

2019-2020

Student/ Parent Handbook

West Middle School

Shakopee West Middle School
200 10th Ave. E.
Shakopee, MN 55379
(952) 496-5752



Shakopee Middle Schools

WELCOME!!

Welcome to the 2019-2020 school year at the Shakopee Middle Schools. We look forward to this coming school year and ask that you join us in our efforts to continue the rich tradition of excellence here in Shakopee.

Parents, it is important for you to have a positive relationship with your student's teachers and advisor. The advisor will have time to focus on:

- Teacher—Student—Parent Relationships
- Academic Monitoring
- Behavior and Character Expectations
- Service

Please take some time to read through this handbook so you know important dates, expectations, and aspects at the Shakopee Middle Schools. If we work together, we are certain to have a great year and make our community an even better place to live and learn!

Our Mission

Shakopee Schools, in partnership with our community, will educate lifelong learners to succeed in a diverse world.

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IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

| | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| PRINCIPAL | Lori Link | 496-5750 |
| ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL | Paul Nettesheim | 496-5759 |
| DEAN OF STUDENTS | Joel Young | 496-5762 |
| ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT | Nomi Chial | 496-5751 |
| REGISTRAR | Laura Duff | 496-5777 |
| ATTENDANCE RECORDING LINE | Available 24/7 | 496-5753 |
| ATTENDANCE SECRETARY | Donna Richards | 496-5760 |
| NURSE | Robin Rutherford | 496-5754 |
| COUNSELOR | Erin Richter | 496-5739 |
| COUNSELOR | Amy Gerster | 496-5723 |
| SOCIAL WORKER | Harold Armstrong | 496-5764 |
| ** TO REACH A TEACHER ** | ** (see below) ** | 496-5752 |
| FOOD SERVICE | Carol Tschaekofske Deb Ross-Coen | 496-5141 496-5140 |
| SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER (SRO) | Officer Chad Wimmer | 496-5767 |
| PALMER BUS COMPANY | | 445-1166 |
| SPANISH LIAISON | Lina Marin | 496-5730 |
| RUSSIAN LIAISON | Svetlana Mshar | 496-5094 |
| SOMALI LIAISON | Ibrahim Mohammed | 496-5041 |
| NATIVE AMERICAN COORDINATOR | Dee Buros | 496-5790 |
| DIST. EMERGENCY HOTLINE | | 496-5088 |

CONTACTING TEACHERS

Teachers do not have direct dial numbers in their classrooms. If you need to contact a teacher, please call the appropriate building main office number (see below) and ask for the teacher you are looking to speak with. If the teacher is teaching a class during the time you call, you will be put into their voicemail. If they are on their Prep periods, we will gladly put you through to their room. Email is another great way to connect with teachers. All district staff email addresses follow this pattern: The first letter of their first name followed by the first 7 letters of their last name @shakopee.k12.mn.us. You may also find contact numbers and email addresses on the website. Whichever way you choose, we will do our best to keep in touch with you.

BELL SCHEDULES

Regular Bell Schedule

| PERIOD | CLASS TIME |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| 1ST | 7:45 - 8:30 |
| 2ND | 8:35 - 9:20 |
| Advisory | 9:25 - 9:40 |
| 3RD | 9:45 - 10:30 |
| 4TH | 10:35 - 11:20 |
| 5 TH - (LUNCHES) | 11:25 - 12:45 |
| A | 11:20 - 11:50 |
| B | 11:50 - 12:20 |
| C | 12:20 - 12:50 |
| 6TH | 12:50 - 1:35 |
| 7TH | 1:40 - 2:25 |

Block Day Schedules

| 1 ST DAY BLOCK SCHEDULE | |
|------------------------------------|---------------|
| PERIOD | TIME |
| 2 | 7:45 – 9:15 |
| ADVISORY | 9:20 – 9:30 |
| Session 1 | 9:35 – 10:10 |
| Session 2 | 10:15 – 10:50 |
| 4 Lunch | 10:55 – 12:50 |
| A Lunch | 10:50 – 11:20 |
| B Lunch | 11:20 – 11:50 |
| C Lunch | 11:50 – 12:20 |
| 6 | 12:55 – 2:25 |

| 2 ND DAY BLOCK SCHEDULE | |
|------------------------------------|---------------|
| PERIOD | TIME |
| 1 | 7:45 – 9:15 |
| 3 | 9:20 – 10:50 |
| 5 Lunch | 10:55 – 12:50 |
| A Lunch | 10:50 – 11:20 |
| B Lunch | 11:20 – 11:50 |
| C Lunch | 11:50 – 12:20 |
| 7 | 12:55 – 2:25 |

Early Release Day Schedule

| ** 6 TH hour meets BEFORE 5 th hour on Early Release Days | |
|---|---------------|
| PERIOD | CLASS TIME |
| 1ST | 7:45 - 8:15 |
| 2ND | 8:20 – 8:50 |
| 3RD | 8:55 – 9:25 |
| 4TH | 9:30 – 10:00 |
| ** 6 TH ** | 10:05 – 10:35 |
| 5 TH – (w/Lunches) | 10:40 – 11:50 |
| A | 10:35 – 11:00 |
| B | 11:00 – 11:25 |
| C | 11:25 – 11:50 |
| 7TH | 11:55 - 12:25 |
| EARLY RELEASE DAYS FOR 2019 – 2020 September 26, November 7, January 23 & March 26 | |

2019-2020 West Middle School Calendar Dates

Please see the West Middle School website at: www.shakopee.k12.mn.us for more current calendar information as dates may change

- **West concerts will take place in the West Auditorium unless otherwise noted.**
- **Parent/Teacher Conferences** - Open House Format... Come at your convenience

August

28 Open House w/pictures 3-7 PM

September

2 **NO SCHOOL – Labor Day**
 3 Students First Day
 9 Picture Make-up Day
 26 ** **Student Early Release – 2 hours**

October

7 Picture Retakes
 16 **NO SCHOOL – Staff Development Day**
 17-18 **NO SCHOOL - Fall Break**
 22 Fall Conferences 3:30-7:30 PM
 24 Fall Conferences 3:30-7:30 PM

November

7 End of 1st Quarter-**Early Release Day**
 8 **NO SCHOOL – Teacher Planning Day**
 25 7th & 8th Grade Band Concert 7 PM
 27,28 & 29 **NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving Break**

December

12 6th Grade Band Concert – 7 PM
 16 6th Grade Choir Concert – 7:30 PM
 17 7th & 8th Grade Choir Concert – 7 PM
 20 **NO SCHOOL – Staff Development Day**
 23 - Jan 1 **NO SCHOOL - Winter Break**

January

2 School Resumes
 10 M. S. Jazz Band Concert @ West – 7 PM
 20 NO SCHOOL – Martin Luther King Day
 23 End of Semester 1/**Early Release Day**
 24 **NO SCHOOL – Planning Day**
 27 M.S.Parent Registration
INFORMATION ONLY Night @ HS
 6-8 PM

February

14 **NO SCHOOL – Staff Development Day**
 17 **NO SCHOOL – President's Day**
 24 Spring Conferences 3:30 – 7:30 PM
 27 Spring Conferences 3:30 – 7:30 PM

March

6, 7 & 8 Middle School Musical
 16 WMS & EMS 7th Gr. Band Concert – 7 PM
 26 End of 3rd Quarter-**Early Release Day**
 27 **NO SCHOOL – Teacher Planning Day**
 30 – April 3 **NO SCHOOL – Spring Break**

April

6 School Resumes
 23 M.S.-A Night on Broadway @ West – 7PM

May

1 **NO SCHOOL – Staff Development Day**
 7 7th/8th Grade Choir Concert – 7:30 PM
 11 WMS 6th Grade Band Concert – 6:00 PM
 19 WMS 7th/8th Grade Band Concert 7:30 PM
 25 **Memorial Day – No School**
 26 WMS 6th Grade Choir Concert – 7:30 PM

June

3 8th Grade Award Ceremony 7 AM
 4 **Last Day of School**

**** Four Early Release days are included in the 19-20 academic calendar. On these days, students are dismissed two hours early from school so that teachers and other educators may meet, collaborate, receive training, and develop methods and programs to improve instructional skills and academic achievement of all students.**

ATTENDANCE POLICIES AND INFORMATION

Please be sure to call the building attendance line as soon as possible whenever your student is going to be late to school or absent from school.

ATTENDANCE LINE (24/7) 952-496-5753

THE IMPORTANCE OF REGULAR ATTENDANCE:

Regular and punctual attendance in class is of prime importance if the maximum benefits of schooling are to be achieved. The entire process of education requires continuity of instruction, classroom participation, and study in order to achieve the goal of maximum educational benefits for each individual student. It is expected that all students will be in attendance in class on those days that school is in session. Parents are responsible for making sure their children attend school every day.

REPORTING ABSENCES:

It is the parent/guardians responsibility to call the attendance line right away in the morning whenever a student is going to be absent from or late to school for whatever reason. If this does not occur, the parent will be contacted by the school. If we are unable to reach you or do not hear back from you, the absence/tardy will automatically be marked unexcused. The classroom teacher reports attendance information and all absences and tardiness are recorded in the school office.

LEAVING DURING THE SCHOOL DAY:

If a student will be leaving for any reason during the day, parents/guardians **MUST** call the office as much in advance as possible. Please indicate your student's name, grade, reason for leaving, the time they will be picked up and who will be picking them up. **Students will not be permitted to leave with anyone other than a parent unless indicated by the parent.** *For students safety, students are not permitted to meet their ride at the door. Parents/guardians are asked to come into the office to get their student.*

PRE-ARRANGED FAMILY TRIPS:

If a family trip is planned during school time, the parents/guardians should call the attendance line well in advance to inform them of the date(s) the student(s) will be absent. The parent may request homework be collected in advance of the departure date so their student(s) can work on it during their absence to help stay caught up. Family trips are **EXCUSED** absences as defined above as long as a call is made to the school. If the parent fails to contact the office, the absence will be considered unexcused.

CONTINUING TRUANT:

There is a new definition under statute titled "continuing truant". A continuing truant is a student that is absent without valid excuse for three (3) days within a school year. The law requires that schools notify parents after three unexcused absences that their child is continually truant and will be monitored. For any student who has accumulated seven (7) unexcused absences, the school is obligated to notify the Scott County District Attorney's Office to file truancy.

For any student who develops a pattern of excessive absences or tardies (excused or unexcused), special interventions may be warranted. Parents who are experiencing difficulty with their child establishing regular attendance are encouraged to contact their child's Assistant Principal or the school social worker for assistance and support.

