

Independence School District



Board Manual

Adopted by the Board of Education: September 9, 2025

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Official District Name
C-100-B

The official name of the District shall be The School District of the City of Independence District No. 30. (Also known as Independence School District, Independence #30 School District, Independence Public School District, and Independence Public Schools.)

District Rules and Guidelines

C-105-B

The District rules and regulations will consist of the District Policies, the Board Manual, the Administrative Manual, the Employee Manual and the Student/Parent Handbook. These documents will provide the rules and regulations for an effective and efficient school system. All Board members, employees, students and patrons are required to follow the District's rules and regulations. The Superintendent, administrators and District supervisors are required to implement and enforce District policies, the Administrative Manual, the Employee Manual, and the Student/Parent Handbook. Questions regarding the interpretation of any District rule will be directed to the Superintendent or designee.

District policies as well as Student/Parent Handbooks will be approved by the Board, signed by order of the Board, maintained by the Board Secretary at the District's offices, and posted on the District's website. The Student/Parent Handbook will be approved annually. The Board will approve the Employee Manual annually which will be made available to all employees through accessing the District's portal. The Administrative Manual will be available to all Administration upon hire and when updated. Board Members will have access to the Employee and Administrative Manuals upon request. The Superintendent and administrative staff will assist the Board in timely review and revision of District policies. The Board Secretary will ensure that District policies and amendments thereto are transmitted to employees and teachers in the District.

District Mission and Planning

C-110-B

The mission of The School District of the City of Independence District No. 30 is: By providing a quality education, the Independence School District will ensure that each learner will achieve the skills and self-confidence to be successful in an ever-changing world.

The vision statement of The School District of the City of Independence District No. 30 is: A community united to improve the quality of life through education.

The Board of Education will establish [goals](#) to guide the priorities of the Board.

The Board has a long-range plan for the governance of the District that is guided by the District's mission, priorities, goals and objectives. The strategic plan, also known as the Comprehensive School Improvement Plan, will be developed and amended under the direction of the Board and with input from key District stakeholders.

Community Engagement and Communications

C-115-B

The District will develop systems and processes using a variety of communication channels to effectively communicate with the public and key stakeholder groups. District communications will come primarily from the District's spokesperson. If employees or Board members do provide communications during their contact with parents or patrons, such individuals will follow all confidentiality and other restrictions imposed by law or District rules, and ensure all communications are accurate.

Superintendent as Spokesperson

The Superintendent will serve as official spokesperson for the District unless otherwise directed by the Board. All employees and Board members will direct requests for statements about District business from the public or members of the media to the Superintendent or designee. Board members should direct requests for statements about District business to the Superintendent or designee. If a Board member chooses to make a statement about District business, the Board member will route their statement through the Superintendent, the official spokesperson for the District, prior to the statement being made.

Communications Plan

The Superintendent or designee will develop a District communications plan that, at a minimum, establishes:

1. District channels of communications.
2. Methods of sharing information with the public.
3. Methods of sharing information with internal District stakeholders.
4. A plan for District communications during emergencies.
5. Information to be provided to parents/guardians and members of the public as required by law.

Community Engagement

District patrons should be encouraged to provide ideas, concerns and comments about District programs. The Superintendent will create opportunities for engaging patrons including through written submissions, participation on committees and stakeholder focus groups, community events, and survey responses.

Concerns or Complaints

C-120-B

Effective communication helps avoid and resolve many complaints, concerns, misunderstandings and disagreements. Individuals who have a complaint or concern should discuss their concerns with the school personnel involved in the issue at hand in an effort to resolve problems. This step will usually involve communicating directly with the person or persons with whom the complainant has a concern. This step may be skipped when the complainant in good faith believes that speaking directly to the person would subject the complainant to discrimination, harassment or retaliation.

This step may also be skipped if the complainant in good faith believes that any law or a District policy or written rule has been violated. The District has adopted specific procedures for investigation and resolution for complaints or concerns as required by specific and varying laws that are applicable to the District. The District's Compliance Officer should be contacted with any complaints or concerns that any law or District written rule has been violated, including but not limited to, laws relating to: civil rights, including discrimination, harassment, and retaliation; special education matters including the IEP and 504 processes and services; federal programs and related services; bullying; and The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, including student records and confidentiality.

