



Seward High School Parent-Student Handbook



Seward High School

home of the **Bluejays**

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www.sewardpublicschools.org

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Seward High School • Parent-Student Handbook

Forward

Section 1 Intent of Handbook

This handbook is intended to be used by parents, students, and staff as a guide to the rules, regulations, and general information about Seward High School. Each student is responsible for becoming familiar with the handbook and knowing the information contained in it. Parents are encouraged to use this handbook as a resource and to assist their child in following the rules contained in this handbook.

Although the information found in this handbook is detailed and specific on many topics, the handbook is not intended to be all encompassing so as to cover every situation and circumstance that may arise during any school day or school year. This handbook does not create a “contract.” The administration reserves the right to make decisions and make rule revisions at any time to implement educational programs and to assure the well being of all students. The administration will be responsible for interpreting the rules contained in the handbook. Should a situation or circumstance arise that is not specifically covered in this handbook, the administration will make a decision based upon all applicable school district policies, as well as state and federal regulations.

Each year, the Board of Education shall adopt Parent-Student Handbooks. The rules, procedures, and practices adopted in the Parent-Student Handbooks shall have the effect of Board Policy.

Section 2 Superintendent and Members of the Board of Education

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>
Dr. Josh Fields	Superintendent
Ryne Seaman	President
Jerry Rumery	Vice President
Paul Duer	Secretary
Lisa Dworak	Member
Scott Pekarek	Member
Curt Sherman	Member

Section 3 High School Administration and Office Staff

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>
Scott Axt	Principal
Jill Johnson	Vice Principal
John Moody	Activities Director/Social Studies
Charles Gebhardt	Assistant Activities Director/Science/Mathematics
Craig Williams	Technology Coordinator
Noelle Baker	Counselor
Kevin Fields	Counselor
Matt Dominy	Curriculum and Assessment Director
Connie Biaggio	Special Education and Special Services Director
Jennifer Messersmith	Food Services Director
Marty Telecky	Transportation Director
Mary Russell	Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper

Carmen Johnson
Jennifer Anderson

Registrar/Administrative Assistant
School Nurse

Section 4 High School Teaching Staff

<u>Name</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>E-Mail</u>
Julie Christensen	Media Specialist	julie.christensen@sewardschools.org
Mark Cidlik	Social Science	mark.cidlik@sewardschools.org
Tiffany Core	Special Education	tiffany.core@sewardschools.org
Pam Franck	Mathematics	pam.franck@sewardschools.org
Craig Frederick	Agriculture	craig.frederick@sewardschools.org
Jeff Hass	Industrial Arts	jeff.hass@sewardschools.org
Kyle Hinkel	Mathematics	kyle.hinkel@sewardschools.org
Jordan Hinrichs	Math	jordan.hinrichs@sewardschools.org
Kurt Holliday	Industrial Technology	kurt.holliday@sewardschools.org
Amanda Kenney	Instrumental Music	amanda.kenney@sewardschools.org
Nate Knott	Art	nate.knott@sewardschools.org
Kelley Limback	Language Arts/Speech	kelley.limback@sewardschools.org
Wade Miller	Business	wade.miller@sewardschools.org
Sarah Morton	Agriculture	sarah.morton@sewardschools.org
Chris Oerman	Spanish	chris.oerman@sewardschools.org
Jamie Opfer	Health & P.E.	jamie.opfer@sewardschools.org
Celeste Brandenburg	FCS	celeste.palensky@sewardschools.org
Tom Pallas	Language Arts	tom.pallas@sewardschools.org
Lynnette Petersen	Special Education	lynnette.petersen@sewardschools.org
Angela Pfeiffer	Special Education	angela.pfeiffer@sewardschools.org
Jenny Pinkall	Science & P.E.	jenny.pinkall@sewardschools.org
Steve Pinkall	Science	steve.pinkall@sewardschools.org
Pat Piskorski	Science	pat.piskorski@sewardschools.org
Jim Placke	Physical Education	jim.placke@sewardschools.org
Melissa Pohl	Language Arts	melissa.pohl@sewardschools.org
Becky Snyder	Spanish	becky.snyder@sewardschools.org
Kyle Royuk	Math	kyle.royuk@sewardschools.org
Leslie Stratton	Vocal Music	leslie.stratton@sewardschools.org
TJ Towle	Alternative School	tj.towle@sewardschools.org
Tom Tvrdy	Social Science	tom.tvrdy@sewardschools.org
Kristen Upton	Spanish	kristen.upton@sewardschools.org
Dory von Kampen	Language Arts	dory.vonkampen@sewardschools.org
Tom Widler	Business & Computers	tom.widler@sewardschools.org
Vance Winter	Health & P.E.	vance.winter@sewardschools.org
Steve Wignall	Physics & Str. Training	steve.wignall@sewardschools.org
Russ Wissing	Math & Computers	russ.wissing@sewardschools.org

Section 5 Extracurricular Assignments/Committees

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Coaches/Sponsors/Team Members</u>
Football	Jamie Opfer (Head Coach), Wade Miller, Casey Makey, Jeff Hass, Nate Knott, Vance Winter
Softball	Rich Eber (Head Coach), Brock Andersen
Cross Country	Kurt Holliday (Head Coach), Steve Pinkall, Kyle Royuk
Girls Golf	Jim Placke (Head Coach)
Volleyball	Tom Pallas (Head Coach), Teri Opfer, Beth Seegebarth
Boys Basketball	Mark Cidlik(Head Coach), Wade Miller, Casey Makey
Girls Basketball	Tom Tvrdy(Head Coach), Greg Miller, Tanner Roth
Wrestling	Bob Core(Head Coach), Josh Schoepf, Nate Stepp
Baseball	Brock Anderson(Head Coach), Rich Eber, Logan Mahalek
Track	Kyle Royuk(Head Coach), Steve Pinkall, Jeff Hass, Jordan Hinrichs, Kari Samuels
Boys Golf	Jim Placke(Head Coach)
Boys Soccer	Nick Holmes (Head Coach), Jamie Opfer
Girls Soccer	Greg Miller(Head Coach), Kate Jungck
Select Choir	Leslie Stratton
Speech	Kelley Limback
One Act Play	Dory Von Kampen
Marching Band	Amanda Kenney
Color Guard	Brittany Jeary
Musical	Leslie Stratton, Dory Von Kampen
Cheer/Dance	Kathie Nguyen (Cheer), Stacey Piskorski (Dance)
FCCLA	Celeste Brandenburg
FBLA	Wade Miller
Key Club	Leslie Stratton
FFA	Craig Frederick, Sara Morton
National Honor Society	Pat Brauer, Chris Oerman
Quiz Bowl	Melissa Pohl
SkillsUSA	Kurt Holliday
Yearbook	Tom Pallas
Student Leadership Team	Jill Johnson, Kristen Upton
9th Grade Class Sponsor	Jenny Pinkall, Becky Snyder
10th Grade Class Sponsor	Lynette Petersen, Kyle Hinkel
11th Grade Class Sponsor	Sara Smith, Kristen Upton, Nate Knott
12th Grade Class Sponsor	Noelle Baker, Kevin Fields
SCIP Team	Pat Piskorski, Lynette Peterson, Kevin Fields, Nate Knott, Scott Axt, Jill Johnson, Noelle Baker
Emergency Response Team	Scott Axt, Jill Johnson, John Moody, Jennifer Anderson, Kurt Holliday, Noelle Baker, Russ Wissing, Steve Wignall, Kevin Fields, Tiffany Core
School Improvement Team Leaders	Pat Brauer, Noelle Baker (Rigor) Jamie Opfer, Wade Miller (Culture) Julie Christensen, Tom Widler (Engagement) Lynette Pedersen (Reading) Pam Franck (Math) Pat Piskorski (Access)

School Calendar

2018-2019 CALENDAR

SEWARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

AUGUST

- 8 New Teacher Orientation
- 9 New Teacher Work Day
- 10,13,14 Professional Development Days
- 13 Student Orientation/Open House: Elementary 5:00-6:30,
Middle 6:00-7:30 & High School 7:00-8:30 PM
- 15 First Student Day - Dismiss 1:30

SEPTEMBER

- 3 No School - Labor Day
- 17 Professional Development Day - No Students

OCTOBER

- 12 Elementary Planning Day--No Elem. Students
- 18 End of 1st Quarter - 45 Days
- 19 No School--Fall Break
- 22 Professional Development Day - No Students

NOVEMBER

- 21 Professional Development for staff until 2:15. No Students.
- 22-23 Thanksgiving Vacation

DECEMBER

- 21 End 2nd Quarter - 41 Days -- 1:30 Dismissal
- 22-26 NSAA Competition Moratorium
- 24-31 Winter Vacation

JANUARY

- 1-4 Winter Vacation
- 4 Professional Development Day - No Students
- 7 School Resumes
- 25 No Elementary School

FEBRUARY

- 15 No School
- 18 Professional Development Day - No Students

MARCH

- 4 Elementary Planning Day - No Elem. Students
- 8 No School Spring Break
- 11 Professional Development Day - No Students
- 15 End of 3rd Quarter - 46 Days

APRIL

- 19, 22 No School--Spring Break

MAY

- 6 Elementary Planning Day - No Elem. Students
- 12 Graduation
- 17 Last Day Scheduled (subject to change) - 11:30 Dismissal
- 20 End of 4th Quarter - 43 Days
- 20 Professional Development Day
- 27 Memorial Day



AUGUST 2018							SEPTEMBER 2018						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3	4						1
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
							30						
OCTOBER 2018							NOVEMBER 2018						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1						1	2
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	
DECEMBER 2018							JANUARY 2019						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1			1	2	3	4	5
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30	31		
30	31												
FEBRUARY 2019							MARCH 2019						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1							1
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
							31						
APRIL 2019							MAY 2019						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1						1	2
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31	

- End of Quarter
- ◼ Professional Development - No Students
- ◼ No School/No Students
- ◻ No Elementary School

Visit the school district website for calendar event information at: www.sewardpublicschools.org

Parent-Teacher Conferences

High School - 5:30 to 7:30 PM

Tues., Sept 4 Tues., Nov. 13
Mon., Jan. 28 Tues., April 9

Middle School - 4:00 to 8:00 PM

Mon., Sept. 24- Grades 5-8
Thurs., Sept. 27- Grade 5 Only
Tues., Feb. 12 - Grades 6-8

Elementary School - 4:00 to 8:00 PM

Tues., Oct. 16 Thur., Oct. 18
Mon., March 4 Tues., March 5

PARENTS - PLEASE READ BELOW

* Snow Days will be added back into the calendar. The last day of school is determined by the number of snow days used. The last scheduled day of school is May 17. The last day may change depending upon how many scheduled days are canceled. If one snow day is used it would be May 20, two snow days = May 21, and so on. Other than rare instances, we will try to complete school by Memorial Day, but in order to do so, other calendar changes could be necessary.

Mission and Goals

Section 1 School Mission Statement

Welcome to Seward Public Schools. The Seward Public Schools' mission statement is:
"Every Student, Every Day, A Success."

Section 2 School Board Mission Statement

The school district of Seward, in cooperation with parents and community, affirms that all students will have the skills to become productive and contributing members of a global community. The district is committed to the development of each student academically, emotionally, socially and physically.

Section 3 Mutual Respect

Seward High School expects every staff member and student to be treated with respect and dignity. A show of disrespect in words or actions by a student towards a staff member or insubordination on the part of the students will not be tolerated.

Section 4 Multicultural Policy

The school district will provide programs which foster and develop an appreciation and understanding of the racial, ethnic, and cultural heritage of all students. These programs will allow students to explore the history and contributions made by various ethnic groups and will emphasize the rich diversity of the population of the United States.

The programs shall be implemented within the guidelines of the State Department of Education and in accordance with any other applicable laws and/or regulations.

Section 5 Complaint Procedures

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

1. The first step is for the complainant to speak directly to the person with whom he or she is dissatisfied, or to who is responsible for the practice or regulation with which he or she is dissatisfied. For example, a parent who is unhappy with a classroom teacher should initially discuss the matter with the teacher.
2. The second step is for the complainant to speak to the building principal, superintendent of schools, or president of the board of education, as set forth below.
 - a) Complaints about the operation, decisions, or personnel within a building should be submitted to the principal of the building.
 - b) Complaints about the operations of the school district or a building principal should be submitted to the superintendent of schools.
 - c) Complaints about the superintendent of schools should be submitted to the president of the board of education.
3. When a complainant submits a complaint to an administrator, the administrator shall:
 - a) Determine whether the complainant has discussed the matter with the staff member involved.
 - i) If the complainant has not, the administrator will urge the complainant to discuss the matter directly with that staff member.

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

School Day

Section 1 Daily Schedule For High School

1st Period	8:15 – 9:45 (8:15 – 8:59 & 9:01 – 9:45)
2nd Period	9:49 – 11:17
3rd Period	11:17 – 1:17 (including lunch)
4th Period	1:21 – 2:49
5th Period	2:53 – 3:37

Section 2 Shortened Schedules For High School

(2 Hour Late Start)		(1:30 pm Dismissal)		(11:30am Dismissal)	
1st Period	10:15 – 11:15	1st Period	8:15 – 9:09	1st Period	8:15-9:10
3rd Period	11:15 – 1:15	2nd Period	9:14 – 10:04	2nd Period	9:15-9:45
2nd Period	1:20 – 2:11	4th Period	10:09 – 10:59	3rd Period	9:50-10:20 (no lunch)
4th Period	2:16 – 3:07	5th Period	11:04 – 11:30	4th Period	10:25-10:55
5th Period	3:12 – 3:37	3rd Period	11:30 – 1:30	5th Period	11:00-11:30

Section 3 Severe Weather and School Cancellations

The superintendent of schools is authorized by the board of education to close public schools in case of severe weather. Representatives of the superintendent’s staff will notify local news media when inclement weather warrants such action. The information is broadcast regularly by radio and television stations.

Decision to Close Schools

A decision to close school is made when forecasts by the weather service and civil defense officials indicate that it would be unwise for students to go to school. If possible, a decision about the next school day will be made by 9pm for announcement during the 10 p.m. news. An early decision is not always possible because of uncertain weather conditions. School officials will make periodic assessments of conditions during the night and will decide early in the morning (by 6 a.m. if possible). In any case, **an announcement will be made to the news media when schools will be closed.** In some instances, schools will be open, but certain services (such as bus transportation and school activities) may be cancelled. Parents may also sign up to receive Bluejay Alerts via phone and email.

After School Starts

Every attempt will be made to avoid closing school once classes are in session. In some instances closing school during the day is inevitable if children are to safely return home before the brunt of a major storm hits. In these cases as much advance notice as possible will be given to parents. If school is closed during the day, the notice will be broadcast by the media and **parents should have a plan in place to accommodate these circumstances.**

Parental Decisions

Parents may decide to keep their children at home in inclement weather because of personal circumstances. Students absent because of severe weather when school is in session will be marked absent. The absence will be treated like any other absence for legitimate causes provided parents properly notify the school of their decision. Parents may pick up their children in inclement weather at any time during the school day. Students will not normally be dismissed from school during severe weather on the basis of a telephone request.

What Not To Do

Parents should not attempt to come to school during a tornado warning. **School officials are not permitted to release students from the school building during a tornado warning.** Tornado safety procedures are practiced regularly by students and staff members. Also, parents are urged not to call radio and television stations and school buildings during severe weather. Every effort will be made to provide accurate and timely information through the media.

Emergency Conditions

Seward Public Schools has a signal which, when activated, includes the necessity to either evacuate the building or to move to safer areas of the building. All regular drills are held as required by law through the school year.

In a crisis situation, personnel in charge of the building will determine the appropriate level of lockdown if a lockdown is necessary. **In certain situations, parents may not be allowed to enter the building and/or pick up their children.**

Section 4 Closed Campus

All students are required to remain on campus and in the building during the school day, including lunch. Exceptions are made for students attending college classes or leaving for work experience.

Use of Building and Grounds

Section 1 Entering and Leaving the Building

Beginning of School: Students should not be on school grounds prior to 7:00 am. Students are to stay in the building lobbies or hallways and are not to go into the media center or classrooms without permission.

During the School Day: Students are to remain on campus unless excused in accordance with school policies. Upon returning to school during the day, students are to report to the school office.

End of School: Our regular school day ends at 3:37 pm. Make-up work, special help, assignment after school, club meetings, and other school activities begin immediately after school. It is important that students who are involved in any of these activities report to the designated area on time. All other students should leave the building as soon as possible.

Section 2 Visitors

It shall further be the policy of the district, upon reasonable advance notice by a parent or guardian, to attend and monitor courses, assemblies, counseling sessions, and other instructional activities, to permit such parent or guardian to be in attendance at such activities unless such attendance would substantially interfere with a legitimate school interest.

All visitors must report to the office upon entering the school to sign in and to receive a visitor's pass. Various limitations apply such as length of stay, days allowed and access to the classrooms. All visitors must sign out in the office upon exiting the school. Visitations during the first week of school and the last week of school will require extraordinary reasons or permission from administrators.

Students may request to bring an "outside date or guest" to a school activity such as a dance. However, the administration has the final authority to approve or deny any such request for any reason. Forms are available in the office.

Section 3 Smoke-Free Building

The use of tobacco products is prohibited in all school buildings and all school vehicles. Smoking shall also be prohibited in any area where school staff, students or members of the public may be present or may be affected by smoke, including without limitation the stands and bleachers of outdoor athletic fields and near the entry of school buildings.

Section 4 Care of School Property

Students are responsible for the proper care of all books, equipment, supplies and furniture supplied by the school. School-issued items that are stolen or damaged are the responsibility of the student to whom they are issued. Students must pay all fines before they can receive school publications such as transcripts and report cards.

Students, who disfigure property, break windows or do other damage to school property or equipment will be required to pay for the damage done or replace the item.

Fines are determined on books according to the following criteria:

Lost Book: Replacement cost

Missing one or both covers: Same as lost book

Missing or torn page: 50 cents per page

Marks that cannot be erased: 20 cents per page

Section 5 Lockers and Backpacks

Students should not share a locker with other students since they are responsible for the contents and cleanliness of their locker. Students may be assessed a fine for damage to lockers. Book bags and/or gym bags may be brought into the building, but are prohibited in classrooms. Book bags, backpacks, gym bags, purses, etc. are to be kept in a student's assigned locker. Students are not to leave their books/bookbags/backpacks/gym bags in the hallway or in the office. School officials may inspect lockers/bags without any particular suspicion or reasonable cause. Students must use school issued padlocks unless stated otherwise in an IEP or 504 plan.

Section 6 Use of Surveillance and Searches

The board of education has authorized the use of video cameras on school district property to ensure the health, welfare and safety of all staff, students, and visitors to district property, and to safeguard district facilities and equipment. Video cameras may be used in locations as deemed appropriate by the superintendent.

Notice is hereby given that video surveillance may occur on district property. In the event a video surveillance recording captures a student or other building user violating school policies or rules or local, state or federal laws, the video surveillance recording may be used in appropriate disciplinary proceedings against the student or other building user and may also be provided to law enforcement agencies.

The school owns and exercises exclusive control over the student lockers, desks, computer equipment and other such school property. Students should not expect privacy regarding usage of or items placed in or on school property, including student vehicles parked on school property, because school property is subject to search at any time by school officials. Periodic, random searches (including the use of a police dog) of lockers, desks, computers and other such property may be conducted at the discretion of the administration.

The following rules shall apply to searches of students and of a student's personal property and to the seizure of items in a student's possession or control:

1. School officials may conduct a search if there is a reasonable basis to believe that the search will uncover evidence of a crime or a school rule violation. The search must be conducted in a reasonable manner under the circumstances.
2. Illegal items or other items reasonably determined to be a threat to the safety of others or a threat to educational purposes may be taken and kept by school officials. Any firearm or other weapon shall be confiscated and delivered to law enforcement officials as soon as possible.
3. Items that have been or are reasonably expected to be used to disrupt or interfere with the educational process (that is, "nuisance items") may be removed from student possession.

Section 7 Use of Telephone

Use of the office phone will be allowed in an emergency or when a student is ill. It may be allowed in other circumstances at the discretion of the office staff. However, the office phone is NOT to be used during class time and use of the phone is not an excuse to be tardy.

Section 8 Bicycles

Bicycles must be parked in the racks provided and shall be equipped with locks. The school is not responsible for damage or theft of parts while bicycles are on school property.

Section 9 Vehicles

Vehicles must be parked in designated areas. Vehicle related violations may result in loss of privilege of driving or parking on school property.

Section 10 Student Valuables

Students, not the school, are responsible for their personal property. Students are cautioned not to bring large amounts of money or items of value to school. If it is necessary to bring valuable items or more money than is needed to pay for lunch, leave the money or valuables with a staff member in the school office for temporary safe-keeping. Even then, the school is not in a position to guarantee that the student's property will not be subject to loss, theft or damage.

Section 11 Lost and Found

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

Section 12 Accidents

Every accident in the school building, on the school grounds, at practice sessions or at any athletic event sponsored by the school must be reported immediately to the principal.

Section 13 Laboratory Safety Glasses and Safety Equipment

As required by law, approved safety glasses and safety equipment will be required of every student, teacher and visitor while participating in or observing vocational, technical, industrial technology, science and art classes when the risk of potential injury is present.

Section 14 Insurance

Under Nebraska law, the district may not use school funds to provide general student accident or athletic insurance. The district encourages all student participants in athletic programs to have injury and accident insurance and encourages all students who are in classes with risk of personal injury or accident to have insurance coverage. The district does not make recommendations, nor handle the premiums or claims for any insurance company, agent or carrier. Information about student insurance providers will be available in the school office.

Section 15 Bulletins and Announcements

Bulletin boards and display cases are available for school-related and approved materials to be posted and displayed. Posters to be used in the halls or materials for distribution will need to be approved by the principal's office. Posters are not to be attached to any painted wall surfaces. Posters/Signs only can be posted on hallway bulletin boards. The person or organization responsible for distributing the posters is responsible to see that all posters are removed within 48 hours after the event.

Section 16 Copyright and Fair Use Policy

It is the school's policy to follow the federal copyright law. Students are reminded that, when using school equipment and when completing coursework, they also must follow the federal copyright laws. The federal copyright law governs the reproduction of works of authorship. Copyrighted works are protected regardless of the medium in which they are created or reproduced; thus, copyright extends to digital works and works transformed into a digital format. Copyrighted works are not limited to those that bear a copyright notice.

The "fair use" doctrine allows limited reproduction of copyrighted works for educational and research purposes. The relevant portion of the copyright statute provides that the "fair use" of a copyrighted work, including reproduction "for purposes such as criticism, news, reporting, teaching (including multiple copies for classroom use), scholarship or research" is not an infringement of copyright. The law lists the following factors as the ones to be evaluated in determining whether a particular use of a copyrighted work is a permitted "fair use," rather than an infringement of the copyright:

1. The purpose and character of the use, including whether such use is of a commercial nature or is for nonprofit educational purposes
2. The nature of the copyrighted work
3. The amount and substantiality of the portion used in relation to the copyrighted work as a whole.
4. The effect of the use upon the potential market for or value of the copyrighted work.

Although all of these factors will be considered, the last factor is the most important in determining whether a particular use is "fair." Students should seek assistance from a faculty member if there are any questions regarding what may be copied.

Attendance and Participation

Section 1 Attendance Policy

Regular and punctual student attendance is required by school board policy. The administration is responsible for developing further attendance rules and regulations. Students must be enrolled on a full-time basis. Exceptions are permitted per Board Policy 5002.

Section 2 Attendance and Absences

Required Attendance

Every person residing in the school district who has legal or actual charge or control of any child who is of mandatory attendance age shall cause that child to regularly attend a public or private school unless the child has graduated from high school or has been disenrolled by the child's parent or guardian.

Mandatory Attendance Age

All children who are or will turn six years old before January 1 of the current school year are of mandatory attendance age. Children who have not turned eighteen years of age are of mandatory attendance age.

Exceptions

This policy does not apply when (1) the services or earnings of a child are necessary for his or her own support or the support of those actually dependent upon him or her and the child is fourteen years of age or more and has completed the work of the eighth grade; or (2) when illness or severe weather conditions make attendance impossible or impracticable.

A child who will not reach age 7 before January 1 of the current school year may be excused from mandatory attendance if the child's parent or guardian completes an affidavit affirming that alternative educational arrangements have been made for the child. A copy of the required affidavit is attached to this policy.

Discontinuing enrollment

The board will allow any person with legal or actual charge or control of a child who is younger than seven years of age or who is at least 16 years of age to disenroll the child. The person seeking to discontinue the child's enrollment shall submit a signed affidavit to the superintendent using the form, which is attached to this policy. The school district, at the discretion of the administration, may require verification of the child's age and the affiant's authority to disenroll the child.

Attendance Officer

The superintendent is designated as the attendance officer for the district. The superintendent, at his or her discretion, may delegate these responsibilities to any other qualified individual. The attendance officer is responsible for enforcing the provisions of state law relating to compulsory attendance. Compensation for the duties of attendance officer is included in the salary for the superintendent or designee.

Attendance/Absences

Excused Absences: Absences should be cleared through the principal's office in advance whenever possible. An absence or tardy, even by parent approval, may not be excused. Please call the High School Office at 402-643-2988 before 9:00 am to report a student absence.

For excused absences, two school days will be allowed to make up the work for each day missed with a maximum of ten (10) days allowed to make up work. Students who will be absent for a school activity should make arrangements with their teachers prior to the absence. If requested, assignments will be prepared for students who are ill. If parents and /or students request assignments, the school should be contacted by no later than 9 a.m. A student will be considered truant until a parent/guardian contacts the school. After two days with no parent or guardian contact, the absence will be considered unexcused.