TRUANCY/UNVERIFIED ABSENCES:

Compulsory attendance policies for students under the age of 16 years will be applied in cases of chronic absences or tardiness. A student with more than 7 unexcused absences may be referred to Scott County Juvenile Court. Excused absences are for reasons of illness, medical or dental appointments, or appointments that cannot be made outside the school day. Unexcused absences are any other reason than those listed below:

TARDY = Student is not in class/at desk when bell rings

ABSENT = Student not in class at all

Parents can request for a child's absences or tardiness to be considered **EXCUSED** for the following reasons:

1. Illness
2. Medical/Dental Appointments
3. Religious Activities
4. Pre-Arranged Family Trips
5. Family Emergencies

UNEXCUSED REASONS:

Reasons for being absent not listed are **unexcused**. Examples include: oversleeping, missed bus, late ride, refusal to attend, etc.

BUILDING ASSIGNMENT OF STUDENTS:

Students in grades K-5 will attend either Jackson, Sweeney, Red Oak, Eagle Creek or Sun Path Elementary. See the District website for updated Elementary School boundaries.

Students in grades 6 – 8 will attend the East or West Middle School.

Students in grades 9 - 12 will attend the Senior High School.

ENTRANCE GUIDELINES:

All children between the ages of 5 and 21 years of age whose parents or guardians reside within the boundaries of ISD 720 shall be eligible for a tuition-free education in the district.

SCHOOL DISTRICT ENROLLMENT OPTION PROGRAM:

The School District Enrollment Option gives families (or youth no longer living at home) the opportunity to select the best educational experience for their sons and daughters. All pupils eligible to attend public school may apply to any public school or program outside the district in which they live. If you wish to pursue this option, contact any building principal who will provide you with complete information and the necessary application forms.

ACTIVITIES

The Shakopee Middle School Activities Program is open to all Shakopee students. There are a variety of athletic and non-athletic opportunities during the school year. We schedule contests with other school districts that offer similar programs. Most athletic seasons consist of a seven-week season with 8-10 competitions. Competitions will be both home and away with bussing provided to all away contests.

ATHLETICS:**Fall:**

Volleyball (7-8th)
Boys/ Girls Soccer (7-8th)
Girls Tennis (6-8th)
Boys/ Girls Cross Country (7-12th*)
Girls Swim & Dive (7-12th*)
Performance Dance (7-12th*)
Adapted Soccer (7-12th*)

Winter:

Wrestling (6-8th)
Girls Hockey (8-12th*)
Boys Swim & Dive (7-12th*)
Competitive Dance (7-12th*)

Spring:

Softball (7-8th)
Baseball (7-8th)
Boys/ Girls Track & Field (7-8th)
Boys/ Girls Golf (6-8th*)
Boys Tennis (6-8th)
Girls Lacrosse (7-12th*)
Adapted Softball (7-12th*)

*Middle School students are incorporated with and compete with the 9-12th grade levels.

Fall athletics will start the week **before** school starts.

ACTIVITIES:

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| School Newspaper | National Junior Honor Society | Science Olympiad |
| Yearbook | Band/ Jazz Band | Mountain Bike Club |
| Student Council | Choir | Knowledge Bowl |
| Middle School Musical | Saber Squad | |

Information on these activities will be announced at the school. Additional information can be found online on the Activities Department webpage.

WEBSITE: www.shakopeesabers.com

REGISTRATION:

Registration is completed online through the Activities Department webpage. Registration must be completed BEFORE an individual may begin participation on any sports team. Registration must be done for every sport, every season. There are three parts to the registration process:

1. ONLINE REGISTRATION

All registrations must be completed online. Please go to www.shakopeesabers.com, then under the "Registration" tab, click "Registration Link" in the drop down menu. A Sports Engine account must be created if one does not exist already. All starred questions must be answered in order for the registration to be completed.

2. FEE PAYMENT

Fees are paid online at the end of the registration process. No student will be excluded from any activity based on the inability to pay the fee. The student or parent should call or email the Activities Office with financial assistance inquiries. Managers in a given sport shall not pay fees but do need to register (no physical required). Refunds will be made to those students who drop from an activity during the first two weeks of the activity. All athletic equipment must be turned in before any refund is made.

6th—8th GRADE SPORT PARTICIPANTS - \$100 per sport season

3. PHYSICAL EXAM

All athletes must have an MSHSL Sports Qualifying Physical Examination Form filled out by their physician and on file with the school. Once completed, these Physicals are good for 3 years. These forms are available on the website and in the school offices. Many local physicians have them in their offices as well. PHYSICAL FORMS MUST BE TURNED IN TO THE ACTIVITIES OFFICE BEFORE PARTICIPATION IS ALLOWED. A well-child check does not always include a sports physical. Please make sure a sports physical is completed before forms are turned in.

POLICIES ON ATTENDANCE & ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION:

Student activity participation on the day of an absence is governed by the following rules:

- Students may participate with an excused absence, except those students who are ill and do not arrive before the start of third period.
Parents are encouraged to keep students at home when they are ill and to forgo activity in the best interest of the student and the health of other students participating in the activity.
- Students may not participate or attend activities on the days that they are suspended. Students may also be held out of activities for inappropriate school behavior.
- Students are ineligible if they violate school policies on chemical use or harassment.
- Students may be denied early release from school for games if their teacher feels they are not making progress in the classroom.
- Students may not participate if they have an unexcused absence during the day

ACADEMICS-ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACADEMIC INTERVENTIONS:

The Middle Schools seek to help every student achieve academic success. When students struggle, interventions may include working with teachers before/after school, participation in the reading strategies course, math intervention course, peer tutors, trail sheets, parent meetings, working with the Special Services Facilitator, Assistant Principal, or Principal.

HONOR ROLL:

The Honor Roll is computed each quarter, after the deadline for incompletes. The honor roll is published each quarter to recognize students for their scholastic achievements. The following mark value table is used to figure the average:

| | | | | | |
|--------|-----|--------|-----|--------|-----|
| (A) = | 4.0 | (B-) = | 2.7 | (D+) = | 1.3 |
| (A-) = | 3.7 | (C+) = | 2.3 | (D) = | 1.0 |
| (B+) = | 3.3 | (C) = | 2.0 | (D-) = | 0.7 |
| (B) = | 3.0 | (C-) = | 1.7 | (F) = | 0.0 |

A Honor Roll: Must have a numerical average of 3.7

B Honor Roll: Must have a numerical average of 2.7 to 3.69

SECONDARY ACADEMIC AWARDS **Criteria beginning 2016-2017**

ALL ACADEMIC AWARDS Criteria:

- All students are awarded a certificate
- 3.7 or greater GPA all 4 quarter (A Honor Roll all 4 quarters)
- Award in fall of each school year for the previous year

GPA GROWTH RECOGNITION / AWARD – top 10 students with greatest growth in GPA from end of 6th grade through 1st Semester of 8th grade

NATIONAL JR. HONOR SOCIETY: (Grade 8) cumulative GPA of 3.75 or greater. Complete application: scholarship, service, citizenship, character and leadership

PRESIDENTIAL AWARD - (award in spring - annually grade 8 only)

Cumulative GPA of 3.5 or greater for grades 6 through first semester of 8th grade
90th percentile+ test score on at least one state or national test*

GPA are not rounded when determining awards

*Tests used are agreed upon by building administration and district assessment coordinator

MAKE UP WORK FROM ABSENCES:

It is the responsibility of the student to create a plan with each teacher for making up missed work after an absence. A general guideline is one day of make-up time for each day they are absent. Students are encouraged to check teacher websites or email teachers during extended absences. If you do NOT have Internet access in your home, homework can be requested through the attendance line (496-5703) **if you are absent for 3 or more days in a row.**

If you are leaving for a family vacation, please let the office know at least 2 days in advance and they will provide a vacation assignment sheet that you can have your teachers fill out before you leave.

REPORT CARDS:

Report cards are viewable in Infinite Campus via the Parent Portal.

INFINITE CAMPUS**(ON-LINE STUDENT INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR PARENTS)**

Infinite campus provides instant access to accurate, current, and confidential information about your child. This includes: assignments, grades, attendance, food service balance, unofficial transcripts, testing results, school contact information, emergency contact information, and more!

In addition, you may sign up to be notified automatically via email of absences, tardies, and missing assignments. This information is secure, view only data that will be accessed through a confidential user name and password. Data is updated into the parent portal from our student management system and from individual teacher grade books in real time.

For directions on how to sign up for the parent portal, please visit our website at <https://www.shakopee.k12.mn.us/domain/1962> or contact the school directly.

Parent access is provided as a means to further promote educational excellence and to enhance communication with parents. Every parent is expected to act in a responsible, ethical and legal manner. Access is available to every parent or guardian of a student enrolled at Pearson.

Users are required to adhere to the following guidelines:

- Users should not share their passwords with anyone, or set browsers to auto login.
- Users will not attempt to harm or destroy data on any district network.
- Users will not use Infinite Campus for any illegal activity, including violation of Data Privacy laws.
- Users will not access data or any account owned by another parent or user.
- Users who identify a security problem with Infinite Campus must notify the office immediately. Please do not demonstrate this problem to anyone else.
- Users who are identified as a security risk to Infinite Campus or any other ISD 720 computers or networks, will be denied access.

CANVAS

Canvas is the online learning management system (LMS) used by students in grades 6-12. Every teacher has their own Canvas page for their specific course content. It can be accessed either through an app or internet browser. Below are the main purposes for which students will utilize Canvas:

- Check calendar with due dates for all courses
- Find assignment materials, resources, and directions. These will be organized into modules by unit so students can focus on the materials in the current unit of study.
- Turn in/Upload assignments and quizzes

All students will have their own Canvas accounts and are able to show their parents/guardians content through their own student account. Parents are encouraged to set up their own account as well. Click the link for directions on how to get a parent account- bit.ly/canvasforparents

GENERAL INFORMATION

ADDRESS CHANGES:

If at any time your address changes, please contact the school office as soon as possible so there is no interruption to your school correspondence. If you are moving out of the school district and will no longer be attending Shakopee schools, please allow at least 2 days advance notice whenever possible so your student can complete a Withdrawal Grades sheet to take to their new school.

AFTER SCHOOL DETENTION PROGRAM:

Students accumulating four or more unexcused tardies to any class may be assigned After School Detention. Detentions will continue to be assigned for every fourth unexcused tardy. The Administration reserves the right to assign additional consequences in the event a student does not serve the detention as assigned or in the event a student is habitually tardy to school or to classes. Additionally, After School Detention may be assigned as a consequence for behaviors that do not warrant a day of In School Suspension, yet need to be addressed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Announcements are made in the AM at the beginning of first hour and in the PM at the end of last hour, if needed. Announcements are then posted on the website daily.

ARRIVAL TIME:

7:15AM - Please do NOT arrive earlier than 7:15AM unless you are here to work with a teacher or attending a meeting for a school event. Students are required to stay in locker bays until 7:40 at which time they may enter classroom areas.

