

**Edmore Public School  
Teacher Handbook  
2023-2024**

“WORKING TOGETHER TO INSPIRE LIFELONG LEARNERS”

DISCLAIMER

This handbook shall not be construed to form a contract of employment between the district and its employees. The Edmore School Board (hereafter Board) reserves the unilateral right to change the handbook at any time, unless a previous agreement exists under a negotiated agreement between the Board and negotiating unit.

SAVINGS CLAUSE

Should any policy of the District be found to conflict with requirements in law or be declared illegal by a court of competent jurisdiction, said policy shall be automatically rescinded to the extent that it violates the law. The remaining policies shall remain in full force and effect until rescinded or amended by Edmore Public School Board.

CONTRACT SUPERSEDES POLICY AND REGULATIONS NOTICE

Any contract entered into between the Board and another party supersedes district policy and regulations whenever a conflict exists between a policy or regulation and the contract language. Contracts include, but are not limited to, the negotiated agreement and individual teaching and administrative contracts.

SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY

The Edmore Public Schools are the expression of the efforts of the people of the communities and school districts. The school plants and facilities, as well as the faculty and other personnel, are provided in the collective interests of the children who attend the schools. All of these elements to the extent they are provided by the people through their school boards shall be available to encourage the highest possible achievement inherent in each individual pupil, regardless of race, creed, or color. Not only beginning teachers, but all good teachers are constantly searching for better ways of doing their tasks. It is hoped that all of us can find something of value and reference in the pages that follow. “One may as well say he has sold when no one has bought as to say he has taught when no one has learned.”

RESPONSIBILITIES OF ADMINISTRATORS

The Superintendent and Principal are held responsible to the school board for the organization and administration of the school. They must accept the final responsibilities for all actions permitted within the school. Their basic function is to make the work of the classroom teachers more effective through careful planning. Each administrator in the school is available upon request to discuss any matter with staff members, parents, or students.

## CODE OF ETHICS

Only to the extent that its members know and practice an acceptable code of behavior, both among themselves and among lay contacts, can a school faculty exhibit a professional attitude. We chose our profession and with that come definite responsibilities. Various codes of ethics have been set down for teachers, generally including such items as:

1. To receive respect from others, be respectful.
2. If you cannot speak well of another, say nothing.
3. Do not criticize without a suggestion for improving.
4. When two people argue, both are in the wrong.
5. The child is more important than the subject matter.
6. Be helpful if you expect help from others.
7. Try to understand the other's point of view; they might be right.
8. Genuine praise of another raises you in his esteem.
9. Appraise yourself only by the best in others.
10. Accept yourself as you are, but do not be content to remain that way.
11. Ask yourself, "Am I giving 100% each and every day?"

## PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS OF AN INSTRUCTOR

### I. APPEARANCE:

- A. Be neat and clean.
- B. Clothes will be **professional** dress.
- C. Act in a confident manner.
- D. When staff attend workshops/classes/conferences they are to dress in a professional manner (no jeans).

### II. SPEECH:

- A. Speak distinctly and clearly.
- B. Be concise and exact in your language.
- C. Cultivate a pleasing tone of voice.
- D. Slang expression should not be encouraged.
- E. **Profanity** will not be tolerated in the school.

### III. ATTITUDE:

- A. Your attitude determines the attitude of the class.
- B. Be pleasant and good natured, but firm.
- C. Expect only the best from everyone.
- D. Act as if accustomed to leading a group.
- E. Be cooperative and expect cooperation.
- F. Be professional.

## TEACHERS

### SCHOOL TERM:

The school term presently consists of no more than 186 days; a school term means the days that school is taught plus the number of legal school holidays, staff development days, and parent/teacher compensation days.

### TEACHER'S CONTRACT:

Teacher's contracts are issued for a period of one year. Teachers are normally given contracts following the completion of negotiations and should be returned according to contract specifications. Extended contracts beyond the regular 186 day school term may be issued as deemed necessary by the Administration and approved by the Board of Education.

### TEACHER RETIREMENT:

Participation in the North Dakota Teacher's Retirement program is compulsory for any teacher who is entering or re-entering the employment of a North Dakota public school employer. The Business Manager will deduct the required amount from your salary.

### SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS:

It is requested that teachers who find it necessary to request a substitute teacher will inform the principal or superintendent by 6:30 a.m. of the day concerned, and whenever possible, to do so the previous day. Only the superintendent or principal are authorized to employ substitute teachers.

### THE TEACHER'S SCHOOL DAY:

The teacher's day shall begin at 8:00 a.m. and end at **4:00 p.m.** except on Fridays, when they are permitted to leave following departure of the buses if lesson plans are posted. Teachers are expected to be prepared for the next day's work and to remain if students need help or for parent conferences.

### CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION:

Each classroom instructor will utilize the following pedagogical tools during the class period: Bell ringer at the beginning of each period, Madeline Hunter's lesson design, First Days of School (Wong, H. 2009), Marzano design questions, and behavioral interventions. Weekly objectives will be posted in each classroom and on the Edmore school website for students to view, two grades per week will be posted in Powerschool.

### SALARY CHECKS:

Direct Deposit will be on the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. You may receive your salary in 10 or 12 payments. The Business Manager will request this information from you.

### CERTIFICATE REGISTRATION AND COLLEGE TRANSCRIPTS:

Each teacher in the Edmore School will present a valid copy of their teacher's certificate to the school administration. This certificate will be registered with the County

Superintendent. In addition, all teachers must present a “Transcript of College Credits”. This information is necessary for several forms.

TEACHER-PARENT RELATIONSHIPS:

A parent’s regard for the school as a whole is often determined by the nature of his contact with only one teacher, depending also on pre-conceived opinions he may have. Because many parents have only a few contacts with the school through the teachers, the teacher stands in a very advantageous position for good or ill-will. Requests from parents for a teacher conference are immediately passed along to the teacher concerned. Conferences should not be scheduled for school hours, unless they occur in a teacher’s preparation period. It is suggested that in conferences, a teacher report pleasantly and constructively, but frankly, to the parents as to home study requirements, assignments, report procedures.

ASSIGNMENT OF DUTIES:

Teachers shall expect to be assigned to duties, such as noon duty, recess duty, supervision of playgrounds and assignments at extra-curricular events.

DETENTION OF STUDENTS:

**Teachers shall be responsible for the pupils they detain.** Each detention must be reported immediately to the principal.

LESSON PLANS:

Lesson plans are an important part of a well-organized teacher. Weekly lesson plans will be posted on the school website by 3:30 pm on the Friday before the lessons are utilized. All lesson plans will list specific state standards to be mastered. Lesson plans should be built so if a teacher is absent the substitute should be able to conduct a productive lesson from the plan.

Meals:

For the 2023-2024 school year breakfast and lunch will be provided at no cost to all staff including substitute teachers.

CELL PHONES:

Cell phones are not to be used during class time. **Instructors are to model appropriate cell phone use.** Class time is to be used for instructional purposes. Cell phones are to be placed face-down on the student’s desk upon arrival in class. Students are to use cell phones during the instructional period only for instructional purposes and when prior approval is given by the instructor.

KEYS

Teachers should not allow students or other individuals access to keys, storage areas, records, etc.

### PLANNING PERIOD

Each teacher has a period of time to be used for planning the day's activities, preparing tests or assignments, and for organizing the teacher's lessons. Each and every one of us needs a break from the rigors and routine of work, but the whole period of planning should not be devoted to this end. Organization is a must to becoming a good teacher. Teachers leaving the school facility during their preparation period will need prior approval from Administration.

### ADMITTANCE TO ACTIVITIES

The patrons of the Edmore school district have demonstrated financial support for the education of their children. In addition to educating students during the academic day, teachers are expected to attend as many of the school functions as possible.

### LAPTOP AND COMPUTER AGREEMENT

All teachers will be required to review and sign the laptop and computer agreement each school year. The agreement must be signed and returned at the beginning of the year and put in their file before a laptop and computer is issued.

### GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

The objective of the grievance procedure is to resolve any issues between staff at the lowest level possible. District policies will be followed reflective of state century code.

### WORKER COMPENSATION WORKFORCE SAFETY INSURANCE

All employees must report injury occurring during any employment-related activity to the administration immediately. The reports are to be forwarded to WSI within 24 hours of occurrence of injury.

In case when the employee is off duty less than 5 days, he/she is to be paid his/her full salary and the days are to be deducted from his/her accumulated sick leave. If the employee does not have accumulated sick leave, a payroll deduction will result.

In case when the employee is off duty 5 days or more, he/she will be paid during his/her absence by Workers Compensation. He/she will not receive additional compensation from the School. Light duty assignments will be available.

### General Liability Insurance Coverage

All employees of the Edmore School District have general liability insurance coverage up to the amount of \$4,000,000. The insurance policy is purchased through the North Dakota Insurance Reserve Fund.

### DUTIES AT THE CLOSE OF THE TERM

1. All teachers will finalize grades in PowerSchool.
2. Turn in complete and accurate requisition and inventory reports.
3. See that all books are placed orderly on the shelves and in storerooms for the closing of school.
4. Clean off desks and any other items that will have to be moved for summer cleaning.

**GENERAL INFORMATION PERTAINING TO SCHOOL OPERATION LEAVES:**

Teachers employed by the school district with a teaching load of three periods or more but less than full-time will be granted ½ of the leave time of a regular full-time teacher. This includes the following leaves: sick leave, personal leaves, sabbatical leave and maternity leave.