If a student is absent, a parent or guardian must call the Seward High School office that day with the reason for the absence. The call must be made each day a student is absent, unless other arrangements have been made, such as pre-arranged absences or an extended period of absence for the same cause. ***Please notify the office before 9:00 A.M. For the student to be considered excused and not have the absence count against the maximum allowable absences, additional verification will be required.***

As required by law, excessive absences will be turned over to the Seward County Attorney's office. Excessive absences include all excused and unexcused absences.

Unexcused Absences: An absence that is not excused is unexcused. Examples of unexcused absences include sneak days, sleeping in or not hearing an alarm. Students who are more than ten (10) minutes late to class are also considered absent. If a student's absence is unexcused, the student may receive zeros for any class work missed during the absence and may be required to make-up the work and the time missed.

A student who engages in unexcused absences may be considered truant as per state law, Neb.Rev. Stat. 79-201. Truancy is a violation of school rules. The consequence of such action will result in the student making up the amount of time missed from the class period(s). Students who leave the school premises without permission during the school day will be considered truant.

Excessive Absences

Excessive absenteeism refers to any student that is absent 5 days or more per term. Such absences shall be determined on a per class basis. SHS may use excused and unexcused absences to calculate this total. The following procedures will act as a guide for Seward High School to address excessive absenteeism.

1. Verbal or written communication by school officials with the person or persons who have legal or actual charge or control of the student.
2. One or more meetings between the school (school administrator/designee, and/or school counselor and/or social worker), the student, the student's parent/guardian when appropriate to address the barriers to attendance. The result of the meeting or meetings shall be to develop a collaborative plan/attendance contract to reduce barriers identified to improve regular attendance. The plan/contract shall consider, but not limited to:
 - Illness related to physical or behavioral health of the child
 - Educational counseling
 - Educational evaluation
 - Referral to community agencies for economic services
 - Family or individual counseling
 - Assisting the family in working with other community services.
3. If the parent/guardian refuses to participate or attend such a meeting the principal shall place documentation of such refusal in the student's attendance records.
4. Reporting Excessive Absenteeism to the County Attorney-The School may report to the county attorney of the county in which the person resides when the school efforts to address excessive absences, the collaborative plan/contract to reduce barriers identified to improve regular attendance have not been successful, and the student has accumulated more than twenty (20) absences per year. The school will notify the student's family in writing prior to referring the child to the county attorney.

5. After three days of absence during a term, a warning letter will be sent which will detail the attendance policy and ask that parents notify the office of any discrepancies and provide any necessary absence documentation. When a student has exceeded 5 (Excused/Unexcused) absences during any Term a letter will be sent home informing the student and his/her parents/guardians of the possible revocation of academic credits and possible need to setup an attendance hearing with the school administration at the end of the term. This letter may coincide with a student conference and/or follow up phone call and/or meeting with the student parents, in addition to any of the aforementioned interventions.

- Absences related to school activities, suspensions, court appearances, medical documented appointments/absences, bad roads and funerals are excluded from a student's absence total when considering revoking class credits.
- At the end of the term, students that have exceeded five (5) or more Excused/Unexcused absences during the term will be sent a letter regarding the revocation of academic credits and procedures to request an attendance hearing and present evidence to support their contention that the individual situation deserves special consideration. Failure to comply within five (5) days will result in the student being denied credit in designated classes.
- The faculty attendance committee determined by the principal will review the circumstances during the hearing and determine whether or not to grant credit. Extraordinary or unusual circumstances, which may have caused a student to have an absence, may be presented to the committee, which upon showing or good cause may allow an administrative waiver from the strict application of this policy. The committee may consider such factors as: whether the reasons are contrary to the spirit of this policy; whether the student is failing in any class; whether the student has been a disruptive, undisciplined student, whether the student has repeatedly failed to comply with school rules and regulations; and /or whether similar factors deemed appropriate by the committee. After the fourth term, the assistant principal/principal and counselors will make decisions in regards to excessive absences.

Section 3 Explanation of Attendance Types/Reasons/Codes

Absence Type	Absence Reason	PowerSchool Code
EXEMPT – Do not count toward maximum allowable absences	School Activity Late Bus Office/Counselor/Nurse Weather Withdrawn In School Suspension Long Term Suspension Out of School Suspension	SAC BUS OFF WTHR WDR ISS LT SUSP SUP
DOCUMENTED – Do not count Toward maximum allowable 5 day per term limit, but will be included in County Attorney Report (20 days per school year)	College Visit (2 day limit) Court/Probation Doctor/Dentist/Orthodontist Death/Funeral Driver's Test Hospital Immunization Not Current	COL CRT DOC(Written Doc. Required) DTH DMV HSP IMM

	Job Shadow	JOB SDW
EXCUSED/UNEXCUSED – Will count toward Maximum allowable days missed AND be included in County Attorney Report (20 days per school year)	Appointments Absent Absent (unexcused by parent) Car Problem/Accident District Tournament Illness Injury Overslept Personal/Family No Ride/Missed Bus Runaway State Fair State Tournament Truant Unaccounted For EXCUSED Tardy -Tardy with a parent call UNEXCUSED Tardy	APPT ABST ABST UEX CAR DST ILL INJRY OVS PER RDE RUN STF STT TRU UNC TARC TAR

Section 4 Tardiness

Students will be considered tardy to class if they are not in their classroom when the tardy bell rings, unless they have a pass from the teacher who detained them. Specific tardy guidelines once students are in the classroom doorway are at the discretion of the classroom teacher. Students have a sufficient time period between all class changes to make it to their next assigned class on time.

Students will receive a warning after their third tardy of the term. Upon each tardy thereafter, a student will receive a 1/2 hour detention. Failure to serve the detention will result in additional consequences as well.

Section 5 Leaving School

Students who must leave school for any reason during the school day must check out at the office before leaving. Students leaving school must be cleared in advance by a note or phone call from the student's parent or legal guardian. Upon returning to school that same day, students are expected to sign in at the office. A sheet will be available on the office counter for this purpose. Students who leave without permission and without signing out in the proper manner will be considered truant.

Section 6 Attendance is Required to Participate in Activities

Students must attend school all day the day of any scheduled school activity in order to participate in the activity. This includes sports contests, practices and dances. Failure to attend on that day will result in a student being withheld from participation in the activity. The principal retains the right to grant participation should extenuating circumstances, such as doctor/dentist appointments and funerals prevail. Sleeping in to rest up for

the game will not be considered an extenuating circumstance, nor will go home ill and then returning to play in the contest later that day.

If SHS qualifies for state in an activity, the principal may allow students to attend the event and still participate in their activities that day. Students who want to attend and support SHS will need to get a permission slip from the office and get approval from their teachers and parents ahead of time. The principal (at his/her discretion) will determine the amount of time that will be excused based on when SHS competes. Forms are available in the office. Students that do not complete a form in advance will be assigned to make up class time.

Section 7 P.E. and Sports Participation

If a student is injured in P.E. or sports practice, he or she needs to alert the teacher or coach so the staff member can complete an accident report.

If a student receives a note from medical personnel indicating they are injured, the student may not participate in P.E. or sports until they receive medical clearance. The school district will need a copy of the release prior to the student returning to P.E. or sports practice.

If a student has a minor injury that does not require medical attention, a parent may excuse their child from P.E. or sports practice for a maximum of two (2) days. The school district will need a note from the parent or the child will be expected to participate.

Section 8 Make-up Work

Written make-up work may be assigned for each day missed regardless of the type of absence. If make-up work is not complete, students will receive no credit for the work required. The time each student is allowed to complete the make-up work is two (2) days for each day missed. However, the time may be extended by mutual agreement between the student and teacher.

Students who will be absent for a school activity should make arrangements with their teachers prior to the absence. The student has the responsibility to contact teachers, initially, regarding make-up assignments. Assignments will be sent for extended absences such as hospitalization or prolonged illnesses.

Scholastic Achievement

Section 1 Grading System

Seward High School will use the letter grading system as follows:

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	93 – 100
B	86 – 92
C	78 - 85
D	70 – 77
F	0 - 69

Each teacher should define for students the grading procedures to be used in their classes.

Section 2 Graduation Requirements

The district shall conduct a commencement ceremony for members of the senior class at the end of the school year. Participation in the ceremony is a privilege, not a right, and the superintendent or his/her designee may prohibit students who have violated conduct rules from participating in the ceremony as a consequence for the misconduct.

Only those students who have completed all graduation requirements (i.e., completed the required coursework or achieved the goals set in the student’s individual education plan) will be allowed to participate in commencement exercises.

Students who graduate from the School District of Seward must accumulate 235 hours. The total graduation requirements must include the following core curriculum:

- Language Arts - - 45 hours
- Language Arts and English Classes – 40 hours
- Speech – 5 hours
- Science - - 30 hours
- Mathematics - - 30 hours
- Technology - - 5 hours
- Vocational - - 5 hours
- Social Science - - 35 hours
- Physical Education - - 15 hours
- Fine Arts or Foreign Language - - 5 hours
- Personal Finance - - 5 hours
- Volunteer Service – 30 clock hours (In Seward Community, Unless Pre Approved)

The student handbook and registration book will list the core classes and the elective classes that are available and/or required.

Early Graduation Plan

The School District of Seward supports the concept of early completion as a means of accelerating students toward the achievement of lifetime plans. The following guidelines have been established for students to be eligible for early completion:

1. Students must meet all completion requirements established by the Board of Education in order to be eligible for early graduation as well as the credit hour requirements in each specific subject matter area.
2. A student who decides to opt for early graduation or completion is not eligible to participate in school sponsored activities following the last day he/she attends classes. The effective date for participation will end with the last day that the student is enrolled in classes. The only school activities that the applicant (non-alternative school) is eligible for will be the regularly scheduled graduation ceremony and the jr/sr prom.
3. This policy shall be evaluated annually by the high school principal and appropriate revisions shall be recommended to the Board for its consideration.

Senior Recognition

The school district will recognize the outstanding academic achievement of its graduating seniors in the following manner:

- Summa Cum Laude – A graduating senior with a cumulative G.P.A. of 4.0 or greater
- Magna Cum Laude – A graduating senior with a cumulative G.P.A. between 3.833 – 3.999
- Cum Laude – A graduating senior with a cumulative G.P.A. between 3.667 – 3.832

G.P.A. will be calculated on numeric basis using a four-point scale. The formula to do so is as follows:

Mark points earned in a course multiplied by the number of potential credits towards graduation assigned to that particular course. The sum of this calculation for each course is then added up with all other courses attempted for that term (for honor roll purposes) or cumulative for overall GPA and is then divided by the total number of academic credits attempted for that term or cumulatively in order to calculate overall high school GPA.

The conversion table that will be used to associate classroom percentage grade performance with a particular letter grade and mark point value has been provided below.

<u>Grade Earned</u>	<u>Non-Weighted</u>	<u>Weighted</u>	<u>Percentage Ranges</u>
A+	4.0	5.0	98-100
A	4.0	5.0	95-97
A-	3.667	4.667	93-94
B+	3.333	4.333	91-92
B	3.0	4.0	88-90
B-	2.667	3.667	86-87
C+	2.333	3.333	84-85
C	2.0	3.0	80-83
C-	1.667	2.667	78-79
D+	1.333	2.333	76-77
D	1.0	2.0	72-75
D-	.667	1.667	70-71
F	0	0	0-69

The following Advanced Placement (A.P.) courses will be classified as weighted.

A.P. Calculus	A.P. Literature and Composition
A.P. Environmental Science	A.P. Statistics
A.P. Music Theory	A.P. American History
A.P. Biology	A.P. Human Geography
Other A.P. offerings that may be added in the future	

The following courses will be excluded in the calculation of high school GPA:

- Courses completed by home-schooled students

- Correspondence courses completed at a non-accredited high school
- Non-credit earning courses
- “Pass” courses
- Aide assignments
- College classes that do not earn high school credit

Transfer Students

In an effort to provide all students with an equitable GPA calculation, the records of transfer students will be evaluated individually with each course grade being assigned the weight of its closest counterpart in the Seward High School registration guidebook. The goal of this process is to ensure equity and fairness so that those transferring to Seward High School are given neither an advantage or disadvantage in the calculation of GPA.

Selection of Graduation Speakers

Students interested in representing their graduating class as speakers at graduation shall apply at the designated time during the second semester of their senior year. The application process will require a short written application along with a speaking trial. A faculty committee of three-to-five staff members appointed by the principal on an annual basis will select the graduation speakers based upon pre-selected criteria that consider both the content of the speech and the delivery. No faculty member with a conflict of interest will be selected to serve on the committee.

Section 3 Grade Placement

Subject to a determination on grade placement based on the criteria set forth below, a student transferring from an accredited school will generally be placed at the grade level that is comparable to the placement in the school from which the student is transferring. Temporary placement may be made until a student’s records are received to verify the placement.

The appropriate level of placement for secondary students may be determined by, but not limited to, consideration of the following information:

- Chronological age.
- Previous public school or private school experience.
- Standardized achievement test data.
- Criterion referenced test data.
- Final examination test data.
- Diagnostic test data.

A student transferring into the school district in grades 9-12 will be responsible for meeting all graduation requirements to earn a high school diploma. Credits earned in grades 9-12 at an accredited school will be counted toward high school graduation requirements. Credits from a home school and/or a non-accredited school will not be counted toward high school graduation requirements.

The district administration, in conjunction with the building principal, will determine the appropriate grade level/credit status of a student transferring from a foreign country.

Section 4 Schedule Changes

Students needing schedule changes should notify their school counselor. The school counselor and all teachers involved must agree to all schedule changes. Due to the efforts in how we build of the master schedule based upon student requests to maximize our staffing, schedule changes will be very limited. The principal reserves the right to make the final decision on all schedule changes.

Section 5 Progress Reports

Various supplemental reports may be sent to parents throughout the school year concerning student's performance. These reports may describe student work of an exceptional nature or work that needs improving. These reports will be sent at teacher discretion.

Section 6 Report Cards

Report cards are issued at the end of each term. Percent grades are used to designate a student's progress. Incompletes shall be designated by an "I" for the term. Students have one (1) week after the end of the term to make up incomplete work if given an "I" for the term. Failure to do so may cause the grade to change to an "F" or "NC" (no credit). No incompletes will be given at the end of the fourth term, as all course work must be completed by the end of the fourth term.

Section 7 Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-Teacher conferences will be held once each term. Refer to the school calendar for the schedule. Conferences with teachers, at any other time, are possible by contacting the school office and making arrangements with one or more teachers as needed.

Section 8 Honor Roll

The purpose of the Honor Roll is to recognize those students who demonstrate academic excellence. The merit roll will be determined for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th terms. Students will be recognized if they meet the following criteria:

1. Minimum G.P.A. of a 3.5 for the grading period (high school classes only).
2. No "C's" or below in any class.
3. No "N's" or "U's" on student citizenship.
4. Enrolled in a minimum of 10 high school credit hours for the grading period.

Honor Roll lists are published in the *Seward County Independent* each term.

Section 9 National Honor Society

The National Honor Society chapter of Seward High School is a duly chartered and affiliated chapter of the prestigious national organization.

Admission to the National Honor Society

Members of this year's sophomore and junior classes are eligible for consideration for membership in the Seward Chapter of the National Honor Society. Students are selected by a faculty council.

Membership is based on four criteria which are the cornerstones of the National Honor Society. They are scholarship, leadership, service and character. Students must have an average GPA of a 3.5 or greater. If they meet the scholarship criterion, their names will be submitted to the faculty as a whole. The faculty will rate each student on a 1 to 4 scale in the next three areas and are instructed to evaluate only the students whom they know.

Additionally, each student will be asked to complete a student survey form to support the student's candidacy by providing relevant information for use by the Faculty Council. Selection for membership to the chapter is always determined by a majority vote of the Faculty Council after reviewing faculty evaluation forms, student information forms and administrative records.

According to the published guidelines of the National Honor Society, “selection to NHS is a privilege, not a right. Students do not apply for membership in the National Honor Society; instead, they provide information to be used by the local selection committee to support their candidacy for membership. For many students, selection as a member of the NHS is the pinnacle of their achievements in school. This honor, recognized throughout the nation, is both the public recognition of accomplishment and the private commitment to continued excellence on the part of the new member.”

The selection process will begin during the fourth term. Students should check the counselor’s office window where names of candidates for membership will be posted.

Students or parents who have questions regarding the selection process or membership obligations can contact the chapter advisor.

Removal from National Honor Society

A student may be removed from NHS by action of the principal upon a determination by the principal that the student:

1. *Prior Conduct.* Engaged in conduct prior to induction which was not known at the time of induction, and which, if known, would have caused denial if induction.
2. *Post-Induction Conduct.* Engaged in conduct after induction which is grounds for a student to be long-term suspended or expelled from school under the student code of conduct contained in this handbook; which is grounds for suspension or removal from any extracurricular activity of the school, or which could cause denial of induction if such conduct had taken place prior to the time of induction.

The student may appeal the principal’s decision to the superintendent by giving written notice of appeal to the superintendent within ten (10) calendar days of receipt of the principal’s removal decision. The appeal procedures shall be established at the discretion of the superintendent such as to allow a fair opportunity for the student’s views and information to be considered. The decision of the superintendent on the appeal shall be final.

Support Services

Section 1 Special Education

All children, regardless of their handicapping condition, are entitled to a free appropriate public education and an equal opportunity for education according to their needs. The district will follow the rules and protocols created by the Nebraska Department of Education and the United States Department of Education in identifying, evaluating, verifying and serving students who may be entitled to rehabilitation or special education services.

The school district shall provide special education and rehabilitative services only to children with verified disabilities and qualifying conditions.

Section 2 Counseling Services

Seward High School employs school counselors for the purpose of assisting with the district's testing program and to assist with scheduling and for students to discuss problems and resolve conflicts.

Section 3 Health Services

Student Illnesses

School personnel will notify parents when a student needs to be sent home from school due to illness. Conditions requiring a student be sent home include: temperature greater than 100°F., vomiting, diarrhea, unexplained rashes, live head lice, or on determination by school personnel that the child's condition prevents meaningful participation in the education program, presents a health risk to the child or others, or that medical consultation is warranted unless the condition resolves. Please include emergency daytime phone numbers on your child's enrollment card so that you can be reached if your child becomes ill or injured while at school. Please also inform your school health office staff of health related information you feel is important for your student's success in the classroom and/or safety at school.

Guidelines for Administering Medication

Whenever possible your child should be provided medications by you outside of school. In the event it is necessary that the child take or have medication available at school, the parents or guardians must provide a signed written consent for the child to be given the medication at school. **ALL** medication also requires a signed **parental** consent form that is available at the High School office.

Medications must be provided to the school by the parent or guardian in the pharmacy-labeled or manufacturer-labeled bottle. Repackaged medication will not be accepted. All medication also requires a signed consent form to be given at school. **Prescription medications that are to be given for a period longer than two weeks need to have a written prescription from the prescribing doctor on file in the nurse's office (i.e. inhalers, ADHD meds given at school, etc)**

For non-prescription medication that must be given on a routine basis by school personnel, parents must complete form Med-B. School personnel can occasionally give non-prescription drugs, such as non-aspirin and antacid. Parents must have signed the authorization form indicating what type of non-prescription medication can or cannot be administered to their student.

Students should not dispense any type of medication to another student.

School Health Screening

Among the health services provided for students by the Seward School District are screening tests for vision, dental, and hearing. Hearing tests are given to students in kindergarten through fourth grade, seventh, and tenth grades, and to new students and those who have had previous hearing losses. Vision screening (distance) is done each year in all elementary grades kindergarten through fourth grade, seventh, and tenth grade. Vision (near) is done in grades first and third grade. Dental screenings are completed each year kindergarten through fourth grade, seventh grade, and tenth grade except for those students who have evidence of having been seen by a dentist within the preceding six (6) months. Weight/height status along with a body mass index percentile is done in grades kindergarten through fourth grade, seventh grade, and tenth grade.

These screenings are for the purpose of detecting major dental, vision, and hearing problems, which are apparent and are not intended to substitute for a thorough doctor examination. Parents/guardians are notified if the screenings indicate the potential for any type of problem. School personnel do not diagnose health problems. If health problems are detected, parents/guardians are then encouraged to consult their family medical specialist, but the schools cannot assume the cost of the medical specialist's.

See the chart below for the most recent school immunization rules and regulations provided by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.

Summary of the School Immunization Rules and Regulations

Student Age Group	Required Vaccines
Ages 2 through 5 years enrolled in a school based program not licensed as a child care provider	4 doses of DTaP, DTP, or DT vaccine 3 doses of Polio vaccine 3 doses of Hib vaccine or 1 dose of Hib given at or after 15 months of age 3 doses of pediatric Hepatitis B vaccine 1 dose of MMR or MMRV given on or after 12 months of age 1 dose of varicella (chickenpox) or MMRV given on or after 12 months of age. Written documentation (including year) of varicella disease from parent, guardian, or health care provider will be accepted. 4 doses of pneumococcal or 1 dose of pneumococcal given on or after 15 months of age
Students entering school (Kindergarten or 1 st Grade depending on the school district's entering grade)	3 doses of DTaP, DTP, DT, or Td vaccine, one given on or after the 4 th birthday 3 doses of Polio vaccine 3 doses of pediatric Hepatitis B vaccine or 2 doses of adolescent vaccine if student is 11-15 years of age 2 doses of MMR or MMRV vaccine, given on or after 12 months of age and separated by at least one month 2 doses of varicella (chickenpox) or MMRV given on or after 12 months of age. Written documentation (including year) of varicella disease from parent, guardian, or health care provider will be accepted. If the child has had varicella disease, they do not need any varicella shots.
Students entering 7 th grade	Must be current with the above vaccinations AND receive 1 dose of Tdap (contain Pertussis booster)
Students transferring from outside the state at any grade	Must be immunized appropriately according to the grade entered.

Source: Nebraska Immunization Program, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. . For additional information, call 402-471-6423.

The School Rules & Regulations are available on the internet: http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/reg_1173.aspx (Title 173: Control of Communicable Diseases - Chapter 3; revised and implemented 2011)
Updated 01/26/2018

Section 4 Admission Requirements/Exempt Students

Students shall be admitted to the school district who are:

- legal residents of the school district or otherwise entitled by Nebraska law to attend the schools of the district tuition-free;
- approved for option enrollment pursuant to policy;
- approved as a foreign exchange students pursuant to policy; or
- legal residents of a district that has contracted with this district for their educational services.
- statutorily entitled to attend the schools of the district on a part-time basis subject to this policy and the regulations of the district.

Students who seek to enroll in the district must comply with each board policy, state statute and regulation that applies to their situation.

Part-Time Enrollment of Students

A student may be permitted to enroll on a part-time basis pursuant to this policy and applicable regulations when appropriate for reasons that include but are not limited to the following: the student attends another education institution on a part-time basis; is enrolled for a limited number of credit hours needed to graduate; has a modified schedule because of a disability or as part of an individualized education plan; or is a student who resides in the school district but attends a private, denominational, or parochial school or a school that elects not to meet accreditation or approval requirements (referred to herein as an exempt school student or an exempt school, respectively—commonly referred to as a home school).

Application for Enrollment

The parent or guardian of an exempt school student who is of appropriate age to attend school, resides in the school district, has not graduated from high school, and has not received a graduate equivalency diploma must meet admission requirements and file an application for enrollment on forms provided by the school district by June 1 of the year of enrollment. For second semester high school courses, the application must be filed by November 1. For students who move into the district mid-semester, the application must be filed within 20 days of moving into the district. The administration shall review the application, determine whether to approve or deny it, notify the parent or guardian, and schedule enrollment at an educationally appropriate time in the building or attendance center of the administration's choice. Enrollment does not carry over from one year to the next, and the parent or guardian of an exempt school student must apply for enrollment each school year.

Capacity

The enrollment of exempt school students is subject to the capacity limitations established by the district for grades, classes, courses, and programs. Full-time students shall be given priority for enrollment in grades, classes, courses, and programs.

Placement of Students

Exempt school students shall be placed in courses for which they have adequate preparation and which are determined to be educationally appropriate based on criteria that include, but are not limited to the student's age, achievement test scores, academic record, evaluation by school personnel and any other standards used by the district for the placement of students.

Grades and Academic Honors

Exempt school students shall receive grades, report cards, and transcripts, but shall not be eligible to graduate, receive a diploma or qualify for class ranking unless they meet all district requirements for such including earning a sufficient number of credit hours and semesters of attendance.

Applicability of School Rules

Exempt school students are subject to all rules and regulations of the board of education and administration as set forth in policy, handbooks or other communications, as well as the rules and directives of the building administration and teaching personnel. They must remain on the school campus during scheduled classes but must leave the school campus when not engaged in a course or course-related activity unless the course or course-activity requires their presence or the building principal approves their presence. Students who violate school policies, rules, or directives shall be subject to disciplinary procedures up to and including suspension and expulsion.

Extracurricular Sports and Activities

Exempt school students may not participate in extracurricular sports and activities; provided, they may participate in activities that are part of the school district curriculum (e.g. band performance). Exempt school students who become full-time students and satisfy the eligibility requirements of the district and the Nebraska School Activities Association, where applicable, may participate in extracurricular sports and activities.

Transportation

Exempt school students are not entitled to transportation or reimbursement for transportation.

Birth Certificate, Physical, Visual Evaluation and Immunization

The parents or legal guardians shall furnish:

1. A certified copy of the student's birth certificate issued by the state in which the child was born, prior to admission of a child for the first time. Other reliable proof of the child's identity and age, accompanied by an affidavit explaining the inability to produce a copy of the birth certificate, may be used in lieu of a birth certificate. An affidavit is defined as a notarized statement by an individual who can verify the reason a copy of the birth certificate cannot be produced.
2. Evidence of a physical examination by a physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner, within six (6) months prior to entrance of the child into the beginner grade and the seventh grade or, in the case of a transfer from out of state, to any other grade, unless the parent or legal guardian submits a written statement objecting to a physical examination.
3. Evidence of a visual evaluation by a physician, physician assistant, an advanced practice registered nurse, or an optometrist, within six (6) months prior to entrance of the child into the beginner grade or, in the case of a transfer from out of state, to any other grade, unless the parent or legal guardian submits a written statement objecting to a visual evaluation. The visual evaluation is to consist of testing for amblyopia, strabismus, and internal and external eye health, with testing sufficient to determine visual acuity.
4. Evidence of protection against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, measles, mumps, and rubella, Hepatitis B, Varicella (Chicken Pox) and Haemophilus Influenzae type B (Hib) and other diseases as required by applicable law, by immunization, prior to enrollment, unless the parent or legal guardian submits a refusal of immunization for medical reasons signed by a physician or refusal for religious reasons affidavit signed by a notary public.