ATHLETIC BAGS:

We will provide a storage area for athletic gear – please see the main office for that location.

BACKPACKS:

All backpacks, large bags, drawstring bags, etc must be kept in your locker during the school day and are not allowed in classrooms.

BREAKFAST:

See "School Meal Program."

BUSSES:

Only students ASSIGNED to a bus may ride the bus. The bus company DOES NOT allow students to bring friends home on the bus. Questions? Contact Palmer Bus Co. at (952)445-1166.

DEPARTURE:

The last bell rings at 2:25PM. Students are required to leave the building by 2:40 unless they are under the direct supervision of a teacher or involved in an after school activity. Repeated non-compliance may result in a property exclusion (trespass) filed with the Shakopee Police Department.

DRESS:

Students are expected to dress appropriately for school with midriffs and all under clothing covered. Additionally, clothing may not include words or visuals which are lewd, obscene, disruptive, abusive or discriminatory, or which create a safety hazard, or which promotes products or activities that are illegal for minors. Dress or grooming which is disruptive to the classroom or school atmosphere is not allowed. Shoes must be worn at all times for health and safety reasons. Students may not wear hats or head coverings (except for religious reasons).

EARLY RELEASE DAYS

Four Early Release days were added to the academic calendar. On these days, students are dismissed two hours early from school so that teachers and other educators may meet, collaborate, receive training, and develop methods and programs to improve instructional skills and academic achievement for all students.

ELECTRONICS POLICY:

Information is readily available and accessible through many different forms of technology. The use of any electronic devices not provided by the school district in the classroom would be for educational purposes only, as determined by the teacher. Individual teachers reserve the right to prohibit personal electronic devices in the classroom. Electronic devices can't be used in the bathrooms (or locker room) of the school at any time. Students may use electronic devices during passing times and while at lunch. Independent texting, gaming, and participation in social media in class are strictly prohibited. Repeated violations will be addressed with escalating consequences. Electronic device examples include, but are not limited to: iPad, iPod, Laptop, Cell phone, Kindle, EBooks, Tablets

FEES:

Classes - Classes such as Art, PLTW, and Band may collect a fee if you wish to keep a project that is done in class. The individual teachers will give you information.

Sports and Clubs - After school sports and some clubs that meet after school will require a fee. This fee may be waived in the case of financial need. If this is a concern for you, please see the assistant principal, dean, the athletic director at the High School, or the Principal.

Field Trips - When field trips are taken, we collect ticket fees, entrance fees, bus fees and permission slips from students. If you do not have the money to pay please talk to your teacher. Your teacher will keep your concern confidential, but may be able to help.

Fines - Fines will be assessed for lost or damaged books. Students and parents will be notified throughout the year, and in the spring. A certain amount of wear and tear is expected each year. Book fines are reserved for cases of excessive damage and lost books. At the close of the year a letter will be mailed to those students with outstanding fines.

FIRE/TORNADO/LOCK DOWN DRILLS:

Fire/Tornado/Lock down drills are held throughout the school year. Signs are posted in classrooms indicating the proper exits to use. During a drill or emergency evacuation, students are to proceed to the assigned area in an orderly and quiet manner. Students are to listen carefully to their teachers for instructions during a fire or tornado drill. Cooperation during such drills is expected.

FOOD IN THE CLASSROOM/HALLS:

Food and drinks are allowed in the cafeteria, not in the classrooms, hallways, or on buses.

FUNDRAISERS:

Items may be sold only if the fund-raiser has been approved by the principal. Students may not sell items during class. The school cannot be responsible for money students have collected. Do not keep money in your locker.

HALL PASSES:

Students must have a signed and timed hall pass or pass book whenever they leave the classroom. Students in the halls without a pass may be subject to disciplinary action.

LATE ARRIVALS:

Be sure to check in with the Greeter or Office BEFORE going to class whenever you arrive late for any reason.

LEAVING FOR LUNCH:

Students are not to leave school for lunch unless going with **their parent**. You may not go home for lunch or go out to lunch with another student's parent. Parents are welcome to bring lunch items for their own student. Please do not bring food items in for groups of students. Students are not permitted to have outside vendors deliver food for lunch.

LOCKERS:

Lockers are the property of Shakopee Schools and may be searched at any time by school Administration. Advisors also have access to student lockers. Each student is assigned their own locker at the beginning of the year. **Students are required to use their own locker. Sharing lockers or locker combinations is NOT permitted.** Using your assigned locker is the best way to ensure the security of your items. If you have a problem with your locker, please let office staff know.

LOITERING:

"Hanging Out" - Students are required to leave the building **immediately** after school unless participating in a school activity or working with a staff member. Loitering (hanging out) is not allowed. If you need a ride home, please make these arrangements ahead of time to avoid waiting in the entrance areas.

LOST AND FOUND:

Whenever you lose an item, please be sure to check the Lost and Found right away and claim your item. Small items such as electronics, jewelry, keys and eyewear are kept in the main office. It is your responsibility to check for your lost items. All items not claimed will be donated to charities. Lost iPads should be reported to the Learning Commons ASAP.

LUNCH:

See "School Meal Program."

MONEY / VALUABLES:

DO NOT bring excess money or valuables to school. The safety of these items cannot be guaranteed. Also note - for security purposes, **the Main Office does NOT keep cash in the office.**

NUISANCE ITEMS:

The Middle Schools are committed to providing an environment free from distraction and focused on learning. Often items such as spinners, slime, or other trendy toys become significant distractions, get stolen, or become the primary focus of students over the intended attention to learning. Such items are better suited for home use. When improperly used in school, these items may be confiscated to be picked up later by a parent. This is not to be confused with fidgets identified as accommodations for students as approved by case managers.

NURSES OFFICE:

If a student is not feeling well, they must get a pass from their teacher to go to the nurse's office. Students may NOT call home from the classroom phone or use of their cell phone in such cases. Such use of cell phones will be considered a violation of the acceptable use policy.

PERSONAL ITEMS:

Shakopee Public Schools are not responsible for any personal belongings lost or taken. Please use care if bringing items such as cell phones to school. Items of significant value are discouraged.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Middle School students will recite the pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States of America the first day of each week. Any student or teacher may decline, for personal reasons, to participate in recitation of the pledge, and students and staff must respect their right to make that choice.

SELLING OF GOODS:

Students are not allowed to buy and sell personal items to peers on their own accord at school. Such activity leads to significant distraction from learning.

STUDY HALLS:

Study Halls are offered to 7th and 8th graders and are designed so those students will have time to study, read, and/or work on homework. Students are required to bring appropriate materials to work on in study halls. Expectations and guidelines will be reviewed with students during the first week of class.

SWIMMING IN PE CLASS:

Swimming is part of the PE curriculum at the middle level. Students may bring their own swimsuit. Girls' suits must be one piece, boys' suits must be "boxer" style and may not be cut-off jeans. School suits are available if needed. Students will be required to swim each day of the unit. Any missed day(s) of swimming need to be made up with a swim make up. Make up swims are made up either before or after school.

TEXTBOOKS:

Student will be charged the replacement cost for any lost book or be charged a fee for damage. According to Minnesota Statutes 120.101: The school will charge an appropriate replacement fee for textbooks, workbooks or library books lost or destroyed by students.

VISITORS:

LobbyGuard is a visitor management system. Visitors of our schools who wish to go past the front office must check-in using LobbyGuard. Visitors will simply swipe an identification card or report their first and last name to the office secretary. This system allows us to ensure that we know exactly who is in our building at any time. Middle School students are not allowed to bring visitors to school.

WEBSITE:

The district website is www.shakopee.k12.mn.us. Be sure to use this often for updated information.

WITHDRAWAL:

If you are moving out of the district and will be attending a different school, the school office should be informed as early as possible. Please contact the school Registrar @ 952-496-5777.

YEARBOOK:

Yearbooks will only be available for purchase on Josten's website at jostensyearbook.com or use the link on our West Middle School website. Yearbooks will be distributed during the last week of school. Please be sure to keep your receipt in case there are any problems.

HEALTH SERVICES

Health services are provided in the Shakopee School District to promote and maintain the health and safety of all students and staff. Healthy students are better learners. The school district, in accordance with state law, will develop, maintain and monitor health records and statistics. Every effort will be made to safeguard the privacy of all health data that must be accumulated. Data that is required by law will appear on the student's health record. This information includes, but may not be limited to, immunizations and yearly screening results.

ILLNESS / INJURY:

If you should become ill during the day, you **MUST** report to the Nurses' Office. Please do not call from the classroom or from a cell phone. Students must get a pass from the nurse or the office to leave the building. A health assistant (a Licensed Practical Nurse) staffs each school health office to administer medications, provide first aid for injuries and care for students who become ill at school. This is done under the supervision of the district's licensed school nurses. A parent will be contacted and asked to pick up a student if the student is vomiting, has diarrhea, has a temperature over 100 degrees, has a suspected contagious condition such as chicken pox, or has an injury that may require medical attention. **Fever of 100 degrees or more:** The student needs to stay home for 24 hours after the temperature returns to normal. **Vomiting and diarrhea:** The student needs to stay home 24 hours after the last episode.

IMMUNIZATIONS:

In accordance with Minnesota Statutes, sections 121A.15 and 135A.14, all children who are enrolled in a Minnesota school must submit documentation of immunization against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, measles, mumps and rubella.

Parents may file a legal exemption from immunizations. Allowable exemptions for any or all immunizations include:

- **Medical exemption** - signed by a physician stating that the immunization is prohibited for medical reasons or because an adequate immunity already exists,
- **Conscientious exemption** - signed by the parent or legal guardian and notarized stating that the child has not been immunized because of conscientiously held beliefs of the parent or legal guardian. School-age children have a grace period of eight months to complete any primary immunization series. Records of all children entering Shakopee schools will be reviewed. **No child will be allowed to attend school if immunization records are not up-to-date.**

MEDICATIONS:

Shakopee Schools maintain a safe, effective medication procedure that is current with accepted standards.

- Medication is dispensed by designated school personnel in each building who are in-serviced yearly and supervised by the district licensed school nurses.
- Medication must be brought to school in an original container appropriately labeled by the pharmacy with date, child's name, dosage, time intervals and any other key instructions. Over-the-counter medication will be administered only when the medication comes in the original container. The schools, by law, are not permitted to supply medications of any kind.
- The "*Permission to Dispense Medication*" form must be filled out completely and submitted in order for the school to administer medication to a student. The form needs to be signed by both the parent and the physician for all prescription medications. Only a parent signature is required for over-the-counter medication. These forms will not be carried over from one year to the next and new forms must be submitted each year.
- Whenever possible, the parent or guardian should make arrangements so that it is not necessary for school personnel to administer medication to a student.

