must sign a form acknowledging receipt of the required counseling and understanding of their responsibilities under the program.

The student may opt to receive college credit only or both college and high school credit. The student must designate his/her choice at the time of enrollment.

If a student completes a college course, the Board shall award him/her appropriate credit toward high school graduation if, at the time of enrollment, he/she elects to receive credit for courses toward fulfilling the graduation requirements.

High school credit awarded for courses successfully completed counts toward graduation requirements and subject area requirements.

1. The Board awards comparable credit for the course/courses completed at the college.

2. If no comparable course is offered, the Board grants an appropriate number of elective credits.
3. Any disputes between the student and the Board regarding high school credits granted for a course may be appealed by the student to the State Board of Education. The State Board's decision on these matters is final.
4. The student's records must show evidence of successful completion of each course and the high school credits awarded. The record must indicate that the credits were earned as a participant in CCP, and include the name of the college at which the credits were earned. The grades and credits for courses completed during summer term must be included on the student's high school transcript in the fall for that school year.
5. Credits earned through CCP are included in the student's grade-point average. College credits count as the equivalent District grade. If the District has a weighted grading system CCP courses are treated in the same way as other advanced standing program or honors course.

#### High School/College Enrollment

1. A student who enrolls in CCP for the first time in:
  - A. grades 7, 8 or 9 may receive credit toward high school graduation for up to the equivalent of four academic school years.
  - B. 10th grade may receive credit toward high school graduation for up to the equivalent of three academic school years.
  - C. 11th grade may receive credit toward high school graduation for up to the equivalent of two academic school years.
  - D. 12th grade may receive credit for up to the equivalent of one academic school year.
2. Proportionate reductions are made for any student who enrolls in the program during the course of a school year.
3. For the purpose of this program, an academic year begins with the summer term. The maximum number of credits that may be earned during the academic year is the total of the high school courses and college courses. The total may not exceed 30 college credit hours per academic year.
4. College courses for which three-semester hours are earned are awarded one credit toward high school graduation credit. Fractional credits are awarded proportionally.

### Summer Term Eligibility

A student who is scheduled or anticipated to graduate from high school may not participate in CCP for any term beginning after the student's scheduled or anticipated graduation date or in any course offered at a college during a summer term that begins during the student's last quarter of high school.

### Financial Responsibilities

1. If a student elects to enroll for college credit only (Option A), the student is responsible for all costs associated with the course.
2. If a student elects to enroll for the combination high school/college credit (Option B), the District is responsible for all costs associated with the course at a public college/university. Students participating in CCP under Option B at a private college may be charged tuition and/or fees unless they are economically disadvantaged.
3. If a student fails a CCP course, the student or parent(s) may be responsible for all costs associated with the course. The District may not seek reimbursement from a student who fails a course if he/she is economically disadvantaged, unless the student has been expelled.
4. Students enrolled for the combination of high school/college credit are not eligible for financial aid from the college.
5. Upon parental application and determination of need an eligible student, as defined by State law, enrolling for the combination of high school and college credit in the program may receive full or partial reimbursement for the necessary costs of transportation between the secondary school that he/she attends and the college/university in which he/she is enrolled.

### Other Considerations

1. A student enrolled in the program follows the District attendance policy, as well as the District code of conduct, for curricular and extracurricular activities. These policies and codes are applicable during the time the student is attending high school and is on school property for any class or activity.
2. If a student is expelled from the District, the Board will deny high school credit for college courses taken during the period of the student's expulsion.

The Superintendent must send written notice of a student's expulsion to the college where the student is taking courses to receive high school credit. The notice must state the date the expulsion is scheduled to expire and whether the Board has denied high school credit for postsecondary education courses taken during the expulsion. If the expulsion period is extended, the Superintendent must notify the college of the extension. The college may withdraw its acceptance of a student who has been expelled. Unless otherwise authorized by State law, the expelled student is ineligible to enroll in a college under CCP for subsequent college terms during the expulsion period.

3. The student enrolled in this program must recognize that the master schedule is not altered or adjusted in order to permit enrollment. Adjustments to individual schedules may be made by the school administration.
4. The District will not deny students the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities because of their participation of CCP. The District adheres to the Ohio High School Athletic Association for eligibility to participate in athletics. In order to be eligible, the student must have passed five courses that count toward graduation during the prior grading period. The five courses may be a combination of high school and college courses. Students also must meet any additional District eligibility requirements.

(Adoption date: July 18, 2016)

(Re-adoption date: March 21, 2017)

## COCURRICULAR AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The purpose of education is to develop the whole person of the student. For this reason an educational program must embody, as an essential element, activities that involve students beyond the classroom and foster the values which result from interaction and united effort. Such activities form a logical extension of the required and general curriculum and the elective or special curriculum.

The Board has established the criteria for cocurricular and extracurricular activities consistent with its philosophy of, and goals for, education. All student activity programs must:

1. have educational value for students;
2. be in balance with other curricular offerings in the schools and be supportive of, and never in competition with, the academic program and
3. be managed in a professional manner.

The Board may require that students pay reasonable fees to participate in cocurricular and extracurricular activities.

The following guidelines govern the student activity programs.

1. Student activities are those school-sponsored activities that are voluntarily engaged in by students, have the approval of the school administration and do not carry credit toward promotion or graduation.
2. Each school, under the direction of the principal and certified staff, has a student activity program designed to stimulate student growth and development by supplementing and enriching the curricular activities. All receipts and expenditures are accounted for through the activity account.
3. Each activity should be designed to contribute directly to the educational, civic, social and ethical development of the students involved.
4. The student activity program receives the same attention in terms of philosophy, objectives, social setting, organization and evaluation as that given the regular school curriculum.
5. Each school develops written guidelines and procedures regulating the creation, organization, administration and dissolution of student activity programs. The Superintendent reports annually to the Board the general purposes, plans and financial status of the cocurricular and extracurricular programs of the District.

6. The expenses involved in participating in any school activity and in the total program for a school year should be set so that a majority of the students may participate without financial strain. Special consideration may be given in cases in which the expense of participating would result in exclusion.
7. Activities must be open to all students, regardless of race, color, national origin, ancestry, citizenship status, religion, gender, sexual orientation, economic status, age, disability or military status.
8. Activities must not place undue burdens upon students, teachers or schools.
9. Activities should not interfere with regularly scheduled classes. This limitation often requires conducting such activities beyond the regular school day, if possible.
10. Activities at any level should be unique, not duplications of others already in operation.
11. Students participating in cocurricular and extracurricular activities are expected to demonstrate responsible behavior and good conduct. The Board encourages the development and promotion of sportsmanship in all phases of the educational process, including athletics and all other cocurricular and extracurricular activities.
12. Students suspended and expelled from school are banned from extracurricular activities. Students may also be denied participation from extracurricular activities for violations of the Student Code of Conduct or the code of conduct of the particular activity in which they participate. Students absent from school are not permitted to participate in extracurricular activities on that date unless there has been prior approval granted by the building administrator.
13. Annually, the Board directs the Superintendent/designee to identify supplemental contract positions that supervise, direct or coach a student activity program which involves athletic, routine/regular physical activity or health and safety considerations. Upon the identification of the position, the individual must complete the requirements established by the Ohio Department of Education, State law and the Ohio Administrative Code.
14. Students may be expelled for up to one year for firearm-related or knife-related incidents occurring off school property while at an interscholastic competition, extracurricular event or other school-sponsored activity.
15. Students may be removed from extracurricular activities when their presence poses a continuing danger to persons or property or an ongoing threat of disruption. If a student is removed from extracurricular activities, such removal may include all extracurricular activities in which the student is involved.

16. Resident students enrolled in community schools are permitted to participate in the District's extracurricular activities, including interscholastic athletics at the school to which the student would be assigned. Students must be of the appropriate age and grade level as determined by the Superintendent, and must fulfill the same academic, nonacademic and financial requirements as any other participant.
17. Resident students attending STEM schools are permitted to participate in the District's extracurricular activities, including interscholastic athletics, at the school to which the student would be assigned. Students must be of the appropriate age and grade level as determined by the Superintendent, and must fulfill the same academic, nonacademic and financial requirements as any other participant.
18. Resident students attending a nonpublic school are permitted to participate in the District's extracurricular activities, including interscholastic athletics, at the school to which the student would be assigned if the nonpublic school the student is enrolled in does not offer the extracurricular activity. Students must be of the appropriate age and grade level as determined by the Superintendent and must fulfill the same academic, nonacademic and financial requirements as any other participant.
19. Resident students receiving home instruction in accordance with State law are permitted to participate in the District's extracurricular activities, including interscholastic athletics, at the school to which the student would be assigned. Students must be of the appropriate age and grade level as determined by the Superintendent and must fulfill the same academic, nonacademic and financial requirements as any other participant.