The superintendent or superintendent's designee shall notify the parent or guardian in writing of the foregoing requirements and the right to submit affidavits or statements to object to the requirements, as applicable. The superintendent or superintendent's designee shall also provide a telephone number or other contact information to assist the parent or guardian in receiving information regarding free or reduced –cost visual evaluation for low-income families who qualify.

A student who fails to meet the foregoing requirements shall not be permitted to enroll or to enter school, or if provisionally enrolled or enrolled without compliance, shall not be permitted to continue in school until evidence of compliance or an exemption from compliance is given.

Enrollment of Expelled Students

If a student has been expelled from any public school district in any state, and the student has not completed the terms or time period of the expulsion, the student shall not be permitted to enroll in this school district until the expulsion period from such other school has expired, unless the school board of this district in its sole and absolute discretion upon a proper application approves by a majority vote the enrollment of such student prior to expiration of the expulsion period. As a condition of enrollment, the school board may require attendance in an alternative school, class or educational program pursuant to Nebraska law until the terms or time period of the original underlying expulsion are completed. A student expelled from a private, denominational, or parochial school or from any public school in another state, will not be prohibited from enrolling in the public school district in which the student resides or in which the student has been accepted pursuant to the enrollment option program for any period of time beyond the time limits place on expulsion, pursuant to the Student Discipline Act, or for any expulsion for an offense for which expulsion is not authorized for a public school student under such Act. For purposes of this policy, the term expulsion or expelled includes any removal from any school for a period in excess of twenty (20) school days.

Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco

Section 1 Drug-Free Schools

The district implements regulations and practices that will ensure compliance with the Federal Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act and all regulations and rules promulgated pursuant thereto. The district's safe and drug-free schools program is established in accordance with principles of effectiveness as required by law to respond to such harmful effects.

Education and Prevention

This district promotes comprehensive, age appropriate, developmentally based drug and alcohol education and prevention programs, which will include in the curriculum the teaching of both proper and incorrect use of drugs and alcohol for all students in all grades of this school district. Further, this district will have proper in-service orientation and training for all employed staff.

Drug and Alcohol Use and Prevention

By this handbook, each student of the district is hereby provided a copy of the standards of conduct for student behavior in the district which prohibit the unlawful possession, use or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol on school premises or as part of any of the school's activities.

Drug and Alcohol Education and Prevention Program of the District Pursuant to The Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Laws and Regulations

All students are provided age appropriate, developmentally based drug and alcohol education and prevention program for all students of the schools. It shall be the policy of the district to require instruction at such grade level concerning the adverse effects resulting from the use of illicit drugs and alcohol. Such instruction shall be designed by affected classroom teachers or as otherwise directed by the board to be appropriate to the age of the student exposed to such instruction. One of the primary objectives shall be the prevention of illicit drug and alcohol use by students. It shall further be the policy of the district to encourage the use of outside resource personnel such as law enforcement officers, medical personnel and experts on the subject of drug and alcohol abuse, so that its economic, social, educational and physiological consequences may be made known to the students of the district.

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

Drug and Alcohol Counseling, Rehabilitation and Reentry Programs

All students shall be provided information concerning available drug and alcohol counseling, rehabilitation and re-entry programs within sixty (60) miles of the administrative offices of the district or, where no such services are found, within the State of Nebraska. Information concerning such resources shall be presented to all of the students of the district upon request of by the school counselor.

In the event of disciplinary proceedings against any student for any district policy pertaining to the prohibition against unlawful possession, use or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol, appropriate school personnel shall confer with any such student and his or her parents or guardian concerning available drug and alcohol counseling, rehabilitation and re-entry programs that appropriate school personnel shall consider to be of benefit to any such student and his or her parent or guardian.

Standards of Student Conduct Pertaining to the Unlawful Possession, Use or Distribution of Illicit Drugs or Alcohol on School Premises or as a Part of Any of the School's Activities

(In addition to standards of student conduct elsewhere adopted by board policy or administrative regulation to absolutely prohibit the unlawful possession, use or distribution of illicit drugs or alcohol on school premises or as a part of any of the school's activities.) This shall include such unlawful possession, use or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by any student of the district during regular school hours or after school hours at school sponsored activities on school premises, at school-sponsored activities off school premises.

Conduct prohibited at places and activities as hereinabove shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

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

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

Drugs and Alcohol Prohibited – Standards of Conduct for Students

The manufacture, possession, selling, dispensing, use or being under the influence of alcohol or any alcoholic beverage or alcoholic liquor on school grounds, or during an educational function, event, or activity, or off school grounds if there is a substantial interference with school purposes, is prohibited.

The possession, selling, dispensing, use or being under the influence of any controlled substance or drug, including but not limited to marijuana, any narcotic drug, any hallucinogen, and stimulant, or any depressant on school grounds, or during an educational function, event, or activity, or off school grounds if there is a substantial interference with school purposes, is prohibited.

The possession, selling, dispensing, use, or being under the influence of any abusable glue or aerosol paint or any other chemical substance for inhalation, including but not limited to lighter fluid, whiteout and reproduction fluid on school grounds, or during an educational function, event, or activity, or off school grounds if there is a substantial interference with school purposes, is prohibited.

The possession, selling, dispensing, use of any look-alike drug or look-alike controlled substance on school grounds, or during an educational function, event, or activity, or off school grounds if there is a substantial interference with school purposes, is prohibited.

The possession, selling, dispensing, or use of tobacco, tobacco look-alike products, electronic cigarettes/vaporizing devices on school grounds, or during an educational function, event, or activity, or off school grounds if there is a substantial interference with school purposes, is prohibited.

Any prescription or non-prescription drug, medicine, vitamin or other chemical may not be taken unless authorized as stated in the next session on AUTHORIZED USE.

Authorized Use

Any student whose parent or guardian requests that he or she be given prescription or non-prescription medicine, drug or vitamin shall provide signed permission by parent or physician.

Disciplinary Sanctions

1. Violation of this policy may result in suspension or expulsion. Prohibited substances will be confiscated and could be turned over to law enforcement authorities. The student may be referred for counseling or treatment. Parents or legal guardian will be notified.
2. If the student is observed to be violating this policy, the student will be escorted to the principal's office immediately, or if not feasible, the principal will be notified. The student's parents or legal guardian will be requested to pick up the student. If it appears there is imminent danger to other students, school personnel, or students involved, the principal, or such other personnel as authorized by the principal, may have the student removed by authorized medical or law enforcement personnel.
3. Parents and students shall be given a copy of the standards of conduct and disciplinary sanctions required and shall be notified that compliance with the standards of conduct is mandatory.

Intervention

The Seward Public School District does not have the authority or responsibility to make medical or health determinations regarding chemical dependency. However, when observed behavior indicates that a problem exists which may affect the student's ability to learn or function in the educational climate or activity, the school then has the right and responsibility to refer the student for a formal chemical dependency diagnosis based on behavior observed by school staff. The school will issue a statement to all students and employed staff that the use of illicit drugs and the unlawful possession and use of alcohol is wrong and harmful. The school shall make available to students and employed staff information about any drug and alcohol counseling, rehabilitation and re-entry programs, which are available to students.

Administration

The administration is authorized to adopt such administrative rules, regulations or practices necessary to properly implement this policy. Such regulations, rules or practices may vary the procedures set forth herein to the extent necessary to fit the circumstances of an individual situation. Such rules, regulations and practices may include administrative forms, such as checklists to be used by staff to record observed behavior and to determine the proper plan of action.

Safe and Drug-Free Schools – Parental Notice

The handbook Receipt shall also serve to demonstrate that you as parent or guardian of a student attending Seward Public Schools have received notice of the standards of conduct of this district expected of students concerning the absolute prohibition against the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol on school premises or as a part of any of the school's activities as described in board policy or administrative regulation. This notice is being provided to you pursuant to the safe and drug-free schools law and 34 C.F.R. Part 86, both federal legal requirements for the district to obtain federal financial assistance. Your signature on the handbook receipt acknowledges that you and your child or children who are students attending this district fully understand the district's position absolutely prohibiting the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and the possession, use, or distribution of alcohol or tobacco on school premises or as a part of the school's activities as herein above described and that compliance with these standards is mandatory. Any non-compliance with these standards can and will result in punitive measures being taken against any student failing to comply with these standards.

Students Rights, Conduct, Rules and Regulations

Section 1 Student Conduct-Discipline Policies/Procedures

The common goal of students, parents, faculty and administration of Seward High School is to maintain a school atmosphere that is conducive to learning. In order to achieve this, Seward High School will continue to review and distribute a set of reasonable and fair rules and policies.

Students who violate school rules will face disciplinary consequences up to and including expulsion from school. The code of conduct and procedure for imposing discipline on students is set forth in the student handbook. The board of education will not consider an appeal of any disciplinary sanction unless the student and his/her family have complied with the procedures set forth in the handbook.

Short-Term Suspension

The Principal or the Principal's designee may exclude students from school or any school function for a period of up to five school days (short-term suspension) on the following grounds:

1. Conduct constituting grounds for expulsion as hereinafter set forth
2. Other violations of rules and standards of behavior adopted by the Board of Education or the administrative or teaching staff of the school, that occur on or off school grounds, if such conduct interferes with school purposes or there is a connection between such conduct and school.

The following process applies to short-term suspension:

1. The Principal or the Principal's designee shall make a reasonable investigation of the facts and circumstances. Short-term suspension shall be imposed only after a determination that the suspension is necessary to help any student, to further school purposes, or to prevent an interference with school purposes.
2. Prior to commencement of the short-term suspension, the student will be given oral or written notice of the charges against the student. The student will be advised of what he or she is accused of having done, be given an explanation of the evidence the authorities have, and be given an opportunity to explain the student's version of the facts.
3. Within 24 hours or such additional time as is reasonably necessary following the suspension, the Principal or administrator will send a written statement to the student, and the student's parent or guardian, describing the student's conduct, misconduct or violation of the rule or standard and the reasons for the action taken. An opportunity will be given to the student, and the student's parent or guardian, to have a conference with the Principal or administrator ordering the short-term suspension before or at the time the student returns to school. The Principal or administrator shall determine who, in addition to the parent or guardian, is to attend the conference.

Long-Term Suspension

Students may be excluded by the Principal or the Principal's designee from school or any school function for a period of more than five school days but less than twenty school days on (long-term suspension) the conduct constituting grounds for expulsion as hereinafter set forth. The process for long-term suspension is hereinafter set forth.

Expulsion

1. **Meaning of Expulsion.** Expulsion means exclusion from attendance in all schools, grounds and activities of or within the system for a period not to exceed the remainder of the semester in which it took effect unless the misconduct occurred (a) within ten school days prior to the end of the first semester, in which case the

expulsion shall remain in effect through the second semester, or (b) within ten school days prior to the end of the second semester, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect for summer school and the first semester of the following school year, or (c) unless the expulsion is for conduct specified in these rules or in law as permitting or requiring a longer removal, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect for the period specified therein. Such action may be modified or terminated by the school district at any time during the expulsion period.

2. **Summer Review.** Any expulsion that will remain in effect during the first semester of the following school year will be automatically scheduled for review before the beginning of the school year. The review will be conducted by the hearing officer who conducted the initial expulsion hearing, or a hearing officer appointed by the Superintendent in the event no hearing was previously held or the initial hearing officer is no longer available or willing to serve, after the hearing officer has given notice of the review to the student and the student's parent or guardian. This review shall be limited to newly discovered evidence or evidence of changes in the student's circumstances occurring since the original hearing. This review may lead to a recommendation by the hearing officer that the student be readmitted for the upcoming school year. If the school board or board of education or a committee of such board took the final action to expel the student, the student may be readmitted only by action of the board. Otherwise the student may be readmitted by action of the Superintendent.
3. **Suspension of Enforcement of an Expulsion:** Enforcement of an expulsion action may be suspended (i.e., "stayed") for a period of not more than one full semester in addition to the balance of the semester in which the expulsion takes effect, and as a condition of such suspended action, the student may be assigned to a school, class, or program and to such other consequences which the school district deems appropriate. In lieu of other authorized educational programs to which the student may be assigned, such school, class, or program may be offered as a community-centered classroom and may include experiences for the student as an observer or aide in governmental functions, as an on-the-job trainee, and as a participant in specialized tutorial experiences or individually prescribed educational and counseling programs. Such programs shall include an individualized learning program to enable the student to continue academic work for credit toward graduation. At the conclusion of the designated period: (1) if the student has satisfactorily participated in the school, class, or program to which such student has been assigned the student shall be reinstated and permitted to return to the school of former attendance or to attend other programs offered by the district, and action to expunge the record of the expulsion action may be taken at the discretion of the Superintendent or his or her designee, or (2) if the student's conduct has been unsatisfactory, the expulsion action shall be enforced. The determination of whether the students' participation and conduct has been satisfactory or not shall be made by Principal or the Principal's designee.
4. **Students Subject to Juvenile or Court Probation.** Prior to the readmission to school of any student who is less than nineteen years of age and who is subject to the supervision of a juvenile probation officer or an adult probation officer pursuant to the order of the District Court, County Court, or Juvenile Court, who chooses to meet conditions of probation by attending school, and who has previously been expelled from school, the Principal or the Principal's designee shall meet with the student's probation officer and assist in developing conditions of probation that will provide specific guidelines for behavior and consequences for misbehavior at school (including conduct on school grounds and conduct during an educational function or event off school grounds) as well as educational objectives that must be achieved. If the guidelines, consequences, and objectives provided by the Principal or the Principal's designee are agreed to by the probation officer and the student, and the court permits the student to return to school under the agreed to conditions, the student may be permitted to return to school. The student may with proper consent, upon such return, be evaluated by the school for possible disabilities and may be referred for evaluation for possible placement in a special education program. The student may be expelled or otherwise disciplined for subsequent conduct as provided in Board policy and state statute.

Other Forms of Student Discipline

Administrative and teaching personnel may also take actions regarding student behavior, other than removal of students from school, which are reasonably necessary to aid the student, further school purposes, or prevent interference with the educational process. Such actions may include, but need not be limited to, counseling of students, parent conferences, rearrangement of schedules, requirements that a student remain in school after regular hours to do additional work, restriction of extracurricular activity, or requirements that a student receive counseling, psychological evaluation, or psychiatric evaluation upon the written consent of a parent or guardian to such counseling or evaluation. The actions may also include in-school suspensions during the day. When in-school suspensions, after-school assignments, or other disciplinary measures are assigned, the student is responsible for complying with such disciplinary measures and a failure to serve such assigned discipline as directed will serve as grounds for further discipline, up to expulsion from school.

Grounds for Short-Term Suspension, Long-Term Suspension, Expulsion or Mandatory Reassignment

The following conduct constitutes grounds for long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment, subject to the procedural provisions of the Student Discipline Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-254 through 79-296, when such activity occurs on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose or in a vehicle being driven for a school purpose by a school employee or by his or her designee, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event:

1. Use of violence, force, coercion, threat, intimidation, or similar conduct in a manner that constitutes a substantial interference with school purposes;
2. Willfully causing or attempting to cause substantial damage to property, stealing or attempting to steal property of substantial value, or repeated damage or theft involving property or setting or attempting to set a fire;
3. Causing or attempting to cause personal injury to a school employee, to a school volunteer, or to any student. Personal injury caused by accident, self-defense, or other action undertaken on the reasonable belief that it was necessary to protect some other person shall not constitute a violation of this subdivision.
4. Threatening or intimidating any student or adult for the purpose of or with the intent of obtaining money or anything of value from such student;
5. Knowingly possessing, handling, or transmitting any object or material that is ordinarily or generally considered a weapon;
6. Engaging in the possession, selling, dispensing, or use of a controlled substance or an imitation controlled substance, as defined in section 28-401, a substance represented to be a controlled substance, or alcoholic liquor as defined in section 53-103 or being under the influence of a controlled substance or alcoholic liquor (note: the term "under the influence" for school purposes has a less strict meaning than it does under criminal law; for school purposes, the term means any level of impairment and includes even the odor or smell of alcohol on the breath or person of a student; also, it includes being impaired by reason of the abuse of any material used as a stimulant);
7. Public indecency or sexual conduct;
8. Sexually assaulting or attempting to sexually assault any person. In addition, if a complaint has been filed by a prosecutor in a court of competent jurisdiction alleging that the student has sexually assaulted or attempted to sexually assault any person, including sexual assaults or attempted sexual assaults, the student is subject to suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment regardless of where the conduct took place. For purposes of this subdivision, sexual assault shall mean sexual assault in the first degree and sexual assault in the second degree as defined in sections 28-319 and 28-320, as such sections now provide or may hereafter from time to time be amended;
9. Truancy or failure to attend assigned classes or assigned activities;
10. Tardiness to school, assigned classes or assigned activities;
11. The use of language, written or oral, or conduct, including gestures, which is profane or abusive to students or staff members. Profane or abusive language or conduct includes, but is not limited to, that which is commonly understood and intended to be derogatory toward a group or individual based upon race, gender, national origin, or religion;

12. Dressing in a manner which is dangerous to the student's health and safety, a danger to the health and safety of others, or which is disruptive, distractive or indecent to the extent that it interferes with the learning and educational process.
13. Willfully violating the behavioral expectations for those students riding school district buses.
14. Engaging in any other activity forbidden by the laws of the State of Nebraska which activity constitutes a danger to other students or interferes with school purposes; or
15. A repeated violation of any rules and standards validly established by the Board of Education or school officials if such violations constitute a substantial interference with school purposes.
16. In addition, a student who engages in the following conduct occurs on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose or in a vehicle being driven for a school purpose by a school employee or by his or her designee, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event shall be expelled for the remainder of the school year in which it took effect if the misconduct occurs during the first semester, and if the expulsion for such conduct takes place during the second semester, the expulsion shall remain in effect for the first semester of the following school year, with the condition that such action may be modified or terminated by the school district during the expulsion period on such terms as the administration may establish:
 - a. The knowing and intentional use of force in causing or attempting to cause personal injury to a school employee, school volunteer, or student, except if caused by accident, self-defense, or on the reasonable belief that the force used was necessary to protect some other person and the extent of force used was reasonably believed to be necessary, or,
 - b. The knowing and intentional possession, use, or transmission of a dangerous weapon other than a firearm.
17. Firearms
 - a. student who is determined to have brought a firearm to school, or to have possessed a firearm at school, shall be expelled from school for a period of not less than one calendar year. The Superintendent may modify such one-year expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis, provided that such modification is in writing. The term "to school" or "at school" means on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose or in a vehicle being driven for a school purpose by a school employee or by his or her designee, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event.
 - b. Bringing a firearm or other dangerous weapon to school for any reason is discouraged; however, a student will not be subject to disciplinary action if the item is brought or possessed under the following conditions:
 - I. Prior written permission to bring the firearm or other dangerous weapon to school is obtained from the student's teacher, building administrator and parent.
 - II. The purpose of having the firearm or other dangerous weapon in school is for a legitimate educational function.
 - III. A plan for its transportation into and from the school, its storage while in the school building and how it will be displayed must be developed with the prior written approval by the teacher and building administrator. Such plan shall require that such item will be in the possession of an adult staff member at all times except for such limited time as is necessary to fulfill the educational function.
 - IV. The firearm or other dangerous weapon shall be in an inoperable condition while it is on school grounds.

Reporting Student Law Violations:

1. Cases of law violations or suspected law violations by students will be reported to the police and to the student's parents or guardians as soon as possible.
2. When a principal or other school official releases a minor student to a peace officer (e.g., police officer, sheriff and all other persons with similar authority to make arrests) for the purpose of removing the minor from the school premises, the principal or other school official shall take immediate steps to notify the parent,

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

3. In an effort to demonstrate that student behavior is always subject to possible legal sanctions regardless of where the behavior occurs it shall be the policy of the Seward Public Schools to notify the proper legal authorities when a student engages in any of the following behaviors on school grounds or at a school sponsored event:

- a. Knowingly possessing illegal drugs or alcohol
- b. Assault
- c. Vandalism resulting in significant property damage
- d. Theft of school or personal property of a significant nature
- e. Automobile accident
- f. Any other behavior which significantly threatens the health or safety of students, staff or other persons or which is required by law to be reported.

When appropriate, it shall be the responsibility of the referring administrator to contact the student's parent or guardian of the fact that the referral to legal authorities has been or will be made.

Due Process Procedure:

The following procedures shall be followed regarding any long-term suspension, expulsion or mandatory reassignment.

1. The Principal shall file a written summary of the alleged violation and the evidence supporting the alleged violation with the Superintendent or his or her designee.
2. If the Principal determines that the student must be suspended immediately to prevent or substantially reduce the risk of (a) interference with an educational function or school purpose or (b) a personal injury to the student himself or herself, other students, school employees, or school volunteers, and a notice of intent to discipline the student by long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment is filed with the Superintendent or his or her designee, the Principal may suspend the student until the date the long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment takes effect if no hearing is requested or, if a hearing is requested, the date the hearing examiner makes the report of his or her findings and a recommendation of the action to be taken to the Superintendent.
3. The Principal or his or her designee shall serve the student and the student's parents or guardian with a written notice by registered or certified mail or personal service within two school days of the date of the decision to recommend long-term suspension or expulsion. The notice shall include the following:
 - a. The rule or standard of conduct allegedly violated and the acts of the student alleged to constitute a cause for long-term suspension or expulsion including a summary of the evidence.
 - b. The penalties to which the student may be subjected and the penalty that the Principal, or his or her designee has recommended in the charge.
 - c. A statement explaining the student's right to a hearing upon request on the specified charges.
 - d. A description of the hearing procedures provided by these policies along with procedures for appealing any decision rendered at the hearing.
 - e. A statement that the administrative representative, legal counsel for school, the student, the student's parents, or the student's representative or guardian shall have the right to examine the student's academic and disciplinary records and any affidavits to be used at the hearing concerning the alleged misconduct, and the right to know the identity of the witnesses to appear at the hearing and the substance of their testimony.
 - f. A form or a request for hearing to be signed by such parties and delivered to the Superintendent, the Principal or a designee in person or by registered or certified mail.

4. Nothing in this policy shall preclude the student, student's parents, guardian or representative from discussing and settling the matter with appropriate school personnel prior to the hearing stage.
5. If the Superintendent, Principal, or designee has not received a request for hearing within five school days following receipt of the written notice, the Principal's recommended consequence shall automatically go into effect.
6. If a hearing is requested more than five school days following the actual receipt of the written notice, but not more than thirty calendar days after actual receipt, the student shall be entitled to a hearing but the consequence imposed may continue in effect pending final determination.
7. If a request for hearing is not received within thirty calendar days following the mailing or delivery of the written notice, the student shall not be entitled to a hearing.
8. If a hearing is required to be provided, the Superintendent shall appoint a hearing officer.

Hearing Procedure:

1. **Hearing Officer.** The hearing officer shall be any person designated by the Superintendent. The hearing officer shall be an individual who has had no involvement in the charge, will not be a witness at the hearing and who has not brought the charges against the student. It shall be the duty of the hearing officer to remain impartial throughout all deliberations. The hearing officer shall be available prior to any hearing held pursuant to this policy to answer any questions the administrative representative, the student, the student's parents, or guardian, may have regarding the nature and conduct of the hearing.
2. **Administrative Representative.** The Principal may appoint an administrative representative to present the facts and evidence. Such administrative representative may be an attorney or may be represented by an attorney, but any such attorney shall not advise the hearing officer or parties who may review the proceedings as their counsel.
3. **Notice of Hearing.** If a hearing is requested within five school days of receipt of the notice, the hearing officer shall, within two school days after being appointed, give written notice to the administrative representative, and the student, the student's parents or guardian of the time and place for the hearing. The hearing shall be scheduled within a period of five school days after it is requested. No hearing shall be held upon less than two school days' actual notice to the administrative representative, and the student, the student's parents, or guardian, except with the consent of all of the parties.
4. **Continuance.** Upon written request of the student or the student's parents or guardian, the hearing officer shall have the discretionary authority to continue from time to time the hearing. In addition, the hearing officer may continue the hearing upon any good cause.
5. **Access to Records.** The administrative representative, the student, the student's parent or guardian and the legal counsel of the student shall have the right to examine the records and affidavits and the statements of any witnesses in the possession of the school district at any reasonable time prior to the hearing.
6. **Hearing Procedure.** The hearing shall be attended by the hearing officer, the student, the student's parents, or guardian, the student's representative if any, and the administrative representative. Witnesses shall be present only when they are giving information at the hearing or with the consent of both parties. The student may be excluded at the discretion of the hearing officer at times when the student's psychological evaluation or emotional problems are being discussed. The student or the student's parents or guardian or both may be represented by legal counsel. The hearing examiner may exclude anyone from the hearing when his/her actions substantially disrupt an orderly hearing. The formal rules of evidence shall not apply at the hearing. The administrative representative shall present to the hearing officer statements, in affidavit form, of any person having information about the student's conduct and the student's records, but not unless such statements and records have been made available to the student, the student's parents, guardian or representative prior to the hearing. The information contained in such records shall be explained and interpreted prior to or at the hearing to the student, parents or guardian, or representative at their request, by appropriate school personnel. The student, the student's parents, guardian, or representative, the administrative representative or the hearing officer may ask witnesses to testify at the hearing. Such testimony shall be under oath and the hearing officer shall be authorized to administer the oath. The student, parent,

guardian, or representative, administrative representative, or the hearing officer shall have the right to question any witness giving information at the hearing, the student may testify in his/her own defense in which case he/she shall be subject to cross-examination nor will any conclusion be drawn therefrom. Any person giving evidence by written statement or in person at a hearing shall be given the same immunity from liability as a person testifying in a court case. A single hearing may be conducted for more than one student if in the discretion of the hearing examiner a single hearing is not likely to result in confusion or prejudice to the interest of any of the students involved. If during the conduct of such a hearing, the hearing examiner concludes that any of such student's interests will be substantially prejudiced by a group hearing, or that confusion is resulting, the hearing examiner may order a separate hearing for each or any of said students.