PROCEDURE FOR STUDENTS WITH SEVERE ALLERGY:

Shakopee Public School attempts to take reasonable measures to accommodate student's health needs in order to promote a safe environment for students with severe or life-threatening allergies. Parents who have students with severe allergies should contact their school health office about their student's allergy. Medical documentation from a Licensed Physician, Physician's Assistant, or Certified Nurse Practitioner will be required for accommodations to be made at school for the student. Forms related to allergies can be found on the Shakopee School District web site under District Services/Health Services/ Health Conditions. Successful management of severe allergies in the school setting requires the development of a plan that will best meet the needs of the child and be least disruptive to the routines of the classroom. Parent and Student Responsibilities that will aid in the successful management of severe allergies are included below:

Family's Responsibility

- Notify the school of the student's allergies. (***Annual Health Update form*** and medical documentation)
- Provide written medical documentation, instructions and medications as directed by a physician, using the ***Allergy Action Plan*** and ***Allergy Questionnaire***. The *Allergy Action Plan* and *Allergy Questionnaire* are available on the Shakopee Public Schools website. Parent/Guardian may be asked to contact the physician for recommendations for accommodations during the school day.
- Work with the school team to develop a plan for reasonable accommodations for the student's needs during the school day including in the classroom, in the cafeteria, and field trips.

- Parent/Guardian is encouraged to contact Shakopee Food Service to create an alert on the food service account. Parents are also encouraged to contact food service in their students building to discuss menu items or review the ingredients of food served at school.
- Parent/Guardian will coordinate a plan for before and after school activities and for transportation to and from school. Parents are encouraged to introduce themselves and their student to the bus driver and alert him/her to the student's allergy.
- Provide properly labeled medications and replace medications after use or upon expiration. One Epinephrine dose will be kept in the health office at a minimum.
- Provide safe alternative for snacks, birthday treats. Review the school lunch menu for possible unsafe foods.
- Parents are encouraged to educate their student in the self-management of their food allergy including:
 - Safe and unsafe foods
 - **Strategies for avoiding exposure to unsafe foods (bring their own safe snack to school, review school lunch menu for possible unsafe foods)**
 - Symptoms of allergic reactions
 - How and when to tell an adult they may be having an allergy-related problem
 - How to read food labels (age appropriate)
 - Self-administration of Epinephrine (Epi-Pen) per parent and student readiness
 - Obtain a medical alert bracelet for the student to wear.
- Parents are encouraged to provide a current picture of their student to the health office.
- Parents are encouraged to review upcoming projects and field trips, and communicate any concerns to the teacher.

Student Responsibility

- Should not trade food with others
- Should not eat anything with unknown ingredients or known to contain any allergen.
- Should be proactive in the care and management of their food allergies and reactions based on their developmental level.
- Should notify an adult immediately if they eat something they believe may contain the food to which they are allergic.
- It is recommended that the student wear appropriate Medic-Alert bracelet, or similar
- It is recommended that the student share (or have the teacher or nurse share) information regarding his/her allergy with classmates.
- Student should minimize risk in the lunchroom by sitting at the allergen-free table if it is available.

SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAM

FOODSERVICE HEADQUARTERS:

Located at the District Office. Students can bring their cash or checks directly to the Food Service office in their school and they will enter the deposit on their account right away. Funds can also be delivered to the main office at the Middle School, or added to the account online.

FREE/REDUCED MEALS:

Applications and financial guidelines for Free/Reduced priced meals are provided to all families at the beginning of each school year. Everyone is welcome to turn in an application to the Food Service Department or their school's Main Office. Only one application per family is needed. Applications can also be obtained on-line, or from any school office. After applying, the Food Service department will inform you if you are qualified for Free or Reduced meals. F/R status does **NOT** carry over to the next year. **You MUST re-apply every year.**

MEAL COSTS:

Students not qualifying for free or reduced meals will pay the following price per meal:

BREAKFAST—\$1.75/per

LUNCH—\$2.85/per

EXTRA MILK — .55/per

ADULT — \$4.00/per

MY STUDENT'S ACCOUNT BALANCE:

You can check your student's account balance online. Students are also informed by lunch room cashiers when their lunch account is LOW. Please remember, students are NOT allowed to charge meals so please be sure to put money in your student's account when this happens. This can be done online or sent to school with your student. To make a deposit online, you will need to know your student's ID number. If you are having difficulty paying your child's lunch account, please contact the Food and Nutrition office at 952-496-5140. We will be contacting you if your child's lunch balance is negative.

SPECIAL REQUESTS:

If you choose to flag your student's account with limitations (i.e. no extras), you must contact Food Service at 952-496-5140 or 952-496-5141 to have a message indicated on their account.

BULLYING POLICY

Adopted:

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 514

Revised:

Orig. 2003

Rev. 2014

514 BULLYING PROHIBITION POLICY

[Note: School districts are required by statute to have a policy addressing bullying.]

I. PURPOSE

A safe and civil environment is needed for students to learn and attain high academic standards and to promote healthy human relationships. Bullying, like other violent or disruptive behavior, is conduct that interferes with a student's ability to learn and/or a teacher's ability to educate students in a safe environment. The school district cannot monitor the activities of students at all times and eliminate all incidents of bullying between students, particularly when students are not under the direct supervision of school personnel. However, to the extent such conduct affects the educational environment of the school district and the rights and welfare of its students and is within the control of the school district in its normal operations, the school district intends to prevent bullying and to take action to investigate, respond to, and to remediate and discipline for those acts of bullying which have not been successfully prevented. The purpose of this policy is to assist the school district in its goal of preventing and responding to acts of bullying, intimidation, violence, reprisal, retaliation, and other similar disruptive and detrimental behavior.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. An act of bullying, by either an individual student or a group of students, is expressly prohibited on school premises, on school district property, at school functions or activities, or on school transportation. This policy applies not only to students who directly engage in an act of bullying but also to students who, by their indirect behavior, condone or support another student's act of bullying. This policy also applies to any student whose conduct at any time or in any place constitutes bullying or other prohibited conduct that interferes with or obstructs the mission or operations of the school district or the safety or welfare of the student or other students, or materially and substantially interferes with a student's educational opportunities or performance or ability to participate in school functions or activities or receive school benefits, services, or privileges. This policy also applies to an act of cyberbullying regardless of whether such act is committed on or off school district property and/or with or without the use of school district resources.
- B. No teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other employee of the school district shall permit, condone, or tolerate bullying.
- C. Apparent permission or consent by a student being bullied does not lessen or negate the prohibitions contained in this policy.
- D. Retaliation against a victim, good faith reporter, or a witness of bullying is prohibited.
- E. False accusations or reports of bullying against another student are prohibited.
- F. A person who engages in an act of bullying, reprisal, retaliation, or false reporting of bullying or permits, condones, or tolerates bullying shall be subject to discipline or other remedial responses for that act in accordance with the school

district's policies and procedures, including the school district's discipline policy (See MSBA/MASA Model Policy 506). The school district may take into account the following factors:

1. The developmental ages and maturity levels of the parties involved;
2. The levels of harm, surrounding circumstances, and nature of the behavior;
3. Past incidences or past or continuing patterns of behavior;
4. The relationship between the parties involved; and
5. The context in which the alleged incidents occurred.

Consequences for students who commit prohibited acts of bullying may range from remedial responses or positive behavioral interventions up to and including suspension and/or expulsion. The school district shall employ research-based developmentally appropriate best practices that include preventative and remedial measures and effective discipline for deterring violations of this policy, apply throughout the school district, and foster student, parent, and community participation.

Consequences for employees who permit, condone, or tolerate bullying or engage in an act of reprisal or intentional false reporting of bullying may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination or discharge.

Consequences for other individuals engaging in prohibited acts of bullying may include, but not be limited to, exclusion from school district property and events.

- G. The school district will act to investigate all complaints of bullying reported to the school district and will discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other employee of the school district who is found to have violated this policy.

III. DEFINITIONS

For purposes of this policy, the definitions included in this section apply.

- A. "Bullying" means intimidating, threatening, abusive, or harming conduct that is objectively offensive and:
1. An actual or perceived imbalance of power exists between the student engaging in the prohibited conduct and the target of the prohibited conduct, and the conduct is repeated or forms a pattern; or
 2. Materially and substantially interferes with a student's educational opportunities or performance or ability to participate in school functions or activities or receive school benefits, services, or privileges.
- The term, "bullying," specifically includes cyberbullying as defined in this policy.
- B. "Cyberbullying" means bullying using technology or other electronic communication, including, but not limited to, a transfer of a sign, signal, writing, image, sound, or data, including a post on a social network Internet website or forum, transmitted through a computer, cell phone, or other electronic device. The term applies to prohibited conduct which occurs on school premises, on school district property, at school functions or activities, on school transportation, or on school computers, networks, forums, and mailing lists, or off school premises to the extent that it substantially and materially disrupts student learning or the school environment.
- C. "Immediately" means as soon as possible but in no event longer than 24 hours.
- D. "Intimidating, threatening, abusive, or harming conduct" means, but is not limited to, conduct that does the following:
1. Causes physical harm to a student or a student's property or causes a student to be in reasonable fear of harm to person or property;
 2. Under Minnesota common law, violates a student's reasonable expectation of privacy, defames a student, or constitutes intentional infliction of emotional distress against a student; or

3. Is directed at any student or students, including those based on a person's actual or perceived race, ethnicity, color, creed, religion, national origin, immigration status, sex, marital status, familial status, socioeconomic status, physical appearance, sexual orientation including gender identity and expression, academic status related to student performance, disability, or status with regard to public assistance, age, or any additional characteristic defined in the Minnesota Human Rights Act (MHRA). However, prohibited conduct need not be based on any particular characteristic defined in this paragraph or the MHRA.
- E. "On school premises, on school district property, at school functions or activities, or on school transportation" means all school district buildings, school grounds, and school property or property immediately adjacent to school grounds, school bus stops, school buses, school vehicles, school contracted vehicles, or any other vehicles approved for school district purposes, the area of entrance or departure from school grounds, premises, or events, and all school-related functions, school sponsored activities, events, or trips. School district property also may mean a student's walking route to or from school for purposes of attending school or school-related functions, activities, or events. While prohibiting bullying at these locations and events, the school district does not represent that it will provide supervision or assume liability at these locations and events.
- F. "Prohibited conduct" means bullying or cyberbullying as defined in this policy or retaliation or reprisal for asserting, alleging, reporting, or providing information about such conduct or knowingly making a false report about bullying.
- G. "Remedial response" means a measure to stop and correct prohibited conduct, prevent prohibited conduct from recurring, and protect, support, and intervene on behalf of a student who is the target or victim of prohibited conduct.
- H. "Student" means a student enrolled in a public school or a charter school.

