

## Article 4 – Duties and Responsibilities

### Article 4 – DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

#### Section 1 Hours of Work & Meetings

Regular, dependable attendance at work is an essential function of a teacher's employment position.

The Board of Education recognizes that teachers' responsibilities to their students and their profession generally involve the performance of duties and the commitment of time beyond the normal working day, but also recognizes that teachers and other educational professionals are entitled to regular time and work schedules on which they can rely in the ordinary course of events and which will be fairly and evenly maintained to the extent possible throughout the school system.

Schools have differing starting and ending times for the student day. Certificated employees assigned to a building are to spend seven hours and 30 minutes on site, including lunch break (30-minute lunch), except that duty-free lunch time can be spent off-site. The Principal will determine the length of time prior to and after the student class schedule for staff to be on-site in order to meet the required seven hours and 30 minutes. Staff may leave the building earlier when called to a professional meeting.

Certificated employees are required to serve on playground, lunchroom and hall supervision as designated by the Principal. The Principal will attempt to make an equitable distribution of such assignments and professional staff shall assume such duties as part of their work and agreement of employment.

Teachers shall attend meetings called by the Superintendent of Schools, principals, department heads and team leaders, except those meetings which are designated for optional attendance.

#### Section 2 Arrival to Duty Assignments

Full-time teachers have a designated on-site work day as normal duty hours of 8:00-4:00. Elementary school teachers are to be in the building by no later than 8:00, to be in their classroom no later than 8:00, and to remain on duty until 4:00. Secondary school teachers are to be in the building by no later than 8:00, to be in their classroom no later than 8:00, and to remain on duty until 4:00. Certificated employees other than teachers are expected to meet the same guidelines for entry to the building, being in their assigned duty area, and duty departure time. Teachers and other certificated employees who are part-time or work on adjusted schedules are to be in the building at least 10 minutes before their class or assigned duty begins, and to be in their classroom or assigned duty area at least 10 minutes before their class or assignment begins. During the school day, teachers are to be in their assigned classroom at least five minutes before each period begins to assure that students are not unsupervised within the classroom.

#### Section 3 Leaving School

Teachers are to be on duty at all times during the school day. Teachers are considered on duty even during designated planning periods. An uninterrupted lunch period of not less than 30-

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minutes each day is provided to teachers during which they are not assigned teaching, supervisory, or other duties. Teachers who leave the school during the designated lunch period must check out with the Principal's office.

Teachers may not leave school during duty hours without approval of the Principal. If the absence has been approved, the teacher must check out with the Principal's office when leaving, and check back in with the Principal's office upon return. Teachers who need to leave during the school day for reason of illness or emergency are to check out with the Principal's office and make sure that a responsible person has been notified of their unexpected absence so student coverage may be provided.

#### **Section 4 Lesson Plans**

Teachers will prepare written lesson plans which cover at least three days of advance instruction. The plans must be in the plan book. Please keep the plan book, including lesson plans, class rosters, etc. in the top right hand drawer of the teacher's desk. If that is not possible, the plan book should be kept in a place in which the plan book will be readily available in the teacher's absence.

The lesson plans must be sufficiently clear in establishing objectives and related activities so that they are easily used by a substitute teacher or other staff member not familiar with previous classroom activities or progress. The plan book must give specific reference to other instructional sources immediately available which will enhance the instructional lesson.

#### **Section 5 Daily Class Record Books**

Every teacher is required to keep a complete and easily understandable written record of the attendance and achievement of every student in a class record book (sometimes referred to as the grade book). This class record book must be kept current and include the following minimum information in a readily understandable fashion:

1. The names and any assigned student numbers of all students enrolled in the class at the beginning of the semester.
2. The name and date of entry for each student who enrolls after the semester opens.
3. The date of withdrawal for each student who withdraws from the class previous to the close of the semester--dropouts or early withdrawals.
4. A complete record of the attendance of each student enrolled showing:
  - A. Days on which the student was tardy.
  - B. Days on which the student was absent, with a differentiation between excused and unexcused absences.
5. A complete report of all recorded grades for each student. There is no minimum requirement for the frequency of recorded grades (or for the giving of written lessons or examinations). Be sure that you test frequently enough and that you record grades frequently enough to readily and realistically justify the term and final grades which are reported to parents.

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Upon request a student's individual record in the teacher's class record book shall be made available for review or copying. Information relating to other students should not be allowed to be seen by other students or parents.