7. Availability of Witnesses. The hearing officer will have the authority to subpoena any witnesses to the hearing and shall make reasonable efforts to assist in obtaining the attendance of any witnesses requested by the student, student's parents or guardian or their legal representative.

8. Record. The proceedings of the hearing shall be recorded at the expense of the school district.

9. Findings. Within a reasonable time after the conclusion of the hearing, the hearing officer shall prepare and submit to the Superintendent of schools his/her written findings and recommendation as to disposition. This report shall explain, in terms of the needs of both the student and the school board, the reasons for the particular action recommended. Such recommendation may range from no action, through the entire field of counseling, to long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment.

10. Review by Superintendent. The Superintendent of schools shall review the findings and recommendations of the hearing officer and in his/her discretion may also review any of the facts and evidence presented at the hearing and based upon such report and the facts shall determine the sanctions to be imposed. However, the Superintendent may not impose a more severe sanction than that imposed by the hearing officer.

11. Notice of Determination. Written notice of the findings and recommendations of the hearing officer and the Superintendent's determination shall be made by certified registered mail or by personal delivery to the student, the student's parents or guardian. Upon receipt of such written notice by the student and/or parents and guardian, the Superintendent's determination shall take immediate effect.

12. Appeal to Board. The student, student's parents or guardian may, within seven school days following the receipt of the Superintendent's decision, submit to the Superintendent of schools a written request for a hearing before the Board of Education.

13. Review by Board of Education. Upon receipt of the request for review of the Superintendent's determination, the Board of Education or a committee of not less than three members shall, within ten school days, hold a hearing on the matter. Such hearing shall be made on the record except that the board may admit new or additional evidence to avoid substantial threat of unfairness. Such new evidence shall be recorded. The Board of Education or committee thereof may withdraw to deliberate privately upon the record and new evidence. Any such deliberation shall be held in the presence only of board members in attendance at the appeal proceeding, but may be held in the presence of legal counsel who has not previously acted as the administrative representative in presenting the school's case before the hearing officer. If any questions arise during such deliberations which require additional evidence, the Board of Education or committee thereof may require the hearing to receive such evidence, subject to the right of all parties to be present. A record of any such new or additional evidence shall be made and shall be considered as a part of the record and based upon the evidence presented at the hearing before the hearing officer, and such new or additional evidence, the Board of Education or the committee shall make a final disposition of the matter. The board may alter the Superintendent's disposition of the case if it finds his/her decision to be too severe, but it may not impose a more severe sanction. A designated method of giving notice by the Board of Education or committee thereof, if required, for any Board review shall be by posting on the schoolhouse door.

14. Final Decision of Board of Education. The final decision of board shall be delivered to the student and parents or legal guardian of the student by personally delivering the same or by mailing the same by certified or registered mail.

Section 2 Disciplinary Point System – 100 Point Maximum per School Year

The purpose of the discipline point system is to:

- 1) Improve the educational environment for students, teachers, parents, and staff.
- 2) Inform students and parents of rules and policies
- 3) Record discipline violations in a systematic way

Parents and students must be made aware of any violation of school policies and procedures concerning behavior. Progressive discipline is based upon the belief that an individual does not have the right to infringe upon the rights of others. Also, all people concerned with the school have the responsibility of creating a positive learning environment. The vehicle used to implement the discipline system is a point system. Each student will begin with zero points at the beginning of the school year. Each discipline action will carry a point value. If 100 points are obtained before the end of the school year, then the student will be recommended for expulsion and due process will be followed. The length of suspension or expulsion will carry over into the next semester/year if the semester or school year ends before the suspension or expulsion has been served.

The following categories will be used as a guideline to determine consequences for student misconduct, however, not all behavior can be predicted and/or categorized; therefore, the administration reserves the right to handle situations on an individual basis.

State law gives the administration and teaching personnel in the school the responsibility of maintaining good order and discipline. Those in charge of the classrooms and activities may take such actions as are necessary regarding student behavior, including, but not limited to counseling, parent conferences, rearrangement of schedules, requirements that a student remain in school before or after regular hours to do additional work, requirements that a student receive certain counseling and restriction of extracurricular activities. In some disciplinary cases an audio recorder will be used. If a student is referred to the administration by reason of violating established rules and standards, one or more of the following forms of disciplinary action might be taken:

DETENTION

The administration/teaching staff as a corrective measure for infractions of school policy and behavioral problems assigns detention time.

Students serving detention are expected to:

1. Report to the office/classroom immediately after school.
2. Bring adequate schoolwork and supplies to keep busy for the entire period.
3. Report to the office/room every afternoon at 3:40 p.m. until the detention time is made up.

Failure to report for detention will result in additional detention time being assigned. Continued refusal to complete the detention will result in a parent conference and suspension. Teachers may take a student to their classroom for individual help and study. Conflicts with transportation or jobs will be taken into consideration if the student indicates there is a problem prior to the detention time being served. This will not excuse detention time.

IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION

Any disciplinary action whereby a student is separated from class attendance, but is required to be at school until 4:10 p.m. In-school suspension generally lasts from one to three days.

SHORT TERM SUSPENSION

Up to and including five (5) school days. Schoolwork will be due upon return for full credit after a first offense. Make arrangements to pick up work before leaving. (See Section 1)

LONG TERM SUSPENSION

More than five school days, but less than twenty school days. (See Section 1)

MANDATORY REASSIGNMENT

Assignment to another educational setting.

EXPULSION

Exclusion from attendance in all schools, grounds, and activities. (See Section 1)

BEHAVIOR DEFINITIONS

Bullying / Cyberbullying / Harassment / Intimidation

Any ongoing pattern of physical, verbal, or electronic abuse on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by Seward Public Schools being used for a school purpose by a school employee or his or her designee, or at school sponsored activities or school sponsored athletic events in which there is evidence of attempted control or power over another individual or peer which interferes with said student's learning opportunity.

Cheating - To act dishonestly or unfairly in order to gain or to give an advantage.

Disrespect to Faculty Member or Employee - Lack of Respect

Disruption of School / Class / Assemblies - Examples include yelling and/or running in classrooms or hallways

Gross Misbehavior - Misbehaving that is totally beyond simple inappropriate behavior; overt behavior that threatens property or the safety and well-being of others including the promoting of fighting.

Illegal Entry - Forced entry or entry without administrative authorization into a building, room, or school property.

Inappropriate Behavior / Gestures - Behavior on school grounds or school activities that is not acceptable as measured by the general standards of the school and community including words, gestures, pictures, etc.

Inappropriate Dress - Apparel with drugs, alcohol, sexual references or vulgarity. All students must wear shoes or some form of footwear at all times.

Indecent Exposure - The act of intentionally exposing part of one's body. The act of intentionally exposing the body of another person.

Indecent Material - The act of portraying obscenity or vulgarity in pictures or caricatures in assignments, on any personal property visible to others at school, or on any school property. This may also include drug and alcohol depictions.

Insubordination - Disregard for the authority of staff members and employees.

Intimate Acts- Prolonged public display of affection or inappropriate public physical contact in the school setting or on school property.

Littering - To dump, deposit, place, throw, or leave litter in and on school property other than in receptacles set aside for such purposes.

Loitering - Being somewhere other than where authorized and refusing to leave when ordered; being in a school area without an authorized pass.

Major Theft - Theft of property valued at or over \$20.00

Minor Vandalism - Vandalism of property or materials with a value of less than \$20.00.

Misuse of School Materials - Misusing and/or using school materials in an authorized manner short of major destruction, writing on or marking desks, books, lockers, using shop materials, home economics, food products, etc.

Physical or Verbal Assault - The act of initiating a violent, (physical or verbal) attack against another student on school property, on a school bus, or at a school event.

Plagiarize - To steal and pass off as one's own work, without crediting the source.

Possession or Illegal Use of Weapon - The act of possessing, using, or threatening to use any weapon or instrument capable of inflicting bodily injury.

Possession / Use of Tobacco/Vapor Products - Smoking/Chewing/Vaping by any student or the possession of smoking/vaping materials or chewing tobacco) is not permitted on school property, at activities or events. For purposes of the tobacco free environment, possession of cigars, cigarettes, chewing tobacco, nicotine products and vapor products (including e-cigarettes) are violations.

Profanity - The use of language that is unacceptable to school/community standards. F- word is placed in Category III.

Public Display of Affection - The showing of affection that is not appropriate in the school setting (such as kissing or embracing).

School Property - This is defined as any building, buildings, and part of any building, structure, land, or property of the school district.

Sexual Harassment - Sexual harassment is behavior expressed in words, pictures or actions that is offensive to a person. Sexual harassment must involve issues of sexuality. Sexual harassment is not welcomed and may be embarrassing or uncomfortable for the victim to experience. Sexual harassment is one-sided. Sexual harassment is about power. Sexual harassment is a violation of law: Title IX, Title VII and/or the Nebraska Equal Opportunity in Education Act. Other laws may also be violated if sexual harassment has happened.

Theft - The act of acquiring and/or being in possession of the property of another without consent.

Trespass - Entering upon the lands or premises of the school district without authority after having been forbidden to do so by school staff, or upon being notified to depart the area by members of the school staff, refusing or neglecting to depart there from.

Truancy - The act of unauthorized absence from school for any period of time. Chronic tardiness may be considered truancy.

Unauthorized Games in the School Building - Gambling, poker, video games etc.

Unlawful Intimidation of School Authority - Interfering with administrators, teachers, or other school personnel by force or violence.

Vandalism - Destruction of school property or property belonging to another.

Verbal/Physical/Written Threat to Teachers/Staff - Any verbal, physical or written threat which insults or abuses any staff member or otherwise shows disrespect.

Vulgarity - Defined as offensive, lewd, obscene.

Section 3 Disciplinary Point System Chart

Category 0 - Zero points - (Log Entry-Teacher Documented)

1. Teacher discipline for minor offenses.

(Teacher may issue detentions for first two offenses.)

1st offense - Teacher/Student Private Conference

2nd offense - Teacher will contact Parent or Guardian

3rd offense - Referred to Principal (2 day class Suspension - make up time after school)

4th offense - Referred to Principal (Placed in appropriate category)

Category N (Nuisance Items) – 5 points

Nuisance items include, but are not limited to: personal electronic devices such as but not limited to cell phones, IPODS, IPADS, beepers, laser pointers, etc.

1st Offense - Item confiscated and parent/guardian must come to the school and pick up the item in person.

2nd Offense - Same as 2nd offense and the student will be assigned detention time.

3rd Offense - Same as 2nd offense and the student will receive either ISS or OSS

Category I—5 points

1. Public display of affection

2. Failure to keep locker clean and organized

3. Sharing Lockers or Textbooks

4. Littering

5. Profanity/Vulgarity-Minor

6. Excessive Tardies (Three and each tardy after per term)*

7. Other

1st offense - Discussion with a principal

2nd offense - Parent notified and Detention assigned (*Tardies)

3rd offense - 1-day in-school suspension

4th offense - 1-day out-of-school suspension

Category II—10 points

1. Skipping class*

2. Cheating/Academic Dishonesty

3. Disorderly conduct

4. Inappropriate dress

5. Inappropriate cafeteria behavior

6. Indecent material

7. Leaving school grounds without permission

8. Lying

9. Misuse of school material and equipment
10. Disorderly conduct on school bus
11. Failure to attend detention
12. Refusal to Participate in Class Activity
13. Other

1st offense - Detention (*1st offense skipping- Detention for each class skipped)

2nd offense - 1-day in-school suspension

3rd offense - 2-day out of school suspension

4th offense - 3-day out of school suspension

5th offense - 5-day out of school suspension

Category III—15 points

1. Disruption of school/class
2. Disruption of assemblies or programs
3. Inappropriate behavioral gestures
4. Disruptive objects
5. Profanity/Vulgarity-Excessive
6. Refusal to serve detention/skip detention
7. Other

1st offense - Parent notification and in school suspension

2nd offense - 2-day in-school suspension

3rd offense - 2-day out of school suspension

4th offense - 3-day out of school suspension

5th offense - 5-day out of school suspension

Category IV—20 points

1. Careless driving/endangerment
2. False calls
3. Forgery of notes
4. Minor vandalism
5. Theft (Minor/under \$20)
6. Disrespect to staff
7. Other

1st offense - 2-day in-school suspension

2nd offense - 2-day out-of-school suspension

3rd offense - 3-day out-of-school suspension

4th offense - 5-day out-of-school suspension

Category V—25 points

1. Gross misbehavior
2. Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying
3. Major theft
4. Verbal assault
5. Insubordination/Disobedience
6. Fighting – (Police will be called)
7. Smoking, possession or use of tobacco/vapor on school grounds (Police will be called if under age)
8. Other

1st offense - 3-day out-of-school suspension

2nd offense - 3-day out-of-school suspension

3rd offense - 5-day out-of-school suspension

Category VI—30 points

1. Indecent exposure
2. Intimate acts
3. Open/Persistent Defiance of Authority
4. Vandalism
5. Threatening behavior: Written, Verbal, or Physical to Staff Members
6. Sexual harassment-Verbal

1st offense - 5-days out-of-school suspension

2nd offense - 10-day out-of-school suspension

Category VII—50 points

1. Extortion
2. False fire alarm
3. Possession of weapon other than firearm
4. Physical assault (Police will be Called)
5. Alcohol/Drug Possession (Police will be Called)
6. Other

1st offense - 5-days out-of-school suspension

2nd offense - 10-days out-of-school suspension

3rd offense - Recommended Expulsion

Category VIII—100 points (Police will be called)

1. Arson
2. Bomb threat
3. Physical assault on employee
4. Possession and/or use of explosives
5. Use of any instrument as a weapon
6. Vandalism
7. Possession of a firearm
8. Alcohol/drug selling
9. Physical sexual harassment
10. Other

1st offense - Recommended Expulsion

Section 4 Additional Student Conduct Rules

The following additional student conduct rules are established. Failure to comply with such rules is grounds for disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion, as further specified in these rules. These rules govern student conduct on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose or in a vehicle being driven for a school purpose by a school employee or by his or her designee, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event.

1. Students should not dress in a manner that is dangerous to the health and safety of anyone or interferes with the learning environment or teaching process in our school. The final decision regarding attire and grooming will be made by the Principal or Superintendent. In the event a student is uncertain as to whether a particular item or method of grooming is consistent with the school's guidelines, the student should contact the Principal for approval, and may also review such additional posting of prohibited items or grooming which may be available in the Principal's office.

•**Student Appearance Policy:** Students at Seward High School are expected to dress in a way that is appropriate for a school setting. Students should not dress in a manner that is dangerous to the health and safety of anyone or interferes with the learning environment or teaching process in our school. Following is a list of examples of attire that will not be considered appropriate, such list is not exclusive and other forms of attire deemed inappropriate by the administration may be deemed inappropriate for the school setting:

- a. Clothing or jewelry that is gang related;
- b. Clothing that shows an inappropriate amount of bare skin or underwear (such as shorts and skirts of a length that pose a disruption to the environment of the school, midriffs, spaghetti straps, excessively torn attire, sagging pants or shorts that are worn below the waist, school dress that exposes undergarments such as sports bras, underwear, etc.);
- c. Clothing that is excessively tight fitting or revealing.
- d. Clothing or jewelry that advertises, promotes or makes reference to beer, alcohol, tobacco or illegal drugs;
- e. Clothing or jewelry that could be used as a weapon or that would encourage “horseplay” (chains, trucker wallets, rings, spiked apparel, pliers/tools);
- f. Head wear including hats, caps, sunglasses, bandanas and scarves;
- g. Clothing, tattoos or jewelry that displays indecent writing, pictures, slogans, nudity, makes sexual references or carries double meanings;
- h. Excessive makeup that causes an unnecessary distraction;
- i. Health laws require that shoes be worn at all times while at school.
- j. No blankets in the classrooms.

Consideration will be made for students who wear special clothing as required by religious beliefs, disability or to convey a particularized message protected by law.

Coaches, sponsors or teachers may have additional requirements for students who are in special lab classes, students who are participants in performing groups or students who are representing the school as part of an extracurricular activity program.

On a first offense of the dress code, the student may call home for proper apparel. If clothes cannot be brought to school, the student may be sent home to change clothes or be provided with proper apparel. Continual violation of the dress code will result in disciplinary actions under the Student Code of Conduct above. Further, in the event the dress code violation is determined to also violate other student conduct rules (e.g., public indecency, insubordination, expression of profanity, and the like), a first offense of the dress code may result in discipline, up to expulsion.

2. **“Bullying” and harassment are prohibited.** Students who engage in bullying or harassing behavior are subject to discipline up to and including expulsion.

•**Harassment and Bullying:** Bullying behavior is defined as the use of verbal, nonverbal, written, and electronic communication (including but not limited to instant messaging, text messaging, emailing, and using websites) to threaten, intimidate, ridicule, humiliate, or harass any person.

- a. A student who engages in bullying behavior on district property, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by the district being used for a school purpose by a school employee or by his or her designee, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event shall be subject to discipline including, but not limited to, long-term suspension and expulsion.
- b. Without limiting the foregoing, a student who engages in bullying behavior that materially and substantially interferes with or disrupts the educational environment, the district’s day-to-day operations, or the education process, regardless of where the student is at the time of engaging in the bullying behavior, may be subject to discipline to the extent permitted by law.
- c. The extent of the disciplinary consequences will depend on the frequency, duration, severity, and effect of the bullying behavior.

•**Dating Violence:** Dating violence, as that term is defined by Nebraska law, will not be tolerated. Students who engage in dating violence will receive consequences that are consistent with the Nebraska Student Discipline Act and this district's student discipline policies.

•**Hazing:** Initiations and hazing by members of classes, clubs, athletic teams, or any other organization affiliated with the district are prohibited except as otherwise permitted by this policy. Any student engaging in hazing or non-approved initiations is subject to discipline as permitted by policy and law. Initiations are defined as any ritualistic expectations, requirements, or activities placed upon new members of a school organization for the purpose of admission into the organization, even if those activities do not rise to the level of "hazing" as defined below. Initiations are prohibited except by permission of the superintendent. Hazing is defined as any activity by which a person intentionally or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health or safety of an individual for the purpose of initiation into, admission into, affiliation with, or continued membership in any school organization. Hazing activities include, but are not limited to, whipping, beating, branding, an act of sexual penetration, an exposure of the genitals of the body done with the intent to affront or alarm any person, a lewd fondling or caressing of the body of another person, forced and prolonged calisthenics, prolonged exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug, or harmful substance not generally intended for human consumption, prolonged sleep deprivation, or any brutal treatment or the performance of any unlawful act that endangers the physical or mental health or safety of any person.

3. Students who violate the district's computer acceptable computer use policy are subject to discipline, up to and including expulsion.

Computer Use: Students are expected to use computers and the Internet as an educational resource. The following procedures and guidelines govern the use of computers and the Internet at school.

Student Expectations in the Use of the Internet:

Acceptable Use

- Students may use the Internet to conduct research assigned by teachers.
- Students may use the Internet to conduct research for classroom projects.
- Students may use the Internet to gain access to information about current events.
- Students may use the Internet to conduct research for school-related activities.
- Students may use the Internet for appropriate educational purposes.

Unacceptable Use

- Students shall not use school computers to gain access to material that is obscene, pornographic, harmful to minors, or otherwise inappropriate for educational uses.
- Students shall not engage in any illegal or inappropriate activities on school computers, including the downloading and copying of copyrighted material.
- Students shall not use electronic mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, or other forms of direct electronic communications on school computers without approval.
- Students shall not use school computers to participate in online auctions, online gaming or mp3 sharing systems. Students shall not disclose personal information, such as their names, school, addresses, or telephone numbers outside the school network.
- Students shall not use school computers for commercial advertising or political advocacy of any kind without the express written permission of the system administrator.
- Students shall not publish web pages that purport to represent the school district or the work of students at the school district without the express written permission of the system administrator.
- Students shall not erase, rename or make unusable anyone else's computer files, programs or disks.
- Students shall not share their passwords with fellow students, school volunteers or any other individuals, and shall not use, or try to discover, another user's password.
- Students shall not copy, change or transfer any software or documentation provided by the school district, teachers or another student without permission from the system administrator.

- Students shall not write, produce, generate, copy, propagate or attempt to introduce any computer code designed to self-replicate, damage, or otherwise hinder the performance of any computer's memory, file system, or software. Such software is often called, but is not limited to, a bug, virus, worm, or Trojan Horse.
- Students shall not configure or troubleshoot computers, networks, printers or other associated equipment, except as directed by a teacher or the system administrator.
- Students shall not take home technology equipment (hardware or software) without permission of the system administrator.
- Students shall not forge electronic mail messages, web pages, digital communications, or web-based communications, including but not limited to facebook, and twitter, etc.
- Students shall not use technology to intimidate, harass or threaten others (Cyberbullying).

Methods of Enforcement

- The district monitors all Internet communications, Internet usage and patterns of Internet usage. Students have no right of privacy to any Internet communications or other electronic files. The computer system is owned by the school district. As with any school property, any electronic files on the system are subject to search and inspection at any time.
 - The school district uses a technology protection measure that blocks access to some Internet sites that are not in accordance with the policy of the school district.
- Standard use of the Internet utilizes a proxy server-based filter that screens for non-curriculum related pages.
- Due to the nature of filtering technology, the filter may at times filter pages that are appropriate for student research. The system administrator may override the technology protection measure for the student to access a site with legitimate educational value that is wrongly blocked.
 - The school district staff will monitor students' use of the Internet through direct supervision and by monitoring Internet use history to ensure enforcement of the policy.
 - Consequences for Violation of this Policy
 - Access to the school's computer system and to the Internet is a privilege, not a right. *Any violation of school policy and rules may result in:*
 - Loss of computer privileges;
 - Short-term suspension;
 - Long-term suspension or expulsion in accordance with the Nebraska Student Discipline Act; and
 - Other discipline as school administration and the school board deem appropriate.
 - Students who use school computer systems without permission and for non-school purposes may be guilty of a criminal violation and will be prosecuted.

4. Students are not given hallway passes, restroom passes or telephone passes to leave a classroom unless special circumstances arise.
5. Students in the hallway during class time must have a pass with them.
6. Food, candy and drinks are allowed in the classroom (at teachers' discretion) and hallways. Sack lunches are the only "outside" food allowed to be consumed during lunch. No "fast food" is allowed to be delivered. Containers, such as water or juice bottles, that have been previously opened and brought into the building are subject to search.
7. Students are expected to bring all books and necessary materials to class.
8. Assignments for all classes are due as assigned by the teacher.
9. At the end of each period, the teacher dismisses the students. Students are not to begin to pack up or leave the class until the dismissal bell has rung and the teacher has dismissed the class.

10. Special classes such as Industrial Technology, Vocational Agriculture, Art, P.E., Computers and other lab based classes will have other safety or clean-up rules that will be explained to you by that teacher which must be followed.

11. Students are not to bring items to school that are not required for educational purposes as they may be taken from your locker and will not be allowed in the classroom. These items are classified as “nuisance items” and include, but are not limited to: a) personal stereos such as iPods – unless teachers give special permission in their classroom and does not cause a distraction to the learning, b) beepers, and c) laser pointers.

12. Students are to keep the hallways clear so others may pass.

13. Snow handling is prohibited.

14. Students are not allowed to record others without administration approval and consent of others being recorded.

15. Cell Phones and Other Electronic Communication Devices: Students may use cellular phones or other electronic devices while at school, so long as they do so safely, respectfully and consistent with the stipulations below.

16. By bringing their cell phones and other electronic communication devices to school, students consent to the search of said devices by school staff when the staff determines that such a search is reasonable and necessary.

17. Students may not have cell phones or electronic devices on while they are in locker rooms or restrooms.

19. The taking, Disseminating, transferring, or sharing of obscene, pornographic, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or photographs, whether by electronic data transfer or otherwise (commonly called texting, sexting, e-mailing, etc.) may constitute a crime under state and/or federal law. Any person engaged in these activities while on school grounds, in a school vehicle or at a school activity will be subject to the disciplinary procedures of the student code of conduct. Any student found to be in possession of obscene, pornographic, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or photographs will be promptly referred to law enforcement and/or other state or federal agencies, which may result in arrest, criminal prosecution and possible inclusion on sex offender registries.

20. While on school property, as a school activity or in a school vehicle, students may not use their cell phones or electronic devices to bully, harass or intimidate any other person.

22. Students shall be personally and solely responsible for the security of their electronic devices. The district is not responsible for theft, loss or damage of any electronic device, including any calls or downloads.

23. Cell phones and other electronic communication devices may be used before school, after school, and during school hours during passing periods and at lunch provided such use is consistent with the above mentioned stipulations. Cell phones and other electronic communication devices may not be used during instructional time unless the classroom teacher has given permission. The use of these devices during instructional time will be subject to the following consequences:

- 1st Offense: Phone brought to the office and parent must come to school and claim. One ½ hour Detention assigned
- 2nd Offense: Phone brought to the office and student must serve one hour detention. Parent must come to the office and claim.
- 3rd Offense: Phone brought to the office and student serves one day of in-school or out-of-school suspension. Parent must come to school and claim.
- 4th and each subsequent offense: Phone brought to the office and student serves three-day out-of-school suspension. Parent must come to school and claim.