IV. REPORTING PROCEDURE

- A. Any person who believes he or she has been the target or victim of bullying or any person with knowledge or belief of conduct that may constitute bullying or prohibited conduct under this policy shall report the alleged acts immediately to an appropriate school district official designated by this policy. A person may report bullying anonymously. However, the school district may not rely solely on an anonymous report to determine discipline or other remedial responses.
- B. The school district encourages the reporting party or complainant to use the report form available from the principal or building supervisor of each building or available in the school district office, but oral reports shall be considered complaints as well.
- C. The building principal, the principal's designee, or the building supervisor (hereinafter the "building report taker") is the person responsible for receiving reports of bullying or other prohibited conduct at the building level. Any person may report bullying or other prohibited conduct directly to a school district human rights officer or the superintendent. If the complaint involves the building report taker, the complaint shall be made or filed directly with the superintendent or the school district human rights officer by the reporting party or complainant.
- The building report taker shall ensure that this policy and its procedures, practices, consequences, and sanctions are fairly and fully implemented and shall serve as the primary contact on policy and procedural matters. The building report taker or a third party designated by the school district shall be responsible for the investigation. The building report taker shall provide information about available community resources to the target or victim of the bullying or other prohibited conduct, the perpetrator, and other affected individuals as appropriate.
- D. A teacher, school administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other school employee shall be particularly alert to possible situations, circumstances, or events that might include bullying. Any such person who witnesses, observes, receives a report of, or has other knowledge or belief of conduct that may constitute bullying or other prohibited conduct shall make reasonable efforts to address and resolve the bullying or prohibited conduct and shall inform the building report taker immediately. School district personnel who fail to inform the building report taker of conduct that may constitute bullying or other prohibited conduct or who fail to make reasonable efforts to address and resolve the bullying or prohibited conduct in a timely manner may be subject to disciplinary action.
- E. Reports of bullying or other prohibited conduct are classified as private educational and/or personnel data and/or confidential investigative data and will not be disclosed except as permitted by law. The building report taker, in conjunction with the responsible authority, shall be responsible for keeping and regulating access to any report of bullying and the record of any resulting investigation.

- F. Submission of a good faith complaint or report of bullying or other prohibited conduct will not affect the complainant's or reporter's future employment, grades, work assignments, or educational or work environment.
- G. The school district will respect the privacy of the complainant(s), the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with the school district's obligation to investigate, take appropriate action, and comply with any legal disclosure obligations.

V. SCHOOL DISTRICT ACTION

- A. Within three days of the receipt of a complaint or report of bullying or other prohibited conduct, the school district shall undertake or authorize an investigation by the building report taker or a third party designated by the school district.
- B. The building report taker or other appropriate school district officials may take immediate steps, at their discretion, to protect the target or victim of the bullying or other prohibited conduct, the complainant, the reporter, and students or others, pending completion of an investigation of the bullying or other prohibited conduct, consistent with applicable law.
- C. The alleged perpetrator of the bullying or other prohibited conduct shall be allowed the opportunity to present a defense during the investigation or prior to the imposition of discipline or other remedial responses.
- D. Upon completion of an investigation that determines that bullying or other prohibited conduct has occurred, the school district will take appropriate action. Such action may include, but is not limited to, warning, suspension, exclusion, expulsion, transfer, remediation, termination, or discharge. Disciplinary consequences will be sufficiently severe to try to deter violations and to appropriately discipline prohibited conduct. Remedial responses to the bullying or other prohibited conduct shall be tailored to the particular incident and nature of the conduct and shall take into account the factors specified in Section II.F. of this policy. School district action taken for violation of this policy will be consistent with the requirements of applicable collective bargaining agreements; applicable statutory authority, including the Minnesota Pupil Fair Dismissal Act; the student discipline policy (See MSBA/MASA Model Policy 506) and other applicable school district policies; and applicable regulations.
- E. The school district is not authorized to disclose to a victim private educational or personnel data regarding an alleged perpetrator who is a student or employee of the school district. School officials will notify the parent(s) or guardian(s) of students who are targets of bullying or other prohibited conduct and the parent(s) or guardian(s) of alleged perpetrators of bullying or other prohibited conduct who have been involved in a reported and confirmed bullying incident of the remedial or disciplinary action taken, to the extent permitted by law.
- F. In order to prevent or respond to bullying or other prohibited conduct committed by or directed against a child with a disability, the school district shall, when determined appropriate by the child's individualized education program (IEP) team or Section 504 team, allow the child's IEP or Section 504 plan to be drafted to address the skills and proficiencies the child needs as a result of the child's disability to allow the child to respond to or not to engage in bullying or other prohibited conduct.

VI. RETALIATION OR REPRISAL

The school district will discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor, or other employee of the school district who commits an act of reprisal or who retaliates against any person who asserts, alleges, or makes a good faith report of alleged bullying or prohibited conduct, who provides information about bullying or prohibited conduct, who testifies, assists, or participates in an investigation of alleged bullying or prohibited conduct, or who testifies, assists, or participates in a proceeding or hearing relating to such bullying or prohibited conduct. Retaliation includes, but is not limited to, any form of intimidation, reprisal, harassment, or intentional disparate treatment. Disciplinary consequences will be sufficiently severe to deter violations and to appropriately discipline the individual(s) who engaged in the prohibited conduct. Remedial responses to the prohibited conduct shall be tailored to the particular incident and nature of the conduct and shall take into account the factors specified in Section II.F. of this policy.

VII. TRAINING AND EDUCATION

- A. A. The school district shall discuss this policy with school personnel and volunteers and provide appropriate training to school district personnel regarding this policy. The school district shall establish a training cycle for school personnel to occur during a period not to exceed every three school years. Newly employed school personnel must receive the

training within the first year of their employment with the school district. The school district or a school administrator may accelerate the training cycle or provide additional training based on a particular need or circumstance. This policy shall be included in employee handbooks, training materials, and publications on school rules, procedures, and standards of conduct, which materials shall also be used to publicize this policy.

- B. The school district shall require ongoing professional development, consistent with Minn. Stat. § 122A.60, to build the skills of all school personnel who regularly interact with students to identify, prevent, and appropriately address bullying and other prohibited conduct. Such professional development includes, but is not limited to, the following:
1. Developmentally appropriate strategies both to prevent and to immediately and effectively intervene to stop prohibited conduct;
 2. The complex dynamics affecting a perpetrator, target, and witnesses to prohibited conduct;
 3. Research on prohibited conduct, including specific categories of students at risk for perpetrating or being the target or victim of bullying or other prohibited conduct in school;
 4. The incidence and nature of cyberbullying; and
 5. Internet safety and cyberbullying.
- C. The school district annually will provide education and information to students regarding bullying, including information regarding this school district policy prohibiting bullying, the harmful effects of bullying, and other applicable initiatives to prevent bullying and other prohibited conduct.
- D. The administration of the school district is directed to implement programs and other initiatives to prevent bullying, to respond to bullying in a manner that does not stigmatize the target or victim, and to make resources or referrals to resources available to targets or victims of bullying.
- E. The administration is encouraged to provide developmentally appropriate instruction and is directed to review programmatic instruction to determine if adjustments are necessary to help students identify and prevent or reduce bullying and other prohibited conduct, to value diversity in school and society, to develop and improve students' knowledge and skills for solving problems, managing conflict, engaging in civil discourse, and recognizing, responding to, and reporting bullying or other prohibited conduct, and to make effective prevention and intervention programs available to students.
- The administration must establish strategies for creating a positive school climate and use evidence-based social-emotional learning to prevent and reduce discrimination and other improper conduct.
- The administration is encouraged, to the extent practicable, to take such actions as it may deem appropriate to accomplish the following:
1. Engage all students in creating a safe and supportive school environment;
 2. Partner with parents and other community members to develop and implement prevention and intervention programs;
 3. Engage all students and adults in integrating education, intervention, and other remedial responses into the school environment;
 4. Train student bystanders to intervene in and report incidents of bullying and other prohibited conduct to the schools' primary contact person;
 5. Teach students to advocate for themselves and others;
 6. Prevent inappropriate referrals to special education of students who may engage in bullying or other prohibited conduct; and
 7. Foster student collaborations that, in turn, foster a safe and supportive school climate.
- F. The school district may implement violence prevention and character development education programs to prevent or reduce policy violations. Such programs may offer instruction on character education including, but not limited to,

character qualities such as attentiveness, truthfulness, respect for authority, diligence, gratefulness, self-discipline, patience, forgiveness, respect for others, peacemaking, and resourcefulness.

- G. The school district shall inform affected students and their parents of rights they may have under state and federal data practices laws to obtain access to data related to an incident and their right to contest the accuracy or completeness of the data. The school district may accomplish this requirement by inclusion of all or applicable parts of its protection and privacy of pupil records policy (See MSBA/ MASA Model Policy 515) in the student handbook.

VIII. NOTICE

- A. The school district will give annual notice of this policy to students, parents or guardians, and staff, and this policy shall appear in the student handbook.
- B. This policy or a summary thereof must be conspicuously posted in the administrative offices of the school district and the office of each school.
- C. This policy must be given to each school employee and independent contractor who regularly interacts with students at the time of initial employment with the school district.
- D. Notice of the rights and responsibilities of students and their parents under this policy must be included in the student discipline policy (See MSBA/MASA Model Policy 506) distributed to parents at the beginning of each school year.
- E. This policy shall be available to all parents and other school community members in an electronic format in the language appearing on the school district's or a school's website.
- F. The school district shall provide an electronic copy of its most recently amended policy to the Commissioner of Education.

IX. POLICY REVIEW

To the extent practicable, the school board shall, on a cycle consistent with other school district policies, review and revise this policy. The policy shall be made consistent with Minn. Stat. § 121A.031 and other applicable law. Revisions shall be made in consultation with students, parents, and community organizations.