Because the entries in the class record book constitute a source of original entry for information which may be needed in the absence of the teacher, teachers are required to deliver the teachers' class record books to the Principal at the close of the school year for filing in the permanent records. Teachers who return to Alliance Public Schools and who wish to refer to the previous year's class record book may request the return of the class record book. Such books shall again be brought to the office for permanent filing when the teacher is finished with them, or at the close of the current term.

### **Section 6 Classroom and School Procedures**

Teachers are expected to adhere to the following classroom and school procedure in the performance of their duties:

1. Bulletin Boards

Each teacher shall be responsible for completing appropriate bulletin board regarding curriculum related matters in their primary classroom. Bulletin boards are to be completely changed no less than two during each school year.

2. Text Book and Room Inventory

All school purchased materials must be inventoried with the building bookkeeper or secretary. Textbooks are to be numbered and either have cards in pockets or a form for writing the name of the student whom the book is assigned. Teachers should keep good records of who has which book. At the start of the year, note condition of the textbook on the inventory sheet and keep this sheet. When a book is turned in, again note its condition, and if the book shows abuse (other than normal wear) assess a fine that you consider is fair. Insist that students put covers on their books by the end of the first week after receiving them.

3. Use of Cell Phones

Teachers shall not use personal cell phones for any non-school purpose during teacher duty time.

Teachers are not to use wireless cell phones or otherwise engage in distracted driving while transporting students. This rule applies to the driver when the vehicle is in motion. The only exception would be in the case of emergencies.

Teachers will abide by all rules of the road and any applicable rules of the Nebraska Department of Education and the District relating to driving a motor vehicle. Seat belts and child restraint systems will be utilized by all occupants. Cell phones will not be used while the vehicle is in motion.

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### 4. Use of Teacher Aides

Teacher aides provide valuable assistance in the educational process and allow teachers to carry out their responsibilities in a more efficient and effective manner. A teacher aide must not, however, assume teaching responsibilities. The teacher must maintain the role of leadership and responsibility for the students, with the teacher aide in a supportive role. Teacher aides may be used to assist the teacher by, among other tasks, assisting with instructional activities under the direction of the teacher, helping to supervise students, copying tests and other written material, organizing class materials, preparing bulletin boards, grading tests or class work, and calculate grades and record grades. Teacher aides are to work only on their assigned work days and within their assigned work day. If the teacher desires the aide to work hours other than the assigned work hours or assigned work day, contact the administration for approval.

### 5. Use of Student Aides

Student aides are to be directly supervised by the teacher and are not to leave the building or be in the halls or anywhere they are not being supervised. Student aides are not to be used to assist the teacher by helping supervise another student, grade tests or class work, calculate student grades or record grades. Keys are NEVER to be given to students, whether they are student aides or not. A student aide should not be present and assisting a teacher without another adult present after the end of regular teacher duty hours.

### 6. Checking Out of Equipment

All equipment must be checked out through the building principal. All school equipment may be used only for school purposes. No school equipment may be directed to the personal use of a teacher or another District employee.

### 7. Requisition of Equipment and Supplies

Books and supplies which are needed for instruction should be requested through the Principal's office. No equipment or supplies ordered through the District may be directed to the personal use of a teacher or another District employee.

### 8. E-mail

Each teacher will be assigned a school e-mail address for purposes of intra-school and inter-school e-mail correspondence. Teachers should check for e-mail throughout the day, and should timely respond to e-mails which require a response, but should avoid checking and responding to e-mails during instructional time. Use of the District's e-mail system for personal communications should be limited, and is subject to the rules governing overall computer usage found in Board policy and this handbook.

### 9. Teacher Mail Box

Each teacher will be assigned a mailbox located in the office or workroom. Teachers should check for mail each morning and also later in the school day, if possible. If something requires an answer teachers are responsible for responding promptly. Teacher mail boxes are to be limited to communicate regarding school business.

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### 10. Teachers Meetings

Teachers' meetings will be held at the discretion of the principal. **ALL** teachers are expected to be present for the meetings, unless they are absent from school for good cause or have made prior arrangements.

## **Section 7 Supervision of Students**

Proper supervision of students is an important responsibility for teachers and other adults responsible for our students. Teachers and other adults responsible for student supervision are expected to meet the four “P’s” for student supervision and safety.