1 to 1 Chromebook Initiative Policies and Procedures

Seward Public Schools is proud to offer our high school students Chromebook devices for use at school and home. The 1 to 1 Chromebook program, which provides mobile computing and wireless technology to all grade 9-12 students, has been designed to enhance delivery and assist with individualized instruction.

For parents and students, the following information is provided to help everyone understand the expectations and the responsibility of care and use related to receiving an Chromebook.

- Students will receive instruction on the proper use and care of an Chromebook.
- Students will be able to take the Chromebook home during the school year once the student and parent have signed the Chromebook Loan Agreement Form, the Student Handbook Receipt, and paid the required technology fee.
- Students are expected to treat the Chromebook as a valuable piece of equipment.
- Students must take all precautions to prevent theft; for example, do not leave the Chromebook unattended or in a car.
- Students must take precautions to prevent damage to the Chromebook; for example, do not leave the Chromebook where there is danger of coming into contact with moisture or excessive heat/cold temperatures.
- Students are to use the Chromebook to access only socially and educationally appropriate materials and websites.
- Students who wish to use the Chromebook to purchase goods and services from the Internet have full responsibility for any financial obligations incurred from doing so.
- Students are to use the Chromebook in accordance with all Seward Public Schools technology policies including all stipulations found on the Chromebook Loan Agreement Form.
- Chromebook are property of Seward Public Schools and must be returned at the end of the school year, upon withdrawal from Seward Public Schools, and/or at the request of the administration. Willful failure to return the Chromebook in accordance with the stated conditions will result in criminal prosecution.
- Since the Chromebook are property of the school district, officials of the school have the right to review all material stored on or accessed by any Chromebook and/or student. School officials may revoke a student's Chromebook privileges for any misuse or violation of policies.

Receiving Your Chromebook

Chromebooks will be distributed during our "Chromebook Orientation." At least 1 parent and student must attend an annual session for Chromebook orientation and information. Before receiving an Chromebook, students and parents must sign and return the following items:

1. Chromebook Loan Agreement/Acceptable Use Form
2. Signed receipt of the Student/Parent Handbook
3. Pay technology fee

This equipment is, and at all times, remains the property of Seward Public Schools of Seward, Nebraska, and is here with lent to the Student/Borrower for educational purposes only for the academic school year. Student/Borrower may not deface or destroy this property in any way. Inappropriate use of the Chromebook may result in the Student/Borrower losing his/her right to use this Chromebook. The equipment will be returned to the school when requested by Seward Public Schools, or sooner, if the Student/Borrower withdraws from Seward Public Schools prior to the end of the school year.

Nebraska statutes 79-737 and 79-2,127 allow the District to obtain reimbursement from, or on behalf of, students for any damage to, loss of, or failure to return school property.

Student/Borrower acknowledges and agrees that his/her use of the District Property is a privilege and that by Student/Borrowers agreement to the terms hereof, Student/Borrower acknowledges his/her responsibility to protect and safeguard the District Property and to return the same in good condition and repair upon request by Seward Public Schools. The Chromebook must be returned in good working order with all original parts.

**Any student and parent who may need assistance in paying the Chromebook technology fee should contact your building principal.*

Using Your Chromebook At School

Chromebooks are intended for use at school each day. Students are responsible for bringing their Chromebooks to school and all classes each day, unless specifically told not to do so by a teacher or administrator. If students forget to bring an Chromebook to school, they may check out a loaner for the day from the school’s media center. Loaners are on a first come, first serve basis and are subject to availability. Repeat violations will result in disciplinary action.

Chromebooks must be brought to school each day fully charged. Chromebooks have battery life of up to 0 (ten) hours, so charging should not be needed throughout the school day. Charge stations will be available in the library in the mornings and during lunch for those who forget to charge. Only charge your Chromebook with the charger you are given at checkout or a school provided charger. All students are provided lockers with your own locker combination. DO NOT SHARE YOUR COMBINATION with any other student(s).

Chromebook Repairs

- Loaner Chromebooks may be issued to students when they leave their Chromebooks for repair with the Technology team located in the library, if available.
- Students will be expected to return the loaner Chromebook by the end of the school day to the library until their issued Chromebook returns from repair.

The student is financially responsible for all damages and repairs to the Chromebook.

Lost/Stolen/Destroyed	\$320
Screen Repair	\$100
AC Adapter	\$25
Case	\$40

Seward Public Schools purchased cases. These cases provide Bumper Technology to help protect your device. Students are still reminded to handle the Chromebooks with extra care to avoid any damage to the Chromebook. Other students will use these Chromebook cases again in the future. Students may not mark on the cases or put anything on the case that might damage the case, like duct tape, stickers or jewels.

Screensavers and Background

- Only appropriate backgrounds and screensavers may be used on the Chromebook.
- Presence of any weapons-related, pornographic, inappropriate language, alcohol or drug-related, gang-related, or inappropriate pictures or words on the Chromebook or within its files, as determined by the administration, will result in disciplinary action and where appropriate, law enforcement officials.
- The Chromebook is the property of Seward Public Schools. Therefore, staff, teachers, and administration have the right to check any material being used or stored on the Chromebook at any time.
- Violations of this policy can result in disciplinary action.

Sound

Sound should be muted at all times unless permission is obtained from a teacher administrator for educational purposes or earbuds are in use.

Managing Your Files and Saving Your Work

Students should save all of their work to their Google Drive. It is the student's responsibility to ensure work is not lost due to technical mistakes and accidental deletions.

Security

Chromebooks will be filtered by software for appropriate use at school and off campus. Parents/guardians are responsible for monitoring appropriate use while off school grounds. Please see an administrator if any inappropriate sites are seen or accessed.

The District is not responsible for any viruses that may be transferred to or from Student/Borrowers other data storage medium and Student/Borrower agrees to use his/her best efforts to assure that the District Property is not damaged or rendered inoperable by any such electronic virus while in Student/Borrowers possession.

Inspection

Students may be selected at random to provide their school-issued Chromebook for inspection without notice by administrators and/or the technology department.

Chromebook Identification and Protection

- Student Chromebooks will be labeled in the manner specified by the school. Under no circumstances are students to modify, remove, or destroy these labels.
- Tampering with the Chromebook security measures is forbidden. Violations of this policy will result in disciplinary action and possible loss of technology use privileges.

Acceptable Use Guidelines

- Students are responsible for their ethical, socially appropriate and educational use of the technology resources of Seward Public Schools.
- Access to Seward Public Schools technology resources is a privilege, not a right. Each employee, student, and/or parent will be required to follow all applicable technology, including stipulations in the Chromebook Loan Agreement and the Student/Parent Handbook.
- Transmission of any materials that is in violation of the law is prohibited and law enforcement will be contacted. This includes, but is not limited to the following: confidential information, copyrighted material, threatening or obscene material, and Chromebook viruses.
- Any attempt to alter data, the configuration of the Chromebook, or the files of another user, without the consent of the administration and/or technology department, is against our Acceptable Use policy and will result in disciplinary action, including the loss of privileges to check out Chromebook for home use.
- The Student/Borrower agrees to not use the Chromebook for commercial use or political advocacy.

Integrity and Civility

In addition to any standard or rules established by the schools, the following behaviors are specifically prohibited as they violate the standard of integrity and civility associated with our school district:

- Cheating
- Plagiarizing
- Falsifying information
- Violating copyright laws
- Hacking into others' systems, including the school and/or district
- Gaining unauthorized access to any network or other Chromebook or computer

Email

Student/Borrower are assigned a school email account to use for appropriate academic communication with other students and staff members. Outside email accounts should not be used on this school device at any time.

Technology Left in Unlocked Areas

- Under no circumstances should Chromebooks or other technology equipment be left in unlocked areas. Do not leave unattended in locker areas, PE or athletic locker rooms, classrooms, commons areas, cafeteria, bathrooms, busses, or hallways. Any Chromebook left in these areas is in danger of being stolen.
- Lockers are to be locked at all times. Do not share your locker combination with anyone, including “best friends.”
- Unsupervised Chromebook will be confiscated by staff and taken to the administrative office. Disciplinary action may result from Chromebooks being left without supervision. Each student is responsible for his or her Chromebook once it has been issued to the student.

Chromebooks in the Classroom

Each student will have the opportunity to utilize their Chromebook in their daily learning. Students are reminded that the machines are school property and should be treated accordingly. Students using the Chromebook for inappropriate uses at home or school will conference with an administrator to determine an appropriate consequence. Students who violate the educational intent of the Chromebook will be subject to the disciplinary procedures found in Article 8 of the Seward High School Student/Parent Handbook related to the use of school technology, internet or general behavior involving the Chromebook.

- Each class will begin with the Chromebook put face down on the desk or below the desk, depending on the classroom, to begin each period.
- Teachers who begin the day with an Chromebook activity will give specific instructions for the activity and how the student Chromebook will be utilized within the activity.
- Teachers will notify students when the Chromebooks are appropriate for use in the classroom.
- Students may not use any gaming or social media applications during a scheduled class time.
- Students must keep volume on mute or will use earbuds.
- The Chromebook must be kept in its school issued Chromebook case. Chromebooks not in this case will be confiscated unless permission has otherwise been given by school administration or technology personnel (i.e. protective keyboard case).

Please see the Chromebook Parent/Student Agreement in the Appendix. A signed copy must be on file in the High School Office to check out and use a school issued Chromebook.

Extra-Curricular Activities - Rights, Conduct, Rules and Regulations

Section 1 Extra-Curricular programs

Extra-curricular programs enrich the curriculum of the school by making available a wide variety of activities in which a student can participate. Seward High School will adhere to the rules and regulations set forth in Title IX guidelines on sex discrimination as well as other pertinent rules and regulations.

Section 2 Activity Philosophy

Activities are considered an integral part of the school's program of education and provide experiences that will help boys and girls physically, mentally and emotionally. The element of competition and winning, though it exists, is controlled to the point it does not determine the nature or success of the program. This is considered to be educationally and psychologically sound because of the training it offers for living in a competitive society. Students are stimulated to want to win and excel, but the principles of good sportsmanship prevail at all times to enhance the educational values of contests. We believe that participation in activities, both as a player and as a student spectator, is an integral part of the students' educational experiences. Such participation is a privilege that carries with it responsibilities to the school, to the team, to the student body, to the community and to the students themselves. In their play and their conduct, students are representing all of these groups. Such experiences contribute to the knowledge, skill and emotional patterns that they possess, thereby making them better people and citizens.

Safety

The school's philosophy is also to maintain an activities program that recognizes the importance of the safety of the participants. To ensure safety, participants are required to become fully familiar with the dangers and safety measures established for the activity in which they participate, to adhere to all safety instructions for the activity in which they participate, and to exercise common-sense. In addition, the school requires that activity team members travel to and from out-of-town events as a unit. Any exceptions to this rule must be approved by both the parents and the coach/sponsor and should be done in writing prior to the departure to the event or prior to releasing the student with the parent/guardian. The note should be given to the Principal, Activities Director, or their designee. Only those people involved with the activity will be allowed to travel in the school vehicle.

Warning for Participants and Parents

The purpose of this warning is to bring your attention to the existence of potential dangers associated with athletic injuries. Participation in any intramural or athletic activity may involve injury of some type. The severity of such injury can range from minor cuts, bruises, sprains and muscle strains to more serious injuries to the body's bones, joints, ligaments, tendons, or muscles, to catastrophic injuries to the head, neck and spinal cord. On rare occasions, injuries can be so severe as to result in total disability, paralysis or death. Even with appropriate coaching, appropriate safety instruction, appropriate protective equipment and strict observance of the rules, injuries are still a possibility.

Section 3 Activity Philosophy

Activity Pass Fees

All students participating in activities will be required to purchase a full year activity pass. This activity pass admits the student to all home activities during the school year. Exceptions include the musical, and any Central Conference or NSAA District/State tournaments hosted by Seward Public School. The cost of the pass to activity participants is \$20.

- a. Those students who only participate in spring activities only are still required to purchase the full year pass. Students are encouraged to purchase their activity pass in the fall so they can get a full school year of use.
- b. The following groups are exempt from the Activity Pass purchase:

Activity Participation Fee

Students will be charged a participation fee of \$20 if they are involved in one or more NSAA sponsored activities) during the school year. This fee will be placed in the student activity participation account for use at the discretion of the district for activity related expenses incurred by the district. The Activity Participation fee needs to be paid prior to the student's participation in activities.

Section 4 Activity Code of Conduct

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

Grounds for Extracurricular Discipline

The grounds for suspension from practices, participation in interscholastic competition, or other participation in extracurricular activities and competitions are set forth below. In becoming familiar with the conduct rules for extracurricular activities, participants need to remember that they are not only representing themselves, but also, their school and community in all of their actions. Special conduct rules exist for the reasons that:

Participants in Activities Assume Responsibility for Leadership and are Representatives of Our School

Participants in extra-curricular activities assume a leadership role. The student body, the community and other communities judge our school on the students' conduct and attitudes, and how they contribute to our school spirit and community image. The students' performance and devotion to high ideals make their school and community proud.

Activities are a Privilege

Extra-curricular activities have an important place in the educational program of the Seward Public School district. It is a privilege for the students who choose to participate. Students who participate and are accepted into the program are expected to demonstrate cooperation, patience, pride, character, self-respect, self-discipline, teamwork, sportsmanship, and respect for authority. It is the belief that accepting responsibility for one's actions is a part of that philosophy.

The conduct rules apply to conduct of the student, regardless of whether the conduct occurs on and off school grounds. (If the conduct occurs on school grounds, at a school function or event, or in a school vehicle, the student may also be subject to further discipline under the general student code of conduct). The conduct rules apply to conduct which occurs at any time during the school year, and also includes the time frame which begins with the official starting day of the fall sport season established by the NSAA and extends to the last day of the spring sport season established by the NSAA, whether or not the student is a participant in an activity at the time of such conduct.

1. Willfully disobeying any reasonable written or oral request of a school staff member, or the voicing of disrespect to those in authority.
2. Use of violence, force, coercion, threat, intimidation, or similar conduct in a manner that constitutes a substantial interference with school purposes.
3. Sexual assault or attempting to sexually assault any person.
4. Willfully causing or attempting to cause substantial damage to property, stealing or attempting to steal property of substantial value, or repeated damage or theft involving property.
5. Causing or attempting to cause personal injury to a school employee, to a school volunteer, to any student, or to any other person.

6. Threatening or intimidating any student for the purpose of, or with the intent of, obtaining money or anything of value from such student.
7. Knowingly possessing, handling, or transmitting any object or material that is ordinarily or generally considered a weapon.
8. Engaging in the selling, using, possessing or dispensing of alcoholic beverages, tobacco, narcotics, drugs, controlled substance, inhalants (including vapor products) or being under the influence of any of the above; or possession of drug paraphernalia. Note: The term "under the influence" for school purposes has a less strict meaning than it does under criminal law. For school purposes, the term means any level of impairment and includes even the odor of alcohol/tobacco/drugs on the breath or person of a student. Also, it includes being impaired by reason of the abuse of any material used as a stimulant. In addition, "possession" of alcohol or drugs may be considered to have occurred for purposes of school rules if the student is in such close proximity to alcohol or drug (for example, a student being in a car where alcohol is in the back seat and no adults are present in the car) or to others who are consuming alcohol or drugs (for example, being at a student party at which other students are drinking) that school officials may reasonably determine the student was in "possession" of the items as well. Because of the complexity of this issue, "possession" will be determined on a case-by-case basis.
9. Engaging in the selling, using, possessing, or dispensing of an imitation controlled substance as defined in section 28-401, of the Nebraska statutes, or material represented to be alcoholic beverages, narcotics, drugs, controlled substance, vapor products, or inhalants.
10. Truancy or failure to attend assigned classes or assigned activities.
11. Tardiness to school, assigned classes or assigned activities.
12. The use of language, written or oral, or conduct, including gestures, which is profane or abusive to students or staff members. Profane or abusive language or conduct includes, but is not limited to, that which is commonly understood and intended to be derogatory toward a group or individual based upon race, gender, national origin, or religion.
13. Public indecency.
14. Repeated violation of any of the rules adopted by the school district or the school.
15. Engaging in any unlawful activity as determined by the United States or the State of Nebraska.
16. Dressing in a manner wherein such dress is dangerous to the student's health and safety or to the health and safety of others or is distractive or indecent to the extent that it interferes with the learning and educational process.
17. Willfully violating the behavioral expectations for those students riding Seward Public Schools buses.
18. The knowing and intentional possession, use, or transmission of a firearm or other dangerous weapon in a place where such items are prohibited.
19. The knowing and intentional use of force in causing, or attempting to cause, personal injury to a school employee, school volunteer, or student, except if caused by accident, self-defense, or on the reasonable belief that the force used was necessary to protect some other person and the extent of force used was reasonably believed to be necessary.
20. Failure to report for the activity at the beginning of each season; reporting for one activity may count as reporting on time if there is a change in activity within the season approved by the coach or the supervisor.
21. Failure to participate in regularly scheduled classes on the day of an athletic/activity event.
22. Failure to attend all scheduled practices and meetings. If circumstances arise to prevent the participant's attendance, the coach will determine the validity of the reason. Every reasonable effort should be made to notify the coach or supervisor prior to all missed practices or meetings.
23. All other reasonable rules or regulations adopted by the coach or supervisor of an extra-curricular activity shall be followed, provided that participants shall be advised by the coach or supervisor of such rules and regulations by written handouts or posting on bulletin boards prior to the violation of the rule or regulation.
24. Failure to comply with any rule established by the Nebraska School Activities Association, including, but not limited to, the rules relating to eligibility.
25. The NFHS Sports Medicine Advisory Committee strongly opposes the use of dietary supplement for the purpose of obtaining a competitive advantage (November 21, 2014). Seward Public Schools discourages the use of these supplements, rather SPS encourages a balanced diet to obtain the necessary nutrition to compete at the highest

level. It is ultimately the parents decision to allow their son/daughter to use dietary supplements but the school district will not allow students to possess or consume them at school. The supplements will be prohibited on SPS grounds.

Hazing

The School District of Seward believes that all individuals should be treated with respect and dignity. Students should be able to participate in school-sponsored programs in an environment free from any behavior that is intimidating, hostile, offensive, or dangerous. Students found to be in violation of this policy are subject to the Activity Code of Conduct, as well as all other applicable school policies.

Nebraska Code 28-311.06 defining Hazing:

(1) For purposes of this section and section 28-311.07: (a) Hazing shall mean any activity by which a person intentionally or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health or safety of an individual for the purpose of initiation into, admission into, affiliation with, or continued membership with any organization as defined in subdivision (1)(b) of this section. Such hazing activity shall include whipping, beating, branding, forced and prolonged calisthenics, prolonged exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug, or harmful substance not generally intended for human consumption, prolonged sleep deprivation, or any brutal treatment or the performance of any unlawful act which endangers the physical or mental health or safety of any person; and (2) It shall be unlawful to commit the offense of hazing. Any person who commits the offense of hazing shall be guilty of a Class II misdemeanor.

Drug (including tobacco and vapor products) and Alcohol Violations

Students who are found to be in violation of sub-paragraphs 8 or 9 of the above conduct rules shall be subject to the following disciplinary action.

1. First Violation – Suspension from participating in the extra-curricular program and all school activities (including all organizations and special events such as prom) for 10 (ten) school days and a minimum of two activities. The first day of the suspension will be the day of the conference with the student.

2. Second Violation – Students may select Option A or B.

Option A: Suspension from participating in the extra-curricular program and all school activities (including all organizations and special events such as homecoming and prom) for 1 (one) calendar year. The first day of the suspension will be the day of the conference with the student.

-- OR --

Option B: Suspension from participating in the extra-curricular program and all school activities (including all organizations and special events such as prom) for 30 (thirty) school days. The first day of the suspension will be the day of the conference with the student. If students choose option B, students and parents also agree to participate in a school-approved program for chemical dependency. Said program must be administered by a certified alcohol and drug abuse and be approved by the school authorities. The student will need to successfully complete the approved chemical dependency program. Proof of successful completion of program must be submitted in writing to school Activities Director. Failure to participate and successfully complete the approved chemical dependency program may cause the participating student to be suspended from extra-curricular activities for the remainder of the school year. All costs associated with the program are to be borne by the student/parent or guardian. Information regarding such programs may be obtained from the Counselor's and/or Activities Director's office.

3. Subsequent Violations –

Upon finding of a subsequent violation, the student will be suspended from participating in the extra-curricular program and all school activities (including organizations and special events such as homecoming and prom) for 1 (one) calendar year. The first day of the suspension will be the day of the conference with the student. A student who possesses, dispenses, delivers, or administers anabolic steroids shall be subject to the following sanctions: (Nebraska State Statute)

1. First Violation – The student shall be suspended from participating in the extra-curricular program and all school activities (including all organizations and special events such as prom) for 30 (thirty) school days. The first day of the suspension will be the day of the conference with the student.

2. Second or Any Subsequent Violation –The student shall be suspended from participating in the extra-curricular program and all school activities (including organizations and special events such as homecoming and prom) for 1 (one) calendar year. The first day of the suspension will be the day of the conference with the student.

Students and/or parents interested in counseling programs to help deal with this issue are encouraged to obtain such information from the Counselor's and/or the Activities Director's office at the High School.

Students who self-report an infraction of the Drug and alcohol policy shall have the suspension reduced by 50%.

Procedures for Extracurricular Discipline

Students may be suspended by the Principal or the Principal's designee from practices or participation in interscholastic competition or participation in extracurricular activities for violation of rules and standards of behavior adopted by the Seward Public Schools Board of Education or the administrative staff of the school. The following procedures will be followed with regard to suspension:

1. The school official(s) considering the suspension will make a reasonable investigation of the facts and circumstances and determine whether the suspension will help the student or other students, further school purposes, or prevent an interference with school purpose.
2. Prior to the suspension, the student is to be given oral or written notice of the charges against the student. The student will be advised of what the student is accused of having done, an explanation of the evidence the school has, and be given the opportunity to explain the student's version of the facts.
3. If the student is not readily available to meet with the school official for this purpose before the suspension is to begin, then the suspension may be imposed at that time so long as the opportunity for the student to hear the charges and evidence and for the student to tell his or her side of the story occurs as soon as reasonably practicable. An effort to schedule a meeting for this purpose should be made by the student and the student's parent or guardian as well. Given the fact that extracurricular activity suspension actions at times need to be taken outside the regular school day, a telephone conference may be used to give the student the opportunity to provide the student's position.
4. Within two school days or such additional time as is reasonably necessary following the suspension, the Principal or Principal's designee will send a written statement to the student and the student's parents, or guardian describing the student's conduct, misconduct or violation of the rule or standard and the reason for the action taken and the right to a hearing upon request on the specified charges.
5. An opportunity will be afforded the student, parents, or guardian of the student, at their request, to confer on an informal basis with regard with the school official who has imposed the suspension and to give that school official any further information in the student's defense.
6. If the student or student's parents or guardian are not satisfied with the determination of the school official, an informal hearing may be requested before the Superintendent. A form to request such a hearing must be signed by the parent or guardian will either be provided with the initial notice letter or be made available in the Principal's office. This request must be received by the building principal within five days of receiving the initial written notice of suspension.
7. If a hearing is requested, it shall be held within ten calendar days of the request. The Superintendent will notify the participants of the time and place of the hearing within five days of receiving the request. There will be no stay of the penalty imposed pending an appeal.
8. Upon conclusion of the hearing, a written decision will be rendered within five school days. The written decision will be mailed or otherwise delivered to the participant, parents or guardian. A record of the hearing (copies of documents provided at the hearing and a tape recording or other recordation of the hearing itself) shall be kept by the school.
9. Nothing contained in this regulation shall prevent the participant, parents, guardian or representative from discussing and settling the matter with the appropriate school personnel at any stage.

Section 5 Academic Grade Standards for Activities Participation

Participation in extra-curricular school activities is encouraged and desirable for all students. At the same time, the principal mission and responsibility for each student is to establish a firm academic foundation. A student participating in extra-curricular school activities must therefore:

Maintain passing grades in all classes

Any student failing class(es) when grades are checked is ineligible to participate in extracurricular activities. Students who are academically ineligible cannot travel with any team, suit up for any event, or participate in any special school activity (such as homecoming or prom.) Activity practice is permitted, however, teachers or coaches/sponsors may require students to stay after school to complete missing work.

Eligibility is checked every week, usually on Monday, beginning the start of the third week of each term. If a student is ineligible, they may become eligible to participate by taking a grade sheet to all of their teachers to verify passing grades in all classes and return it to the office.

Eligibility requirements shall not apply to:

- (A) Instructional field trips, which are a part of the scheduled course learning experience;
- (B) Activities or events, which are a part of the students' grade requirements.

Attendance and Academics

Student participants are expected to apply themselves academically by following these Expectations:

1. Attend school regularly and show evidence of sincere effort towards scholastic Achievement.
2. Be on time for all scheduled practices, contests and departure for contests. In the event a participant is unable to attend a practice or contests he/she should contact the coach or sponsor in advance.
3. Attendance, for the full day, the day of a contest is required to be eligible for the contest that day. Arrangements in advance for extenuating circumstances, such as doctor/dentist appointments, funerals or other activities, can be made with the building Principal in writing. Every attempt should be made to be in attendance the day of a contest. Sleeping in to rest up for the game will not be considered an extenuating circumstance, nor will going home ill and then returning to play in the contest later that day. This policy also applies to being eligible for daily practice.
4. Appearance: Participants will dress appropriately for the activity in which they are involved and will at all times maintain a neat, clean and well groomed appearance.

Section 6 Team Selection, Playing Time, Conflicts, and Transportation

"Team selection" and "playing time" decisions are the responsibility of the individual coach or sponsor of the activity.

