



**DODGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
PARENT NEWSLETTER  
AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2008**

***WELCOME BACK STUDENTS!***

**SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE**

I would like to introduce myself as we begin the 2008-2009 school year. My name is Randy Marymee and I am privileged to have been selected to serve as Superintendent of Schools for the Dodge Public Schools. I retired one year ago after serving as superintendent of the Tecumseh Public Schools. I found that retirement was less than stimulating. The dogs and I were becoming too close and my wife expected more of me in terms of helping around the house. I found I wasn't ready to be retired and I'm excited to return to the work I know best. I'm looking forward to getting to know the parents, students, and patrons of the Dodge Public Schools.

This newsletter contains valuable back-to-school information. If you have questions that aren't answered in the newsletter I would encourage you to contact the school.

As we begin the 2008-2009 school year I would like to assure you that if you have questions or concerns my door is open and I will be happy to visit with you.

**PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE**

Where did the summer go? The school year is just around the corner and I'd like to welcome everyone back to another exciting and educational year. I am looking forward to a productive year with each and every student in the district. Please take the time to review the calendar on the school web site and look for regular updates on activities, athletics, and classroom experiences. The website will be a valuable resource again this year as announcements and stories relating to school activities will also be posted on the web site. In the near future, the handbook will also be posted for future reference. We will also put any new board policy changes to the handbook as they become available. Please take time to review these rules and discuss them with your children.

We are depending on you, the parents and guardians, to ensure that our students are in school, ready to attend classes at 8:15 everyday. Sometimes a few missed hours of instructional time can make the difference between success and failure. We ask that you continually emphasize the importance of regular attendance, support our teachers and supporting staff in their efforts to provide a quality education, and be involved as possible in monitoring your child's educational endeavors. Please feel free to contact me at the school with any questions or concerns you may have or any issue that you would like to discuss.

I am also inviting any parents, grandparents, or patrons of the district to visit the school. I am very proud of the faculty, staff, and students of the district and invite you to see the accomplishments we have achieved. Many outstanding things are going on in the district everyday and we would love to share them with all of you.

Academic success is important to us in the district. If you feel your child is struggling in a particular area or class please feel free to contact the teacher or myself. Every effort will be made to ensure that your child is successful. We need your cooperation in the matter as well. Please reinforce to your child that is important to be prepared for class. Make sure homework is completed at night and that your child is getting enough sleep. Eating a proper breakfast will ensure that your child has a good start to the day.

We also have a new teacher on the staff. Ms. Elizabeth Haney will be teaching Language Arts 7-12 and coaching speech, as well as putting the yearbook together. Please give her a warm welcome to our district. Also a new face can be seen in the office, as Teri Ortmeier will be the new secretary.

On behalf of the entire staff, we hope that your experience at Dodge Public Schools will be positive and successful for your student...**Mrs. Patty Novicki, Principal**

**As the doors open to the school and we begin a new year, I would like to include a few reminders for parents and students.**

- \*School begins on August 18<sup>th</sup> at 8:15. Early dismissal will be on Monday, August 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:00. Students are not to be at school before 8:00 a.m. Elementary students will not be allowed in the building before 8:00 on cold weather days—please keep this in mind when you are dropping students off at school.
- \*School physicals need to be turned in to the office prior to the first practice.
- \*If a student is going to miss school for any part of the day, we ask that parents make every effort to contact the school by 8:30 a.m.
- \*Activity passes are available for purchase at the office or during home games.
- \*Check with students for the monthly calendar if you don't have Internet access. Elementary students will receive the calendar from the classroom teacher and secondary students need to pick up a copy at the office.
- \*Daily announcements will also be posted on the website.
- \*Review the student handbook policies with your child.
- \*Don't bring valuables to school—this includes money, jewelry, cell phones, etc. If a student needs to pay a bill, pay the bill first thing in the morning.
- \*Appropriate dress code is necessary – please make sure that shorts and skirts are appropriate length (fingertip).
- \*If a parent or guardian needs a PASS password sent to access grades on the web, please contact the office.