### 1. Proper Supervision

- Report to all duty assignments on time.
- Circulate through your duty area. Pay particular attention to areas and activities that pose an increased risk of injury.
- Be vigilant while supervising students. Never leave your classroom unattended; the need to make a copy is not greater than the need to supervise your students. If an emergency requires that you leave your classroom, request that another nearby staff member cover your class, or notify the office so someone can provide assistance. If you are on recess duty, your responsibility is to supervise the students in your assigned area. When talking with other adults or students, remember that your primary duty is supervision and make sure you are aware of what all students who you are to be supervising are doing.
- If you have seen or have been informed that a particular student has a propensity to act dangerously or in an unpredictable manner, your supervision of that student must increase with the known risk of injury. (Remember, though, that this type of information may be confidential—do not share confidential information about students except with other staff who need to know the information to perform their jobs).
- Be careful with touching students. Use of corporal punishment is prohibited at Alliance Public Schools. Touching students should be limited to that necessary to protect the student from harm (e.g., falling from playground equipment) and that which professional educators determine appropriate for purposes of proper student relationships.
- Be careful with your language. Profanity or abusive language should not be used by you. Be a good role model for students. If a student uses such language, you should correct the student and take such disciplinary action as is appropriate, which may include making a report to administration.

### 2. Proper Instructions

- Proper instructions are important to reduce the risk of injury when students undertake an activity, especially an activity that has an increased risk of harm to students.

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- Repeat the instructions on how to complete a task that has a heightened risk of danger as often as needed. Do not assume because students heard the directions once that they will be remembered.
- When you go over safety rules with students note it in your written records (e.g., your lesson plan book or daily reports).
- Review playground and classroom safety rules with students at least once each semester and note when you do it in your written records. Also, if any students are absent when you review the rules contact the student(s) to review the same information and also note that contact in your written records.

### 3. Proper Maintenance of Buildings, Grounds, and Equipment

- Conduct periodic inspections of equipment under your control or in your area of supervision.
- If equipment is broken and presents a risk of injury, immediately take it out of service (if it can't be moved, tape a "Do Not Use" sign) and notify the office so those repairs may be undertaken.
- Check your communication device (whether it be a school phone in your supervision area, a walkie-talkie, or a cell phone) periodically to make sure you can communicate with the office immediately in the event of an emergency.

### 4. Proper Warnings

- If you have knowledge of a hazard that can likely cause injury, take steps to warn other staff and students. Tell the office so additional warnings may be given.

### Contact the Office for Assistance

The office administration should be contacted immediately when a situation exists which could cause injury to students or others. Examples include:

- student fight
- student health problem (fainting, bleeding, high temperature, difficulty breathing, etc.); if the office can not be immediately located, call 911 if the problem appears to be of immediate and serious concern
- a report or a suspicion that a student has a weapon or other dangerous item or drugs, alcohol, or other illegal substances
- presence of an intruder (a non-student or staff member who refuses to go to the office)

### Student Searches

Office administration should also be contacted before performing searches of students or their belongings. You may direct a student suspected of having an item in violation of school rules to wait with you until another adult is present, or to follow you to the office if you can leave your assigned area without causing risk of harm to others. Do not use physical force to detain the student or to make the student accompany you except as

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reasonably necessary to protect the student or others.

### Student Rights

Students should be treated fairly and given the same treatment without consideration of race, color, religion, gender, or disability. Students who need special accommodations should be given those accommodations as needed for them to participate in school and school activities. Further, students have the right to have their school records kept confidential. Such information should be shared only with other school staff with a need to know the information to perform their duties.

### **Section 8 Managing Student Conduct**

Discipline is everyone's responsibility. It begins with the student being responsible for his/her own behavior and understanding the consequences it may cause. The teacher is responsible for articulating classroom expectations at the beginning of the school year, implementing the classroom expectations on a consistent basis, and being familiar with the student handbook. All staff are responsible for **all students** in the hallways, in the rest rooms, at assemblies, at pep rallies, and during lunch. Consequences for inappropriate behavior may include students making up time before or after school, a student or a parent conference, or a referral to an administrator.

The following guidelines will assist in maintaining appropriate student conduct and complying with the process required for student discipline.