[Adoption date: June 21, 2011]

[Re-adoption date: March 21, 2017]

[Re-adoption date: November 20, 2018]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3313.537; 3313.5311; 3313.5312; 3313.5314; 3313.58; 3313.59; 3313.664  
3315.062  
3319.16  
Chapter 4112  
OAC 3301-27-01  
3301-35-06

CROSS REFS.: AFI, Evaluation of Educational Resources  
DJ, Purchasing  
IGCH, College Credit Plus (Also LEC)  
IGDB, Student Publications  
IGDF, Student Fundraising Activities  
IGDG, Student Activities Funds Management  
IGDJ, Interscholastic Athletics

IGDK, Interscholastic Extracurricular Eligibility  
JECBC, Admission of Students from Nonchartered or Home Schooling  
JED, Student Absences and Excuses  
JFCJ, Weapons in the School  
JGD, Student Suspension  
JGDA, Emergency Removal of Student  
JGE, Student Expulsion  
JL, Student Gifts and Solicitations  
JN, Student Fees, Fines and Charges  
KGB, Public Conduct on District Property  
KK, Visitors to the Schools  
Student Handbooks

***THIS IS A REQUIRED POLICY***



## COCURRICULAR AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES ADMISSION AND PARTICIPATION

Cocurricular or extracurricular activities are defined as programs including athletic teams, clubs, or organizations where participation is primarily outside of the regular school day.

In order for a student to be eligible to try out for or participate in any cocurricular or extracurricular activity, the student must be enrolled in and attending schools in the District, in compliance with the law as determined by the Superintendent. In addition, for athletic participation student must meet all applicable Ohio High School Athletic Association eligibility requirements and must continue to do so during the entire time of his/her participation in the activity.

In addition, the student must be:

1. admitted to and attending school in the District under any mandatory provision of State law by the parent or guardian or
2. admitted to and attending school in the District under any of the optional provisions of State law with approval of the Board or
3. admitted to and attending school in the District by the Board as a tuition student with tuition payments current or
4. admitted in writing to the District as an open enrollment student or
5. a resident or domiciliary of a foreign nation and be admitted to the District as a foreign exchange student by the high school principal (not to exceed one percent of the high school enrollment).

The guidance department verifies each case that all required documents including medical forms, other school records, court orders, documents relating to custody and documents needed to prove residency or support are on file as a condition of admission and participation in cocurricular and extracurricular activities.

The failure of a student admitted on a tuition basis to keep tuition payments current shall result in the exclusion of the student from cocurricular and extracurricular activities as well as the withholding of grades. Parents or guardians of students who request the admission of a student on a tuition basis are responsible for the payment of tuition even though another Ohio school district may be initially responsible for tuition payment. Out-of-state students are admitted only upon payment of tuition directly by the parents.

[Adoption date: October 15, 2013]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3313.537; 3313.58; 3313.59; 3313.664  
3315.062  
3319.16  
Chapter 4112  
OAC 3301-27-01  
3301-35-06

CROSS REFS.: AFI, Evaluation of Educational Resources  
DJ, Purchasing  
IGDB, Student Publications  
IGDF, Student Fundraising Activities  
IGDG, Student Activities Funds Management  
IGDJ, Interscholastic Athletics  
IGDK, Interscholastic Extracurricular Eligibility  
JECBC, Admission of Students from Nonchartered or Home Schooling  
JED, Student Absences and Excuses  
JGD, Student Suspension  
JGDA, Emergency Removal of Student  
JGE, Student Expulsion  
JL, Student Gifts and Solicitations  
JN, Student Fees, Fines and Charges  
KGB, Public Conduct on District Property  
KK, Visitors to the Schools  
Student Handbooks

## STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

The Board encourages student publications as classroom-related learning experiences in such courses as English and as extracurricular activities. These allow for coverage of student activities and the writing and printing of original literary and artistic productions; however, certain necessary guidelines are established to regulate the publication and dissemination of student publications.

### School-Sponsored Publications

School publications afford an educational experience for students interested in this activity and should provide an opportunity for the sincere expression of all facets of student opinion. These guidelines are as follows.

1. Faculty advisors advise on matters of style, grammar, format and suitability of materials.
2. The school publication reflects the policy and judgment of the student editors. Material of a controversial nature should not be prohibited unless it:
  - A. threatens to disrupt the educational process of the school, damage other individuals or advocate conduct that otherwise is inconsistent with the shared values of a civilized social order (e.g., advocating drug or alcohol use);
  - B. threatens any person or group within the school or advocates unlawful discrimination;
  - C. advocates violation of the law or official school regulations;
  - D. is considered false or libelous, based upon available facts, and
  - E. is potentially harmful to juveniles or offensive according to community standards as to what is suitable for juveniles.
3. The final decision as to the suitability of material rests with the principal after consultation with the student editor and faculty advisor. Parties have the right of appeal to the Superintendent.

Nonschool-Sponsored Publications

Students who edit, publish and/or wish to distribute nonschool-sponsored handwritten, printed or duplicated matter among their fellow students in the schools must have approval of the building principal.

[Adoption date: June 21, 2011]

LEGAL REFS.: U.S. Const. Amend. I  
ORC 3313.66; 3313.661

CROSS REFS.: EDE, Computer/Online Services (Acceptable Use and Internet Safety)  
IIBH, District Websites  
KJ, Advertising in the Schools

## STUDENT FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

The Board believes in providing opportunities for students to participate through cocurricular activities in fundraising projects which contribute to their educational growth and which do not conflict with the instructional program. Since the Ohio Revised Code and the Auditor's office mandate careful accounting of the receipt and expenditure of such funds, all fiscal operations of student groups must be in compliance with the following guidelines. All such related activities must be:

1. conducted by a recognized student group for the purpose of contributing to educational objectives;
2. appropriate to the age or grade level;
3. activities in which schools may appropriately engage;
4. conducted under the supervision of teachers, advisors or administrators;
5. conducted in such a manner and at such times as not to encroach upon instructional time or interfere with regularly scheduled school classes and activities;
6. scheduled so as not to be unduly demanding on secretarial, teacher and principal time or work;
7. evaluated annually by teachers, advisors, administrators and students;
8. limited in number so as not to become a burden or nuisance to the community and
9. sensitive to direct competition with fundraising efforts sponsored by recognized groups and organizations within the community.

The application of the above criteria for student sales and activities is supervised by the building principal with the approval of the Superintendent. Each principal submits to the Superintendent the proposed sale or fund drive which the school plans to conduct and the purpose for which the funds are going to be used. The Superintendent then indicates his/her approval or disapproval within the limitations of the above criteria.

Online fundraising/Crowdfunding campaigns also must be conducted in accordance with related policies and procedures.

Funds derived from approved student fundraising activities are handled by the Treasurer's office in accordance with the State Auditor's requirements.

[Adoption date: June 21, 2011]

[Re-Adoption date: November 20, 2018]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3313.51; 3313.53; 3313.811  
3315.062

CROSS REFS.: IGD, Cocurricular and Extracurricular Activities  
IGDG, Student Activities Funds Management  
IGDH, Crowdfunding  
IICA, Field Trips  
JL, Student Gifts and Solicitations

***THIS IS A REQUIRED POLICY***

## STUDENT FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

While student participation in activities sponsored by various organizations – both within and outside the school setting – can be of benefit to the students involved, the increasing number of such involvements has made it necessary to develop guidelines for such involvements. To that end, the following guidelines are established.

1. Fundraising Projects by Non-School Related Organizations (national or local charitable groups).

A. Elementary Schools

The Elmwood School will not participate in fundraising activities of non-school related organizations, unless prior approval is given by the building principal and the Superintendent.

B. Middle School and High School

- 1) These schools will not participate in fundraising activities of non-related organizations on a school-wide basis.
- 2) In-school clubs, groups or classroom groups may participate in fundraising activities of non-school related groups subject to the following conditions:
  - a. Each activity must be approved in advance by the principal and the Superintendent.
  - b. Only projects or activities that provide for a minimal in-school involvement will be approved.
  - c. Such projects or activities must relate to the ongoing purpose of the group, club or classroom group.

2. Fundraising Involving Students by School Support Organizations

A. Elementary Schools

- 1) Participation by students is restricted to those activities that provide for a minimal in-school involvement.
- 2) Door-to-door sales by elementary students is discouraged.

- 3) School fundraising verification letter is required for student participation in sales.
- 4) Only projects or activities that provide for a minimal in-school involvement will be approved.
- 5) The schools may request an accounting of all funds received as the result of the participation of students or the use of school facilities.

B. Middle School and High School

- 1) Participation by students is restricted to those activities that provide for minimal in-school involvement.
- 2) Projects involving door-to-door solicitation of sales must be approved in advance by the principal and the Superintendent.
- 3) Only projects relating to a specific goal of the organization are approved. Fundraising for unspecified purposes will not be approved.
- 4) The schools may request an accounting of all funds received as the result of the participation of students or the use of school facilities.