**New additions/revisions to in the handbook or board policy:**

1. Softe brand shorts/or similar style (short version, not Bermudas) are not acceptable for dress code.
2. Students must sign the computer/LDL user agreement before they will be given access to computers.
3. A cell phone policy has been adopted by the Board of Education, but is not included in the handbook. The policy states that cell phones are not to be used during school time. If students are caught using the phone during school, the principal or school personnel can confiscate the phone. It will be kept from the student overnight on the first violation, and can be kept for up to a maximum of thirty days on the second offense. Please remind your child to keep the phones in cars or at home. We can't be responsible for stolen cell phones as well.

4. Honor roll requirements have changed as well. To make honor roll, a student must have no grade lower than an 86%. It was previously an 80%. High honor roll requirements have not changed.

### **SCHOOL DAY**

The school day begins at 8:15 a.m. and ends at 3:43 p.m. **Please do not drop your children at school before 8:00 a.m.** Staff members are not on duty to supervise until that time. High school students who arrive at the gym for class before 8:00 a.m. must wait outside until a staff member is present to supervise them inside the building. In the high school building, no student will be allowed above the first floor before 8:00 a.m. unless they are under the direct supervision of a staff member.

### **PHONE CALLS TO STUDENTS**

Students will not be dismissed from class to make or receive phone calls from parents or others, unless it is an emergency situation. Office staff will pass along brief, important messages to students or they may return a call during their lunch break.

**SCHOOL WEBSITE** is [www.dodgepublicschools.org](http://www.dodgepublicschools.org)

Get daily announcements, event calendars, lunch menus and more by logging on to our website.

### **LUNCH PRICES/MILK BREAK**

The Board of Education has approved the following lunch prices.

Elementary: Single Meal--\$1.55  
First Semester Ticket (88 days)--\$136.40  
First Semester Milk Break--\$20.00  
Secondary: Single Meal--\$1.75  
First Semester Ticket (88 days)--\$154.00

There will be no refunds for milk break. Milk break is optional and some parents prefer that their child not participate. Those who will participate are encouraged to make separate checks for milk break and lunches. Lunches will be refunded at the end of the year to parents, not directly to students. No lunch tickets are used; daily records are maintained in the lunch line as to who eats.

On the first day of school, students will receive information to take home on the federal free and reduced-price lunch program. If you qualify for this program, don't hesitate to take advantage of it. The information remains confidential and absolutely no distinction can be made between children in the program and other children. The purpose of the federal lunch program is to ensure that every child has a nutritious lunch and we encourage your participation.

### **INCLEMENT WEATHER**

The general policy at Dodge Public Schools is to attend school for the regular hours whenever it is reasonable to do so. We try to avoid dismissing school for weather related reasons unless we have had an opportunity to notify parents in advance. However, Nebraska's weather does not always cooperate. If we have to dismiss for heat or snow during the school day, the announcement will be made over KWPN (107.9, KKOT 93.5 FM, KLIR 101.1 FM, and KFAB 1110 AM).

Please monitor those stations on questionable days. In making decisions on dismissal, the safety of students is our highest priority. If in doubt, we will keep students at school until we are certain they

can get home safely. If school will not be in session for the whole day, we try to get that information to the stations prior to 7:00 A.M.

### **HIGH ABILITY LEARNERS**

In 1997, the Nebraska Legislature passed a law requiring schools to identify High Ability Learners which Dodge Public schools has done. At Dodge Public Schools, we have a faculty committee developing an approved program for High Ability Learners. This includes taking many of the activities that we already use with high ability students and putting them into a systematic design.

We will continue to identify High Ability Learners and notify the parents as required by law. Our initial definition of high ability learners is those students who achieve a score in the 90th percentile (top 10%) on our annual achievement tests and pre-college tests. These students would be in Grades 3 through 12. Students who excel in music or art can also be identified. In addition, students who do not meet the initial screening requirements can be recommended by teachers or parents for consideration as high ability learners based on other criteria. The High Ability Learner Committee acts as a standing committee to identify these students.

Dodge Public Schools' plan calls for modifying curriculum to work with High Ability Learners in the regular classroom, rather than having "pull out" programs. Teachers, parents and students will work together to modify curriculum in order to challenge high achieving students. Such modifications might include more challenging assignments, independent learning opportunities, etc.

If you have questions about the high ability learner program, please contact Patty Novicki, Principal.

### **KIDS CONNECTION INSURANCE PROGRAM**

Kids Connection provides health care coverage to children of low income working families in Nebraska. The program is administered by the Nebraska Health and Human Services System (HHSS). A child's eligibility to have health coverage through Kids Connection is based primarily on the family's income.