When communicating directly with the school personnel involved in the issue does not resolve matters satisfactorily, or if it is appropriate to skip the first step as described above, a complainant should consult with the District's Compliance Officer who will direct the complainant to the appropriate process for resolution of the complaint. The District designates the following individual to act as the District's Compliance Officer:

Name:	District Compliance Officer
Address:	201 North Forest Avenue, Independence, Missouri 64050
Phone #:	(816) 521-5300
Fax #:	(816) 521-5619
Email Address:	compliance@idschools.org

In the event the District's Compliance Officer is unavailable or is the subject of a report that would otherwise be made to the Compliance Officer, reports should instead be directed to the alternative Compliance Officer:

Name:	Director of Human Resource
Address:	201 North Forest Avenue, Independence, Missouri 64050
Phone #:	(816) 521-5300
Fax #:	(816) 521-5619
Email Address:	compliance@idschools.org

All complaints of violation of any law or a District policy or written rule will be promptly investigated by the District, and appropriate action will be taken. Complainants are strongly encouraged to provide their concerns in writing.

Public Notice

The Superintendent or designee will publicize this policy and will disseminate information about this policy to employees, parents/guardians, and students, as well as to newly enrolled students and newly hired employees.

Challenged Materials

C-121-B

Challenged Instructional and/or Media Materials

Instructional or media materials used in the District's educational program consist of a variety of types of materials. The Board is responsible for making final decisions regarding the selection, acquisition and retention of curriculum and instructional and/or media materials to be used in the District based upon recommendations of the District's educators. Materials will support and be consistent with the general educational goals of the District and the objectives of the specific course. It is the Board's policy to require that books, media and other instructional materials are selected based upon the educational needs of all students in the community. Instructional and media materials will not be excluded on the basis of the author's racial, political or religious views.

Filing Objections to Materials

Objections to the selection or retention of instructional or media materials may be made by a parent or guardian of a student of the grade level grouping for which the challenged materials are accessible in the District. If a challenge is made, it will be properly processed through the procedures established by the Superintendent and initiated through the filing of a form requesting the "Review of Instructional or Media Materials" with the building principal.

A copy of the "Review of Instructional Materials" form may be obtained from the building principal or the Superintendent's office. This form must be completed and returned by the parent or guardian seeking review. Once a review is completed and properly submitted, the media in question will be removed from use, pending review and final action by the Board of Education, unless the material in question is a basic text.

Appointment of Review Committee

Within twenty (20) days of the receipt of the completed form requesting review, the Superintendent will appoint a review committee. The committee will consist of nine members with the following composition: the administrator of the building involved, a central office administrator, a library media specialist, three teachers, and three lay people. Lay persons will be appointed at the discretion of the Superintendent based upon nominations from members of the Board of Education. The building administrator will act as chair of the committee and secretary.

Within thirty (30) days of the appointment of the committee, the committee will meet, consider the written request for review, evaluate the questioned materials, prepare a report of its findings and recommendations for the Superintendent. The committee's recommendation will generally request that the materials be retained without restriction, retained with restrictions, or not retained.

Notice of Committee's Recommendation and Parent Objections to Recommendation

Following receipt of the recommendation and report of the committee, the Superintendent will provide notice of the committee's recommendation to the Board at its next regular meeting. Any parent or guardian of a student in a grade level grouping who may have or had access to the materials may object to the committee's recommendation. Such objections must be filed with the Superintendent's office within 10 business days after the date of the Board meeting at which the Superintendent reported the committee's recommendation. Parents filing objections to the committee's recommendation will state their objections and reasons therefore.

Superintendent's Decision

Within ten (10) business days following the deadline for filing objections, the Superintendent will review the report and recommendation of the committee, as well as any additional information provided by the parent requesting the review or parent objecting to the committee's recommendation. The Superintendent will make a written decision as to any restrictions or retention of the material in question. This written decision will be provided to the parent submitting a request for review, any parent who files a timely objection, and the Board of Education.