3. Fundraising by In-School Organizations (class projects, clubs, etc.)

A. Elementary Schools

- 1) All fund raising activities must be approved in advance by the principal.
- 2) Fundraising activities involving door-to-door sales are discouraged.
- 3) Only fundraising activities that relate to a specific goal are approved. General fundraising activities are not approved.
- 4) Activities that include Sunday or holiday sales or solicitations are not approved.
- 5) All funds derived from sales of solicitations are deposited promptly in the Activity Fund Account and administered in compliance with current Activity Fund guidelines.

B. Middle School and High School

- 1) All fundraising activities must have the advance approval of the building principal.



- 2) Each building principal establishes fundraising approval procedures. These procedures regulate the type, frequency, timing and other similar factors for all fundraising activities within the student body of the building.
  - 3) Only fundraising activities that relate to a specific goal will be approved. General fundraising activities are not approved.
  - 4) Activities which include Sunday or holiday sales or solicitations are not approved.
  - 5) All funds from sales or solicitations are deposited promptly in the Activity Fund and administered in compliance with current Activity Fund guidelines.
4. Non-School Related Organizations Requiring Student Participation Using School Time (poster contests, essay contests, dismissal of students for non-school related organization activities).

A. Elementary Schools

- 1) The elementary schools will not participate in poster contests, essay contests and other similar activities sponsored by non-school related organizations unless approved in advance by the building principal. The following guidelines apply to such approvals:
  - a. The proposed activity shall have a relationship to the goals and objectives of the class or classes involved.
  - b. The proposed activity shall have only minimal in-school involvements.
  - c. Student participation is voluntary,
- 2) Students are not excused for activities of non-school related organizations that can be scheduled at some other non-school time.
- 3) Student participation in non-school related activities on school time that are impossible to schedule at any other time will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the building principal.

B. Middle School and High School

- 1) Participation in essay contests, poster contests and other similar activities is subject to the prior approval of the building principal. The following guidelines apply to such approvals:

- a. The proposed activity shall have a relationship to the goals and objectives of the class or classes involved.
  - b. The proposed activity shall have only minimal in-school involvements.
  - c. Student participation is voluntary.
- 2) Students are not excused for activities of non-school related organizations which can be scheduled at some other non-school time.
  - 3) Student participation in non-school related activities on school time that are impossible to schedule at any other time will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the building principal.
  - 4) Requests of groups wishing to make in-school presentations are considered by the principal after consultation with the Superintendent on a case-by-case basis. In general, only those activities having a direct and proximate relationship to the current educational program will be approved.
5. Non-School Related Organizations Requiring Student Participation Outside of School Time (park and recreation programs, YMCA/YWCA, SBA, etc.)

Elementary, Middle and High Schools

Announcements may be made of activities sponsored by non-school related organizations on non-school time if approved by the building principal.

Materials may be distributed as approved by the building principal after consultation with the Superintendent.

6. General Guidelines

- A. Building principals coordinate fundraising activities so as to avoid several major fundraising activities at the same time. Efforts should be made to coordinate these activities District-wide to avoid overlapping fundraising activities.
- B. Any solicitation or fundraising activity involving students or student organizations that is any form of gambling or a “game of chance” is prohibited.
- C. In general, fundraising activities which involve substantial prizes to individuals shall not be approved. Exceptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis and require the approval of the Superintendent.

- D. Any fundraising activity that involves dangerous or illegal materials, equipment or substances is prohibited.
- E. Sunday or holiday sales or solicitations are prohibited.
- F. Participation or non-participation in fundraising activities shall not be a factor in assigning academic grades.

(Approval date: June 21, 2011)

## STUDENT ACTIVITIES FUNDS MANAGEMENT

To safeguard and provide for the efficient financial operation of student activities, the funds of these activities are managed as follows.

1. The activity account advisor serves under the jurisdiction of the Treasurer. The Treasurer is authorized to receive and disburse student funds in support of the entire school activity program. The Treasurer is directly responsible for the proper accounting of student activities funds.
2. Requests for purchases from student activities funds can be made only by faculty advisors, coaches or teachers assigned to an activity. These requests must be approved in writing by the school principal or other person designated by the Superintendent. Funds must be available before such purchases may be authorized. Expenses are subject to Board approval.
3. An accounting of all student funds is made monthly and a report of all accounts is made by the Treasurer to the Superintendent and the Board. The account system complies with the regulations of the Ohio Auditor. The system separates and verifies each transaction and shows the sources from which the revenue is received, the amount collected, source and the amount expected for each purpose.

[Adoption date: June 21, 2011]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3313.51; 3313.53; 3313.811  
3315.062  
5705.41; 5705.412

CROSS REFS.: DH, Bonded Employees and Officers  
DI, Fiscal Accounting and Reporting  
DJ, Purchasing  
DJF, Purchasing Procedures  
IGD, Cocurricular and Extracurricular Activities  
IGDF, Student Fundraising Activities  
JL, Student Gifts and Solicitations

## **CROWDFUNDING**

Crowdfunding applies to the use of any type of crowdfunding using online services or website-based platforms for the financial benefit or gain of the Shawnee District - be it a certain school, department, classroom, grade level, curricular or extracurricular activity.

"Crowdfunding" refers to a operation to collect usually small amounts of money from a large number of individuals to fundraise for a specific cause or project. Using the use of personal networking, social media, and other Internet based resources, funds are solicited or raised to support a specific campaign or project.

The Shawnee Board of Education does not allow or sanction the use of crowdfunding for the District or specific school programs, activities, including co-curricular or extracurricular activities.

[Adoption date: December 19, 2017]

CROSS REF.; KH, Public Gifts to the District

## INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

Participation by students in athletic competition is a privilege subject to Board policies and regulations. While the Board takes great pride in winning, it emphasizes and requires good sportsmanship and a positive mental attitude as prerequisites to participation.

The Superintendent and administrative staff may schedule conferences with all physical education instructors, coaches and athletic directors to develop a constructive approach to physical education and athletics throughout the District and to maintain a program that is an educational activity.

Interscholastic athletic programs are subject to approval by the Board. The building principal is responsible for the administration of the interscholastic athletic program within his/her school. In discharging this responsibility, the principal consults with the athletic directors, coaches and physical education instructors on various aspects of the interscholastic athletic program. It is the responsibility of the principal and his/her staff to ensure the proper management of all athletic and physical education programs and the safety of students and the public.

The Board may require that students pay reasonable fees to participate in interscholastic athletics.

Coaches are required to complete all approved coursework as specified by the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) and the Ohio Department of Education in order to qualify to serve as coaches.

In the conduct of interscholastic athletic programs, the rules, regulations and limitations outlined by the OHSAA must be followed. It is the responsibility of the District's voting delegate/designee to OHSAA to advise the management team of all pending changes in OHSAA's regulations.

Eligibility requirements for participating in athletic programs must conform to regulations of the OHSAA. They include the requirements that a student have the written permission of his/her parent(s) and shall have been determined as physically fit for the chosen sport by a licensed physician.

As character building is one of the major objectives of interscholastic athletics, the athlete assumes responsibility for regulating his/her personal life in such ways as to make him/her a worthy representative of his/her school.

Any student may be suspended from an athletic team practice and competition for a period of time, designated by the principal, for infractions of school rules and regulations or for any other unacceptable conduct in or out of school.

Students in grades 9-12 are eligible for athletics for the first 50% of the maximum allowable regular season contests in the sports the student participated in during the 12 months immediately preceding the transfer, and are ineligible for the remainder of the regular season contests and ineligible to participate in OHSAA tournaments in these sports until the one-year anniversary date of enrollment in the school to which the student transferred. If the transfer takes place during the sport season in which a student has participated in a regular season interscholastic contest, the student is ineligible for the remainder of that sport's season and the student must finish fulfilling his/her transfer consequence, for only that sport in which the mid-season transfer occurred, at the commencement of the sport season during the next school year and is ineligible for all preseason and regular season contests until the total number of regular season contests missed (including those missed during the previous season) equals 50% of the maximum allowable regular season contests in that sport. Exceptions to the eligibility provisions are outlined in the OHSAA Bylaws.

Foreign exchange students enrolled in a recognized visitor exchange program may be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics in accordance with OHSAA Bylaws.

[Adoption date: June 21, 2011]

[Re-adoption date: November 20, 2018]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 2305.23; 2305.231  
3313.537; 3313.5310; 3313.5311; 3313.5312; 3313.5314; 3313.539;  
3313.66; 3313.661; 3313.664  
3315.062  
3319.303  
3321.04  
3707.52  
OAC Chapter 3301-27

CROSS REFS.: IGCH, College Credit Plus (Also LEC)  
IGD, Co-curricular and Extracurricular Activities  
IGDK, Interscholastic Extracurricular Eligibility  
IKF, Graduation Requirements  
JECBA, Admission of Exchange Students  
JECBC, Admission of Students from Non-Chartered or Home Schooling.  
JGD, Student Suspension  
JGE, Student Expulsion  
JN, Student Fees, Fines and Charges  
Student Handbooks

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## INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS CHECKING ACCOUNT

The Board authorizes the Treasurer to establish, at his/her discretion, a separate checking account for the limited purpose of receiving advance purchase moneys from individuals or entities for pre-purchase of tickets for admission to offsite athletic events, and for the payment of costs associated with these purchases to other school districts or other entities; and for the payment of officials and police officers for athletic events, when such officials and officers are not otherwise employed by the District.