1. On the first day of class make students aware of classroom expectations. Students will accept them if they know in advance and if they are fair and consistent. Students often appreciate giving input on classroom rules. These expectations should be in writing. Give one copy to the students, post one copy in the room and provide one copy for the principal.
2. It is important to document student behavior in your classroom, calls to parents, referrals, and/or communications with a student.
3. If, after attempts to improve student behavior, the problems continue, talk to the student's counselor or the Principal about possible alternatives in discipline procedures. Be attentive and respond to "bullying."
4. If a student continues to cause problems, inform the administration for disciplinary action using the approved reporting forms. Be sure to state the problem clearly and expectations in terms of assistance, as at times the student's and teacher's stories are different. Be prepared to provide documentation.
5. Follow up on any referral. The student may not go to the principal or the counselor when sent. The administrator or attendance coordinator will inform the teacher of the consequences.
6. Refer students with continued and significant behavioral problems to the student assistance team for a determination of whether the student is in need of special services. Contact the counselor if you have questions as to the procedure.
7. Talk with other teachers about the classroom management techniques they use to establish an atmosphere conducive to learning in their classroom. A large

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- repertoire of classroom management techniques always enhances learning.
8. Read and understand the student handbook and the student conduct rules of the District.
  9. Use good judgment when dealing with difficult situations involving students. Physical confrontation generally escalates tense situations. Corporal punishment is prohibited in our school district and is not to be used. Physical force may only be used to the extent reasonably necessary to protect the student, yourself and others, and to protect property as may be reasonable.
  10. Violations of student rules which are also violations of state law are required to be reported to law enforcement. Make a report of such conduct to the Principal so this law may be followed.

### **Section 9 Dispensing Medication**

Teachers are not permitted to give any medication to students unless trained under the Medication Aid Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. §71-6718 to 71-6743. Students who need to take prescription medicine must have a signed parent release form on file in the office. Medications are to be taken in the presence of the office staff, the nurse, or medication aide and are to be stored in the office. Medical procedures are not to be administered in the classroom except in accordance with the District's Safety and Security Management Plan and the District's Emergency Protocol (asthma/anaphylaxis protocol).

If students must take medication and/or perform medical procedures prescribed by a duly licensed physician during school hours, it is the responsibility of the parents or guardians to sign permission to dispense the medicine at the school and to submit a note or prescription from the physician authorizing the medicine and/or medical procedure. School district personnel will not administer medicine, including over the counter medicine, without this signed form and note or prescription. Any medication brought to school needs to be properly labeled. The label should include the following information: Student's name, name of medication, dosage needed, and time of dispensing the medication.

### **Section 10 Reporting Child Abuse**

Nebraska State Law and school policy mandates school officials to make a report to the proper law enforcement agency or the Department of Health and Human Services (Child Protective Services) when there is reasonable cause to believe that a child has been abused or neglected, or a child is in a situation which would reasonably result in abuse or neglect. According to Nebraska State Law, abuse or neglect means knowingly, intentionally, or negligently causing or permitting a minor child to be:

- (a) Placed in a situation that endangers his or her life or physical or mental health;
- (b) Cruelly confined or cruelly punished;
- (c) Deprived of necessary food, clothing, shelter, or care;
- (d) Left unattended in a motor vehicle if such minor child is six years of age or younger;
- (e) Sexually abused; or
- (f) Sexually exploited by allowing, encouraging, or forcing such person to solicit for or

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engage in prostitution, debauchery, public indecency, or obscene or pornographic photography, films, or depictions.

Teachers are to inform their principal or supervisor that they intend to make a report. Administrative staff may sometimes choose to make the report for a teacher. However, informing a principal or supervisor does not end the teacher's responsibility; teachers are obligated to make certain a report was made if they do not do it themselves.

It is vital that the report be made as accurately and as soon as possible. To assure accuracy, you are encouraged to document the date of the incident and specific statements or explanations made by a child regarding an abuse/neglect concern. Timeliness in making a report will assist in minimizing further risk to the child by allowing the police or Child Protective Services workers to interview the child during the school day and prior to an evening or weekend. In cases of physical injury (e.g., bruising or other marks), it is essential the police observe and document the injury. A counselor, the school social worker or an administrator will help you.

### **Section 11 Curriculum – Assessments**

#### 1. State Assessments.

Alliance Public Schools has adopted an assessment plan and has aligned the curriculum with the state approved content standards. The assessment plan includes a schedule and procedures for assessing success in achieving state standards.

Teachers are to clearly articulate the learning targets and align instruction to the learning targets within each of the content standards. Teachers are to give students instruction on the content prior to students being assessed on each content standard in order to provide learning opportunities for all students.

The assessments are to be conducted in accordance with the assessment plan schedule. Teachers are to conduct the assessments in a manner that assures it accurately assesses whether or not students are meeting the targets outlined by the content standards.

Assessment results are to be reported by the teachers in the manner and within the time directed by the administration or designee. The assessment data is to be used to meet state standards, to provide students and parents with information about student progress, to enhance school improvement planning, and to improve instruction. The assessment data is to be evaluated by teachers to monitor student learning and to improve instruction or terminate ineffective teaching practices to ensure students are being given the opportunity to meet the standards.