Legal References:

Minn. Stat. Ch. 13 (Minnesota Government Data Practices Act)
Minn. Stat. § 120A.05, Subds. 9, 11, 13, and 17 (Definition of Public School)
Minn. Stat. § 120B.232 (Character Development Education)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.03 (Sexual, Religious and Racial Harassment and Violence)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.031 (School Student Bullying Policy)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.0311 (Notice of Rights and Responsibilities of Students and Parents under the Safe and Supportive Minnesota Schools Act)
Minn. Stat. §§ 121A.40-121A.56 (Pupil Fair Dismissal Act)
Minn. Stat. § 121A.69 (Hazing Policy)
Minn. Stat. § 124D.10 (Charter School)
Minn. Stat. Ch. 363A (Minnesota Human Rights Act)
20 U.S.C. § 1232g *et seq.* (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act)
34 C.F.R. §§ 99.1 - 99.67 (Family Educational Rights and Privacy)

Cross References:

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 403 (Discipline, Suspension, and Dismissal of School District Employees)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 413 (Harassment and Violence)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 414 (Mandated Reporting of Child Neglect or Physical or Sexual Abuse)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 415 (Mandated Reporting of Maltreatment of Vulnerable Adults)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 423 (Employee-Student Relationships)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 501 (School Weapons Policy)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 506 (Student Discipline)

MSBA/MASA Model Policy 507 (Corporal Punishment)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 515 (Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 521 (Student Disability Nondiscrimination)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 522 (Student Sex Nondiscrimination)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 524 (Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Policy)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 525 (Violence Prevention)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 526 (Hazing Prohibition)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 529 (Staff Notification of Violent Behavior by Students)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 709 (Student Transportation Safety Policy)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 711 (Video Recording on School Buses)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 712 (Video Surveillance Other Than on Buses)

HAZING PROHIBITION - MSBA/MASA Model Policy 526 - Orig. 1997-Rev. 1999

POLICY:

I. PURPOSE - The purpose of this policy is to maintain a safe learning environment for students and staff that is free from hazing. Hazing activities of any type are inconsistent with the educational goals of the school district and are prohibited at all times.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY -

- No student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor or other employee of the Shakopee Public Schools shall plan, direct, encourage, aid or engage in hazing.
- No teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor or other employee of the Shakopee Public Schools shall permit, condone or tolerate hazing.
- Apparent permission or consent by a person being hazed does not lessen the prohibitions contained in this policy.
- This policy applies to behavior that occurs on or off school property and during and after school hours.
- A person who engages in an act that violates school policy or law in order to initiate into or affiliated with a student organization shall be subject to discipline for that act.
- The school district will act to investigate all complaints of hazing and will discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor or other employee of the school district who is found to have violated this policy.

III. DEFINITIONS

A. **"Hazing"** - Committing an act against a student, or coercing a student into committing an act, that creates a substantial risk of harm to a person, in order for the student to be initiated into or affiliated with a student organization, or for any other purpose. The term hazing includes, but is not limited to:

- Any type of physical brutality such as whipping, beating, striking, branding, electronic shocking or placing a harmful substance on the body.
- Any type of physical activity such as sleep deprivation, exposure to weather, confinement in a restricted area, calisthenics or other activity that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student.
- Any activity involving the consumption of any alcoholic beverage, drug, tobacco product or any other food, liquid, or substance that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student.
- Any activity that intimidates or threatens the student with ostracism, that subjects a student to extreme mental stress, embarrassment, shame or humiliation, that adversely affects the mental health or dignity of the student or discourages the student from remaining in school.
- Any activity that causes or requires the student to perform a task that involves violation of state or federal law or of school district policies or regulations.

"Student organization" - A group, club or organization having students as its primary members or participants. It includes grade levels, classes, teams, activities or particular school events. A student organization does not have to be an official school organization to come within the terms of this definition.

IV. REPORTING PROCEDURES

- Any person who believes he or she has been the victim of hazing or any person with knowledge or belief of conduct, which may constitute hazing, shall report the alleged acts immediately to the School District Human Rights Officer(s) or building principal.
- The building principal is the person responsible for receiving reports of hazing at the building level. Any person may report hazing directly to a School District Human Rights Officer(s) or the Superintendent.
- Teachers, administrators, volunteers, contractors and other employees of the school district shall be particularly alert to possible situations, circumstances or events that might include hazing. Any such person who receives a report of, observes, or has other knowledge or belief of conduct, which may constitute hazing, shall inform the building principal immediately.

- Submission of a good faith complaint or report of hazing will not affect the complainant or reporter's future employment, grades or work assignments.

V. SCHOOL DISTRICT ACTION

- Upon receipt of a complaint or report of hazing, the school district shall undertake or authorize an investigation by school district officials or a third party designated by the school district.
- The school district may take immediate steps, at its discretion, to protect the complainant, reporter, students, or others pending completion of an investigation of hazing.
- Upon completion of the investigation, the school district will take appropriate action. Such action may include, but is not limited to, warning, suspension, exclusion, expulsion, transfer, remediation, termination or discharge. Disciplinary consequences will be sufficiently severe to deter violations and to appropriately discipline prohibited behavior. School district action taken for violation of this policy will be consistent with the requirements of applicable collective bargaining agreements, applicable statutory authority, including the Minnesota Pupil Fair Dismissal Act, school district policies and regulations.

VI. REPRISAL

The school district will discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, contractor or other employee of the school district who retaliates against any person who makes a good faith report of alleged hazing or against any person who testifies, assists, or participates in a proceeding or hearing relating to such hazing. Retaliation includes, but is not limited to, any form of intimidation, reprisal or harassment.

VII. DISSEMINATION OF POLICY

This policy shall appear in all staff, student and parent handbooks.

OFFENSIVE BEHAVIOR / SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY

It is the policy of Independent School District 720 that no employee or student of the district shall be subjected to offensive or degrading remarks or conduct. Such behavior includes inappropriate remarks or conduct related to an employee's or student's race, color, creed, retaliation, national origin, sex, affection orientation, marital status, disability, age, status with regard to public assistance or membership or activity in local commission dealing with discrimination. Offensive behavior prohibited by this policy also includes but is not limited to engaging in illegal, immoral or unethical conduct or retaliation for making a complaint. One specific kind of illegal behavior is sexual harassment. Sexual harassment means unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:

- Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of a person's employment or advancement, or of a student's education or participation in school programs or activities;
- Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an employee or student is used as the basis for decisions affecting that individual's employment or education;
- Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an employee's or student's performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive work or learning environment.

Employees, students and citizens should understand that this policy applies to each and every student, employee and citizen of the school district, including all full-time, part-time and temporary employees.

Each employee, student and citizen must operate with total integrity to create an environment free of discrimination and other inappropriate behaviors. Each supervisor shall be responsible for promoting understanding and acceptance of and ensuring compliance with state and federal laws and board policy and procedures governing offensive behavior and sexual harassment within his or her school or office.

Violations of this policy or procedure will not be tolerated. Offensive behavior will be cause for immediate and strict disciplinary action up to and including discharge for staff and up to and including expulsion for students.

To file a complaint, contact Personnel Office/Human Rights Office at the District Office.

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

Independent School District 720 is committed to a policy on non-discrimination. The school district will not discriminate in any matters concerning staff, students, educational programs and services and persons with whom the board does business.

In addition to compliance with all federal and state laws, the school district shall consider discrimination to be an overt or covert behavior that excludes participation in or denies the benefits derived from any educational program or employment opportunity based on race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, status with regard to public assistance and age.

In keeping with the school district's commitment and the requirements of law, the school district will establish and maintain a program designed to identify, remediate and prevent discrimination in employment, assignment and promotion of personnel; in educational programs, services and opportunities offered students and staff; in location and use of facilities; and in educational materials.

STUDENT RECORDS POLICY

In order to provide students with appropriate instruction and educational services, it is necessary for the district to maintain adequate information about each student and to preserve a record of essential and pertinent educational achievement and progress. It is essential that these records be readily available to appropriate school personnel, be accessible to the student's parents or legal guardians or the student in accordance with law, and yet be guarded as confidential information. It will be the responsibility of the superintendent to provide for the proper administration of student records in keeping with state law and federal requirements and to standardize procedures for the collection of necessary information about individual students throughout the district.

STUDENT RECORDS-RELEASE OF INFORMATION POLICY

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act requires school districts to notify parents and students that certain information from student records will be released and made public without the written consent of the parents or students 18 years or older.

STUDENT SEX NON-DISCRIMINATION

522.1 POLICY: ADOPTED: 3-12-07

522 STUDENT SEX NON-DISCRIMINATION

I. PURPOSE

Students are protected from discrimination on the basis of sex pursuant to Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and the Minnesota Human Rights Act. The purpose of this policy is to provide equal educational opportunity for all students and to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. The school district provides equal educational opportunity for all students, and does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of sex. No student will be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity operated by the school district on the basis of sex.
- B. It is the responsibility of every school district employee to comply with this policy.
- C. The school board hereby designates the school district's Activities Director as its Title IX coordinator. This employee coordinates the school district's efforts to comply with and carry out its responsibilities under Title IX.
- D. Any student, parent or guardian having questions regarding the application of Title IX and its regulations and/or this policy should discuss them with the Title IX coordinator.

III. REPORTING GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

- A. Any student who believes he or she has been the victim of unlawful sex discrimination by a teacher, administrator or other school district personnel, or any person with knowledge or belief of conduct which may constitute unlawful sex discrimination toward a student should report the alleged acts immediately to an appropriate school district official designated by this policy or may file a grievance. The school district encourages the reporting party or complainant to use the report form available from the principal of each building or available from the school district office, but oral reports shall be considered complaints as well. Nothing in this policy shall prevent any person from reporting unlawful sex discrimination toward a student directly to a school district human rights officer or to the superintendent.
- B. The building principal is the person responsible for receiving oral or written reports or grievances of unlawful sex discrimination toward a student at the building level. Any adult school district personnel who receives a report of unlawful sex discrimination toward a student shall inform the building principal immediately.
- C. Upon receipt of a report or grievance, the principal must notify the school district human rights officer immediately, without screening or investigating the report. The principal may request, but may not insist upon a written complaint. A written statement of the facts alleged will be forwarded as soon as practicable by the principal to the human rights officer. If the report was given verbally, the principal shall personally reduce it to written form within 24 hours and forward it to the human rights officer. Failure to forward any report or complaint of unlawful sex discrimination toward a student as provided herein may result in disciplinary action against the principal. If the complaint involves the building principal, the complaint shall be made or filed directly with the superintendent or the school district human rights officer by the reporting party or complainant.
- D. The school board hereby designates the school district's Human Resources Manager as the school district human rights officer(s) to receive reports, complaints or grievances of unlawful sex discrimination toward a student. If the complaint involves a human rights officer, the complaint shall be filed directly with the superintendent.
- E. The school district shall conspicuously post the name of the Title IX coordinator and human rights officer(s), including office mailing addresses and telephone numbers.
- F. Submission of a good faith complaint, grievance or report of unlawful sex discrimination toward a student will not affect the complainant or reporter's future employment, grades or work assignments.
- G. Use of formal reporting forms is not mandatory.

H. The school district will respect the privacy of the complainant, the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with the school district's legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to conform with any discovery or disclosure obligations.

IV. INVESTIGATION

A. By authority of the school district, the human rights officer, upon receipt of a report, complaint or grievance alleging unlawful sex discrimination toward a student shall promptly undertake or authorize an investigation. The investigation may be conducted by school district officials or by a third party designated by the school district.

B. The investigation may consist of personal interviews with the complainant, the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and others who may have knowledge of the alleged incident(s) or circumstances giving rise to the complaint. The investigation may also consist of any other methods and documents deemed pertinent by the investigator.