The Athletic Director may be the signatory for this account. Should the Treasurer establish such an account, the Athletic Office is responsible to maintain accurate records of all receipts and disbursements from this account. These records are shared with the Treasurer at his/her request and as he/she deems appropriate. All transaction records or other communications from the financial institution where the checking account is established shall be delivered to the Treasurer's office only. Interest earned from this account (if any) shall be deposited in the District's general fund.

[Adoption date: June 21, 2011]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3313.20

CROSS REFS.: DGA, Authorized Signatures (Use of Facsimile Signatures)  
DGB, Checks (Insufficient Funds)  
IGDJ, Interscholastic Athletics



## INTERSCHOLASTIC EXTRACURRICULAR ELIGIBILITY

The Board recognizes the value of interscholastic extracurricular activities for students in grades 7-12 as an integral part of the total school experience. Since participation in interscholastic extracurricular activities is a privilege and not a right, students are expected to demonstrate competence in the classroom as a condition of participation.

Interscholastic extracurricular activities are defined as school-sponsored student activities involving more than one school or school district.

The Board permits students in grades 9-12 to participate in interscholastic extracurricular activities if they receive a failing grade in the previous grading period.

As a condition for the privilege of participating in interscholastic extracurricular activities, a student must have attained a minimum grade-point average of as defined in the Student Handbook.

In addition, students participating in any program regulated by the Ohio High School Athletic Association must also comply with all eligibility requirements established by the Association. In order to be eligible, a high school student must have passed a minimum of five one-credit courses or the equivalent, that count toward graduation, in the immediately preceding grading period. The five courses may be a combination of high school and college courses.

A student enrolled in the first grading period of the ninth grade after advancement from the eighth grade must have passed a minimum of five of all subjects carried the immediately preceding grading period in which the student was enrolled in the eighth grade.

A student enrolling in the seventh grade for the first time will be eligible for the first grading period regardless of the previous academic achievement. Thereafter, in order to be eligible, the student in grade seven or eight must be currently enrolled in school the immediately preceding grading period, and received passing grades during that grading period in a minimum of five of those subjects in which the student received grades.

Failure to comply with the grading period eligibility requirements results in extracurricular interscholastic ineligibility for the succeeding grading period.

If a student received home instruction in the grading period preceding participation, the student must meet any academic requirements established by the State Board of Education for the continuation of home instruction to be eligible to participate in the program.

If a student did not receive home instruction in the grading period preceding participation, the student's academic performance during the preceding grading period must have met any academic standards established by the District for eligibility to participate in the program.

Any student who commences home instruction after the beginning of the school year and at that time was considered ineligible to participate in extracurricular activities for failure to meet academic requirements or any other requirements will be ineligible to participate in the same semester the student was deemed ineligible.

[Adoption date: June 21, 2011]

[Re-adoption date: March 21, 2017]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 2305.23; 2305.231  
3313.535; 3313.537; 3313.5311; 3313.5312; 3313.66; 3313.661  
3315.062  
OAC Chapter 3301-27

CROSS REFS.: IGD, Cocurricular and Extracurricular Activities  
IGDJ, Interscholastic Athletics  
JECBA, Admission of Exchange Students  
JECBC, Admission of Students from Non-Chartered or Home Schooling  
JFC, Student Conduct (Zero Tolerance)  
Student Handbooks

***THIS IS A REQUIRED POLICY***

## AWARDING OF HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMAS TO VETERANS OF WAR

In order to recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by veterans who left high school prior to graduation to serve in the armed forces during World War II, the Korean Conflict or the Vietnam Conflict, the Board may award a high school diploma to any veteran of this state, or posthumously to a living relative of a deceased veteran of this state, who meets the requirements established by State law.

The Board may grant a diploma to a World War II, Korean Conflict or Vietnam Conflict veteran if all of the following apply.

1. The veteran left public or nonpublic high school located in any state prior to graduation in order to serve in the armed forces of the United States.
2. The veteran received an honorable discharge from the armed forces of the United States.
3. The veteran has not been granted a diploma, honors diploma, a diploma of adult education or a diploma from another school.

The veteran is not required to take the high school equivalency tests approved by the Ohio Department of Education or any graduation test in order to qualify for a diploma.

The Governor's Office of Veterans' Affairs has developed and adopted an application form for use by all county veterans service offices. Upon verification that all requirements have been met, the application is forwarded to the Board and the diploma may be awarded.

The Board may grant a high school diploma to any woman who left high school in any state during World War II, the Korean Conflict or the Vietnam Conflict if the woman either:

1. left school to join the workforce to support her family or to join the war effort or
2. left school due to family circumstances and subsequently joined the workforce or war effort.

The woman must either be a current resident of the state of Ohio or have been previously enrolled in an Ohio high school.

Veterans' diplomas are presented in conjunction with appropriate events, programs or other occasions, as determined by the Superintendent.

[Adoption date: September 20, 2016]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3313.61; 3313.611; 3313.612; 3313.614; 3313.616  
5902.02

## INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

As the governing body of the District, the Board is legally responsible for the selection of instructional materials. Since the Board is a policy-making body, it delegates to the administrative and teaching staff of the District authority to recommend instructional and supplemental materials.

Materials for school classrooms are recommended by the appropriate professional staff in consultation with the Superintendent and other sources as needed. Final decision relative to purchase rests with the Superintendent, subject to official adoption by the Board in the case of textbooks.

The Board believes that it is the responsibility of the District to provide:

1. materials which enrich and support the curriculum, taking into consideration the varied interests, abilities and maturity levels of the students served;
2. materials which stimulate growth in factual knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic values and ethical standards;
3. a background of information which enables students to make intelligent judgments in their daily lives;
4. diverse viewpoints so that young citizens may develop, under guidance, the practice of analytical reading and thinking and
5. materials representative of the many religions and ethnic and cultural groups, showing their contributions to our American heritage.

The above principles serve as guides in the selection of all instructional materials including, but not limited to, textbooks, supplementary books, library books, computer software, Internet access sites, films and video and audio recordings.

In addition, parents have the right to inspect any instructional materials used as part of the educational curriculum for their student. Instructional materials means instructional content, regardless of format, that is provided to the student, including printed or representational materials, audio-visual materials and materials available in electronic or digital formats (such as materials accessible through the Internet). Instructional material does not include academic tests or academic assessments.

[Adoption date: June 21, 2011]

LEGAL REFS.: Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; 20 USC Section 1232h  
ORC 3313.642  
3329.06; 3329.07; 3329.08  
OAC 3301-35-04; 3301-35-06

CROSS REFS.: EDE, Computer/Online Services (Acceptable Use and Internet Safety)  
EGAAA, Copyright  
IIAA, Textbook Selection and Adoption  
IIAC, Media Center Materials Selection and Adoption  
INB, Teaching About Controversial Issues  
KLB, Public Complaints About the Curriculum or Instructional Materials

## TEXTBOOK SELECTION AND ADOPTION

In selecting textbooks for use in the District, the Board carefully considers the rights, freedoms and responsibilities of students, parents and teachers. Efforts are made to:

1. preserve each student's right to learn in an atmosphere of academic freedom;
2. support each teacher's responsibility to exercise professional judgments in his/her work and at the same time supply teachers with an awareness of their responsibility to meet the District's educational goals and objectives and
3. recognize the right of parents to influence the education of their children. (The Board does not, however, allow the wishes of an individual parent to infringe upon the rights of other students in any class.)

The Superintendent establishes textbook and/or curriculum committees, which include representation of teachers who use the texts, administrators and other staff members.

The final decision on the recommendation of textbooks rests with the Superintendent, subject to official adoption by the Board.

[Adoption date: June 21, 2011]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3313.642  
3315.17; 3315.171  
3329.01; 3329.06; 3329.07; 3329.08  
OAC 3301-35-04; 3301-35-06

CROSS REFS.: IIA, Instructional Materials  
KLB, Public Complaints About the Curriculum or Instructional Materials

## MEDIA CENTER MATERIALS SELECTION AND ADOPTION

The Board believes the responsibility of the school media center is to:

1. provide materials which enrich and support the curriculum, taking into consideration the varied interests, abilities and maturity levels of the students served;
2. provide materials which stimulate growth in factual knowledge, literary appreciation, aesthetic values and ethical standards;
3. provide a background of information which enables students to make intelligent judgments in their daily lives;
4. provide materials on opposing sides of controversial issues so that young citizens may develop, under guidance, the practice of critical reading and thinking;
5. provide materials representative of the many religious, ethnic and cultural groups and their contributions to our American heritage and
6. place principle above personal opinion and reason above prejudice in the selection of materials of the highest quality in order to ensure a comprehensive collection appropriate for the users of the media center.