The program is designed to provide routine, preventative health care and basic hospitalization for children needing coverage. More information and applications can be accessed at the HHSS web site at [www.hhs.state.ne.us](http://www.hhs.state.ne.us) or by calling toll free 1-877-632-5437.

### **BIRTH CERTIFICATES/PHYSICAL EXAMS/IMMUNIZATIONS**

Under Nebraska law, students must have birth certificates on file in the school. Parents of Kindergarten students are to bring a copy to the school at the time of registration. Transfer students must present these within 10 days of transferring into the district. In addition, students entering Kindergarten, 7th grade, and those participating in athletics must provide evidence of a physical examination or have on file the required waiver forms. (Waivers are not accepted for athletic physicals).

The Nebraska Attorney General has issued an interpretation that examination by a chiropractor is not sufficient to meet the legal requirements for a physical exam. However, the law does permit physical exams signed by physician's assistants and nurse practitioners. Kindergartners and new students must also have proof of required immunizations and a vision exam before entering school or have on file the required waiver forms. Physicians can provide more specific information.

## **CHILD FIND**

Consistent with Federal and State regulations, the Dodge Public Schools engages in ongoing "Child Find" services to locate, identify and evaluate all students with disabilities residing within the school district boundaries, birth through 21 years of age.

If you know of a child who may have individual educational needs that result from a disability, and who is not enrolled in a school program, please contact the Superintendent of Schools (402) 693-2207.

## **SCHOOL-WIDE TITLE 1**

A school-wide title 1 plan is designed to assist all students in grades K-12 as they learn to read and solve mathematical problems. Title 1 teachers and paraprofessionals are trained as specialists in reading and mathematics. They will include one Title 1 teacher, classroom teachers and paraprofessionals who work directly with identified students who qualify for additional support. After having identifies students with weaknesses in reading and math through test data analysis, teachers will be engaged in diagnosing, and providing remediation for these specific weaknesses. Further collaboration and consultation between the classroom teacher and support teachers will occur before and after school, during staff development meetings, parent-teacher conferences, during prep periods, and other unspecified time. When appropriate, the Student Support Team, which includes the classroom, title 1 teacher, support teachers, support staff, principal, parents, and others will meet to discuss and formulate additional strategies and modifications to best meet the at risk student's needs. The Dodge Public Title 1 teacher will detail in-class strategies, home resources and practices, and community programs and/or professional resource persons who can assist a struggling student. Because grade 1 is a pivotal year for learning to read, the Dodge Public Title1 teacher will teach a class of grade 1-language arts and reading. During the rest of the day, the Title 1 teacher or qualified paraprofessional will implement a flexible program that may include in-class or pull out session depending on the strategy taught.

## **SPECIAL SERVICES**

Through Educational Service Unit #2, our own school district resources, and in cooperation with other school districts, Dodge Public Schools can provide a broad range of services for students with special learning conditions. This includes preschool children from birth on. Learning well is too important for these services to be unused. If you feel that your child needs more learning assistance than he or she is getting, call us. A child's success in school is crucial and we need to use all of the resources at our command to achieve it. In addition, the school asks your help in finding children aged 0-21 who may be in need of special education services. These services are provided for children with the following handicaps: vision, hearing, physical development, emotional development, speech or language development and intellectual development. Please contact the Principal's Office, 693-2207, if you know of a child in need of such services.

## **ABSENCES**

When a student is absent, we ask that the parent call the office by 8:30 a.m. When the student returns it will then be the student's responsibility to work with his/her teacher to arrange make-up work. Parents are advised to monitor their students' progress in making up work. In general, excused absences are those approved by both the student's parent and the school administration. Please note that students who are absent from school for illness or for an unexcused absence are generally not allowed to participate in or attend extracurricular activities on the same day.

## **HANDBOOKS**

Information for students about school policies and procedures is provided to each student through the Student Handbooks. A handbook will be given again this year to each student. Parents and students are required to sign the Receipt of 2008-2009 Parent-Student Handbook, (page 101), and return to the Principal.