C. In determining whether alleged conduct constitutes a violation of this policy, the school district should consider the surrounding circumstances, the nature of the behavior, past incidents or past or continuing patterns of behavior, the relationships between the parties involved and the context in which the alleged incidents occurred. Whether a particular action or incident constitutes a violation of this policy requires a determination based on all the facts and surrounding circumstances.

D. In addition, the school district may take immediate steps, at its discretion, to protect the complainant, pupils, teachers, administrators or other school personnel pending completion of an investigation of alleged unlawful sex discrimination toward a student.

E. The investigation will be completed as soon as practicable. The school district human rights officer shall make a written report to the superintendent upon completion of the investigation. If the complaint involves the superintendent, the report may be filed directly with the school board. The report shall include a determination of whether the allegations have been substantiated as factual or whether they appear to be violations of this policy.

V. SCHOOL DISTRICT ACTION

A. Upon conclusion of the investigation and receipt of a report, the school district will take appropriate action. Such action may include, but is not limited to, warning, suspension, exclusion, expulsion, transfer, remediation, termination or discharge. School district action taken for violation of this policy will be consistent with requirements of applicable collective bargaining agreements, Minnesota and federal law and school district policies.

B. The result of the school district's investigation of each complaint filed under these procedures will be reported in writing to the complainant by the school district in accordance with state and federal law regarding data or records privacy.

VI. REPRISAL

The school district will discipline or take appropriate action against any pupil, teacher, administrator or other school personnel who retaliates against any person who reports alleged unlawful sex discrimination toward a student or any person who testifies, assists or participates in an investigation, or who testifies, assists or participates in a proceeding or hearing relating to such unlawful sex discrimination. Retaliation includes, but is not limited to, any form of intimidation, reprisal or harassment.

VII. RIGHT TO ALTERNATIVE COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

These procedures do not deny the right of any individual to pursue other avenues of recourse which may include filing charges with the Minnesota Department of Human Rights, initiating civil action or seeking redress under state criminal statutes and/or federal law, or contacting the Office of Civil Rights for the United States Department of Education.

VIII. DISSEMINATION OF POLICY AND EVALUATION

A. This policy shall be made available to all students, parents/guardians of students, staff members, employee unions and organizations.

B. The school district shall periodically review this policy for compliance with state and federal laws prohibiting discrimination.

413 HARASSMENT AND VIOLENCE

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to maintain a learning and working environment that is free from religious, racial or sexual harassment and violence. The school district prohibits any form of religious, racial or sexual harassment and violence.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

A. It is the policy of the school district to maintain a learning and working environment that is free from religious, racial or sexual harassment and violence. The school district prohibits any form of religious, racial or sexual harassment and violence.

B. It shall be a violation of this policy for any pupil, teacher, administrator or other school personnel of the school district to harass a pupil, teacher, administrator or other school personnel through conduct or communication of a sexual nature or regarding religion and race as defined by this policy. (For purposes of this policy, school personnel includes school board members, school employees, agents, volunteers, contractors or persons subject to the supervision and control of the district.)

C. It shall be a violation of this policy for any pupil, teacher, administrator or other school personnel of the school district to inflict, threaten to inflict, or attempt to inflict religious, racial or sexual violence upon any pupil, teacher, administrator or other school personnel.

D. The school district will act to investigate all complaints, either formal or informal, verbal or written, of religious, racial or sexual harassment or violence, and to discipline or take appropriate action against any pupil, teacher, administrator or other school personnel who is found to

have violated this policy.

III. RELIGIOUS, RACIAL AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND VIOLENCE DEFINED

A. Sexual Harassment: Definition

1. Sexual harassment consists of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, sexually motivated physical conduct or other verbal or physical conduct or communication of a sexual nature when:
 - a. submission to that conduct or communication is made a term or condition, either explicitly or implicitly, of obtaining or retaining employment, or of obtaining an education;
 - b. submission to or rejection of that conduct or communication by an individual is used as a factor in decisions affecting that individual's employment or education;
 - c. that conduct or communication has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with an individual's employment or education, or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive employment or educational environment.
2. Sexual harassment may include but is not limited to:
 - a. unwelcome verbal harassment or abuse;
 - b. unwelcome pressure for sexual activity;
 - c. unwelcome, sexually motivated or inappropriate patting, pinching or physical contact, other than necessary restraint of pupil(s) by teachers, administrators or other school personnel to avoid physical harm to persons or property;
 - d. unwelcome sexual behavior or words, including demands for sexual favors, accompanied by implied or overt threats concerning an individual's employment or educational status;
 - e. unwelcome sexual behavior or words, including demands for sexual favors, accompanied by implied or overt promises of preferential treatment with regard to an individual's employment or educational status; or
 - f. unwelcome behavior or words directed at an individual because of gender.

B. Racial Harassment: Definition

Racial harassment consists of physical or verbal conduct relating to an individual's race when the conduct:

1. has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive working or academic environment;
2. has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or academic performance;
3. otherwise adversely affects an individual's employment or academic opportunities.

C. Religious Harassment: Definition

Religious harassment consists of physical or verbal conduct which is related to an individual's religion when the conduct:

1. has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive working or academic environment;
2. has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or academic performance;

D. Sexual Violence: Definition

1. Sexual violence is a physical act of aggression or force or the threat thereof which involves the touching of another's intimate parts, or forcing a person to touch any person's intimate parts. Intimate parts, as defined in Minn. Stat. 609.341, includes the primary genital area, groin, inner thigh, buttocks or breast, as well as the clothing covering these areas.
2. Sexual violence may include, but is not limited to:
 - A. Touching, patting, grabbing or pinching another person's intimate parts, whether that person is of the same sex or the opposite sex;
 - B. Coercing, forcing or attempting to coerce or force the touching of anyone's intimate parts;
 - C. Coercing, forcing or attempting to coerce or force sexual intercourse or a sexual act on another;
 - D. Threatening to force or coerce sexual acts, including the touching of intimate parts or intercourse, on another.

E. Racial Violence: Definition

Racial violence is a physical act of aggression or assault upon another because of, or in a manner reasonably related to, race.

F. Religious Violence: Definition

Religious violence is a physical act of aggression or assault upon another because of, or in a manner reasonably related to, religion.

G. Assault: Definition

1. An act done with intent to cause fear in another of immediate bodily harm or death;
2. The intentional infliction of or attempt to inflict bodily harm upon another; or

3. The threat to do bodily harm to another with present ability to carry out the threat.

IV. REPORTING PROCEDURES

- A. Any person who believes he or she has been the victim of religious, racial or sexual harassment or violence by a pupil, teacher, administrator or other school personnel of the school district, or any person with knowledge or belief of conduct which may constitute religious, racial or sexual harassment or violence toward a pupil, teacher, administrator or other school personnel, should report the alleged acts immediately to an appropriate school district official designated by this policy. The school district encourages the reporting party of complainant to use the report form available from the principal of each building or available from the school district office, but oral reports shall be considered complaints as well. Nothing in this policy shall prevent any person from reporting harassment or violence directly to a school district human rights officer or to the superintendent.
- B. In each school building: The building principal is the person responsible for receiving oral or written reports of religious, racial or sexual harassment or violence at the building level. Any adult school district personnel who receives a report of religious, racial or sexual harassment or violence shall inform the building principal immediately.
- C. Upon receipt of a report, the principal must notify the school district human rights officer immediately, without screening or investigating the report. The principal may request, but may not insist upon a written complaint. A written statement of the facts alleged will be forwarded as soon as practicable by the principal to the human rights officer. If the report was given verbally, the principal shall personally reduce it to written form within 24 hours and forward it to the human rights officer. Failure to forward any harassment or violence report or complaint as provided herein will result in disciplinary action against the principal. If the complaint involves the building principal, the complaint shall be made or filed directly with the superintendent or the school district human rights officer by the reporting party or complainant.
- D. In the District: The school board hereby designates the school district Human Resources Manager as the school district human rights officer(s) to receive reports or complaints of religious, racial or sexual harassment or violence. If the complaint involves a human rights officer, the complaint shall be filed directly with the superintendent.
- E. The school district shall conspicuously post the name of the human rights officer(s), including mailing addresses and telephone numbers.
- F. Submission of a good faith complaint or report of religious, racial or sexual harassment or violence will not affect the complainant or reporter's future employment, grades or work assignments.
- G. Use of formal reporting forms is not mandatory.
- H. The school district will respect the privacy of the complainant, the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and the witnesses as much as possible, consistent with the school district's legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to conform with any discovery or disclosure obligations.

V. INVESTIGATION

- W. By authority of the school district, the human rights officer, upon receipt of a report or complaint alleging religious, racial or sexual harassment or violence, shall immediately undertake or authorize an investigation. The investigation may be conducted by school district officials or by a third party designated by the school district.
- X. The investigation may consist of personal interviews with the complainant, the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and others who may have knowledge of the alleged incident(s) or circumstances giving rise to the complaint. The investigation may also consist of any other methods and documents deemed pertinent by the investigator.
- Y. In determining whether alleged conduct constitutes a violation of this policy, the school district should consider the surrounding circumstances, the nature of the behavior, past incidents or past or continuing patterns of behavior, the relationships between the parties involved and the context in which the alleged incidents occurred. Whether a particular action or incident constitutes a violation of this policy requires a determination based on all the facts and surrounding circumstances.
- Z. In addition, the school district may take immediate steps, at its discretion, to protect the complainant, pupils, teachers, administrators or other school personnel pending completion of an investigation of alleged religious, racial or sexual harassment or violence.
- AA. The investigation will be completed as soon as practicable. The school district human rights officer shall make a written report to the superintendent upon completion of the investigation. If the complaint involves the superintendent, the report may be filed directly with the school board. The report shall include a determination of whether the allegations have been substantiated as factual and whether they appear to be violations of this policy.

VI. SCHOOL DISTRICT ACTION

- A. Upon receipt of a report, the school district will take appropriate action. Such action may include, but is not limited to, warning, suspension, exclusion, expulsion, transfer, remediation, termination or discharge. School district action taken for violation of this policy will be consistent with requirements of applicable collective bargaining agreements, Minnesota and federal law and school district policies.

- B. The results of the school district's investigation of each complaint filed under these procedures will be reported in writing to the complainant by the school district in accordance with state and federal law regarding data or records privacy.

VII. REPRISAL

The school district will discipline or take appropriate action against any pupil, teacher, administrator or other school personnel who retaliates against any person who makes a good faith report of alleged religious, racial or sexual harassment or violence or any person who testifies, assists or participates in an investigation, or who testifies, assists or participates in a proceeding or hearing relating to such harassment or violence. Retaliation includes, but is not limited to, any form of intimidation, reprisal or harassment.