#### 2. Achieving Valid Assessments.

Educators are responsible for maintaining the integrity of the assessments to ensure that assessments provide a valid measure of student progress and accomplishments. Educators are not

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to engage in any practice that may result in assessment results that do not reflect student learning, knowledge, skills or abilities in the area assessed.

For purposes of this policy, student assessments include both “standardized assessments” (including state assessments, norm referenced tests, and evaluations conducted for special education eligibility) and “coursework assessments” (e.g., classroom tests, quizzes, and other evaluative tools used to assign grades).

The following specific assessment expectations and rules apply:

- a. Integrity of the Assessment Instrument. The integrity of the assessment instrument is to be maintained.
  - i. Standardized Assessments. Standardized assessment instruments are not to be made available to students at any time before the student takes the assessment. The assessment instrument is to be maintained in a secure manner.
  - ii. Coursework Assessments. Coursework assessment instruments are to be periodically modified to keep the assessments current and prevent students from effectively using “test banks.” For coursework assessments that are given on a repeat basis to students at different times (e.g., a test that is given to students throughout the school day), the educator is to remind students to not share the content of the assessment with students who will be taking the assessment later.
- b. Teaching for Success on Assessments.

It is appropriate for educators to prepare students to do well on assessments. This is to be accomplished in a manner that assures the assessment accurately reflects the student’s knowledge, and not simply test preparation.

- i. Teach the Content. Educators are to prepare students to do well on assessments by teaching the subject content. Educators are not to “teach to the test” by teaching based solely on the content of the assessment. The content is to be taught to the students over an appropriate amount of time prior to the assessment. “Cramming” assessment content just before the assessment is to be taken is not appropriate. Review of content previously taught is appropriate.
- ii. Practice Tests. Educators are to prepare students by teaching test taking skills independent of the subject matter being assessed. Educators are not to conduct reviews (drills) using earlier (no longer published) versions of the same test, using alternate (parallel) forms of the same published test, or

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using actual items from the current form of a standardized test that will be administered to students. Educators are not to conduct reviews (drills) using items of identical format (for example, multiple choice) to the exclusion of other formats.

### c. Conditions for Successful Assessments.

- i. Communications. Educators are to communicate to students and parents when assessments will be administered, the purpose of the assessment and how the assessment results will be used. Educators are to motivate students to do their best on assessments. Educators are to read and be familiar with assessment administration directions in advance and communicate the rules to students accurately and clearly.
- ii. Climate. Educators are to have sufficient assessment materials available (e.g., No. 2 pencils, if needed). The classroom is to be arranged to allow comfortable seating. Distractions are to be eliminated. Educators in nearby classrooms are to be informed that the assessment is to be administered so noises from neighboring classrooms are kept at a minimum. Activities or arrangements are to be made for students who finish early so such students do not cause a distraction to other students still taking the assessment.
- iii. Security. Educators are to monitor students while administering assessments to ensure students are complying with standards of academic integrity. Students who violate standards of academic integrity are to be reported to the administration.

### d. Full Participation. Educators are to make efforts to have all eligible students take the assessments. The educator should develop a list of students who will be exempted from assessment and the reason for the exemption and submit the list for review and approval by the Principal.

### e. Assistance During Assessments.

- i. Standardized Assessments. Educators are not to provide assistance to students while a standardized assessment is being administered except as provided for in a student's 504 Plan or IEP. This includes giving "hints," giving extra time, reading the tests to students or defining or pronouncing words for students, allowing students access to instructional material related to the content of the assessment (e.g., displaying a map during a social studies assessment) or allowing students access to mechanical aids (e.g., calculators).

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- ii. Coursework Assessments. For coursework assessments, students may be allowed access to instructional materials or mechanical aids only when all students being given the assessment are given the aids and use of the aids does not hinder the students from learning the content of the lesson.
  
- f. Student Answers. Assessments are to reflect the students’ work as submitted by the students. During the assessments, educators are to monitor students to make sure directions are being followed (e.g., students are using a No. 2 pencil on all “bubble” sheet assessments and completely erase mistaken answers and extra marks on “bubble” sheet assessments). Educators are not to change answers on a student’s assessment sheet or otherwise participate in the submission of false or misleading assessment results.

Violations of the rules and expectations set forth in this policy will be considered to be a breach of the District’s standard of ethics and may result in disciplinary consequences. Educators are to report suspected violations of the expectation to the administration. The administration is to investigate and appropriately respond to violations of the expectations.