## **SCHOOL PICTURES**

School pictures are scheduled to be taken on Monday, September 8, in the multipurpose room. Dodge Public Schools has arranged with Pegasus School Images to take school pictures for the 2008/09 school year. The process will work quite differently than in the past – students will not get order forms prior to picture day and no payment will be made on the day of pictures. Instead, a few weeks after picture day, you will receive proofs and an order form. We have enclosed more complete information from Pegasus in the student packets. (Look for the pink sheet.) It will also be posted on our website.

## **GYM SHOES**

Elementary students in physical education classes will be asked to bring a second pair of tennis shoes to wear during class and also when noon recess is held in the gym. The second pair of shoes will eliminate the gravel and dirt that is tracked in the gym and will help keep the gym floor clean. The shoes do not need to be new or expensive.

Please help us keep black marks off of the gym floor. Certain types of tennis shoes leave long black streaks on the floor. When you are purchasing tennis shoes for your student, please make sure they are not the type that leaves marks. Your help is appreciated.

## **ROUTINE DIRECTORY INFO**

The Dodge Public Schools, acting on the directive of the Nebraska State Records Administrator, Schedule #10, May 12, 1980 will release "Routine Directory Information" on all of its students. Routine Directory Information" shall be defined under Privacy Rights of Parents and Students at 45 Code of Federal Regulations, part 99 as being: (1) Name, (2) Address ,(3) Telephone number, (4) Date and place of birth, (5) Major field of study, (6) Participation in officially recognized activities and sports, (7) Weight and height of members of athletic teams (8) Dates of attendance (9) Degrees and awards received, (10) The most recent educational agency attended by the student, (11) Photographs.

Parents of students, or eligible students, who do not wish to have this information made available upon request by the Dodge Public Schools must indicate in writing to the principal by September 1, 2008.

## **STUDENT RECORDS**

Dodge Public Schools' policy on students' records is in compliance with the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). The policy states in part:

"All records or files maintained for any student in school shall be made available for inspection by the student, his/her parents, guardians, teacher or counselor and school administrators provided that no other personal shall have access to said files nor shall there be any information contained therein divulged to any unauthorized person. Reference to disciplinary matters shall be removed and destroyed from a student's files upon the pupil's graduation or following absence from the school

system for a three-year period." Academic records can be released by the school in accordance with Policy 5303.

Students shall be provided with the following notice through the Student Handbook or other appropriate forum:

### **Notification of Rights under FERPA**

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

(1) The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the school district receives the request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the Principal or his/her designee a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The Principal will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

(2) The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading. They should write the Principal, clearly identifying the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the district decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the district will notify the parent or student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or student when notified of the hearing.

(3) The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception which permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the district as an administrator, supervisors, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the Board of Education; a person or company with whom the district has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his/her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an educational record in order to fulfill his/her professional responsibility. Upon request, the Dodge Public Schools will disclose educational records without consent to officials of another public school district in which a student intends to enroll.

(4) The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the school district to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are: Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 600 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, D.C. 20202-4065."

### **STUDENT CONDUCT POLICIES**

The Dodge Board of Education has adopted several policies that are a reflection of new laws or interpretation of laws affecting schools. Parents might want to clip and save this section of the Parent Newsletter.

(1) Student Discipline. The Legislature adopted the Student Discipline Act of 1994, which strengthened schools' ability to suspend or expel disruptive students. The law also required that students and parents be notified of areas of prohibited conduct. Basically, there are three levels of student discipline involved in state law. Within school, a variety of disciplinary measures may be used by teachers and administrators. These include logical consequences, staying after school, oral reprimand, in-school suspension, etc. These do not require parental notification or due process procedures. Short-term out-of-school suspension, up to five days, may be invoked by a school administrator. Informal due process for the student is required including an investigation, a chance for the student to present his/her version of events, and (except in emergency circumstances) a conference with the students' parents. Long-term suspension (more than 5 days), expulsion (removal for a semester or more), or mandatory reassignment can only be invoked after the student and parents have been offered an opportunity for a due process hearing before the Board of Education. Students who receive a short-term suspension will be allowed to make up work under conditions set by the Superintendent; for students with a long-term suspension or expulsion, an alternative means of education may be offered at the discretion of the Board of Education.

Information on areas of prohibited conduct has been provided to students and parents via the Student Handbook and this newsletter. Below is the relevant section of the Board Policy.