1. **SICK LEAVE:**

An employee's unused sick leave bank can be accumulated up to 65 days with an additional 15 days granted at the beginning of each contract year, not to exceed 80 days total for that contracted year. The allowance can be used for absences caused by illness or disability of the teacher. Eight (8) days per year may be used to stay at home with an immediate family member. Immediate family being defined as: spouse, grandparents, parents, brothers, sisters, children, and grandchildren of the employee and his or her spouse. This also includes individuals for whom the employee is current legal guardian.

Pregnancy/Maternity disability will be treated as any other illness/disability. The Boards may request a second doctor's opinion concerning a teacher who has been absent due to illness for an extended time. The Boards will pay the cost for the second opinion and may select the doctor. **Dental, vision, and medical appointments will require a slip from the doctor. A doctor's confirmation is required concerning a teacher who has been absent due to illness for four or more days.** An employee may use up to 12 days for adoption leave to be deducted from accumulated sick leave. Additional days may be granted upon approval of superintendent and school board. At the end of the year, teachers will be compensated for any unused sick leave over 65 days at a rate of \$25.00 per day after 3 years of employment. Upon resignation in good standing or retirement after 3 years with the district, the total banked sick leave will be paid out at \$25.00 per day.

2. **PROFESSIONAL LEAVE**

Each teacher shall be credited with teacher professional leave. The teacher planning to use a professional business day must first receive the approval of the administration.

3. **EMERGENCY LEAVE:**

At the beginning of each school year, each teacher shall be credited with a 2-day emergency leave allowance, accumulative to six (6) days. The emergency leave is to be used for such things as death or serious illness requiring hospitalization or immediate medical attention in the immediate family. Three (3) days of emergency leave per year may be used to attend a funeral not in the immediate family. The teacher must receive the approval of the superintendent.

4. **PERSONAL LEAVE:**

At the beginning of each school year, each teacher shall be credited with three (3) accumulative to five (5) days to be used for personal business. A personal

business day may be used for any purpose at the discretion of the teacher. A teacher planning to use a personal business day shall provide the administration with sufficient time to hire an acceptable substitute teacher. Each unused personal day will be reimbursed at an equivalent to one contracted day and will be added to their tenth check. One personal day may be split into half days.

5. SABBATICAL LEAVE:

Teachers who have been employed by the district for four years shall be eligible to apply for a leave of absence of one year without pay subject to Board approval on an individual basis. A teacher going on sabbatical leave is guaranteed his/her job back, contingent on the application of the guidelines in the districts' reduction in force policy. A teacher on sabbatical leave must notify the Boards in writing of his/her intent to return or not return by February 15 of the school year that the sabbatical is granted. Upon returning the employee will stay at the same step on the salary schedule as when they left.

INSURANCE

Health insurance will be paid for all full-time teachers at the minimum to maintain grandfather status or no less than \$7200.00 for the 2023-2024 contract agreement. Teachers will have the option of transferring salary to provide full medical insurance. Teachers under contract for 50% time or greater will have their insurance benefit prorated accordingly.

TEXTBOOKS, WORKBOOKS AND PAPERBACKS

Textbooks, workbooks and paperbacks are the property of the school district. There will be no charge to the school for the use of these materials. If these materials are lost, stolen, or used in an abusive manner, the student will be charged accordingly. Textbooks marked and numbered will help in identifying the materials that are issued to the student. The instructor will distribute the materials at the first class meeting, recording the name of the student and the number and condition of the material. The book number should be recorded in the teacher's record book.

ORDERING

All orders must be approved by the superintendent (signature of superintendent, and business manager) through a purchase order. At the end of the year, all teachers will be required to submit to the office a complete classroom requisition. It should take into consideration the anticipated enrollments in your next year's class.

DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

If there are any announcements that you would like to have made, please submit them to the office before 8:15 a.m.

USE OF TELEPHONE

Students shall not be excused from class for the purpose of using the phone, except in the case of emergencies. They will be allowed to use the phone between classes or during free time on a limited basis. Teachers will not be called from class to answer the phone

unless it is absolutely necessary. If a teacher must use the phone, please do so during your free time.

### STAFF MEETINGS

Teachers meetings will be scheduled from time to time as needed. It is required that all teachers attend.

### LATE START/EARLY DISMISSAL DUE TO WEATHER

The instant alert system will be utilized for notification for late starts and early dismissals.

## SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

### SUPERVISION:

It shall be the duty of each advisor to supervise their class or extra-curricular activity. All group funds and monies raised through fundraising activities shall be deposited with the business manager each Friday for the duration of the fundraising activity. Monies are not to remain with the student or advisor for the duration of the fundraising activity but rather accounted for and deposited in the local bank each week. Monies will be collected **before** products or services are delivered.

### FIELD TRIPS:

All field trips need to be academic in nature and reinforce the State standards. Teachers must clear field trips through the school principal or superintendent. All field trips must be turned in one week in advance with objectives, itinerary, and anticipated outcomes, assessment, and presentation mode listed in detail.

### ASSEMBLIES

All teachers and students are required to attend lyceums, pep rallies, class plays, and other assemblies called during the year. Teachers are to assist in keeping order and in aiding participation.