VIII. RIGHT TO ALTERNATIVE COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

These procedures do not deny the right of any individual to pursue other avenues of recourse which may include filing charges with the Minnesota Department of Human Rights, initiating civil action or seeking redress under state criminal statutes and/or federal law.

IX. HARASSMENT OR VIOLENCE AS ABUSE

- A. Under certain circumstances, alleged harassment or violence may also be possible abuse under Minnesota law. If so, the duties of mandatory reporting under Minn. Stat. 626.556 may be applicable.
- B. Nothing in this policy will prohibit the school district from taking immediate action to protect victims of alleged harassment, violence or abuse.

X. DISSEMINATION OF POLICY AND TRAINING

- Y. This policy shall be posted in each school building in an area accessible to pupils and staff members, and on the school district web site.
- Z. This policy shall appear in the student handbook.
- AA. The school district will develop a method of discussing this policy with students and employees.
- BB. This policy shall be periodically reviewed for compliance with state and federal law.

SHAKOPEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
RELIGIOUS, RACIAL, OR SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND VIOLENCE REPORT FORM

General Statement of Policy Prohibiting Religious, Racial, or Sexual Harassment

Shakopee Public Schools maintains a firm policy prohibiting all forms of discrimination. Religious, racial, or sexual harassment or violence against students or employees is discrimination. All persons are to be treated with respect and dignity. Sexual violence, sexual advances or other forms of religious, racial, or sexual harassment by any pupil, teacher, administrator or other school personnel, which create an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

Complainant _____

Home Address _____

Work Address _____

Home Phone _____ **Work Phone** _____ **Cell Phone** _____

Date of Alleged Incident(s) _____

Circle as appropriate: sexual / racial / religious

Name of person you believe harassed or was violent toward you or another person _____

If the alleged harassment or violence was toward another person, identify that person. _____

Describe the incident(s) as clearly as possible, including such things as: what force, if any, was used; any verbal statements (i.e. threats, requests, demands, etc.); what, if any, physical contact was involved; etc. (Attach additional pages if necessary.)

Where and when did the incident(s) occur? _____

List any witnesses that were present: _____

This complaint is filed based on my honest belief that _____ has harassed or has been violent to me or to another person. I hereby certify that the information I have provided in this complaint is true, correct and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

(Complainant Signature)

(Date)

Received by _____

(Date)

MULTI-MEDIA RELEASE FORM

Updated July 2017



Dear parent/guardian,

Throughout the school year, Shakopee students may have the opportunity to be photographed, videotaped and/or interviewed by school, district, local and/or national media.

The coverage of Shakopee Schools can include:

School Building/School District - school and district Web sites, publications such as yearbooks, newsletters, school calendars, flyers, brochures, presentations and social media.

Public Media - such as radio, television, newspapers, magazines and online news sources.

If you do not want to grant permission for the release of your child's image (i.e. photograph, videotape) and interviews at school-related activities or events, **please sign and return** the bottom portion of this form.

If you do not grant permission, the school district will not allow the release of your child's image (i.e. photograph, videotape) or the content of interviews, to the extent such activities and the release of such data is within the school district's control.

If at any time during the school year, you would like to change your decision, please contact your child's school.

Thank you for your cooperation.

.....

Multi-Media Release Form

I **do not give** consent for the release of images (i.e. photographs, videotape) and interviews of my child by the school district or public media during school-related activities or events.

Students Name

School and Grade

Parent/Guardian
(if student is under 18 years of age)

Date

Parent/Guardian daytime phone #

Parent/Guardian Guide and Refusal for Student Participation in Statewide Testing

This information will help parents/guardians make informed decisions that benefit their children, schools, and communities.

Why statewide testing?

Minnesota values its educational system and the professionalism of its educators. Minnesota educators created the academic standards which are rigorous and prepare our students for career and college.

The statewide assessments are how we as a state measure that curriculum and daily instruction in our schools are being aligned to the academics standards, ensuring all students are being provided an equitable education. Statewide assessment results are just one tool to monitor that we are providing our students with the education that will ensure a strong workforce and knowledgeable citizens.

Why does participation matter?

A statewide assessment is just one measure of your student's achievement, but your student's participation is important to understand how effectively the education at your student's school is aligned to the academic standards.

- In Minnesota's implementation of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act, a student not participating in the statewide assessments will not receive an individual score and for the purpose of school and district accountability calculations, including opportunities for support and recognition, will not be considered "proficient."
- Students who receive a college-ready score on the high school MCA are not required to take a remedial, noncredit course at a Minnesota State college or university in the corresponding subject area, potentially saving the student time and money.
- Educators and policy makers use information from assessments to make decisions about resources and support provided.
- Parents and the general public use assessment information to compare schools and make decisions about where to purchase a home or to enroll their children.
- School performance results that are publicly released and used by families and communities, are negatively impacted if students do not participate in assessments.
- English learners not taking ACCESS or Alternate ACCESS for ELLs will not receive a score to meet English learner program exiting criteria.

Academic Standards and Assessments

What are academic standards?

The [Minnesota K–12 Academic Standards](#) are the statewide expectations for student academic achievement. They identify the knowledge and skills that all students must achieve in a content area and are organized by grade level. School districts determine how students will meet the standards by developing courses and curriculum aligned to the academic standards.

What is the relationship between academic statewide assessments and the academic standards?

The statewide assessments in mathematics, reading, and science are used to measure whether students, and their school and district, are meeting the academic standards. Statewide assessments are one measure of how well students are doing on the content that is part of their daily instruction. It is also a measure of how well schools and districts are doing in aligning their curriculum and teaching the standards.

Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA) and Minnesota Test of Academic Skills (MTAS)

- Based on the Minnesota Academic Standards; given annually in grades 3–8 and high school in reading and mathematics; given annually in grades 5, 8, and high school for science.
- Majority of students take the MCA.
- MTAS is an option for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities.

ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS for English Learners

- Based on the WIDA English Language Development Standards.
- Given annually to English learners in grades K–12 in reading, writing, listening, and speaking.
- Majority of English learners take ACCESS for ELLs.
- Alternate ACCESS for ELLs is an option for English learners with the most significant cognitive disabilities.

Why are these assessments effective?

Minnesota believes that in order to effectively measure what students are learning, testing needs to be more than answering multiple choice questions.

- To answer questions, students may need to type in answers, drag and drop images and words, or manipulate a graph or information.
- The Reading and Mathematics MCA are adaptive, which means the answers a student provides determine the next questions the student will answer.
- The Science MCA incorporates simulations, which require students to perform experiments in order to answer questions.

All of these provide students the opportunity to apply critical thinking needed for success in college and careers and show what they know and can do.

Are there limits on local testing?

As stated in Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.301, for students in grades 1–6, the cumulative total amount of time spent taking locally adopted districtwide or schoolwide assessments must not exceed 10 hours per school year. For students in grades 7–12, the cumulative total amount of time spent taking locally adopted districtwide or schoolwide assessments must not exceed 11 hours per school year. These limits do not include statewide testing.

In an effort to encourage transparency, the statute also requires a district or charter school, before the first day of each school year, to publish on its website a comprehensive calendar of standardized tests to be administered in the district or charter school during that school year. The calendar must provide the rationale for administering each assessment and indicate whether the assessment is a local option or required by state or federal law.

What if I choose not to have my student participate?

Parents/guardians have a right to not have their student participate in state-required standardized assessments. Minnesota Statutes require the department to provide information about statewide assessments to parents/guardians and include a form to complete if they refuse to have their student participate. This form follows on the next page and includes an area to note the reason for the refusal to participate. Your student's district may require additional information.

A school or district may have additional consequences beyond those mentioned in this document for a student not participating in the state-required standardized assessments. There may also be consequences for not participating in assessments selected and administered at the local level. Please contact your school for more information regarding local decisions.

When do students take the assessments?

Each school sets their testing schedule within the state testing window. Contact your student's school for information on specific testing days.

- The MCA and MTAS testing window begins in March and ends in May.
- The ACCESS and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs testing window begins at the end of January and ends in March.

When do I receive my student's results?

Each summer, individual student reports are sent to school districts and are provided to families no later than fall conferences. The reports can be used to see your child's progress and help guide future instruction.

How much time is spent on testing?

Statewide assessments are taken one time each year; the majority of students test online. On average, the amount of time spent taking statewide assessments is **less than 1 percent of instructional time** in a school year. The assessments are not timed and students can continue working as long as they need.

Why does it seem like my student is taking more tests?

The statewide required tests are limited to those outlined in this document. Many districts make local decisions to administer additional tests that the state does not require. Contact your district for more information.

Where do I get more information?

Students and families can find out more on our [Statewide Testing page](https://education.mn.gov) (education.mn.gov > Students and Families > Programs and Initiatives > Statewide Testing).



Minnesota Statutes, section 120B.31, subdivision 4a, requires the commissioner to create and publish a form for parents and guardians to complete if they refuse to have their student participate in state-required standardized assessments. Your student's district may require additional information. School districts must post this three-page form on the district website and include it in district student handbooks.

Parent/Guardian Refusal for Student Participation in Statewide Assessments

To opt out of statewide assessments, the parent/guardian must complete this form and return it to the student's school.

To best support school district planning, please submit this form to the student's school no later than January 15 of the academic school year. For students who enroll after a statewide testing window begins, please submit the form within two weeks of enrollment. A new refusal form is required **each year** parents/guardians wish to opt the student out of statewide assessments.

Date _____ (This form is **only** applicable for the 20____ to 20____ school year.)
Student's Legal First Name _____ Student's Legal Middle Initial _____
Student's Legal Last Name _____ Student's Date of Birth _____
Student's District/School _____ Grade _____

Please initial to indicate you have received and reviewed information about statewide testing.

_____ I received information on statewide assessments and choose to opt my student out. MDE provides the *Parent/Guardian Guide and Refusal for Student Participation in Statewide Testing* on the [MDE website](http://education.mn.gov) (education.mn.gov > Students and Families > Programs and Initiatives > Statewide Testing).

Reason for refusal:

Please indicate the statewide assessment(s) you are opting the student out of this school year:

_____ MCA/MTAS Reading _____ MCA/MTAS Science
_____ MCA/MTAS Mathematics _____ ACCESS/Alternate ACCESS for ELLs

Contact your school or district for the form to opt out of local assessments.

I understand that by signing this form, my school and I may lose valuable information about how well my student is progressing academically. As a result, my student will not receive an individual score. Refusing to participate in statewide assessments may impact the school, district, and state's efforts to equitably distribute resources and support student learning; for the purpose of school and district accountability calculations, my student will not be considered "proficient."

If my student is in high school, I understand that by signing this form my student will not have an MCA score that could potentially save time and money by not having to take remedial, non-credit courses at a Minnesota State college or university.

Parent/Guardian Name (print) _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

To be completed by school or district staff only.

Student ID or MARSS Number _____

Posted May 2019