## **B. Student Conduct.**

The following rules and regulations are designed to establish order and to protect all members of the educational community in the exercise of their rights and responsibilities on school grounds or during an educational event or function off the school grounds. These statements are outlined for uniform understanding of the practices and procedures used in Dodge Public Schools. Setting and enforcing rules for appropriate students conduct shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent. He/she may delegate such authority to the principal, faculty and, as appropriate, other school employees, but shall ensure that rules and enforcement measures are reasonable.

### **B-1. General Areas of Prohibited Conduct.**

Any student conduct which causes or which creates a reasonable likelihood that it will cause a substantial disruption in or material interference with any school function, activity, or purpose, or that interferes with the health, safety, or well-being, or the rights of students or others is prohibited. The preceding is a general standard that should be used as a guide by all students. Not all acts of misconduct can be itemized in this policy. The following is an enumeration of some of the main areas of conduct which may lead to disciplinary action.

- A. Use of violence, force, noise, coercion, threat, intimidation, fear, insubordination or other similar conduct in a manner that constitutes an interference with school purposes.
- B. False communication, verbal or written, of the presence of a bomb or other explosive device.
- C. The willful causing or attempting to cause damage to private or school property.
- D. Stealing or attempting to steal private or school property.
- E. Causing or attempting to cause physical injury to self or others, including the throwing of objects or materials which could cause physical injury except where such injury results from accident, self-defense, or other action undertaken on the reasonable belief that it was necessary to protect some other person.
- F. Threatening or intimidating any person for the purpose of, or with the intent of, obtaining money or anything of value from such a person.
- G. Knowingly possessing, handling or transmitting any object or material that is ordinarily or generally considered to be a weapon, fire hazard (such as fireworks) or other prohibited item.

- H. Engaging in the use of tobacco or the unlawful selling, use, possessing or dispensing of alcoholic beverages, narcotics, drugs or other controlled substances.
- I. Truancy or failure to attend assigned classes or activities.
- J. Tardiness to school, assigned classes or scheduled activities.
- K. Using language which, by school standards, is considered vulgar or obscene.
- L. Repeated violation of any valid rules of conduct established under this or other Board policies.
- M. Loitering on school property before or after assigned classes without the permission of a staff member.
- N. Causing a false fire alarm.
- O. Trespassing, ie., being present in an unauthorized place in the school, unauthorized presence on school property, or refusing to leave the school premises when instructed to do so by school officials.
- P. Unlawful assembly, ie., assembly which disrupts the educational process.
- Q. Engaging in sexual assault or attempted sexual assault on a school employee or student or engaging in public indecency as defined by Nebraska statute.
- R. Engaging in any other activity forbidden by the laws of the United States or State of Nebraska.
- S. Failing to follow the appropriate instructions of school staff, including the employees of other school districts when participating in joint activities, and/or engaging in insubordinate conduct toward school staff.

(2) Firearms Possession. Federal law requires that any student who possess a firearm while in a school building, on school grounds, in a school owned vehicle or at a school sponsored activity must be expelled from school for a period of at least one year. While there are some exceptions to the one year expulsion rule, it generally applies, and it applies even if the student does not intend to use a firearm illegally or to threaten others with it. The law is very strict in prohibiting gun possession at school or on school grounds. For instance, keeping a gun to be used for hunting in a car parked on school property is a violation of this law. Under some circumstances, students may be allowed to bring a gun to school for a demonstration or other legitimate activity, but they must receive permission from the Principal in advance. The simple rule for students is: **DON'T BRING GUNS TO SCHOOL!**

(3) Non-Discrimination/Sexual Harassment. Board Policy 3132 prohibits discriminatory behavior, defined as those actions which negatively affect other individuals as students or as employees because of their race, national origin, religion or creed, age, marital status, sex or disability. The policy also prohibits sexual harassment by employees and students. A lot of misinformation is heard about the issue of sexual harassment. Basically, sexual harassment is unwanted attention of a sexual nature that offends the person being harassed. The policy defines sexual harassment in the following way: "Sexual harassment is defined in this policy to include verbal harassment or abuse, unwelcome pressure for sexual activity, repeated unwelcome remarks with sexual or demeaning implications, unwelcome touching, and suggesting or demanding sexual involvement by implied or explicitly threats or promises of benefit concerning one's employment or education." However, before a charge of discriminatory behavior or sexual harassment can be made, the policy requires that the individual make it clear to the offending party that their behavior is offensive. If your student believes they have been discriminated against or harassed by an employee or another student, they should contact the Principal.