### CLASS MEETINGS

Advisors will attend all class and club meetings. Class advisors will supervise student officers to ensure that a record of all decisions and financial transactions have been made by the organizations. They will instruct their organizations that class and administration approval is necessary before action is taken on projects.

### CHAPERONES

Persons assisting the school as chaperones are demonstrating their cooperation and willingness to aid in the development of our students. Naturally there are guidelines necessary to assist chaperones.

1. Students riding buses must be properly attired.
2. Students must come back on the bus unless their parents personally contact the chaperons.
3. Roll-call should be taken before leaving the school and before the return trip.



4. Students that do not cooperate with school policies should be reported to the office.

## FACILITIES

### EMERGENCY DRILLS

Emergency drills include fire, tornado, and armed intruder. The drills will be conducted once per month and are intended to acquaint teachers and students with the needed routine in case of a real emergency. Reunification site and procedures will be discussed with staff and students in an attempt to familiarize participants with the procedures utilized by fire and police personnel in the event of a real emergency.

### INSTRUCTIONAL AND GENERAL EQUIPMENT NEEDS:

Supplies of a general instructional nature are found in the storeroom and vault. **ALL** supplies needed from the vault and storeroom must be obtained from the **school administrative assistant or administration**. Teachers shall not be allowed to personally obtain money from the cash box. All ordering of supplies and equipment require a completed Purchase Order (P.O.) and must receive approval,(signature of superintendent and business manager). Unauthorized orders will not be accepted for payment.

### USE OF SCHOOL EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES:

The facilities and equipment of the school shall be available to the students and teachers upon arrangement and completion of "Facility Use Agreement" located in the office; however, these rules must apply:

- a. No room or property may be used without a teacher being in charge of its use.
- b. School parties and dances must have a definite time for pupil admittance and dismissal, and that time shall be observed.
- c. The sponsors/coaches shall be the last to leave the building and shall be responsible for seeing that no water is running, and that all lights are turned off and all doors and windows locked.
- d. All facilities shall be left as they are found.
- e. Wednesday night is "church night" and all students should be released from practices/activities by 5:30 p.m. The number of Sunday practices for school activities is to be limited. The coach/director must check with the administration before scheduling a practice.
- f. All fundraising activities shall receive prior approval by the principal or superintendent before they are initiated. The required form is available from the business manager.

### SCHEDULING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Any organization, class, group, etc., that wishes to schedule an event must complete a "Facility Use Agreement" located in the office. All events and activities must be placed on the calendar in the principal's office as soon as possible.

## CUSTODIAL SERVICES

It is the function of the custodial staff to maintain the school in good order. This refers specifically to temperature, cleanliness, and repair. However, this cannot be done adequately without staff cooperation. Please report any damage to equipment or repair issues to facility directly to the administration if there is some problem in regard to these matters. At the end of each school day please place student chairs on desk tops and tidy up the classroom. You can greatly assist keeping the school neat if you do not leave paper on the desk. Gum chewing should be checked especially to insure that gum is not placed on the underside of desks. Any serious damage to the tops of desks should be reported promptly to the office.

## GUM AND CANDY

The use of gum is allowed as long as the privilege is not abused. No candy or sunflower seeds will be allowed during the school day.

## VANDALISM

Watch for vandalism of the school and school property and report the same to the office immediately.

### EMERGENCY CODES:

Codes – Definitions - Actions

Code - Lock Down – “We are in a Lock Down”

Instructors are to follow the A.L.I.C.E. training protocol procedures.

Code - Soft Lock Down – “We are in a Soft Lock Down”

All outside doors will be locked and staff and students are to operate in normal status inside the building but are to remain in the building.

## STUDENTS

### PASSES, TARDIES, AND ATTENDANCE

1. Each elementary teacher is to keep attendance for their classes. Make notes of absences and tardies in PowerSchool.
2. High school teachers will be responsible for taking attendance prior to the start of each class period of the day and recording it in PowerSchool. **If a student is tardy then he/she shall report to the office to get an admit slip before entering the classroom.** Three tardies during the course of the year will require one hour of detention.
3. If a student has been absent, they need an admit slip from the office. Any student who leaves school must get permission from the office before they leave.
4. If you wish to see a student during the day other than your regularly scheduled time, give that student a pass so that other teachers will know where they are.
5. If a student is in school, they should take part in Phy. Ed. unless they have written excuse from home requesting they be excused. If this is abused we will ask for a doctor’s statement requesting the same.

## SCHOOL HEALTH AND SAFETY

1. **STUDENT ILLNESS:** If any student comes to school ill, or becomes ill while in school, report this to the school superintendent or principal. Do not let a child go home by themselves; call the parents or have someone take them home. This pertains especially to the elementary school.
2. **INJURIES:** Students are covered by insurance. **Be sure injuries are reported immediately to the office, so that proper forms may be filed.**

## GRADING

### 1. GRADING:

Grading is done on a nine week basis with report cards handed out by Friday on the 10<sup>th</sup> week. Instructors utilize “PowerSchool” software to record grades. As a means to provide timely and meaningful input to student work samples, instructors will record at least two weekly grades per student per week in PowerSchool. This will allow parents to monitor their child’s progress.