Consistent, however, with the purposes of the activities program, the coaches and sponsors shall follow the following established guidelines for team selection and playing time decisions, along with such other guidelines as each individual coach and sponsor may develop which are not inconsistent with these established guidelines:

1. Student participants must demonstrate that they can and will represent themselves and their school in a manner that reflects the development of high ideals and appropriate values, which shall include good citizenship in the school and in the community.
2. Student participants must demonstrate that they can make the activity program more successful, both from a standpoint of competitive success and success in promoting a positive school spirit. Characteristics for purposes of these criteria include the student's: (1) talent or skill, (2) desire to improve the student's own skills or talents as well as those of others in the activity, and (3) attitude of respect towards teammates, the coach, the school, and the community.

3. At the freshmen level, the emphasis will be on fundamental skill development and teamwork. At the junior varsity level, the emphasis will be on preparation for varsity competition. However, coaches will determine the amount of playing time for individual athletes.
4. When the situation arises where a student is involved in two school activities and the schedules conflict, the administration will make the final determination in regards to which event the student will participate. Some of the factors that will be considered are: the level of competition ex. varsity versus non-varsity; importance of competition ex. state versus districts versus conference versus regular season; the type of event ex. academic versus athletic; student's role on the team; coach or sponsor's input; student's input.
5. Students are expected to ride school transportation to and from all school-sponsored activities. Students wanting to ride home with parents should make arrangements ahead of time. Students may not drive themselves to activities unless pre-approved by the Administration.
6. Alternate transportation forms must be signed at least 24 hours in advance of the event. This option is to be used for unavoidable and uncontrollable conflicts. For example, a student is involved in two activities that are occurring on the same day with overlapping times may necessitate a parent driving the student from one event to the other.

General Lettering Criteria and Postseason Awards

Lettering in a school activity is for those participants who have met stated levels of performance. These general considerations govern lettering in Seward activities:

1. The participant must be in good standing (member of the organization) at the end of the season to receive a letter.
2. Participants injured and who must drop out of a school activity, may be given special consideration.
3. Sponsors who believe there are special conditions or unusual situations (other than alcohol, tobacco or drug and/or criminal activity suspensions) for a participant s/he may letter that participant.
4. Students who participate in an activity for four years, may letter in that activity.
5. Students must participate in 25% of the varsity contests, innings, quarters... or score in a major Track and Field meet. Coaches may use discretion for seniors who have met all criteria with the exception of the participation requirement.
6. A student manager may receive a varsity letter at the discretion of the sponsor.
7. A sponsor may revoke a letter for disciplinary reasons.
8. A violation of team training rules prohibits an athlete from lettering.

Section 7 Relationships Between Parents and Coaches/Sponsors

Both parenting and coaching are very difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding between coaches and parents, both are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide a more positive experience for everyone.

Parents have the right to know the expectations placed on them and their children. Coaches and sponsors have the right to know that if parents have a concern, they will discuss it with the coach at the appropriate time and place. Following a contest is not an appropriate time or place for this conversation. Please abide by the standard 24 hour rule, do not make contact with the coach until 24 hours after the game/contest.

Lines of Communication

Students are encouraged to visit with their coach/sponsor if they have questions about playing time or role on the team. If the student does not have their questions answered, the parent may contact the coach. The head coach is next level for communication. If an issue is still not resolved, the parent may request a meeting with the Activity Director. The chain of command will continue to the building principal followed by the superintendent.

Parents' Role in Interscholastic Athletics and Other Extracurricular Activities

Communicating with your children

1. Make sure that your children know that win or lose, scared or heroic, you love them, appreciate their efforts and are not disappointed in them. This will allow them to do their best without fear of failure. Be the person in their life they can look to for constant positive reinforcement.
2. Try your best to be completely honest about your child's athletic ability, competitive attitude, sportsmanship and actual skill level.
3. Be helpful but don't coach them. It's tough not to, but it is a lot tougher for the child to be flooded with advice and critical instruction.
4. Teach them to enjoy the thrill of competition, to be "out there trying," to be working to improve their skills and attitudes. Help them develop the feeling for competing, for trying hard, for having fun.
5. Try not to relive your athletic life through your child in a way that creates pressure. If they are comfortable with you win or lose, then they are on their way to maximum enjoyment.
6. Don't compete with the coach. If your child is receiving mixed messages from two different authority figures, he or she will likely become disenchanted.
7. Don't compare the skill, courage, or attitude of your child with other members of the team.
8. Get to know the coach(es). Then you can be assured that his or her philosophy, attitudes, ethics, and knowledge are such that you are happy to have your child under his or her leadership.
9. Always remember that children tend to exaggerate, both when praised and when criticized. Temper your reaction and investigate before overreacting.

Communicating with the coach

1. Communication you should expect from your child's coach includes:
 - a. Philosophy of the coach
 - b. Expectations the coach has for your child
 - c. Locations and times of all practices and contests
 - d. Team requirements
 - e. Procedure should your child be injured
 - f. Discipline that results in the denial of your child's participation
2. Communication coaches expect from parents
 - a. Concerns expressed directly to the coach
 - b. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance
 - c. Specific concerns in regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations
3. Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches:
 - a. The treatment of your child, mentally, and physically
 - b. Ways to help your child improve
 - c. Concerns about your child's behavior
 - d. Injuries or health concerns. Report injuries to the coach immediately!! Tell the coach about any health concerns that may make it necessary to limit your child's participation or require assistance of trainers. Students are sometimes unwilling to tell coaches when they are injured, so please make sure the coach is told.
4. Issues not appropriate to discuss with coaches:
 - a. Playing time
 - b. Team strategy
 - c. Play calling
 - d. Other student-athletes
5. Appropriate procedures for discussing concerns with the coaches:
 - a. Call to set up an appointment with the coach

- b. Do not confront a coach before or after a contest or practice (these can be emotional times for all parties involved and do not promote resolution)
- 6. What should a parent do if the meeting with the coach did not provide satisfactory resolution?
 - a. Call the athletic director to set up a meeting with the athletic director, coach, and parent present.
 - b. At this meeting, an appropriate next step can be determined, if necessary.

Section 8 Good Sportsmanship—Behavior Expectations of Spectators

Good sportsmanship is expected to be exhibited by all coaches, sponsors, students, parents and other spectators. The school can be punished by NSAA for a lack of good sportsmanship at NSAA sanctioned events. More importantly, activities are more enjoyable for the students when good sportsmanship is displayed.

Responsibilities of Spectators Attending

Interscholastic Athletics and Other Extracurricular Activities

1. Show interest in the contest by enthusiastically cheering and applauding the performance of both teams.
2. Show proper respect for opening ceremonies by standing at attention and remaining silent when the National Anthem is played.
3. Understand that a ticket is a privilege to observe the contest, not a license to verbally attack others, or to be obnoxious. Maintain self-control.
4. Do not “boo,” stamp feet or make disrespectful remarks toward players or officials.
5. Learn the rules of the game, so that you may understand and appreciate why certain situations take place.
6. Know that noise makers of any kind are not proper for indoor events.
7. Obey and respect officials and faculty supervisors who are responsible for keeping order. Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials.
8. Stay off the playing area at all times.
9. Do not disturb others by throwing material onto the playing area.
10. Show respect for officials, coaches, cheerleaders and student-athletes.
11. Pay attention to the half-time program and do not disturb those who are watching.
12. Respect public property by not damaging the equipment or the facility.
13. Know that the school officials reserve the right to refuse attendance of individuals whose conduct is not proper.

NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

The School District of Seward does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, marital status, disability, or age or in admission or access to, or treatment of employment or educational programs and activities. Any person having inquiries concerning The School District of Seward's compliance with the regulations implementing Title VI, Title IX, or Section 504 is directed to contact Superintendent Greg Barnes, in writing at 410 South St., Seward, Nebraska or by telephone at (402) 643-2941. Any person may also contact the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, in writing at 8930 Ward Parkway, Suite 2037, Kansas City, Missouri 64114-3302 or by telephone at (816) 268-0550, regarding compliance with the regulations implementing Title VI, Title IX, or Section 504.

Section 9 Nebraska School Activities Association Concussion Guidelines/ Recommendations

Concussion has been reported to account for approximately 4-5% of all injuries in high school sports. Football is the most common sport for concussion. Although most concussions are short lived, experience has shown that if a second injury occurs during the recovery phase of the initial injury, a phenomenon known as the “second-impact syndrome” can occur. This second injury can occur from a very minor blow which under normal circumstances might not cause injury at all. Although uncommon, the second-impact syndrome is often fatal and if an individual survives they are rarely neurologically normal. This abnormal mental state usually remains for life. The second-impact syndrome has

only been described in athletes younger than 20 years old (except in boxers). These recommendations are offered with the goal of reducing the potential for serious neurologic/ brain injury in Nebraska high school athletes.

Concussion/ mild traumatic brain injury (mTBI) can be defined as a brief and usually short lived neurological impairment, which occurs after a direct or indirect blow to the head or body. The impairment is often immediate, and symptoms typically resolve spontaneously. Acute clinical symptoms represent a functional disturbance rather than a structural injury to the brain. The clinical symptoms that occur may or may not include loss of consciousness. Typical signs and symptoms of concussion include confusion, headache, and amnesia. More subtle problems may include difficulties with concentration and attention, behavioral changes, and ataxia (inability to coordinate the muscles in voluntary movement).

When a player shows ANY sign or symptom of a concussion

1. Perform an on-field mental status evaluation.
2. The player should not be allowed to return to play in the current game or practice.
3. The player should not be left alone; and regular monitoring for deterioration is essential over the initial few hours following injury.
4. The player should be medically evaluated (by an appropriate health care provider) following the injury.
5. Return to play should follow a medically supervised stepwise process.

A player should never return to play while symptomatic. "When in doubt, sit them out!"

Return to Play Protocol

The majority of injuries will be simple concussions and such injuries recover spontaneously over several days. In these situations, it is expected that an athlete will proceed rapidly through the stepwise return to play strategy.

During this period of recovery in the first few days following an injury, it is important to emphasize to the athlete that physical AND cognitive rest is required. Activities that require concentration and attention may exacerbate the symptoms and result in a delayed recovery. This concept of "cognitive rest" appears to be of significant importance in student athletes.

The return to play following a concussion follows a stepwise process

1. No activity, complete rest. Once asymptomatic, proceed to step 2.
2. Light aerobic exercise such as walking or stationary cycling, no resistance training.
3. Sport specific exercise (e.g.: running), progressive addition of resistance training at steps 3 or
4. Non-contact training drills.
5. Full contact training after medical clearance.
6. Game play.

With this stepwise progression, the athlete should continue to proceed to the next level if asymptomatic at the current level. If any post-concussion symptoms occur, the patient should drop back to the previous asymptomatic level and try to progress again after 24 hours.

In cases of complex concussion, the rehabilitation will be more prolonged and return to play advice should be more circumspect. It is recommended that complex cases be managed by physicians with a specific expertise in the management of such injuries.

An additional consideration in return to play is that concussed athletes should not only be symptom free but also should not be taking any pharmacological agents/ medications that may affect or modify the symptoms of concussion.

Neuropsychological testing is being used more frequently as a clinical assessment tool and provides objective measurement of cognitive function. Cognitive function may be impaired despite resolution of symptoms. Ideally, neuropsychological testing would be compared with pre-injury baseline testing.

Injuries where outside treatment/care is sought will require a medical clearance to return to competition.

REFERENCES:

Guskiewicz KM, et. al.: National Athletic Trainers' Association Position Statement: Management of Sport-Related Concussion. J Athl Train. 2004;39(3):280-297
Hering SA, et.al.: Selected issues for the adolescent athlete and the team physician: a consensus statement. Med Sci Sports Exerc. 2008;1997-2012
Hering SA, et. al.: Concussion (mild traumatic brain injury) and the team physician: a consensus statement. Med Sci Sports Exerc. 2006;395-399
McCorry P, et.al.: Summary and agreement statement of the 2nd international conference on Concussion in sport, Prauge 2004. Clin J Sport Med. 2005;15(2):48-55

NSAA/SEWARD HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION FORMS (See Appendix)

- 1. Seward Public Schools Adult Code of Conduct
- 2. Seward High School STUDENT & PARENT CONSENT FORM For InterScholastic Participation
 - a. STUDENT & PARENT CONSENT SIGNATURE FORM – MUST BE RETURNED PRIOR TO PRACTICE
- 3. NSAA Student & Parent Consent Form
- 4. NSAA Guide for Students “Guarding your Eligibility”
- 5. PRE-PARTICIPATION PHYSICAL FORMS
 - a. PRE-PARTICIPATION PHYSICAL EVALUATION (HISTORY FORM) – STAYS WITH PHYSICIAN
 - b. PRE-PARTICIPATION PHYSICAL EVALUATION (EXAM FORM) – STAYS WITH PHYSICIAN
 - c. PRE-PARTICIPATION PHYSICAL EVALUATION (CLEARANCE FORM – MUST BE RETURNED TO SHS BEFORE STUDENT WILL BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES)

Section 10 Varsity Sports Seasons

All interscholastic sports are divided into three seasons--fall, winter, and spring. The divisions of sports, the date of the first allowed organized practice, and the closing date of the season shall be as follows. No individual shall participate simultaneously in more than one sport per season. Athletes are not allowed to participate in activities outside the school while involved in the same activity in school. Cross Country/Road Races are specific examples. (Dates subject to changes)

FALL	FIRST DAY OF PRACTICE	CLOSE OF SEASON
Cross-Country	August 6	State Meet Oct. 19
Football	August 6	State Finals Nov. 19
Girls Golf	August 6	State Meet Oct. 8-9
Volleyball	August 6	State Meet Nov. 8-10
Softball	August 6	State Meet Oct. 10-12
WINTER	FIRST DAY OF PRACTICE	CLOSE OF SEASON
Girls Basketball	November 12	State Tourney Feb 28, Mar. 1-2
Boys Basketball	November 12	State Tourney March 7-9
Wrestling	November 12	State Meet Feb 14-16
SPRING	FIRST DAY OF PRACTICE	CLOSE OF SEASON
Boys Golf	February 25	State Meet May 21-22

Track	February 25	State Meet	May 17-18
Soccer	February 25	State Meet	May 8-11, 13-14
Baseball	February 25	State Meet	May 11, 13-16

Section 11 Activity Participant Fees

- 1) All students participating in activities will be required to purchase a full year activity pass. This activity pass admits the student without charge to most regular season home activities during the school year. Exceptions include tournaments, the musical, and any Central Conference or NSAA District/State tournaments hosted by Seward High School. The cost of the pass to activity participants is \$20. The Activity Pass must be purchased prior to the student's participation in activities.
- 2) Students will be charged a participation fee of \$20 if they are involved in one or more NSAA sponsored activities during the school year. This fee will be placed in the student activity participation account for use at the discretion of the district for activity related expenses incurred by the district. The Activity Participation fee needs to be paid prior to the student's participation in activities.

Seward Alternative Education Center (SAEC)

Section 1 Philosophy

All students at the Seward Alternative Education Center will be provided an opportunity and encouraged to grow socially and academically in a positive, nurturing, challenging environment.

Section 2 Introduction

The SAEC is an alternative education program provided by the School District of Seward. The major emphasis of the program is to provide a self-paced educational setting where individual students can earn a diploma while working through a more individualized program of study.

Students are expected to display appropriate behaviors at all times. Students are expected to follow all rules and policies of conduct stated in School District of Seward Student-Parent Handbooks.

Section 3 Student Eligibility

Students in grade 6 through 12 are eligible for the program and must be referred by a building administrator. For special education students being referred to the program, an individual education plan (IEP) team will meet to consider the reasons for referral, and will make the decision if the referral is appropriate.

Section 4 Application Procedure

Students who are accepted to the SAEC, and who agree to attend the program, must complete an application with their parents or guardians. Completing the application process is the first step between the student and school to work together to have a successful educational experience.

Application is made by contacting the appropriate school counselor.

Section 5 Selection Criteria

Determining factors in the selection process are:

A. Students:

1. Attendance – Students must be able to commit to attending daily.
2. Discipline – All discipline issues will be referred to the principal.
3. Age
4. Ability to meet graduation requirements – Students must be able to achieve graduation as established by the Board of Education.
5. Ability to work independently – In order to accomplish the goals of our program, students need to demonstrate the ability to work independently. This includes being able to set daily, weekly, and long term goals by using the APEX online curriculum and being able to achieve these goals.

B. Parents and student are motivated and committed to student success.

C. Parents and students are willing to communicate with the school about individual needs of the family.

D. Parents support both the student and the school by:

1. Providing a quiet study environment nightly in the home
2. Attending parent/teacher conferences
3. Communicating with SAEC staff
4. Reviewing this handbook with the student

Section 6 Acceptance

Acceptance is based on the willingness of the student and parent/guardian to adhere strictly to the regulations established regarding building rules, student behavior, and especially classroom expectations.

Section 7 Daily Schedule

The SAEC offers a morning session and an afternoon session Monday through Friday. The morning session begins at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 11:30 a.m. The afternoon session begins at 12:00 p.m. and ends at 3:15 p.m. Students are assigned a session based on current enrollment, student needs, and mitigating circumstances. Middle school students will attend according to contracted schedules set up for individual students. Students not gainfully employed are required to attend Seward High School half days or full days at SAEC. All students have a closed campus lunch and will eat in the classroom area.

Students and parents are responsible for all transportation needs.

Section 8 Goals Incentive Program (GIP)

Those students completing their APEX calendar goal will be given the option as a reward to only attend classes Monday through Thursday. The APEX calendar goal must be completed by the end of the Thursday session each week. In addition to the credit requirement, the other stipulations are that **students must be in good standing for attendance for the reporting period and be within the tardy policy guidelines. Students must not have any truancy situations for the week.** Participation in this program is voluntary depending on permission of the parent/guardian.

Section 9 Absences, Tardies and Appointments

If you are not at school for the day or will be arriving late, **a parent or guardian MUST call us at 643-2986 on the day of the absence or tardy. Students are accountable to the same attendance procedure at SHS. Students who exceed the 5 day per term attendance limit (Medical, Court or Funeral documented absences do not count toward the 5 day limit but do count toward the 20 day per year report that goes to the County Attorney's office)** will not be awarded any credit until time is made up. Tardies will count against participation in the Goal Incentive Program. Students in grades 9 – 12 must not make any appointments during your scheduled school time.

Section 10 Graduation Requirements and Procedures

See Graduation Requirements in previous section in student handbook.

- A. A student must have successfully passed a total of 235 semester hours and the service learning requirement by the close of his or her senior year in order to graduate. If a student has employment, they can present the school with proof of hours worked, within the week they are paid, for school credit. Every sixty hours worked will be equivalent to five hours of elective credit.
- B. **A cap and tassel fee will be due prior to graduation.** Presentation of the Seward Alternative Education Center Diploma will be made at the next scheduled Board of Education meeting upon completion of graduation requirements.
- C. **Students who successfully complete the requirements for graduation and receive no more than 35 credits from the SAEC will be eligible to participate in commencement exercises at Seward High School in May.**

Section 11 Course Load

You will be required to register for a minimum of 4 classes per semester. Each class is worth 5 credits. As soon as you complete the requirements for a class, at any time during a reporting period, you will be enrolled in your next class.

Section 12 Extracurricular Activities

SAEC students who are on a flexible schedule (**halftime alternative education and half time work experience**) will NOT be eligible to participate in any extracurricular activities. Students enrolled in classes at both the SAEC and SHS will be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities; however, the same school rules of conduct and behavior apply to them. The same requirements for eligibility pertaining to grades and discipline will be applied to SAEC students. There will be no exceptions.

State and Federal Programs

Section 1 Notice of Nondiscrimination

The Seward Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, age, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, or other protected status in the admission, access to its facilities or programs or activities, treatment, or employment.

Section 2 Designation of Coordinators

Any person having concerns or needing information about the District's compliance with anti-discrimination laws or policies should contact the District's designated Coordinator for the applicable anti-discrimination law.

Law, Policy or Program	Issue or Concern	Coordinator
Title VI	Discrimination or harassment based on race, color, or national origin; harassment	Superintendent
Title IX	Discrimination or harassment based on sex; gender equity	Superintendent
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disability Act (ADA)	Discrimination, harassment or reasonable accommodations of persons with disabilities	Superintendent
Homeless student laws	Children who are homeless	Superintendent
Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities	Safe and drug free schools	Superintendent

The Coordinator may be contacted at: Superintendent, 410 South Street, Seward, Nebraska 68434, telephone number (402) 643-2941.

Section 3 Anti-discrimination & Harassment Policy

Elimination of Discrimination. The Seward Public Schools hereby gives this statement of compliance and intent to comply with all state and federal laws prohibiting discrimination or harassment and requiring accommodations. This school district intends to take necessary measures to assure compliance with such laws against any prohibited form of discrimination or harassment or which require accommodations.

Preventing Harassment and Discrimination of Students.

Purpose: Seward Public Schools is committed to offering employment and educational opportunities to its employees and students in a climate free of discrimination. Accordingly, unlawful discrimination or harassment of any kind by administrators, teachers, co-workers, students or other persons is prohibited. In addition, Seward Public Schools will try to protect employees and students from reported discrimination or harassment by non-employees or others in the workplace and educational environment.

For purposes of this policy, discrimination or harassment based on a person's race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, age, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, or other protected status, is prohibited. The following are general definitions of what might constitute prohibited harassment.

In general, ethnic or racial slurs or other verbal or physical conduct relating to a person's race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, age, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, or other protected status constitute harassment when they unreasonably interfere with the person's work performance or create an intimidating work, instructional or educational environment.

Age harassment (40 years of age and higher) has been defined by federal regulations as a form of age

discrimination. It can consist of demeaning jokes, insults or intimidation based on a person's age.

Sexual harassment is defined by federal and state regulations as a form of sex discrimination. It can consist of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or physical or verbal conduct of a sexual nature by supervisors or others in the workplace, classroom or educational environment.

Sexual harassment may exist when: Submission to such conduct is either an explicit or implicit term and condition of employment or of participation and enjoyment of the school's programs and activities;

Submission to or rejection of such conduct is used or threatened as a basis for employment related decisions, such as promotion, performance, evaluation, pay adjustment, discipline, work assignment, etc., or school program or activity decisions, such as admission, credits, grades, school assignments or playing time.

The conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or educational performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working, class room or educational environment.

Sexual harassment may include explicit sexual propositions, sexual innuendo, suggestive comments, sexually oriented "kidding" or "teasing", "practical jokes", jokes about gender-specific traits, foul or obscene language or gestures, displays of foul or obscene printed or visual material, and physical contact, such as patting, pinching or brushing against another's body.

Complaint and Grievance Procedures: Employees or students should initially report all instances of discrimination or harassment to their immediate supervisor or classroom teacher. However, if the employee or student is uncomfortable in presenting the problem to the supervisor or teacher, or if the supervisor or teacher is the problem, the employee or student is encouraged to go to the next level of supervision. In the case of a student, the Principal would be the next or alternative person to contact.

If the employee or student's complaint is not resolved to his or her satisfaction within five (5) to ten (10) calendar days, or if the discrimination or harassment continues, or if as a student you feel you need immediate help for any reason, please report your complaint to the Superintendent of Seward Public Schools. If a satisfactory arrangement cannot be obtained through the Superintendent, the complaint may be processed to the Board of Education.

The supervisor, teacher or the Superintendent will thoroughly investigate all complaints. These situations will be treated with the utmost confidence, consistent with resolution of the problem. Based on the results of the investigation, appropriate corrective action, up to and including discharge of offending employees, and disciplinary action up to expulsion against a harassing student, may be taken. Under no circumstances will any threats or retaliation be permitted to be made against an employee or student for alleging in good faith a violation of this policy.

Section 4 Multicultural Policy

The philosophy of the District's multicultural education program is that students will have improved ability to function as productive members of society when provided with: (a) an understanding of diverse cultures and races, the manner in which the existence of diverse cultures and races have affected the history of our Nation and the world, and of the contributions made by diverse cultures and races (including but not be limited to African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, Asian Americans and European Americans) and (b) with the ability and skills to be sensitive toward and to study, work and live successively with persons of diverse cultures and races. The mission shall also include preparing students to eliminate stereotypes and discrimination or harassment of others based on ethnicity, religion, gender, socioeconomic status, age, or disability.

Section 5 Notice to Parents of Rights Afforded by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

The following is a description of the rights granted to qualifying students with disabilities under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. The intent of the law is to keep you fully informed concerning the decisions about your child and to inform you of your rights if you disagree with any of these decisions. You have the right to:

1. Have your child take part in, and receive benefits from, public education Programs without discrimination because of his/her disability.

2. Have the school district advise you of your rights under federal law.
3. Receive notice with respect to identification, evaluation or placement of your child.
4. Have your child receive a free appropriate public education.
5. Have your child receive services and be educated in facilities which are comparable to those provided to every student.
6. Have evaluation, educational and placement decisions made based on a variety of information sources and by persons who know the student and who are knowledgeable about the evaluation data and placement options.
7. Have transportation provided to and from an alternative placement setting (if The setting is a program not operated by the district) at no greater cost to you than would be incurred if the student were placed in a program operated by the district.
8. Have your child be given an equal opportunity to participate in nonacademic and extracurricular activities offered by the district.
9. Examine all relevant records relating to decisions regarding your child's Identification, evaluation and placement.
10. Request mediation or an impartial due process hearing related to decisions or actions regarding your child's identification, evaluation, educational program or placement. (You and your child may take part in the hearing. Hearing requests are to be made to the Superintendent.)
11. File a local grievance.