Initial purchase suggestions for media center materials may come from personnel. Students may also be encouraged to make suggestions. The principal/designee is responsible for evaluating and recommending all materials to be included in the school media center. Authority for distribution of funds rests with the building principal, subject to the approval of the Superintendent.

Gifts of books are accepted in keeping with the above policy on selection as well as the Board's policy on accepting gifts. Complaints about books are handled in compliance with Board policy on complaints about the curriculum or instructional materials.

[Adoption date: June 21, 2011]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3329.05; 3329.07  
OAC 3301-35-04; 3301-35-06

CROSS REFS.: IIA, Instructional Materials  
INB, Teaching About Controversial Issues  
KH, Public Gifts to the District  
KLB, Public Complaints About the Curriculum or Instructional Materials

## DISTRICT WEBSITES

District websites and school Web pages provide opportunities to engage students, impact student learning and interact with the community. District websites:

1. give the Board opportunities to communicate its mission, goals, policies and plans with the community;
2. allow individual schools to provide current and complete information to its community at large;
3. give the community a means to communicate effectively with the Board and staff;
4. create expanded means for student expression;
5. provide avenues for teachers to help students meet high standards of performance and
6. provide opportunities for staff to communicate with students.

The technology coordinator is responsible for maintaining the District's websites in accordance with the directives provided by the Superintendent. The principal/designee of each school shall ensure that the school's Web page is maintained in such a way that the community receives current and accurate information.

The District may elect to have its websites serve additional purposes related to its educational mission. These include, but are not limited to:

1. publishing a student newspaper;
2. posting teacher—created class information or
3. publishing appropriate student class work.

When a school allows student publications on its Web page, the purpose of including such publications shall be clearly identified in that section of the page. These publications shall be consistent with the District's mission, goals, policies, programs and activities. All publications shall meet established District requirements related to student print publications and be in accordance with State and Federal law related to student expression.



Accessibility of Website

The District is committed to ensuring the accessibility of its website for students, parents, and members of the community, including individuals with disabilities, except where doing so would impose an undue burden or create a fundamental alteration.

Advertising or Sponsorships

Any use of advertising or sponsorships that appear on the District's website must be approved by the Superintendent/designee. Use must be consistent with District policies and guidelines for other District publications.

The Board directs the Superintendent to develop regulations to implement all the provisions of this policy. These regulations shall address staff and student privacy and content standards for website publications.

[Adoption date: December 20, 2016]

LEGAL REFS.: Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; 20 USC 1232g et seq.  
Children's Internet Protection Act; 47 USC 254(h)(5)(b)(iii); (P.L. 106-554,  
HR 4577, 2000, 114 Stat 2763)  
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; 20 USC 1400 et seq.  
Rehabilitation Act of 1973; 29 USC 794  
Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008; 42 USC 12101  
et seq.  
ORC 149.43  
3313.20  
OAC 3301-35-04; 3301-35-06

CROSS REFS.: AC, Nondiscrimination  
ACB, Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability  
EDE, Computer/Online Services (Acceptable Use and Internet Safety)  
IGDB, Student Publications  
JO, Student Records  
KBA, Public's Right to Know  
KJ, Advertising in the Schools

## COMMUNITY INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES

Helping each student develop to his/her full potential and to become a citizen contributing to the welfare of the community are important objectives of the District's educational program. The Board encourages administrative and instructional personnel to rely on the community as one of its educational resources. The administration directs community instructional resources designed to involve the citizens, institutions and environment of our community in the education of its children.

The Superintendent has supervisory control over community relations, which includes school volunteer service. Members of the staff and of the community are encouraged to offer their ideas and services through the channels that the administration develops.

The Superintendent reports to the Board on the involvement and effectiveness of community relations.

[Adoption date: June 21, 2011]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3315.07  
OAC 3301-35-02; 3301-35-04; 3301-35-06

CROSS REFS.: GBQ, Criminal Records Check  
IICC, School Volunteers

## FIELD TRIPS

The Board recognizes that there is a vast quantity and variety of learning resources outside school walls and is aware of the potential our community has for improving the quality and depth of educational experiences. Whatever students can experience firsthand is often more meaningful to them than that which is only discussed or read about.

Field trips – properly planned, supervised and integrated into the instructional program – are not to be considered “outings” or days off from school, but rather extensions of the curriculum.

All field trips sponsored by the schools are educational in nature and are directly related to the subject matter and the course objectives of instruction at the particular grade level. Field trips are lessons and are to be planned as such, with objectives determined in advance. Appropriate instruction should precede and follow each field trip. All field trips must be approved by the Board or its designee.

To the extent feasible, community resource persons and organizations are involved in planning and conducting field trips so that students derive the greatest educational benefit from the trip.

### Nonschool-Sponsored Field Trips

Nonschool-sponsored field trips organized by employees acting as independent contractors/agents involving students on a volunteer, self-supporting basis are not approved by the Board and are not considered a part of the curriculum. Responsibility for privately planned field trips or tours rests with the individuals and agency sponsoring them. The Board assumes no legal or financial responsibilities for nonschool-sponsored field trips.

If recruitment of students for a field trip is sought through the schools, the recruitment request shall be made with approval of the Superintendent. Recruitment efforts shall not occur during class time or the employee’s workday.

### Travel Vendor Compensation

Any compensation paid by a private travel vendor to a District official or employee, after the official or employee has participated in selecting the vendor to provide a field trip, is considered “public money” and must be returned to the District.

All travel arrangements must be in compliance with District field trip regulations and approved by the Superintendent or his/her designee.

[Adoption date: June 21, 2011]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3327.15  
OAC 3301-35-01; 3301-35-06

CROSS REFS.: EEAD, Special Use of School Buses  
IF, Curriculum Development  
IGDF, Student Fundraising Activities  
JL, Student Gifts and Solicitations  
JN, Student Fees, Fines and Charges

## FIELD TRIPS

### Eligible Participants

In most cases, an entire class takes part in a field trip. From time to time, however, trips may be planned for a smaller group (when, for example, the place to be visited can accommodate only a small group or when the trip is appropriate for only a few students working together on a project). The Board also wishes to make it possible for an individual student to experience a field trip if such a trip would provide instructional benefits.

In all cases, when only part of a class goes on a field trip, the administration ensures that satisfactory arrangements are made for the instruction of those staying in school and adequate transportation and supervision are provided for those who are going on the trip.

### Distance and Duration

1. Regular field trips are those which take place within the community or to places near enough so that they can be accomplished during one school day.
2. Extended field trips are:
  - A. of several days' duration when school is not in session (e.g., a trip to Washington, D.C.; language class trips to Canada and Mexico) or
  - B. within the state and involving more than one day's time while school is in session.

Permission for extended field trips must be secured from the Superintendent, subject to approval by the Board.

Field trips out of the state while school is in session are not normally approved. The Board considers special requests for such trips when they are necessary to a curricular or cocurricular purpose, well-planned, adequately chaperoned and satisfactorily financed.

### Parental Permission

Written permission from parent(s) must be obtained prior to any student's participation in a school-sponsored field trip.

Expenses

Field trips which are part of the instructional program and do not involve overnight stays may be paid for by the District.

Field trips which are part of the school's extracurricular activities (such as sports spectator trips, band trips, etc.) and/or trips which involve overnight stays usually involve some expense to the participating student. The administration is careful that such trips do not proliferate to the point at which the expense becomes a burden for the parents.

Fund drives are allowed under the Board's policies governing student gifts and solicitations and student fundraising activities. In no case may a student be prevented from participating in a field trip solely because of inability to pay.

Regulations Governing Field Trips

It is the responsibility of the Superintendent to set Districtwide regulations for field trips and each building principal to set rules for his/her school which comply with Board policy and District regulations.

(Approval date: June 21, 2011)

## SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

The Board believes one of the greatest resources available may be found in the citizens of the community who have special knowledge and talents to contribute to the District. The use of citizens as volunteers within the school program enhances the educational process not only for students, but for the community as well. Volunteers may provide additional support in the classroom, promote community-school cooperation in facilitating the learning process and provide resource persons who have expertise in various areas.

Recruitment and selection of volunteers is done at the local building level. Interested individuals should contact the building principal or his/her designee. The interests and abilities of the volunteers are considered when making assignments.

The District notifies current and prospective volunteers who have or will have unsupervised access to students on a regular basis that a criminal records check may be conducted at any time.

[Adoption date: June 21, 2011]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 2305.23; 2305.231  
Chapter 2744  
3319.39  
OAC 3301-9-01

CROSS REFS.: GBQ, Criminal Records Check  
GDBB, Classified Staff Pupil Activity Contracts  
IIC, Community Instructional Resources (Also KF)

## CAREER ADVISING

The Board views career advising as helping students understand themselves relative to their abilities, aptitudes, interests, attitudes, strengths and limitations. This process is meant to assist students in the development of their potential and their decisions relating to educational and career matters.

This policy is reviewed biennially and made available to students, parents, guardians/custodians, local postsecondary institutions and residents of the District. This policy is posted in a prominent location on the District website.