- a. Grading should be standardized, with the following grading system to be used.

A+ .....99-100	B- .....87-88	D .....76-78
A .....96-98	C+ .....85-86	D- .....75
A- .....94-95	C .....82-84	F .....74/below
B+ .....92-93	C- .....80-81	
B .....89-91	D+ .....79	

- b. Numerical grades are used on report cards and are recorded on permanent records.
- c. Don’t lower grades as a means of punishment.
- d. Grades K-3 “S, U and NI”

#### K-3 Grading Scale

S+ .....100 – 96
S .....95 – 85
S- .....84 – 80
NI .....79 – below
I .....Improving
U .....Unsatisfactory

### 2. PROGRESS REPORTS FOR ELEMENTARY:

Parents are encouraged to view the progress of their child by utilizing the online PowerSchool software. If a parent has questions or needs further clarification regarding their child’s grade the instructor should be contacted to clarify the question/concern.

All courses taught in-house are required to give semester tests. *Test scores on all required semester tests will count for 20% of the final semester grade. Every high school student must take at least two final tests each semester. (ITV, online, dual credit, & correspondence courses are not included.) One of those must be from a core class,*

while the other may be from an elective class. Students may be exempt from any remaining tests if they meet the following criteria:

- A 94% average for each quarter and missing no more than four class periods will exempt a student from taking the semester test in that class.
- Only grades 9-12 are eligible.
- School related absences will not count towards the exemption policy.
- Any unexcused absence will require taking a semester test in the class or classes missed.
- Good standing in the classroom. (no detentions, tardies, or behavior).
- Any form of school suspension will require a student to take all their semester tests. This includes drug, alcohol, and tobacco violations.
- If eligible for an exemption, the student may take the test to better their grade. The test score cannot lower their overall grade.

#### HONOR ROLL:

At the close of each nine-week period, an honor roll is published. Students with a 94 or better overall average in their subjects will be placed on the “A” honor roll. Students with an 87-93 overall average will be placed on the “B” honor roll. Band, Phy. Ed. and Chorus are not included in computing the honor roll.

#### DROPPING AND ADDING CLASSES

Students may drop or add classes during the first week of a semester class. Drop-Add slips must be obtained from the principal. It must be signed by the student’s parent, by the instructor involved, and finally by the principal.

#### NORTH DAKOTA HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION (NDHSAA)

Edmore Public School is a member of NDHSAA. This voluntary organization has for its purpose to plan, direct and sponsor competitive activities among member schools. Rules and regulations for these activities are made by the association for the best interests of the participating students and schools. Eligibility rules will be followed for all extra-curricular activities in which this school participates, according to the association rules.

#### DISCIPLINE

In the matter of classroom discipline, nothing is as effective as good common sense. Students seldom resent discipline if it is administered with strict fairness, IF THEY UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU REQUIRE OF THEM AND IF YOU ARE CONSISTENT. It is the duty of every teacher to help administer discipline.

The avoidance of sharing this responsibility makes it more difficult for those teachers who are accepting their responsibility and eventually results in the teacher’s losing the respect of the staff and the students alike. You will receive the complete support of the administration in you attempt to help administer discipline.

1. The business-like way you assemble your class, mark the attendance and start your lesson may make all the difference to your success as a classroom disciplinarian.

2. Know where your students are if they leave your classroom. Students must have a pass if they are going to leave their assigned rooms. No more than one student will be allowed to leave the room at a time.
3. Try to handle your own discipline problems, but serious cases of misbehavior should be referred to the principal. Discipline incidents are be entered into Powerschool.
4. Set up rules in your classroom and enforce them. Do not set up rules which you cannot or which you do not intend to enforce.
5. Students must address a teacher with appropriate titles, such as “Mr.” “Mrs.” or “Miss”.

Although pupil self-discipline is ideal in theory, until it is achieved in practice, teachers must assume the task of guiding pupil behavior into proper channels of expression. Developing a wholesome rapport with students is probably the most important aspect of education. Communication cannot exist between teacher and pupil unless a friendly and trusting bond has been developed. Instructors must be alert to the possibility that this rapport can go to extremes and result in a “buddy-buddy” situation. Many students accept this as a sign of weakness. Others may resent it for attempting to enter their peer group. It is a wise teacher who can develop a professional relationship with students, yet maintain the proper perspectives of the teacher and student. “BE FIRM, BUT FAIR.” Treat each student as a young adult. The following hints on discipline may be found helpful:

1. Try to go to school rested and ready for duty.
2. Established a daily routine for necessary duties.
3. Arrive early to adequately prepare for the day.
4. Be punctual in scheduled work of self and pupils.
5. Be respectful if you want to be respected.
6. Show appreciation of good behavior by the group.
7. Try to anticipate trouble; it may be avoided.
8. Be honest with the dignity of every child.
9. Save yourself; use minimum correction.
10. Do not threaten; you may have to deliver.
11. Do not call names, such as “Lazy Joe” or “Dumb Mary”, etc.
12. Be consistent in discipline.
13. Seek the causes and their elimination before correction.
14. Do not seek some pupils up as examples for others.
15. Do not have “pets” and “special helper” pupils.
16. Do not attempt to discipline when angry.
17. Do not lower or raise grades as a means of punishment or reward.
18. Don’t be afraid to admit that you were wrong.
19. Actions speak louder than words.