Section 6 Notification of Rights Under FERPA

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. They are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the District receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal (or appropriate school official) a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The principal will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading. Parents or eligible students may ask the School District to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the District decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the District will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.
3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception which permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the District as an administrator, supervisor, instructor or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the District has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Upon request, the District discloses education records without consent to officials of another School District in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.
4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the District to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA is:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20202-4605

Notice Concerning Directory Information

The District may disclose directory information. The types of personally identifiable information that the District has designated as directory information are as follows:

1. Student's Name, address, telephone listing, and the name, address, telephone listings (if not unlisted), e-mail address and work or other contact information of the student's parent/guardian or other adult acting in loco parentis or with authority to act as parent or guardian in educational matters for the student;
2. School and dates of attendance;
3. Student's current grade;
4. Student's enrollment status (e.g. full-time or part-time);
5. Student's date of birth and place of birth;
6. Student's extra-curricular participation;
7. Student's achievement awards or honors;
8. Student's weight and height if a member of an athletic team;
9. Student's photograph; and
10. School or school district the student attended before he or she enrolled in Seward Public Schools.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the District does not designate as directory information personally identifiable information from students' education records where the District determines that the disclosure to the potential recipient poses a risk to student safety or well-being, including but not limited to circumstances where the potential recipient is a registered sex offender and the personally identifiable information would permit the potential recipient to communicate with or otherwise contact the student.

A parent or eligible student has the right to refuse to let the District designate information about the student as directory information. The period of time within which a parent or eligible student has to notify the District in writing that he or she does not want information about the student designated as directory information is as follows: two (2) weeks from the time this information is first received. Please contact the Superintendent's office to indicate your refusal to have your child's information designated as directory information.

The District may disclose information about former students without meeting the conditions in this section.

The District's policy is for education records to be kept confidential except as permitted by the FERPA law, and the District does not approve any practice which involves an unauthorized disclosure of education records. In some courses student work may be displayed or made available to others. Also, some teachers may have persons other than the teacher or school staff, such as volunteers or fellow students, assist with the task of grading student work and returning graded work to students. The District does not either approve or disapprove such teaching practices, and designates such student work as directory information and/or as non-education records. Each parent and eligible student shall be presumed to have accepted this designation in the absence of the parent or eligible student giving notification to the District in writing in the manner set forth above pertaining to the designation of directory information. Consent will be presumed to have been given in the absence of such a notification from the parent or eligible student.

Notice Concerning Designation of Law Enforcement Unit: The District designates the Seward Police Department as the District's "law enforcement unit" for purposes of (1) enforcing any and all federal, state or local law, (2) maintaining the physical security and safety of the schools in the District, and (3) maintaining safe and drug free schools.

Section 7 Notice Concerning Disclosure of Student Recruiting Information

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

Section 8 Notice Concerning Staff Qualifications

The No Child Left Behind Act gives parents/guardians the right to get information about the professional qualifications of their child's classroom teachers. Upon request, the District will give parents/guardians the following information about their child's classroom teacher:

1. Whether the teacher has met State qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction.
2. Whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency or provisional teaching certificate.
3. The baccalaureate degree major of the teacher. You may also get information about other graduate certification or degrees held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree. We will also, upon request, tell parents/guardians whether their child is being provided services by a paraprofessional and, if so, the qualifications of the paraprofessional. The request for information should be made to an administrator in your child's school building. The information will be provided to you in a timely manner. Finally, the District will give timely notice to you if your child has been assigned, or has been taught for four (4) or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who does not meet the requirements of the Act.

Section 9 Student Privacy Protection Policy

It is the policy of Seward Public Schools to develop and implement policies which protect the privacy of students in accordance with applicable laws. The District's policies in this regard include the following:

Right of Parents to Inspect Surveys Funded or Administered by the United States Department of Education or Third Parties: Parents shall have the right to inspect, upon the parent's request, a survey created by and administered by either the United States Department of Education or a third party (a group or person other than the District) before the survey is administered or distributed by the school to the parent's child.

Protection of Student Privacy in Regard to Surveys of Matters Deemed to be Sensitive: The District will require, for any survey of students which contain one or more matters deemed to be sensitive (see section headed "Definition of Surveys of Matters Deemed to be Sensitive"), that suitable arrangements be made to protect student privacy (that is, the name or other identifying information about a particular student). For such surveys, the District will also follow the procedures set forth in the section entitled: "Notification of and Right to Opt-Out of Specific Events."

Right of Parents to Inspect Instructional Materials: Parents have the right to inspect, upon reasonable request, any instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum for their child. Reasonable requests for inspection of instructional materials shall be granted within a reasonable period of time after the request is received. Parents shall not have the right to access academic tests or academic assessments, as such are not within the meaning of the term "instructional materials" for purposes of this policy. The procedures for making and granting a request to inspect instructional materials are as follows: the parent shall make the request, with reasonable specificity, directly to the building principal. The building principal, within five (5) school days, shall consult with the teacher or other educator responsible for the curriculum materials. In the event the request can be accommodated, the building principal shall make the materials available for inspection or review by the parent, at such reasonable times and place as will not interfere with the educator's intended use of the materials. In the event there is a question as to the nature of the curriculum materials requested or as to whether the materials are required to be provided, the building principal shall notify the parent of such concern, and assist the parent with forming a request which can reasonably be accommodated. If the parent does not formulate such a request, and continues to desire certain curriculum materials, the parent shall be asked to make their request to the Superintendent.

Rights of Parents to be Notified of and to Opt-Out of Certain Physical Examinations or Screenings. The general policy and practice of the District is to not administer physical examinations or screenings of students which require advance notice or parental opt-out rights under the applicable federal laws, for the reason that the physical examinations or screenings to be conducted by the District will usually fit into one of the following exceptions: (1) hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings; (2) physical examinations or screenings that are permitted or required by an applicable State law; and (3) surveys administered to students in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. For physical examinations or screenings which do not fit into the applicable exceptions, the District will follow the

procedures set forth in the section entitled: “Notification of and Right to Opt-Out of Specific Events.”

Protection of Student Privacy in Regard to Personal Information Collected from Students: The general policy and practice of the District is to not engage in the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information. The District will make reasonable arrangements to protect student privacy to the extent possible in the event of any such collection, disclosure, or use of personal information. “Personal information” for purposes of this policy means individually identifiable information about a student including: a student or parent’s first and last name, home address, telephone number, and social security number. The term “personal information,” for purposes of this policy, does not include information collected from students for the exclusive purpose of developing, evaluating, or providing educational products or services for, or to, students or educational institutions. This exception includes the following examples: (i) college or postsecondary education recruitment, or military recruitment; (ii) book clubs, magazines, and programs providing access to low-cost literary products; (iii) curriculum and instructional materials used by elementary schools and secondary schools; (iv) tests and assessments used by elementary schools and secondary schools to provide cognitive, evaluative, diagnostic, clinical, aptitude, or achievement information about student, or to generate other statistically useful data for the purpose of securing such tests and assessments, and the subsequent analysis and public release of the aggregate data from such tests and assessments; (v) the sale by student of products or services to raise funds for school-related or education-related activities; (vi) student recognition programs.

Parental Access to Instruments used in the Collection of Personal Information: While the general practice of the District is to not engage in the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information, parents shall have the right to inspect, upon reasonable request, any instrument which may be administered or distributed to a student for such purposes. Reasonable requests for inspection shall be granted within a reasonable period of time after the request is received. The procedures for making and granting such a request are as follows: the parent shall make the request, with reasonable specificity, directly to the building principal and shall identify the specific act and the school staff member or program responsible for the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information from students for the purpose of marketing that information. The building principal, within five (5) school days, shall consult with the school staff member or person responsible for the program which has been reported by the parent to be responsible for the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information from students. In the event such collection, disclosure, or use of personal information is occurring or there is a plan for such to occur, the building principal shall consult with the Superintendent for determination of whether the action shall be allowed to continue. If not, the instrument for the collection of personal information shall not be given to any students. If it is to be allowed, such instrument shall be provided to the requesting parent as soon as such instrument can be reasonably obtained.

Annual Parental Notification of Student Privacy Protection Policy: The District provides parents with reasonable notice of the adoption or continued use of this policy and other policies related to student privacy. Such notice shall be given to parents of students enrolled in the District at least annually, at the beginning of the school year, and within a reasonable period of time after any substantive change in such policies.

Notification to Parents of Dates of and Right to Opt-Out of Specific Events: The District will directly notify the parents of the affected children, at least annually at the beginning of the school year, of the specific or approximate dates during the school year when any of the following activities are scheduled, or are expected to be scheduled:

The collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information. (Note: the general practice of the District is to not engage in the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information).

Surveys of students involving one or more matters deemed to be sensitive in accordance with the law and this policy; and,

Any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening that is required as a condition of attendance; administered by the school and scheduled by the school in advance; and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of the student or of other students. (Note: the general practice of the District is to not engage in physical examinations or screenings which require advance notice, for the reason that the physical examinations or screenings to be conducted by the District will usually fit into one of the following exceptions to the advance notice

requirement and parental opt-out right: (1) hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings; (2) physical examinations or screenings that are permitted or required by an applicable State law, and (3) surveys administered to students in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act).

Parents shall be offered an opportunity in advance to opt their child out of participation in any of the above listed activities.

In the case of a student of an appropriate age (that is, a student who has reached the age of 18, or a legally emancipated student), the notice and opt-out right shall belong to the student.

Definition of Surveys of Matters Deemed to be Sensitive: Any survey containing one or more of the following matters shall be deemed to be “sensitive” for purposes of this policy:

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student’s parent;
2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or the student’s parent;
3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating or demeaning behavior;
5. Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom the student has close family relationships;
6. Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers;
7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the students or the student’s parent;
8. Income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program).

Section 10 Parental Involvement Policies

A. General - Parental/Community Involvement in Schools:

Seward Public Schools welcomes parental involvement in the education of their children. We recognize that parental involvement increases student success. It is the District’s policy to foster and facilitate, to the extent appropriate and in their primary language, parental information about, and involvement in, the education of their children. Policies and regulations are established to protect the emotional, physical and social well-being of all students.

1. Parental involvement is a part of the ongoing and timely planning, review and improvement of district and building programs.
2. Parents are encouraged to support the implementation of district policies and regulations.
3. Parents are encouraged to monitor their student’s progress by reviewing quarterly report cards and attending parent-teacher conferences.
4. Textbooks, tests and other curriculum materials used in the district are available for review by parents upon request.
5. Parents are provided access to records of students according to law and school policy.
6. Parents are encouraged to attend courses, assemblies, counseling sessions and other instructional activities with prior approval of the proper teacher or counselor and administrator. Parents’ continued attendance at such activities will be based on the students’ well-being.
7. Testing occurs in this school district as determined to be appropriate by district staff to assure proper measurement of educational progress and achievement.
8. Parents submitting written requests to have their student excused from testing, classroom instruction and other school experiences will be granted that request when possible and educationally appropriate. Requests should be submitted to the proper teacher or administrator within a reasonable time prior to the testing, classroom instruction or other school experience and should be accompanied by a written explanation for the request. A plan for an acceptable alternative shall be approved by the proper teacher and administrator prior to, or as a part of, the granting of any parent request.
9. Participation in surveys of students occurs in this district when determined appropriate by district staff for educational purposes. Parents will be notified prior to the administration of surveys in accordance with district policy. Timely written parental requests to remove students from such surveys will be granted in accordance with district policy and law. In some cases, parental permission must be given before the survey is administered.
10. Parents are invited to express their concerns, share their ideas and advocate for their children’s education with board members, administrators and staff.

11. School district staff and parents will participate in an annual evaluation and revision, if needed, of the content and effectiveness of the parental involvement policy.

B. Title I Parental Involvement Policy: The District's Title I Parental Involvement Policy is established in compliance with the No Child Left Behind Act. The District has a parental involvement policy applicable to parents of all children. The parental involvement policy applicable to parents of all children is not replaced by this Title I Parental Involvement Policy and shall continue to be applicable to all parents, including parents participating in Title I programs.

It is the policy of the District to implement programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of parents in Title I programs consistent with the Title I laws. Such programs, activities, and procedures shall be planned and implemented with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.

Expectations for Parental Involvement: It is the expectation of the District that parents of participating children will have opportunities available for parental involvement in the programs, activities, and procedures of the District's Title I program. The term "parental involvement" means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring—(A) that parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning; (B) that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school; (C) that parents are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child; and (D) the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in this parental involvement policy. The District intends to meet this expectation through the following activities:

1. Involving parents in the joint development of the District's Title I plan and the processes of school review and school improvement.
2. Providing coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance.
3. Building the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement.
4. Coordinating and integrating parental involvement strategies under Title I with parental involvement strategies under other programs.
5. Conducting, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parental involvement policy in improving the academic quality of the schools served under the Title I program, including identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in Title I programs, with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background, and use the findings of such evaluation to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary, the parental involvement policies of the District.
6. Involving parents in the activities of the schools served under Title I.

Policy Involvement: Each school served under the Title I program will:

1. Convene an annual meeting, at a convenient time, to which all parents of participating children shall be invited and encouraged to attend, to inform parents of their school's participation under the Title I program and to explain the requirements of the Title I program.
2. Offer a flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening. If sufficient funds are provided for this purpose, the District may assist parental involvement in such meetings by offering transportation, child care, or home visits.
3. Involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I programs.
4. Provide parents of participating children: (1) timely information about programs under Title I, (2) a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet; and (3) if requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children, and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible.
5. If the District operates a school-wide program under Title I and such plan is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, submit any parental comments on the plan when the school makes the plan available to

the District.

Shared Responsibilities for High Student Academic Achievement: As a component of the District's parental involvement policy, each school served under the Title I program will jointly develop with parents for all children served under the Title I program a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the State's high standards. Such compact shall: (1) describe the school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables the children served under Title I to meet the State's student academic achievement standards and the ways in which each parent will be responsible for supporting their children's learning, such as monitoring attendance, homework completion, and television watching; volunteering in their child's classroom; and participating, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children and positive use of extracurricular time; and (2) address the importance of communication between teachers and parents on an ongoing basis through, at a minimum: (i) parent-teacher conferences in elementary schools, at least annually, during which the compact shall be discussed as the compact relates to the individual child's achievement; (ii) frequent reports to parents on their children's progress; and (iii) reasonable access to staff, opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class, and observation of classroom activities.

Building Capacity for Involvement: To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the District, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, each school participating in the Title I program and the District: (1) shall provide assistance to participating parents, as appropriate, in understanding such topics as the State's academic content standards and State student academic achievement standards, State and local academic assessments, the requirements of Title I and how to monitor a child's progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children; (2) shall provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement; (3) shall educate teachers, student service personnel, principals, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and the school; (4) shall, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, the Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, the Parents as Teacher Program, and public preschool and other programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children; (5) shall ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents of participating children in a format, and to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand; (6) may involve parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of such training; (7) may provide necessary literacy training from funds received under Title I if the District has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for such training; (8) may pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental involvement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions; (9) may train parents to enhance the involvement of other parents; (10) may arrange school meetings at a variety of times, or conduct in-home conferences between teachers or other educators, who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend such conferences at school, in order to maximize parental involvement and participation; (11) may adopt and implement model approaches to improving parental involvement; (12) may establish a district-wide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in programs supported under Title I; (13) may develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in parent involvement activities; and (14) shall provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under Title I as parents may request.

Accessibility: In carrying out the parental involvement activities for this Title I Parental Involvement policy, the District shall provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under Title I in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language such parents understand.

Use, Distribution, and Updating of this Policy: This Title I Parental Involvement Policy shall be incorporated into the District's Title I plan, shall be distributed to parents of participating children, shall be made available to the local community, and shall be updated periodically to meet the changing needs of the parents and the school.

Section 11 Homeless Students Policy

Homeless children for purposes of this Policy generally include children who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, as further defined by applicable federal and state law.

No Stigmatization or Segregation of Homeless Students: It is the District's policy and practice to ensure that homeless children are not stigmatized or segregated by the District on the basis of their status as homeless.

Homeless Coordinator: The Homeless Coordinator shall serve as the school liaison for homeless children and youth and shall ensure that: (1) homeless children are identified by school personnel; (2) homeless children enroll in, and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed in, school; (3) homeless children and their families receive educational service for which they are eligible and referrals to health, dental, and mental health services and other appropriate services; (4) the parents or guardians of homeless children are informed of the educational and related opportunities available to their children and provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children; (5) public notice of the educational rights of homeless children is disseminated where such children receive services under the federal homeless children laws, such as schools, family shelters, and soup kitchens; (6) enrollment disputes are mediated in accordance with law; and (7) the parents or guardians of homeless children, and any unaccompanied youth, are fully informed of transportation services available under law. The Homeless Coordinator shall coordinate with State coordinators and community and school personnel responsible for the provisions of education and related services to homeless children. The Homeless Coordinator may designate duties hereunder as the Homeless Coordinator determines to be appropriate.

Enrollment of and Services to Homeless Children: A homeless child shall be enrolled in compliance with law and be provided services comparable to services offered to other students in the school in which the homeless child has been placed. Placement of a homeless child is determined based on the child's "school of origin" and the "best interests" of the child. The "school of origin" means the school that the child attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child was last enrolled. Placement decisions shall be made according to the District's determination of the child's best interests, and shall be at either: (1) the child's school of origin for the duration of the child's homelessness (or, if the child becomes permanently housed during the school year, for the remainder of that school year) or (2) the school of the attendance area where the child is actually living. To the extent feasible, the placement shall be in the school of origin, except when such is contrary to the wishes of the homeless child's parent or legal guardian. If the placement is not in the school of origin or a school requested by the homeless child's parent or legal guardian, the District shall provide a written explanation of the placement decision and a statement of appeal rights to the parent or guardian as provided in Nebraska Rule 19.

If the homeless child is an unaccompanied youth, the Homeless Coordinator shall assist in the placement decision, consider the views of the unaccompanied youth, and provide the unaccompanied youth with notice of the right to appeal. The process to resolve disputes concerning the enrollment or placement of a homeless child or youth is as follows:

- 1.The district shall provide a written response and explanation of a decision regarding any complaint or dispute of a parent, guardian or other person having legal or actual charge or control of a homeless child or youth within thirty (30) calendar days of the time such complaint or dispute is brought;
- 2.The enrollment of the homeless child or youth in the school where enrollment is sought during the time such dispute is being considered;
- 3.And notice of the right to appeal as provided in Nebraska Rule 19.

Any parent, guardian or other person having legal or actual charge or control of a homeless child or youth that is dissatisfied with the decision of a school district after the dispute resolution process may file an appeal with the Commissioner of the Nebraska Department of Education within thirty (30) calendar days of receipt of the decision. Such appeals are informal and shall be submitted to the Commissioner in writing, as outlined in Nebraska Department of Education Rule 19, Section 005.03. The District shall immediately contact the school last attended by the homeless child to obtain relevant academic and other records. If the homeless child needs to obtain immunizations or medical records, the District shall immediately refer the parent or guardian of the homeless child to the Homeless Coordinator, who shall assist in obtaining necessary immunizations or medical records. The District may nonetheless require the

parent or guardian of the homeless child to submit contact information.

Transportation will be provided to homeless students, to the extent required by law and comparable to that provided to students who are not homeless, upon request of the parent or guardian of the homeless child, or by the Homeless Coordinator in the case of an unaccompanied youth, as follows: (1) if the homeless child's school of origin is in the District, and the homeless child continues to live in the District, transportation to and from the school of origin shall be provided by the District; and (2) if the homeless child lives in a school other than the District, but continues to attend the [Name] Public Schools based on it being the school of origin, the new school and [Name] Public Schools shall agree upon a method to apportion the responsibility and costs for providing the child with transportation to and from the school of origin and, if they are unable to agree, the responsibility and cost for transportation shall be shared equally.

Section 12 Breakfast and Lunch Programs

The school cafeteria is maintained as a vital part of the health program of the school. To encourage good nutrition, a well-balanced lunch is offered at a reasonable price. Those students wishing to participate in the free and reduced lunch/breakfast program must turn in their application to the district office.

Food Service Prices: • Lunch: HS \$2.65

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

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

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

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

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Section 13 Asbestos Management Plan

Federal law requires districts to have an asbestos management plan for all of its buildings—owned or leased—and to update it periodically, among other requirements for inspections and training if staff work in buildings which contain or may contain asbestos. The asbestos plan for the high school can be found at the Seward Maintenance Office located at 2401 Karol Kay Blvd. Seward, NE 68434

Appendix

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Seward Alternative Education Center (SAEC) Student Application

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Seward Public Schools Adult Code of Conduct

Seward High School Activities Consent Form

Nebraska School Activity Association ("NSAA") Student and Parent Consent Form

NSAA Guidelines for Student Activities

Physical Forms

Receipt of Student-Parent Handbook

The Student-Parent Handbook of Seward High School is available on the internet at www.sewardpublicschools.org

Because of the expense of printing the handbooks, we are asking that you consider using the internet to access and review the 2018-2019 Student Parent Handbook. Using the internet to access the handbook will allow the district to direct printing dollars to instructional needs and eliminate the need for you to search for your handbook when you have questions throughout the year.

- ☐ **Thank you for providing the 2018-2019 Student-Parent Handbook online. I will review it on the internet. My signed receipt below acknowledges receipt of the Handbook in a satisfactory manner via the internet.**
- ☐ **I prefer a paper copy of the Handbook.**

Name

This signed receipt acknowledges receipt of the 2018-2019 Student-Parent Handbook of Seward High School. It is understood that the handbook contains student conduct and discipline rules information about Safe and Drug-Free Schools, 1:1 Chrome Initiative and Extracurricular Activities and that the undersigned, as student, agrees to follow such conduct and discipline rules. This receipt also serves to acknowledge that it is understood that the District's policies of non-discrimination and equity, and that specific complaint and grievance procedures exist in the handbook which should be used to respond to harassment or discrimination.

Parent Signature: _____ Print Name: _____

Student Signature: _____ Print Name: _____

Date: _____

Chromebook Loan Agreement/Acceptable Use Form

Parent Responsibilities

Your son/daughter has been issued a Chromebook to improve and personalize his/her education this year. It is essential the following guidelines be followed to ensure the safe, efficient, and ethical operation of this Chromebook.

- I will supervise my sons/daughters use of the Chromebook at home.
- I will discuss our family values and expectations regarding use of the Internet and email at home and will supervise my sons/daughters use of the Internet and email.
- I will not attempt to repair or alter the Chromebook.
- I will report to the school any problems with the Chromebook.
- I understand if my son/daughter comes to school without his/her Chromebook, they will be held accountable according to the student handbook.
- I agree to make sure the Chromebook is returned to the school when requested and upon my sons/ daughters withdrawal from Seward Public Schools.
- I have read and understand the expectations related to the Chromebook 1-to-1 learning initiative in the Seward High School Student/Parent Handbook.

Student Responsibilities

Your chromebook is an important learning tool and is for educational purposes only. In order to take your Chromebook home each day, you must be willing to accept the following responsibilities:

- When using the Chromebook at home, at school, and anywhere else I may take it, I will follow the policies and student handbook of the Seward Public Schools and abide by all local, state, and federal laws.
- I will treat the Chromebook with care by not dropping it, getting it wet, leaving it outdoors, or using it with food or drink nearby.
- My Chromebook is my responsibility and I will properly care for it at all times.
- I will not load inappropriate material on the Chromebook.
- I will honor my family values when using the Chromebook.
- I will not give personal information when using the Chromebook.
- I will bring the Chromebook to school every day with the battery fully charged.
- I agree email (school), or any other Chromebook communication should be used only for appropriate, legitimate, and responsible communication.
- I will keep all accounts and passwords assigned to me secure, and will not share these with any other students.
- I will clean my Chromebook using only appropriate cleaning solution suggested by the school tech department.
- I will return the Chromebook when requested and upon my withdrawal from Seward Public Schools.
- I will keep the Chromebook in its protective case at all times.
- I have read and understand the expectations related to the Chromebook 1-to-1 learning initiative in the Seward High School Student/Parent Handbook.

Seward Public Schools is NOT RESPONSIBLE, NOR LIABLE for and disclaims any liability arising from any injury or damage caused by or stemming from unauthorized access to the network, inappropriate use of unauthorized or authorized use of the network. The student and the student's parents/guardians, by submitting to the Acceptable Use Policy through your signature, agree to waive Seward Public Schools from any liability for physical or emotional harm or damage to a student that is caused by or related to the inappropriate use of technology.

By signing this form, you are agreeing to this Chromebook Loan Agreement and Acceptable Use Form.

Parent Signature: _____ Print Name: _____

Student Signature: _____ Print Name: _____

Date: _____

Seward Alternative Education Center Student Application

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Seward Alternative Education Center (SAEC) Expectations

I will...

- ___ follow all High School/Middle School and SAEC rules.
- ___ follow the Attendance Policy while enrolled at the SAEC
- ___ follow the District's Tobacco/Alcohol/Drug Policy while on School District of Seward property.
- ___ choose to take responsibility for my learning.
- ___ come to class prepared with books, worksheets, and a pen or pencil.
- ___ work on assignments during class.
- ___ show respect toward staff and fellow students at all times.
- ___ use appropriate language while on school property.

The staff wants every day and every minute in school to be a positive one; because of this, you may be asked to leave for the day when classroom expectations are not met. This will count as an absence and you may be asked to return to school with a parent for a meeting with the staff. This will allow for clear communication on classroom expectations, along with an update on your current progress. This is designed to protect the learning environment of the other students.

The reason(s) I want to be considered for SAEC placement:

My plan for completing my education is:

Employment Record

Name of Employer: _____

Supervisor: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Employment Dates: _____

Describe your responsibilities:

I have read and understand the handbook for Seward High School and the specific rules for SEAC. I agree to follow school policies and meet the Seward Alternative Education Center's expectations as defined on this application.

Student Signature

Date

This form needs to be signed and returned on a yearly basis.

Seward Alternative Education Center Parent Application

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

The reason(s) I want my child to be considered for Seward Alternative Education Center (SAEC) placement:

Our plan for completing his/her education is:

As a parent/guardian, I understand that my support in the education of my child is extremely important. I agree to:

1. Attend two parent/teacher conferences annually.
2. Provide a quiet place in my home for study time.
3. Review my student's progress weekly.
4. Communicate with SAEC staff as needed in order to assure academic success.

I have read and understand the SHS Handbook.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

This form needs to be signed and returned on a yearly basis.