(4) Parental Involvement. A state requires schools to adopt a policy on parental involvement in school programs, selection of curriculum, testing procedures, etc. The general policy of Dodge Public Schools is that parents are welcome at school and are always welcome to analyze our policies, procedures, curriculum, instructional materials, etc. The Board Policy on parental involvement states:

### Parental Involvement in Curriculum/Instruction

"It is the policy of the Dodge Public Schools to foster and facilitate parental involvement in the education of their children. To accomplish that goal this policy has been adopted following a public hearing as required by law, and this policy shall be annually reviewed by the Dodge Board of Education. In addition to the general policy goal of fostering and facilitating parental involvement, the Board of Education provides the following specific guidance to the Administration regarding parental involvement:

- (1) Textbooks, tests, and other curriculum materials used in this school district shall be available for review by parents at school upon request. Complaints about the content of these materials shall be addressed to the Superintendent or his/her designee who shall consider the complaint, take such action as he/she deems appropriate to resolve the complaint, or forward the complaint to the Board of Education for consideration. If the complaining party is dissatisfied with the actions of the Superintendent, he/she may appeal to the Board of Education.
- (2) Parents shall be allowed to attend and monitor courses, class sessions, assemblies, counseling sessions and other instructional activities provided that they have provided reasonable advance notice to the Superintendent or his/her designee of their intent to do so and provided that their attendance does not interfere with the educational process. The Superintendent or his/her designee shall make the determination as to what constitutes reasonable advance notice and what constitutes interference with the educational process. Such decisions may be appealed to the Board of Education.
- (3) It is the general policy of the Board is to honor parental requests to excuse students from classroom instruction, testing, and other school experiences only when required to do so by law. However, the Board recognizes that exceptional circumstances may occur and the Superintendent or his/her designee shall have the authority to excuse students from such experiences and to provide alternative experiences for the student when he/she deems it educationally appropriate. Decisions of the Superintendent regarding requests to excuse students from educational experiences may be appealed to the Board of Education.
- (4) It is the policy of the Board to provide full access to the records of students to parents/guardians and other authorized individuals in accordance with the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and applicable Nebraska laws. Requests for access to such records shall be made to the Superintendent or his/her designee.
- (5) Group standardized testing of students' educational ability and achievement shall occur in the Dodge Public Schools from time to time in order to assure proper measurement of educational progress. Parental permission for group testing shall be sought by the Administration only to the extent required by law. Individual standardized ability and achievement testing shall be undertaken with parental permission when required by law.

"It shall be the policy of the Dodge Public Schools to use only standardized testing methods and testing instruments that are not of an experimental nature and that are generally recognized by educational authorities to be within sound educative practices. Norming procedures for standardized tests are not considered experimental for purposes of this policy and the Superintendent may authorize the district's participation in them. Standardized testing instruments which inquire into the values, beliefs, and privacy rights of any student or parent/guardian of such a student shall not be used by the Dodge Public Schools.

"To the extent that test security procedures for the standardized tests allow, parents shall have the opportunity to review the tests and may request to do so to the Superintendent. Complaints about the content of standardized tests shall be addressed to the Superintendent or his/her designee

who shall consider the complaint, take such action as he/she deems appropriate to resolve the complaint, or forward the complaint to the Board of Education for consideration. If the complaining party is dissatisfied with the actions of the Superintendent, he/she may appeal to the Board of Education.

(6) Student participation in educational surveys may occur from time to time when deemed appropriate by district staff. It shall be the policy of the Dodge Public Schools to conduct student surveys judicially and with full consideration of the fact that some parents may find certain survey items objectionable. It is the general policy of the Board to honor parental requests to excuse students from educational surveys only when required to do so by law. However, the Board recognizes that exceptional circumstances may occur and the Superintendent or his/her designee shall have the authority to excuse students from such surveys when he/she deems it educationally appropriate. Decisions of the Superintendent regarding requests to excuse students from surveys may be appealed to the Board of Education. In all other matters within the scope of this policy, parents are urged to address their concerns directly to their students' teachers, the Principal, and the Superintendent. If the concerns cannot be resolved in that manner, the issue may be appealed to the Board of Education.