### **STUDENT DISCIPLINE POLICY**

The school recognizes that orderly processes at school assure the optimum opportunities for every student to secure achievement in their academic and non-academic pursuits. The school further recognizes that every student is not going to respond positively to the

rules and regulations set forth by the school for orderly processes. For the students who find rules and regulations difficult to adhere to, the following guidelines are initiated:

1. FIRST OFFENSE:

A conference will be held between the student and instructor to try to establish some new behavioral patterns for the student. Parents may be informed of this conference by mail or by phone.

2. SECOND OFFENSE:

The second offense will initiate a conference with the student, staff member and parent. The conference may also include the principal depending on the severity of the offense. The second offense might result in a one-day in-school suspension.

3. THIRD OFFENSE:

The third offense will involve a conference with the student, parent, instructor, and administration. A short-term suspension or other consequences may result from the offense. Parents must bring the student back to school following this suspension for a conference with the school officials.

4. FOURTH AND FOLLOWING OFFENSES:

This could result in an automatic short-term in-school or out-of-school suspension of one to three days or could result in a dismissal for the balance of the semester without credit being allowed. The authority to suspend a student rests with the principal and superintendent.

In majority of the disciplining action, this system will be used in an attempt to rectify the problem. There are disciplinary cases that are of such serious nature that they will require immediate consideration and this system will be bypassed. The parents will be asked to report to the school for a conference at the earliest possible date. This kind of misbehavior could place the school in a situation where a suspension or an expulsion may result.

Below is a clarification of short-term suspension and long-term suspension or expulsion.

I. SHORT-TERM IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION:

This form of disciplinary action means that a student will be required to remain in school for a period of one to five days duration. The student will remain in school during the school hours, and will not be able to participate in any extra-curricular functions during the suspension.

EXAMPLE: A student suspended from classes Tuesday will not participate in the game that evening or speech event that day. Students involved in activities where attendance is a fulfillment for a class requirement will be allowed to participate in such activities (an example would be a band concert). The suspended student will be required to make up the school work missed during the suspension.

II. LONG-TERM OR OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION OR EXPULSION

This is the most drastic action the school can enforce and will only be used for the most serious student misbehavior. This type of disciplinary action taken by the school will result in a student being suspended for a period of one or more days, or be expelled from school for the remainder of the school year. The expulsion usually means that the student will need to repeat the subject missed during expulsion. The due process procedure will be used for expulsion.

## **BULLYING POLICY**

The **Edmore Public School District** is committed to providing all students with a safe and civil school environment in which all members are treated with dignity and respect. Bullying of or by a student or school staff member is against federal, state, and local policy and is not tolerated by the Board. Bullying behavior can seriously disrupt the ability of the district to maintain a safe and civil environment, and the ability of students to learn and succeed. Therefore, it is the policy of the state and the school district that students and school staff members shall not engage in bullying behavior while on school property.

### Definitions

For the purposes of this policy:

- *Bullying* is defined in NDCC 15.1-19-17 as:
  - a. Conduct that occurs in a public school, on school district premises, in a district owned or leased school bus or school vehicle, or at any public school or school district sanctioned or sponsored activity or event and which:
    - i. Is so severe, pervasive, or objectively offensive that it substantially interferes with the student's educational opportunities;
    - ii. Places the student in actual and reasonable fear of harm;
    - iii. Places the student in actual and reasonable fear of damage to property of the student; or
    - iv. Substantially disrupts the orderly operation of the public school; or
  - b. Conduct received by a student while the student is in a public school, on school district premises, in a district owned or leased school bus or school vehicle, or at any public school or school district sanctioned or sponsored activity or event and which:
    - i. Is so severe, pervasive, or objectively offensive that it substantially interferes with the student's educational opportunities;
    - ii. Places the student in actual and reasonable fear of harm;
    - iii. Places the student in actual and reasonable fear of damage to property of the student; or
    - iv. Substantially disrupts the orderly operation of the public school.
  - c. Conduct received or sent by a student through the use of an electronic device while the student is outside a public school, off school district premises, and off school district owned or leased property and which:
    - i. Places the student in actual and reasonable fear of:
      - 1. Harm; or
      - 2. Damage to property of the student;
    - ii. Is so severe, pervasive, or objectively offensive the conduct substantially interferes with the student's educational opportunities or substantially disrupts the orderly operation of the public school.