The District will do all of the following.

1. Provide students with grade-level examples linking schoolwork to one or more career field(s) through use of the State Board adopted career connections.
2. Create a plan to provide career advising to students in grades six through 12.
3. Provide additional interventions and career advising for students who are identified as at risk of dropping out of school using both research- and locally-based methods developed with input from classroom teachers and guidance counselors.
4. Train employees on advising students on career pathways, including the use of online tools.
5. Develop multiple, clear academic pathways students can use to earn a high school diploma.
6. Identify and publicize courses in which students can earn both traditional academic and career-technical credit.
7. Document career advising provided to each student.
8. Prepare students for their transition from high school to their postsecondary destinations.

Student success plans (SSP) are developed for students identified as at risk of dropping out of school. A SSP identifies the student's chosen academic pathway to graduation and the role of career-technical and competency based education and experiential learning, as appropriate in that chosen pathway. The student's parents, guardians or custodians are invited to assist in the development of the SSP. A copy of the SSP, a statement regarding the importance of a high school diploma and the academic pathways available to the student for successful graduation is provided to parents, guardians or custodians who do not participate in development of the student's SSP. Following SSP development, the District provides career advising aligned with the student's individual plan and the District's plan for career advising.



Adoption Date: [September 26, 2017]

LEGAL REF.: ORC 3313.6020

CROSS REFS.: AFI, Evaluation of Educational Resources  
IJ, Guidance Program  
IL, Testing Programs  
JK, Employment of Students

***THIS IS A REQUIRED POLICY***

## ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

The philosophies of the Board concerning academic achievement and students' social growth and development are based on the premise that students have diverse capabilities and individual patterns of growth and learning.

The Board believes that it is important that teachers have extensive and accurate knowledge of each student in order to assess his/her needs and his/her growth and to be competent to make appropriate instructional plans for the student. Sharing of information among parent(s), teacher and student is essential.

The Board supports staff efforts to find better ways to measure and report student progress and requires the following elements.

1. Parents are informed regularly, at least four times a year, about the progress their children are making in school.
2. Parents are alerted and conferred with as soon as practicable when a child's performance or attitude becomes unsatisfactory or shows marked or sudden deterioration.
3. Insofar as possible, distinctions are made between a student's attitude and his/her academic performance.
4. At comparable levels, the District seeks consistency in grading and reporting except when such procedure is inappropriate for certain classes or certain students.
5. When no grades are given and the student is evaluated in terms of his/her own progress, the school staff provides a realistic appraisal of the student's achievement in relation to his/her peers when requested by parents to do so.
6. When grades are given, the school's staff takes particular care to explain the meaning of marks and symbols to parents.

[Adoption date: June 21, 2011]

LEGAL REFS.: OAC 3301-35-02; 3301-35-03; 3301-35-04; 3301-35-06

CROSS REFS.: AFI, Evaluation of Educational Resources  
IKA, Grading Systems  
IKAB, Student Progress Reports to Parents

## GRADING SYSTEMS

The Board believes students respond more positively to the opportunity for success than to the threat of failure. Therefore, the District seeks in its instructional program to make achievement both recognizable and possible for students. It emphasizes achievement in its processes of evaluating student performance.

The administration and certified staff devise grading systems for evaluating and recording student progress. The records and reports of individual students are kept in a form that is understandable to parents as well as teachers.

The Board approves the grading and reporting systems as developed by the faculty, upon recommendation of the Superintendent.

The Board recognizes that any grading system, however effective, has subjective elements. There are fundamental principles that must guide all instructors in the assignment of marks and achievement.

1. The achievement mark in any subject should represent the most objective measurement by the teacher of the achievement of the individual. A variety of evaluation measures are used and accurate records shall be kept to substantiate the grade given.
2. An individual should not receive a failing grade unless he/she has not met stated minimum requirements.
3. Grades are a factor used to motivate students. Poor or failing grades should trigger a variety of instructional and intervention activities to assist the student in achieving better grades by the next grading period, if possible.

[Adoption date: June 21, 2011]

LEGAL REFS.: OAC 3301-35-04; 3301-35-06

CROSS REFS.: IK, Academic Achievement  
IKAB, Student Progress Reports to Parents

## STUDENT PROGRESS REPORTS TO PARENTS

The Board believes that it is essential for parents to be kept fully informed of their children's progress in school. The type of progress reports sent to parents are devised by the certified staff in cooperation with parents.

Written reports are provided to parents of children in grades kindergarten through 12 four times per year. Grade cards are sent to parents at the completion of each grading period. Interim reports are also required for students in danger of failing. Direct notification of parents by telephone is encouraged. Conferences with parents are used as an integral part of the reporting system.

[Adoption date: June 21, 2011]

LEGAL REF.: OAC 3301-35-06

CROSS REF.: IK, Academic Achievement

## HOMEWORK

As long as it is properly designed, carefully planned and geared to the development of the individual student, homework meets a real need and has a definite place in the educational program. It is not used for disciplinary purposes. The extent and type of homework given is decided by the classroom teacher within the framework of specific instructional plans.

Homework is assigned to help the student become more self-reliant, learn to work independently, improve the skills which have been developed and complete certain projects such as the reading of worthwhile books and the preparation of research papers. Home study assignments also afford a way for parents to acquaint themselves with the school program and their own children's educational progress.

[Adoption date: June 21, 2011]

LEGAL REFS.: OAC 3301-35-04; 3301-35-06

## PROMOTION AND RETENTION OF STUDENTS

The promotion of each student is determined individually. The decision to promote or retain a student is made on the basis of the following factors. The teacher takes into consideration: reading skill, mental ability, age, physical maturity, emotional and social development, social issues, home conditions and grade average.

Promotion procedures demand continuous analysis and study of the cumulative student case history records. Administrative guidelines must be developed and reviewed and may include the following elements.

1. A student receiving passing grades in the core courses is promoted.
2. A student having failing grades in the core courses at the end of each year is evaluated by the teachers, guidance counselor and principal for placement.
3. No conditional promotions are permitted.
4. A student having failing grades may be assigned to the next higher grade with discretion only with approval of the principal.
5. No student having passing grades, “D” or above, throughout the year is failed.
6. No student should be retained more than twice in the elementary grades, kindergarten through eighth grade.
7. Documentary and anecdotal evidence should be available to justify retention.

Any student who is truant for more than 10% of the required attendance days of the current school year and has failed two or more of the required curriculum subject areas in the current grade is retained unless the student’s principal and the teachers of the failed subject areas agree that the student is academically prepared to be promoted to the next grade level.

“Academically prepared,” means that the principal, in consultation with the student’s teacher(s), has reviewed the student’s work and records and has concluded that, in his/her judgment as a professional educator, the student is capable of progressing through and successfully completing work at the next grade level.

Third grade students who receive a limited proficient score on the third grade reading achievement test are provided one of three options:

1. promotion to the fourth grade if the principal and reading teacher agree that other evaluations of the student's skill in reading demonstrate that the student is academically prepared for the fourth grade;
2. promotion to the fourth grade and provide "intensive intervention" services or
3. retention in the third grade.

Intervention services are offered to students who are not making satisfactory progress toward the attainment of the statewide academic standards for their grade level.

Any student who has been retained because of results on the third grade English language assessment and who demonstrates during the academic year that he/she now is reading at or above grade level is promoted to the fourth grade pursuant to the district-level mid-year promotion policy.

[Adoption date: September 25, 2012]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3301.07; 3301.0710; 3301.0711; 3301.0712; 3301.0715;  
3313.608; 3313.609; 3313.6010; 3313.6012, 3314.03  
OAC 3301-35-04; 3301-35-06

CROSS REFS.: AFI, Evaluation of Educational Resources  
IGBE, Remedial Instruction (Intervention Services)  
IGBEA, Reading Skills Assessments and Interventions (Third Grade Reading  
Guarantee)  
IGCD, Educational Options (Also LEB)

## ACCELERATION

### Academic Acceleration, Early Entrance to Kindergarten, and Early High School Graduation

In accordance with the belief that all children are entitled to an education commensurate with their particular needs, students who can exceed the grade-level indicators and benchmarks set forth in the standards must be afforded the opportunity and be encouraged to do so.

The Board believes that such students often require access to advanced curriculum in order to realize their potential contribution to themselves and society.

All children learn and experience success given time and opportunity, but the degree to which academic content standards are met and the time it takes to reach the standards vary from student to student. The Board believes that all students, including advanced learners, should be challenged and supported to reach their full potential. For many advanced learners, this can best be achieved by affording them access to curriculum, learning environments and instructional interventions more commonly provided to older peers.

This policy describes the process that is used for evaluating students for possible accelerated placement and identifying students who should be granted early admission to kindergarten, accelerated in one or more individual subject areas, promoted to a higher grade level than their same-age peers and granted early graduation from high school.