Seward Public Schools Adult Code of Conduct

Athletic programs play an important role in promoting the physical, social, and emotional development of our children. It is essential for parents/guardians to encourage athletes to embrace the values of good sportsmanship. In order to do this, adults involved or attending athletic events should be models of good sportsmanship and should lead by example by demonstrating fairness, respect and self control.

- I therefore pledge to be responsible for my words and actions while attending a Seward Public School event and will conform my behavior to the following Code of Conduct.
- I/we will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, cheerleaders coaches and officials at every game, meet, practice or other event.
- I/we will place the emotional and physical well-being of my athlete ahead of my personal desire to win.
- I/we will support coaches and officials working with my athlete(s), in order to encourage a positive and enjoyable experience for all.
- I/we will demand a sports environment free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and will refrain from use at all athletic activities.
- I/we remember that the activity is for the athletes- not ADULTS.
- I/we will do my best to make the activity fun for the athletes.
- I/we will ask my athlete to treat other players, cheerleaders, coaches, fans, parents and officials with respect regardless of race, creed, sex or ability.
- I/we agree not to deliberately incite or participate in "unsportsmanship like" conduct at any athletic event.
- I/we agree not to use abusive or profane language at any time at any athletic event.
- I/we agree not to criticize, belittle, antagonize, berate, or otherwise incite the opposing team, its players, coaches, cheerleaders or fans by word of mouth or gestures.
- I/we agree not to criticize, belittle, antagonize, berate, or otherwise incite the opposing team, its players, coaches, cheerleaders or fans by the use of social media (facebook, snapchat, twitter-etc.).
- I/we agree to accept decisions of the game officials, judges, as being fair and called to the best of their ability.
- I/we agree to follow the proper chain of command when having a complaint or voicing my opinion regarding a concern within the Seward athletic program. The chain is:
A. Coach B. Head Coach/Cheer Director C. Activities Director D. Request a meeting with the Administration.
- I/we agree to take responsibility for any actions that violates this code of conduct by a guest or relative attend a Seward activity event.
- I/we understand that any act of disrespect from a parent/fan directed towards game officials/judges, players or coaches, fans from either team or creating a disturbance either in the stands or on the playing field may result in an ejection from the contest and suspension for a longer period of time from Seward activities.
- I/we understand by signing this we have read this Code of Conduct and understand what it means to be a good role model for Seward athletes.

Name(s) _____ Date _____

Name(s) _____ Date _____

Seward High School Student And Parent Consent Form

For Interscholastic Participation

I, _____ (Student's Name) request to participate in Seward High School interscholastic activities in the 2018-2019 school year. In making this request, Student states: This application to participate in interscholastic activities for the Seward High School is entirely voluntary on my part. I have read the eligibility rules and regulations of the Nebraska School Activities Association and the rules and regulations of Seward High School. I am not in violation of such rules.

(I am)(We are) the Student's parent or guardian ("Parent") and hereby give consent for the Student to participate in Seward High School interscholastic activities in the 2018-2019 school year.

Parent and Student hereby give the following statements, agreements and consents:

WARNING OF RISK: I realize that participation involves the potential for injury which is inherent in all interscholastic activities. Even with the protective equipment, safety rules and instruction and direction of coaches and sponsors that are provided, injuries are still a possibility. The severity of such injury can range from minor cuts, bruises, sprains, and muscle strains to more serious injuries to the body's bones, joints, ligaments, tendons, or muscles, to catastrophic injuries to the head, neck and spinal cord, and on rare occasions, injuries so severe as to result in total disability, paralysis and death. *I acknowledge that I have read and understand this warning.*

MEDICAL: Parent is responsible for any professional medical and/or related services; the school shall not be liable for payment of such services. Parent and Student give permission to any and all of the Student's health care providers to release and discuss all records and information such health care providers may have about Student (including otherwise confidential medical information and records) to Seward High School and its employees, staff, agents, and consultants. Parent and Student further give permission to Seward High School, its employees, staff, agents, and consultants, to release and discuss all records and information it has (including otherwise confidential medical information or records) to Student's health care providers and to others as Seward High School may determine appropriate for the purposes of determining activity eligibility, fitness or injury status, or to respond to an emergency.

INSURANCE: I acknowledge that insurance coverage is recommended for all participants. The expense of insurance coverage is Parent's responsibility. Information regarding insurance is available in the Athletic Director's office.

INJURY REPORTING: Parent and Student agree to report to coaches and trainers any injury whatsoever suffered by Student before, during or after the season, practice or games, whether such injury occurred as a part of participation in the extra-curricular activity, or outside of such activity.

ELIGIBILITY RULES: The major rules and regulations governing Student's eligibility to participate in interscholastic activities have been disclosed to Student and Parent. I have read the Nebraska School Activities Association rules of eligibility for participation in interscholastic activities, including the parent domicile, student transfer and scholastic rules. I understand that activity participants must be enrolled in at least 20 hours per week, be regular in attendance, and have on school records a minimum of 20 hours credit for the immediate preceding semester. Seward High School includes additional eligibility requirements as set forth in the Student-Parent Handbook.

TRANSPORTATION: I understand the activity may be conducted at a location other than Seward High School. In some instances Seward High School will not provide transportation to the activity. In such cases transportation to the site is the

responsibility of Parent and Student. I understand that Seward High School is not responsible when Student is provided transportation by a private vehicle driven by others.

GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP: I understand good sportsmanship is essential to the success of the activity program. A failure to follow the principles of good sportsmanship or other inappropriate behavior may result in removal from the contest and may result in suspension from attending future contests or activities.

RELEASE OF INFORMATION: I consent to academic information including grade point average, class rank and any academic awards/recognition received by Student to be released. Most typically this information will be used for the purpose of recognizing excellence in both athletics and academics and released for publication in newspapers, school publications and for awards banquets or assemblies, all-conference or all-state awards.

UNIFORM/EQUIPMENT RETURN: I agree to return all uniforms and equipment issued to me promptly on request and upon the ending of my participation in good condition; subject to wear and tear that occurs from normal use. I accept financial responsibility for the return of items assigned to Student and agree to reimburse the school the actual replacement value of the items in the event that they are not returned or are damaged, and for cost of repairs if they can be repaired. I understand that failure to reimburse the school in a timely fashion could affect extracurricular activity eligibility.

ACTIVITY CODE: The Seward High School Student-Parent Handbook includes an Activity Code that sets out rules of behavior. Student agrees to comply with the Activity Code. In the event I am uncertain as to whether particular behavior or conduct would violate the Activity Code, I understand that I should ask the Athletic Director for advice before engaging in the behavior or conduct. I agree that participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege that may be denied by suspension or other discipline if Student does not comply with the Activity Code.

I agree that the Activity Code is a set of school rules and are not to be interpreted the same way as a criminal code. As such, I agree that the rules are subject to interpretation by school officials. I also agree that school officials may determine that a violation of the Activity Code has occurred when school officials reasonably determine from whatever information they find credible that the Student engaged in the conduct in question. School officials may determine that a violation of the Activity Code has occurred even though a criminal charge related to the conduct is still pending and even if Student has been found not guilty or the criminal charge has been otherwise dismissed.

Date: _____

Date: _____

(Signature of Parent/Guardian)

(Signature of Student)

To be completed for
students participating in
all NSAA activities.



Nebraska School Activities Association ("NSAA") Student and Parent Consent Form

School Year: 20__-20__ Member School: _____

Name of Student: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Place of Birth: _____

The undersigned(s) are the Student and the parent(s), guardian(s), or person(s) in charge of the above named Student and are collectively referred to as "Parent".

The Parent and Student hereby:

- (1) Understand and agree that participation in NSAA sponsored activities is voluntary on the part of the Student and is a privilege;
- (2) Understand and agree that (a) by this Consent Form the NSAA has provided to the Parent and Student of the existence of potential dangers associated with athletic participation; (b) participation in any athletic activity may involve injury of some type; (c) the severity of such injury can range from minor cuts, bruises, sprains, and muscle strains to more serious injuries to the body's bones, joints, ligaments, tendons, or muscles, to catastrophic injuries to the head, neck and spinal cord, and on rare occasions, injuries so severe as to result in total disability, paralysis and death; and, (d) even the best coaching, the use of the best protective equipment and strict observance of rules, injuries are still a possibility;
- (3) Consent and agree to participation of the Student in NSAA activities subject to all NSAA by-laws and rules interpretations for participation in NSAA sponsored activities, and the activities rules of the NSAA member school for which the Student is participating;
- (4) Consent and agree to (a) the disclosure by the Member School at which the Student is enrolled to the NSAA, and subsequent disclosure by the NSAA, of information regarding the Student, including the student's name, address, telephone listing, electronic mail address, photograph, date of and place of birth, major fields of study, dates of attendance, grade level, enrollment status (e.g., full-time or part-time), participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height as a member of athletic teams, degrees, honors and awards received, statistics regarding performance, records or documentation related to eligibility for NSAA sponsored activities, medical records, and any other information related to the Student's participation in NSAA sponsored activities; and, (b) the Student being photographed, video taped, audio taped, or recorded by any other means while participating in NSAA activities and contests, consent to and waive any privacy rights with regard to the display of such recordings, and waive any claims of ownership or other rights with regard to such photographs or recordings or to the broadcast, sale or display of such photographs or recordings.

I acknowledge that I have read paragraphs (1) through (4) above, understand and agree to the terms thereof, including the warning of potential risk of injury inherent in participation in athletic activities.

DATED this ____ day of _____, ____.

Name of Student [Print Name]

Student Signature

(I am)(We are) the Student's [circle appropriate choice] (Parent) (Guardian). (I)(We) acknowledge that (I)(We) have read paragraphs (1) through (4) above, understand and agree to the terms thereof, including the warning of potential risk of injury inherent in participation in athletic activities. Having read the warning in paragraph (2) above and understanding the potential risk of injury to my Student, (I)(we) hereby give (my)(our) permission for _____ [insert student name] to practice and compete for the above named high school in activities approved by the NSAA, **except those crossed out below:**

Baseball	Golf	Tennis	Play Production	Basketball	Swimming/Diving
Track	Football	Speech	Cross Country	Soccer	Volleyball
Music	Softball	Wrestling	Debate	Journalism	

DATED this ____ day of _____, ____.

Parent [Print Name]

Parent Signature



Guard Your Activities Eligibility–2018-2019



IN ORDER TO REPRESENT A NEBRASKA HIGH SCHOOL IN INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES COMPETITION, A STUDENT MUST ABIDE BY ELIGIBILITY RULES OF THE NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION. A SUMMARY OF THE MAJOR RULES IS GIVEN BELOW. CONTACT THE PRINCIPAL OR ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR FOR AN EXPLANATION OF THE COMPLETE RULE.

- 2.2.1 Student must be a bonafide student of their member school and have not graduated from any high school.
- 2.2.2 After a student's initial enrollment in grade nine, he/she shall be ineligible after eight semesters of school membership beginning with his/her enrollment in grade nine.
- 2.3 Student is ineligible if nineteen years of age before August 1 of current school year. (Student in grades 7 or 8 may participate on a high school team if he/she was 15 years of age prior to August 1 of current school year.)
- 2.4.1 Student must be enrolled in some high school on or before the eleventh school day of the current semester.
- 2.5.1 Student must be continually enrolled in at least twenty credit hours per semester and regular in attendance, in accordance with the school's attendance policy at the school he/she wishes to represent in interscholastic competition.
- 2.5.2 Student must have been enrolled and received twenty hours in school the immediate preceding semester.
- 2.6.2.1 **Guardianship does not fulfill the definition of a legal parent.** If a guardian has been appointed for a student, the student is eligible in the school district where his/her legal parent(s) have their domicile. Individual situations involving guardianship may be submitted to the Executive Director for review and a ruling.
- 2.6.3 A student entering grade nine for the first time after being promoted from grade eight of a two-year junior high, or a three-year middle school, or entering a high school for the first time after being promoted to grade ten from a three-year junior high school is eligible. After a student makes an initial choice of high schools, any subsequent transfer, unless there has been a change of domicile by his/her parents, shall render the student ineligible for ninety school days.
If a student has participated on a high school team at any level as a seventh, eighth, or ninth grade student, he/she has established his/her eligibility at the high school where he/she participated. If the student elects to attend another high school upon entering ninth or tenth grade, he/she shall be ineligible for ninety school days.
Student eligibility related to domicile can be attained in the following manners:
- 2.6.9.1 If the change in domicile by the parents occurs during a school year, the student may remain at the school he/she is attending and be eligible until the end of the school year or transfer to a high school located in the school district where the parents established their domicile and be eligible.
- 2.6.9.2 If the domicile is changed during the summer months and the student is in grade twelve and the student has attended the high school for two or more years, the student may remain at the high school he/she has been attending and retain eligibility.
- 2.6.9.3 If a student elects to remain at the high school where he/she initially enrolled after being promoted from grade eight of a middle or junior high school, or grade nine of a junior high school, he/she is eligible at that school, or is eligible at a high school located within the school district in which the parents established their domicile.
- 2.6.10 If the legal parents of a student change their domicile from one school district that has a high school to another school district that has a high school, the student shall be eligible immediately in the school district where the parents established their domicile.
- 2.7.7 Nebraska transfer students whose name appears on the NSAA transfer list prior to May 1 shall be eligible immediately in the fall. Those students whose name does NOT appear on the NSAA transfer list prior to May 1 shall be ineligible for ninety school days, with such transfers being subject to hardship waiver guidelines.
- 2.7.8 Nebraska transfer students must have signed and delivered all forms necessary to make such transfer to the school in which he/she intends to enroll for the 2018-2019 school year prior to May 1, 2018; for the student to be eligible. The school to which the transfer is being made must have notified the NSAA office via an NSAA online transfer form, no later than May 1, 2018. The student would become ineligible for ninety school days the next fall if the student were to change his/her mind and decide not to transfer. If such student were to transfer to the new school, but later decides to return to his/her former district before 90 school days have elapsed, such student will be ineligible in the former district for 90 school days, with the ineligibility period commencing at the start of the fall semester. Those students, who did not have their enrollment forms signed, delivered and accepted prior to May 1, 2018, shall be ineligible for ninety school days, with such transfers being subject to hardship waiver guidelines.
- 3.5 / 3.1 Once the season of a sport begins, a student shall participate in practices and compete only in athletic contests/meets in that sport, which are scheduled by his/her school. Any other competition will render the student ineligible for a portion of, or all of, the season in that sport. The season of a sport begins with the first date of practice as permitted by NSAA rules.
- 3.5.1 During the season of a particular sport, athletes participating in that sport for a high school may attend, but may not physically take part, either as an individual or as a member of a team, in the sport activity in which instruction is being offered in the clinic, camp or school. *(Refer to 3.5.1.1 for exception in Swimming & Diving.)
- 3.6 A student shall not participate on an all-star team while a high school undergraduate.
- 3.7 A student must maintain his/her amateur status.

PREPARTICIPATION PHYSICAL EVALUATION HISTORY FORM

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(Note: This form is to be filled out by the patient and parent prior to seeing the physician. The physician should keep this form in the chart.)

Date of Exam _____
Name _____ Date of birth _____
Sex _____ Age _____ Grade _____ School _____ Sport(s) _____

Medicines and Allergies: Please list all of the prescription and over-the-counter medicines and supplements (herbal and nutritional) that you are currently taking

Do you have any allergies? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, please identify specific allergy below.
☐ Medicines ☐ Pollens ☐ Food ☐ Stinging Insects

Explain "Yes" answers below. Circle questions you don't know the answers to.

GENERAL QUESTIONS	Yes	No	MEDICAL QUESTIONS	Yes	No
1. Has a doctor ever denied or restricted your participation in sports for any reason?			26. Do you cough, wheeze, or have difficulty breathing during or after exercise?		
2. Do you have any ongoing medical conditions? If so, please identify below: <input type="checkbox"/> Asthma <input type="checkbox"/> Anemia <input type="checkbox"/> Diabetes <input type="checkbox"/> Infections Other: _____			27. Have you ever used an inhaler or taken asthma medicine?		
3. Have you ever spent the night in the hospital?			28. Is there anyone in your family who has asthma?		
4. Have you ever had surgery?			29. Were you born without or are you missing a kidney, an eye, a testicle (males), your spleen, or any other organ?		
HEART HEALTH QUESTIONS ABOUT YOU	Yes	No	30. Do you have groin pain or a painful bulge or hernia in the groin area?		
5. Have you ever passed out or nearly passed out DURING or AFTER exercise?			31. Have you had infectious mononucleosis (mono) within the last month?		
6. Have you ever had discomfort, pain, tightness, or pressure in your chest during exercise?			32. Do you have any rashes, pressure sores, or other skin problems?		
7. Does your heart ever race or skip beats (irregular beats) during exercise?			33. Have you had a herpes or MRSA skin infection?		
8. Has a doctor ever told you that you have any heart problems? If so, check all that apply: <input type="checkbox"/> High blood pressure <input type="checkbox"/> A heart murmur <input type="checkbox"/> High cholesterol <input type="checkbox"/> A heart infection <input type="checkbox"/> Kawasaki disease Other: _____			34. Have you ever had a head injury or concussion?		
9. Has a doctor ever ordered a test for your heart? (For example, ECG/EKG, echocardiogram)			35. Have you ever had a hit or blow to the head that caused confusion, prolonged headache, or memory problems?		
10. Do you get lightheaded or feel more short of breath than expected during exercise?			36. Do you have a history of seizure disorder?		
11. Have you ever had an unexplained seizure?			37. Do you have headaches with exercise?		
12. Do you get more tired or short of breath more quickly than your friends during exercise?			38. Have you ever had numbness, tingling, or weakness in your arms or legs after being hit or falling?		
HEART HEALTH QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR FAMILY	Yes	No	39. Have you ever been unable to move your arms or legs after being hit or falling?		
13. Has any family member or relative died of heart problems or had an unexpected or unexplained sudden death before age 50 (including drowning, unexplained car accident, or sudden infant death syndrome)?			40. Have you ever become ill while exercising in the heat?		
14. Does anyone in your family have hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, Marfan syndrome, arrhythmogenic right ventricular cardiomyopathy, long QT syndrome, short QT syndrome, Brugada syndrome, or catecholaminergic polymorphic ventricular tachycardia?			41. Do you get frequent muscle cramps when exercising?		
15. Does anyone in your family have a heart problem, pacemaker, or implanted defibrillator?			42. Do you or someone in your family have sickle cell trait or disease?		
16. Has anyone in your family had unexplained fainting, unexplained seizures, or near drowning?			43. Have you had any problems with your eyes or vision?		
BONE AND JOINT QUESTIONS	Yes	No	44. Have you had any eye injuries?		
17. Have you ever had an injury to a bone, muscle, ligament, or tendon that caused you to miss a practice or a game?			45. Do you wear glasses or contact lenses?		
18. Have you ever had any broken or fractured bones or dislocated joints?			46. Do you wear protective eyewear, such as goggles or a face shield?		
19. Have you ever had an injury that required x-rays, MRI, CT scan, injections, therapy, a brace, a cast, or crutches?			47. Do you worry about your weight?		
20. Have you ever had a stress fracture?			48. Are you trying to or has anyone recommended that you gain or lose weight?		
21. Have you ever been told that you have or have you had an x-ray for neck instability or atlantoaxial instability? (Down syndrome or dwarfism)			49. Are you on a special diet or do you avoid certain types of foods?		
22. Do you regularly use a brace, orthotics, or other assistive device?			50. Have you ever had an eating disorder?		
23. Do you have a bone, muscle, or joint injury that bothers you?			51. Do you have any concerns that you would like to discuss with a doctor?		
24. Do any of your joints become painful, swollen, feel warm, or look red?			FEMALES ONLY		
25. Do you have any history of juvenile arthritis or connective tissue disease?			52. Have you ever had a menstrual period?		
			53. How old were you when you had your first menstrual period?		
			54. How many periods have you had in the last 12 months?		

Explain "yes" answers here

I hereby state that, to the best of my knowledge, my answers to the above questions are complete and correct.

Signature of athlete _____ Signature of parent/guardian _____ Date _____

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I hereby give permission for the release of the attached student medical history and the results of the actual physical examination to the school for the purposes of participation in athletics and activities.

Parent or Legal Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

PREPARTICIPATION PHYSICAL EVALUATION **THE ATHLETE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** **SUPPLEMENTAL HISTORY FORM**

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Date of Exam _____

Name _____ Date of birth _____

Sex _____ Age _____ Grade _____ School _____ Sport(s) _____

1. Type of disability		
2. Date of disability		
3. Classification (if available)		
4. Cause of disability (birth, disease, accident/trauma, other)		
5. List the sports you are interested in playing		
	Yes	No
6. Do you regularly use a brace, assistive device, or prosthetic?		
7. Do you use any special brace or assistive device for sports?		
8. Do you have any rashes, pressure sores, or any other skin problems?		
9. Do you have a hearing loss? Do you use a hearing aid?		
10. Do you have a visual impairment?		
11. Do you use any special devices for bowel or bladder function?		
12. Do you have burning or discomfort when urinating?		
13. Have you had autonomic dysreflexia?		
14. Have you ever been diagnosed with a heat-related (hyperthermia) or cold-related (hypothermia) illness?		
15. Do you have muscle spasticity?		
16. Do you have frequent seizures that cannot be controlled by medication?		

Explain "yes" answers here

Please indicate if you have ever had any of the following.

	Yes	No
Atlantoaxial instability		
X-ray evaluation for atlantoaxial instability		
Dislocated joints (more than one)		
Easy bleeding		
Enlarged spleen		
Hepatitis		
Osteopenia or osteoporosis		
Difficulty controlling bowel		
Difficulty controlling bladder		
Numbness or tingling in arms or hands		
Numbness or tingling in legs or feet		
Weakness in arms or hands		
Weakness in legs or feet		
Recent change in coordination		
Recent change in ability to walk		
Spina bifida		
Latex allergy		

Explain "yes" answers here

I hereby state that, to the best of my knowledge, my answers to the above questions are complete and correct.

Signature of athlete _____ Signature of parent/guardian _____ Date _____

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PREPARTICIPATION PHYSICAL EVALUATION PHYSICAL EXAMINATION FORM

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Name _____ Date of birth _____

PHYSICIAN REMINDERS

- Consider additional questions on more sensitive issues
 - Do you feel stressed out or under a lot of pressure?
 - Do you ever feel sad, hopeless, depressed, or anxious?
 - Do you feel safe at your home or residence?
 - Have you ever tried cigarettes, chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip?
 - During the past 30 days, did you use chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip?
 - Do you drink alcohol or use any other drugs?
 - Have you ever taken anabolic steroids or used any other performance supplement?
 - Have you ever taken any supplements to help you gain or lose weight or improve your performance?
 - Do you wear a seat belt, use a helmet, and use condoms?
- Consider reviewing questions on cardiovascular symptoms (questions 5–14).

EXAMINATION		
Height _____	Weight _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female
BP _____ / _____ (_____ / _____)	Pulse _____	Vision R 20/ _____ L 20/ _____ Corrected <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N
MEDICAL	NORMAL	ABNORMAL FINDINGS
Appearance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marfan stigmata (kyphoscoliosis, high-arched palate, pectus excavatum, arachnodactyly, arm span > height, hyperlaxity, myopia, MVP, aortic insufficiency) 		
Eyes/ears/nose/throat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pupils equal Hearing 		
Lymph nodes		
Heart* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Murmurs (auscultation standing, supine, +/- Valsalva) Location of point of maximal impulse (PMI) 		
Pulses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simultaneous femoral and radial pulses 		
Lungs		
Abdomen		
Genitourinary (males only)*		
Skin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HSV, lesions suggestive of MRSA, tinea corporis 		
Neurologic*		
MUSCULOSKELETAL		
Neck		
Back		
Shoulder/arm		
Elbow/forearm		
Wrist/hand/fingers		
Hip/thigh		
Knee		
Leg/ankle		
Foot/toes		
Functional <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Duck-walk, single leg hop 		

*Consider ECG, echocardiogram, and referral to cardiology for abnormal cardiac history or exam.
 *Consider GU exam if in private setting. Having third party present is recommended.
 *Consider cognitive evaluation or baseline neuropsychiatric testing if a history of significant concussion.

- ☐ Cleared for all sports without restriction
- ☐ Cleared for all sports without restriction with recommendations for further evaluation or treatment for _____

- ☐ Not cleared
- ☐ Pending further evaluation
- ☐ For any sports
- ☐ For certain sports _____
- Reason _____

Recommendations _____

I have examined the above-named student and completed the preparticipation physical evaluation. The athlete does not present apparent clinical contraindications to practice and participate in the sport(s) as outlined above. A copy of the physical exam is on record in my office and can be made available to the school at the request of the parents. If conditions arise after the athlete has been cleared for participation, the physician may rescind the clearance until the problem is resolved and the potential consequences are completely explained to the athlete (and parents/guardians).

Name of physician (print/type) _____ Date _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Signature of physician _____, MD or DO

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■ PREPARTICIPATION PHYSICAL EVALUATION CLEARANCE FORM

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Name _____ Sex ☐ M ☐ F Age _____ Date of birth _____

☐ Cleared for all sports without restriction

☐ Cleared for all sports without restriction with recommendations for further evaluation or treatment for _____

☐ Not cleared

☐ Pending further evaluation

☐ For any sports

☐ For certain sports _____

Reason _____

Recommendations _____

I have examined the above-named student and completed the preparticipation physical evaluation. The athlete does not present apparent clinical contraindications to practice and participate in the sport(s) as outlined above. A copy of the physical exam is on record in my office and can be made available to the school at the request of the parents. If conditions arise after the athlete has been cleared for participation, the physician may rescind the clearance until the problem is resolved and the potential consequences are completely explained to the athlete (and parents/guardians).

Name of physician (print/type) _____ Date _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Signature of physician _____, MD or DO

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Allergies _____

Other information _____

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