Conduct includes the use of technology or other electronic media (e.g. cyberbullying).

- *Electronic communication* is defined in NDCC 12.1-17-07(5) as a transfer of signs, signals, writing, images, sounds, data, or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic, photo-electronic, or photo-optical system.
- *Protected status* are classifications/characteristics protected from discrimination by NDCC 14-02.4-01 and federal law. The following statuses are protected: race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability (physical or mental), and status with regard to marriage or public assistance.
- *School property* is defined in NDCC 15.1-19-10(6)(b) as all land within the perimeter of the school site and all school buildings, structures, facilities, and school vehicles, whether owned or leased by a school district, and the site of any school-sponsored event or activity.
- *School-sanctioned activity* is defined as an activity that:
  - a. Is not part of the district's curricular or extracurricular program; and
  - b. Is established by a sponsor to serve in the absence of a district program; and
  - c. Receives district support in multiple ways (i.e., not school facility use alone); and
  - d. Sponsors of the activity have agreed to comply with this policy; and
  - e. The District has officially recognized through board action as a school-sanctioned activity.
- *School-sponsored activity* is an activity that the District has approved through policy or other board action for inclusion in the district's extracurricular program and is controlled and funded primarily by the District.
- *School staff* include all employees of the **Edmore Public School District**, school volunteers, and sponsors of school-sanctioned activities.
- *True threat* is a statement that, in light of the circumstances, a reasonable person would perceive as a serious expression of an intent to inflict harm.

#### Prohibitions

While on school property a student or school staff member may not:

1. Engage in bullying.
2. Engage in reprisal or retaliation against:
  - a. A victim of bullying;
  - b. An individual who witnesses an alleged act of bullying;
  - c. An individual who reports an alleged act of bullying; or
  - d. An individual who provides information/participates in an investigation about an alleged act of bullying.
3. Knowingly file a false bullying report with the District.

#### Reporting Procedures for Alleged Policy Violations

1. **Reporting requirements for school staff:** Any school staff member with knowledge or suspicion of a violation of this policy or who has received an oral or written report of a violation of this policy from a student, community member, or anonymously shall contact the building principal to inform them as soon as possible. If the alleged violation implicates the building principal, the school staff member shall report it to the Superintendent. If the alleged violation implicates the Superintendent, the school staff member shall report it to the Board President.

Should school administration determine that a school staff member knew of or suspected a violation of this policy and failed to report it in accordance with the procedure above, the staff member may be subject to disciplinary consequences or, for sponsors of school-sanctioned activities, other corrective measures.

2. **Reporting options for students and community members:** Students and community members (including parents) may report known or suspected violations of this policy using any of the following methods:



- a. Completing a written complaint form (ACEA-E4). A complainant will have the option of including their name on this form or filing it anonymously. The District will place the form in a variety of locations throughout the school and should inform students and staff of these locations. The form may be returned to any school staff member, filed in a school building's main office, or placed in a designated drop box located in each school.
- b. Complete and submit an online complaint form. A complainant will have the option of including their name on the form or submitting it anonymously.
- c. File an oral report with any school staff member.

Bullying may be a repeated or, in rare cases, one-time exposure to deliberate, negative behavior by one or more individuals that is unprovoked. Single incidents and conflicts between two or more individuals do not automatically constitute bullying behavior. Districts should investigate each situation to determine if the alleged behavior meets this policy's definition of bullying. If the misconduct does not meet this policy's definition of bullying, it may be addressed under other district disciplinary policies.

A complaint filed anonymously may limit the district's ability to investigate and respond to the alleged violations.

#### Documentation & Retention

The District shall develop a form to report alleged violations of this policy (ACEA-E3). The form should be completed by school staff when they:

1. Initiate a report of an alleged violation of this policy; or
2. Receive an oral report of an alleged violation of this policy.

The form should be completed by an administrator when they:

1. Initiate a report of an alleged violation of this policy; or
2. Receive an oral report of an alleged violation of this policy.

All written reports of an alleged violation of this policy received by the District shall be forwarded to the appropriate school administrator for investigation and retention.

Report forms and all other documentation related to an investigation of an alleged violation of this policy shall be retained by the District for six years after a student turns 18 years old or graduates from high school, whichever is later.

#### Investigation Procedures

School administrators (i.e., a principal, an assistant superintendent, or the Superintendent) or the Board President, if the Superintendent is implicated, are required to investigate violations of this policy (as prescribed under "Prohibitions"), when in receipt of actual notice of an alleged violation. Actual notice of an alleged violation occurs when alleged bullying, reprisal, retaliation, or false reporting is reported using the applicable method(s) prescribed in the reporting section of this policy.