### Referrals and Evaluation

1. Any student residing in the District may be referred by a teacher, administrator, gifted education specialist, guidance counselor, school psychologist or a parent or legal guardian of the student to the principal of his/her school for evaluation for possible accelerated placement. A student may refer himself/herself or a peer through a District staff member who has knowledge of the referred child's abilities.
2. Copies of this policy and referral forms for evaluation for possible early entrance, whole-grade acceleration, individual subject acceleration and early high school graduation are made available to District staff and parents at each school building. The principal of each school building or his/her designee solicits referrals of students for evaluation for possible accelerated placement annually, and ensures that all staff he/she supervises are aware of procedures for referring students for evaluation for possible accelerated placement.



3. The principal or his/her designee of the referred student's school obtains written permission from the student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) to evaluate the student for possible accelerated placement. The District evaluates all students who are referred for evaluation and whose parent(s) or legal guardian(s) have granted permission to evaluate the student for possible accelerated placement.
4. Children who are referred for evaluation for possible accelerated placement 60 or more days prior to the start of the school year are evaluated in advance of the start of the school year so that the child may be placed in the accelerated placement on the first day of school. Children who are referred for possible accelerated placement 60 or more days prior to the start of the second semester are evaluated for possible accelerated placement at the start of the second semester. In all other cases, evaluations of a referred child are scheduled at the student's principal's discretion and placed in the accelerated setting(s) at the time recommended by the acceleration evaluation committee – if the committee determines the child should be accelerated. Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 3321.01, all children who will be the proper age for entrance to kindergarten or first grade by the first day of January of the school year for which admission is requested are evaluated upon the request of the child's parent or legal guardian. Children who will not yet be the proper age for entrance to kindergarten or first grade by the first day of January of the school year for which admission is requested are evaluated for possible early admittance, if referred by an educator within the District, a preschool educator who knows the child or pediatrician or psychologist who knows the child. Children who will not yet be the proper age for entrance to kindergarten or first grade by the first day of January of the school year for which admission is requested may also be evaluated for possible early admittance at the discretion of the principal of the school to which the student may be admitted.
5. A parent or legal guardian of the evaluated student is notified, in writing, of the outcome of the evaluation process within 45 days of the submission of the referral to the student's principal. This notification includes instructions for appealing the outcome of the evaluation process.
6. A parent or legal guardian of the referred student may appeal in writing the decision of the evaluation committee to the Superintendent within 30 days of being notified of the committee's decision. The Superintendent reviews the appeal and notifies the parent or legal guardian who filed the appeal of his/her final decision within 30 days of receiving the appeal. The Superintendent's decision is final. However, the student may be referred and evaluated again at the next available opportunity if he/she is again referred for evaluation by an individual eligible to make referrals as described in this policy.

Acceleration Evaluation Committee

1. Composition

The referred student's principal or his/her designee convenes an evaluation committee to determine the most appropriate available learning environment for the referred student. This committee is comprised of the following:

- A. a principal or assistant principal from the child's current school;
- B. a current teacher of the referred student (with the exception of students referred for possible early admission to kindergarten);
- C. a teacher at the grade level to which the student may be accelerated (with the exception of students referred for possible early graduation from high school);
- D. a parent or legal guardian of the referred student or a representative designated by a parent or legal guardian of the referred student and
- E. a gifted education coordinator or gifted intervention specialist. If a gifted coordinator or gifted intervention specialist is not available in the District, a school psychologist or guidance counselor with expertise in the appropriate use of academic acceleration may be substituted.

2. The acceleration evaluation committee is charged with the following responsibilities:

- A. The acceleration evaluation committee conducts a fair and thorough evaluation of the student.
  - 1) Students considered for whole-grade acceleration and early entrance to kindergarten are evaluated using an acceleration assessment process approved by the Ohio Department of Education. The committee considers the student's own thoughts on possible accelerated placement in its deliberations.
  - 2) Students considered for individual subject acceleration are evaluated using a variety of data sources, including measures of achievement based on state academic content standards (in subjects for which the state had approved content standards) and consideration of the student's maturity and desire for accelerated placement. The committee considers the student's own thoughts on possible accelerated placement in its deliberations.

- 3) Students referred for possible early high school graduation are evaluated based on past academic performance, measures of achievement based on state academic content standards and successful completion of state-mandated graduation requirements. The committee considers the student's own thoughts on possible accelerated placement in its deliberations.
- B. The acceleration evaluation committee issues a written decision to the principal and the student's parent or legal guardian, based on the outcome of the evaluation process. If a consensus recommendation cannot be reached by the committee, a decision regarding whether or not to accelerate the student is determined by a majority vote of the committee membership.
  - C. The acceleration evaluation committee develops a written acceleration plan for students who are admitted early to kindergarten, whole-grade accelerated or accelerated in one or more individual subject areas. The parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of the student are provided with a copy of the written acceleration plan. The written acceleration plan specifies:
    - 1) placement of the student in an accelerated setting;
    - 2) strategies to support a successful transition to the accelerated setting;
    - 3) requirements and procedures for earning high school credit prior to entering high school (if applicable) and
    - 4) an appropriate transition period for accelerated placement for early entrants to kindergarten, grade-level accelerated students and students accelerated in individual content areas.
  - D. For students the acceleration evaluation committee recommends for early high school graduation, the committee develops a written acceleration plan designed to allow the student to complete graduation requirements on an accelerated basis. This may include the provision of educational options in accordance with Ohio Administrative Code 3301-35-06(G), waiving District prerequisite requirements for enrolling in advanced courses, waiving District graduation requirements that exceed those required by the state and early promotion to sophomore (or higher) status to allow the student to take the Ohio Graduation Test.
  - E. The acceleration evaluation committee designates a school staff member to ensure successful implementation of the written acceleration plan and to monitor the adjustment of the student to the acceleration setting.

Accelerated Placement

1. The acceleration evaluation committee specifies an appropriate transition period for accelerated placement for early entrants to kindergarten, grade-level accelerated students and students accelerated in individual subject areas.
  - A. At any time during the transition period, a parent or legal guardian of the student may request, in writing, that the student be withdrawn from accelerated placement. In such cases, the principal removes the student without repercussions from the accelerated placement.
  - B. At any time during the transition period, a parent or legal guardian of the student may request, in writing, an alternative accelerated placement. In such cases, the principal directs the acceleration committee to consider other accelerative options and issue a decision within 30 days of receiving the request from the parent or legal guardian. If the student is placed in an accelerated setting different from that initially recommended by the acceleration evaluation committee, the student's written acceleration plan is revised accordingly, and a new transition period is specified.
2. At the end of the transition period, the accelerated placement becomes permanent. The student's records are modified accordingly and the acceleration implementation plan becomes part of the student's permanent record to facilitate continuous progress through the curriculum.

[Adoption date: June 21, 2011]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3321.01  
3324.01 et seq.  
OAC 3301-51-15

CROSS REFS.: IGBB, Programs for Gifted and Talented Students  
JB, Equal Educational Opportunities  
JEB, Entrance Age (Mandatory Kindergarten)  
Student Handbooks

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The Board desires that its standards for graduation meet or exceed the minimum standards of the Ohio Department of Education as well as State law and, further, that our high schools compare favorably with other high schools in the state that are recognized for excellence.

The requirements for graduation from high school are outlined in the Student Handbooks.

[Adoption date: February 21, 2017]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3301.07(D)(3)  
3313.60; 3313.6014; 3313.603; 3313.605; 3313.61  
3345.06  
OAC 3301-35-04  
3301-16-05

CROSS REFS.: IGBM, Credit Flexibility  
IGCD, Educational Options (Also LEB)  
IGCH, Postsecondary Enrollment Options (Also LEC)  
JN, Student Fees, Fines and Charges

## GRADUATION EXERCISES

Any student having successfully completed all requirements for graduation is eligible to participate in the graduation exercises conducted by Shawnee High School. Students participating in the ceremony must meet all graduation requirements, as outlined in Student Handbooks.

[Adoption date: June 21, 2011]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC.: 3313.20; 3313.66; 3313.661

CROSS REFS.: IKF, Graduation Requirements  
Student Handbooks

## TESTING PROGRAMS

The Board believes that a program of group testing can provide a meaningful source of information about the adopted curriculum and overall student achievement. Therefore, the Board authorizes a program of group testing in order to:

1. evaluate strengths and weaknesses of current curriculum and instruction and to identify areas needing change;
2. compare achievement of District students with achievement of a sample population as one means of evaluating student growth;
3. provide a degree of diagnostic instructional information to teachers about the group(s) of students with whom they work;
4. provide general information about a student's probable aptitude for school-related tasks and
5. provide one basis for a longitudinal study of student achievement and proficiency.

Information gained through the use of group tests is used to design educational opportunities for students to better meet their individual and collective needs. The Board views such information gathering as a primary function of the public schools. Individual permission of parents is not required for the administration of these group tests.

The Board recognizes that all tests provide only a limited source of information about an individual student. Information drawn from group tests is therefore used only in conjunction with all other information available about a student in advising the student or assisting the student in improving his/her work.

Each student with a disability is considered individually as to his/her participation in the testing programs.

Records of the results of group tests are maintained in accordance with the Board's policy on student records.

The administration has developed guidelines for the secure storing of testing instruments.

[Adoption date: June 21, 2011]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3301.0710 through 0713; 3301.0715; 3301.0717  
3319.32; 3319.321  
OAC 3301-35-02; 3301-35-03; 3301-35-04; 3301-35-05

CROSS REFS.: AFE, Evaluation of Instructional Programs (Also IM)  
IGBA, Programs for Students with Disabilities  
JO, Student Records



## TESTING PROGRAMS

In accordance with State law, the District's plan for testing security must:

1. be in writing;
2. identify, by name and title, every person authorized to be present in the assessment room or to have access to secure assessment materials;
3. specify the procedure for handling, tracking and maintaining the security of assessment materials from the time they are received by the District or school to the time they are taken to the District's central collection location and shipped to a third-party scoring contractor;
4. specify the procedure for handling, tracking and maintaining secure testing materials on site before, during and after assessment administration, including the accounting for and storing of all assessment materials;
5. specify the procedure for handling, tracking and maintaining secure testing materials after administration of the final assessment and final make-up assessment;
6. specify the appropriate procedure for investigating any alleged security violations or unethical practices, including, but not limited to, cheating by a student or any person assisting a student in cheating;
7. specify the procedure for determining whether to invalidate a student's assessment score;
8. specify that within 10 days after an investigation determining that an assessment security violation has occurred, the District will notify the director of the assessment or his/her designee in the Ohio Department of Education of such finding and
9. specify how each procedure established in accordance with the Ohio Administrative Code shall be communicated in writing and discussed every school year with all employees, students and any other persons authorized to be present during assessments or having access to secure assessment materials.

(Approval date:)

## EVALUATION OF INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS

The Board believes that accountability for student performance and progress is a shared responsibility of teachers, administrators, parents and the Board. Individual student progress and the instructional efforts of the District are evaluated systematically. It is the responsibility of the Superintendent and the instructional staff to report periodically to the Board on the progress the District is making towards the attainment of its instructional goals.

The Board directs the Superintendent to develop and implement a systematic plan for the continuous evaluation of the instructional program against the goals established by the Board. The Superintendent/designee employs such tests and methods as may be deemed appropriate in the Superintendent's/designee's sound professional judgment. The assessment program follows the evaluation procedures set forth in the courses of study and curriculum guides.

The purposes of the evaluation process are to:

1. monitor the progress of individual students;
2. identify strengths and weaknesses of existing instructional programs;
3. provide data for decision making regarding additions to, modification of or deletions from the existing instructional programs;
4. report to the public the relationship between the stated instructional goals of the District and student achievement and
5. all other relevant data which the Superintendent deems necessary.

The Superintendent is instructed to remain informed relative to current research and successful practices and to employ the best and most reliable methods and measures in the evaluative process. The results of the testing programs are used as a part of the evaluation.

[Adoption date: June 21, 2011]

LEGAL REFS.: OAC 3301-35-03; 3301-35-04; 3301-35-06; 3301-35-07

CROSS REFS.: AF, Commitment to Accomplishment  
IA, Instructional Goals  
IAA, Instructional Objectives  
IL, Testing Programs

## TEACHING ABOUT CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES

In the study of controversial issues, students have four rights which recognize the right to:

1. study any controversial issue which has political, economic or social significance and concern;
2. have free access to all appropriate information, including materials which circulate freely in the community;
3. study under competent instruction in an atmosphere free from bias and prejudice and
4. form and express their own opinions on controversial issues without jeopardizing relations with teachers or the school.

The study of controversial issues should be objective and scholarly with minimum emphasis on opinion. The teacher must approach controversial issues in the classroom in an impartial and objective manner and must refrain from using classroom privileges and prestige to promote a partisan point of view.

Teachers determine the appropriateness of certain issues for consideration using the following criteria.

1. Treatment of the issue in question must be within the range, knowledge, maturity and competence of the students.
2. There should be study materials and other learning aids available from which a reasonable extent of data pertaining to all aspects of the issue can be obtained.
3. The issue should receive only as much time as is needed to consider it adequately.
4. The issue should be current, significant and relevant to the students and the teacher.

A teacher who is in doubt about the advisability of discussing certain issues in the classroom shall confer with the principal concerning the appropriateness of doing so. If discussion of an issue is not approved by the building principal, the teacher may refer the issue to the Superintendent.

If parents desire that their child be excused from participation in discussion of such material, arrangements are made to respect that request.

[Adoption date: June 21, 2011]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 2907.31  
OAC 3301-35-04

CROSS REFS.: IB, Academic Freedom  
KLB, Public Complaints About the Curriculum or Instructional Materials

## SCHOOL CEREMONIES AND OBSERVANCES/PATRIOTIC EXERCISES

The Board believes that special recognition should be given to national holidays. The building principal should encourage a discreet observance of these holidays which have become a part of the American heritage. These observances may, in some instances, be in the form of a school assembly while in other instances they are a part of the classroom work.

The Board directs the administration to develop specific activities within each building to convey the meaning and significance of Veterans Day. The observance must be at least one hour long, except in buildings that schedule class periods of less than an hour. In those buildings, the observance must be at least one standard class period in length.

### Religious Holidays and Observances

The following guidelines govern the observance of, and teaching about, religious holidays in the schools.

1. The public schools must be neutral in matters of religion. The schools must show no preference for one religion over another. They must refrain from the promotion of any religion or all religions; consequently, no religious celebrations may be conducted by the public schools.

“Religious celebration” is defined as:

- A. a formal observance, including worship or religious services of any kind, whether or not conducted by a member of the clergy. Religious observances cannot be justified by the fact that the majority of students or individuals in a given community happen to approve of the practice or by the fact that individual students may absent themselves upon parental request;
- B. the display of religious objects or symbols, except those that are integral parts of a short-term study in the curriculum, such as art, history, etc., or
- C. the presentation of religious music, except to the extent that such music is presented for its musical rather than its religious content. Songs or music programs which have significance for a particular religion should not be sung or performed in the school during the period which coincides with the community celebration of the events portrayed in the music. Festive songs that cannot be associated with a religious celebration are permitted.

2. A program or observance related to a religious holiday in theme or timing should be evaluated as to its purpose and effect. If either the purpose or the effect is judged to be religious rather than secular, the activity should not be undertaken.
3. The school should avoid any activity, display or exhibit that promotes or gives its approval to religious matters.

### Patriotic Exercises

The Board does not require the daily recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. However, the Board encourages reciting of the pledge on a regular basis as determined by the classroom teacher or building principal. The District is prohibited from preventing a teacher from having students recite the Pledge of Allegiance in the teacher's classroom.

In addition, District administrators, staff and students are prohibited from altering the wording of the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Board recognizes that beliefs of some persons prohibit participation in the pledge, the salute to the United States flag or other opening exercises. Therefore, such persons are excused from participation.

The Board prohibits the intimidation of any student by other students or staff aimed at coercing participation in reciting the pledge.

### School Prayer

The Board certifies that it does not have, nor will it adopt, any policies that deny or prevent participation in constitutionally protected school prayer. This certification is submitted annually to the Ohio Department of Education.

### Moment of Silence

The Board may provide for a moment of silence with participation of students for prayer, reflection or meditation upon a moral, philosophical or patriotic theme.

The Board, administrators or any District employee shall not require a student to participate in a moment of silence.

### Constitution Day

On September 17 of each year, the District may participate in the celebration of Constitution Day by reciting the Preamble of the Constitution at 2:00 p.m. EST. When the 17th falls on a weekend, the day of celebration will be announced.

[Adoption date: June 21, 2011]

LEGAL REFS.: U.S. Const. Amend. I, Establishment Cl.  
The Elementary and Secondary Education Act; 20 USC 1221 et seq.  
ORC 5.23  
3313.601; 3313.602; 3313.63; 3313.80

## ANIMALS IN THE SCHOOLS

Recognizing there are many tools that can be used to provide a variety of productive learning experiences for students, the Board supports the concept of using animals as an educational tool.

Prior to any use of animals in the schools, the administration should contact appropriate organizations or authorities regarding resource materials and suggested learning activities that may be available to help students increase their understanding of the animal world.

All animal use in school buildings is consistent with health and safety policies established by the District. The administration is responsible for developing regulations for the care and control of the animals.

### Service Animals

In compliance with Federal law, the Board permits the use of service animals in the schools for those individuals with qualified disabilities.

[Adoption date: June 21, 2011]

LEGAL REFS.: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; 20 USC 1400 et seq.  
Rehabilitation Act of 1973; 29 USC 794  
Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008; 42 USC 12101 et seq.  
28 CFR 35.136(d)  
ORC Chapter 3323  
Chapter 4112

CROSS REFS.: AC, Nondiscrimination  
ACB, Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability  
EBC, Emergency/Safety Plans  
JFG, Interrogations and Searches