Upon receipt of a report of an alleged policy violation, the designated administrator shall first determine if the alleged policy violation is based on a protected status—whether actual or perceived. Reports involving a protected status shall be investigated in accordance with the district's harassment/discrimination policy, including the timelines contained therein.

In all other cases, administration shall determine the level of investigation necessary based on the nature of the alleged violation of this policy after considering factors such as, but not limited to: the identity of the reporter and their relationship to the victim/alleged perpetrator; the ages of the parties involved; the detail, content, and context of the report; and whether or not this report is the first of

its type filed against the alleged perpetrator. Based on the level of investigation the administrator deems necessary, investigations may include any or all of the following steps or any other investigatory steps that the administrator deems necessary:

1. Identification and collection of necessary and obtainable physical evidence (*NOTE: In some cases physical evidence may be unobtainable, e.g., a private social networking profile*).
2. Interviews with the complainant, the victim, and/or the alleged perpetrator. At no time during an investigation under this policy shall the victim/ complainant be required to meet with the alleged perpetrator.
3. Interviews with any identified witnesses.
4. A review of any mitigating or extenuating circumstances.
5. Final analysis and issuance of findings in writing to the victim and bully and, if applicable, implementation of victim protection measures and disciplinary measures under this or other applicable policies.

Investigations shall be completed within **60** days unless the administrator documents good cause for extending this deadline. Such documentation should be sent to the victim and alleged perpetrator during the investigation.

#### Reporting to Law Enforcement & Others Forms of Redress

Law enforcement must be notified by a school administrator or Board President if there is reasonable suspicion that a bullying incident constituted a crime on or off school district property. Nothing in this policy shall prevent a victim/their family from seeking redress under applicable state and federal law.

#### Disciplinary & Corrective Measures

Students who the District has found to have violated this policy shall be subject to disciplinary consequences and/or corrective measures. When determining the appropriate response to violations of this policy, administration shall take into account the totality of circumstances surrounding the violation. Measures that may be imposed include, but are not limited to:

1. Require the student to attend detention.
2. Impose in- or out-of-school suspension or recommend expulsion. Due process procedures contained in the district's suspension and expulsion policy shall be followed.
3. Recommend alternative placement. This recommendation shall be submitted to the Superintendent for approval or denial. The Superintendent may approve such recommendations only if the student has been given notice of the charges against him/her and an opportunity to respond. Alternative placement of special education students will be handled in accordance with applicable policy.
4. Create a behavioral adjustment plan.
5. Refer the student to a school counselor.
6. Hold a conference with the student's parent/guardian and classroom teacher(s), and other applicable school staff.
7. Modify the perpetrator's schedule and take other appropriate measures (e.g., moving locker) to minimize contact with the victim.
8. If applicable, contact the administrator of the website or social media platform on which the bullying occurred to report it.

If the misconduct does not meet this policy's definition of bullying, it may be addressed under other district disciplinary policies.

If the perpetrator is a school staff member, the District shall take appropriate disciplinary action including, but not limited to: a reprimand, modification of duties (only if allowed by applicable policy, the negotiated agreement, and/or the individual's contract), suspension, or a recommendation for termination/discharge in accordance with applicable law and/or policy.

Victim Protection Strategies

When the District confirms that a violation of this policy has occurred, it should notify the victim's parents and shall implement victim protection strategies. These strategies shall be developed on a case-by-case basis after administration has reviewed the totality of the circumstances surrounding the bullying incident(s) or other violations of this policy. Strategies may include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Additional training for all students and applicable staff on implementation of this policy and/or bullying prevention.
2. Notice to the victim's teachers and other staff to monitor the victim and his/her interaction with peers and/or the assignment of a staff member to escort the student between classes.
3. Assignment of district staff to monitor, more frequently, areas in the school where bullying has occurred.
4. Referral to counseling services for the victim and perpetrator.
5. Modification of the perpetrator's schedule and other appropriate measures imposed on the perpetrator (not the victim) to minimize the perpetrator's contact with the victim.

Dissemination & Education

The District shall review and revise this policy as it determines necessary. A copy of this District bullying policy and any amendments must be filed with the Department of Public Instruction.

The District shall place this policy, in its entirety, in student and staff handbooks and ensure that it is explained and discussed with its students each school year. The District shall also develop and implement bullying prevention programs for all students and staff professional development activities. School administration may develop guidelines to assist students and staff with identifying bullying conduct.

Complementing NDSBA Templates (may contain items not adopted by the Board)

- AAC-BR, Discrimination & Harassment Grievance Procedure
- AAC-E, Filing a State or Federal Discrimination & Harassment Complaint
- ACEA-E1, Bullying Policy Adoption & Dissemination Checklist
- ACEA-E2, Bullying Reporting Guidelines
- ACEA-E3, Student Reporting Form
- ACEA-E4, Staff Reporting Form
- ACEA-E5, Bullying/Harassment Investigation Protocol

**End of Edmore Policy ACEA .....Adopted: 11/13/2012**  
**Amended ..... 1.21.2019, 8.13.2019**