Appeal of Superintendent's Decision to the Board of Education

A parent who timely filed for committee review or an objection to the committee's recommendation may appeal the Superintendent's decision to the Board of Education by filing written notice of their appeal within five (5) business days of receiving notice of the Superintendent's decision. The Superintendent will then provide to the Board the written Superintendent's decision, the recommendation and report of the committee, and any objections of parents timely filed with the Superintendent.

Board Decision

The Board will make a final decision regarding any restrictions or retention of the materials in question within sixty days of receipt of the written recommendation of the Superintendent. The decision of the Board will be promptly reported to the building principal, the person requesting review and to other appropriate personnel. The library media specialist responsible for the materials in question will maintain a file of all pertinent information concerning the questioned materials. The Board decision shall be final and requests for review of the same media or materials under this policy will not be reconsidered for six years following the date of the final decision.

**Equal Opportunity and Prohibition Against
Discrimination, Harassment and Retaliation**
C-130-B

The District is committed to providing equal opportunity in all areas of admission, recruiting, hiring, employment, retention, promotion, contracted services, and access to programs, services, activities, and facilities. The District strictly prohibits any unlawful-275 discrimination or harassment against any person because of race, color, religion, disability, age, sex, gender, national origin, or any other characteristic protected by law. The District also prohibits retaliatory action, harassment, or discrimination against individuals who make complaints of, report, or otherwise participate in the investigation of any such unlawful discrimination, harassment, or retaliation. The District is an equal opportunity employer.

Anyone who believes that they have been discriminated, harassed, and/or retaliated against in violation of this policy should report the alleged discrimination, harassment and/or retaliation to the District's Compliance Officer, unless the Compliance Officer is unavailable or the subject of the report. In that case, the report should be made directly to the alternative Compliance Officer. The District designates the following individual to act as the District's Compliance Officer:

Name:	District Compliance Officer
Address:	201 North Forest Avenue, Independence, Missouri 64050
Phone #:	(816) 521-5300
Fax #:	(816) 521-5619
Email Address:	compliance@idschools.org

In the event the District's Compliance Officer is unavailable or is the subject of a report that would otherwise be made to the Compliance Officer, reports should instead be directed to the alternative Compliance Officer:

Name:	Director of Human Resource
Address:	201 North Forest Avenue, Independence, Missouri 64050
Phone #:	(816) 521-5300
Fax #:	(816) 521-5619
Email Address:	compliance@idschools.org

All employees, students, and visitors who have witnessed any incident or behavior that could constitute discrimination, harassment, or retaliation under this policy must immediately report such incident or behavior to the District's Compliance Officer for investigation.

All complaints of violation of this policy will be promptly investigated by the District, and appropriate action will be taken.

Public Notice

The Superintendent or designee will publicize this policy and will disseminate information about this policy to employees, parents/guardians, and students, as well as to newly enrolled students and newly-hired employees.

Title IX
C-131-B

The District does not discriminate on the basis of sex in the education program or activity that it operates and is required by Title IX not to discriminate in such a manner. The requirement not to discriminate in the education program or activity extends to admissions and employment. Inquiries about the application of Title IX to the District may be referred to the Title IX Coordinator or Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights of the Department of Education, or both.

The District designates the following individual to serve as the District's Title IX Coordinator:

Name or Title:	District Compliance Officer
Address:	201 North Forest Avenue, Independence, Missouri 64050
Phone #:	(816) 521-5300
Fax #:	(816) 521-5619
Email Address:	compliance@idschools.org

Any person may report sex discrimination, including sexual harassment (whether or not the person reporting is the person alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sex discrimination or sexual harassment), in person, by mail, by telephone, or by electronic mail, using the contact information listed for the Title IX Coordinator, or by any other means that results in the Title IX Coordinator receiving the person's verbal or written report. Such a report may be made at any time (including during non-business hours) by using the telephone number or electronic mail address, or by mail to the office address, listed for the Title IX Coordinator.

All employees, students, and visitors who have witnessed, heard about, or received a report about any incident or behavior that could constitute sexual harassment under this policy must immediately report such incident or behavior to the District's Title IX Coordinator for investigation. If the allegations are against the District's Title IX Coordinator, it must be immediately reported to the Superintendent, unless the Superintendent is also the Title IX Coordinator, then to the President of the Board of Education.

All complaints of violation of this policy will be promptly investigated by the District, and appropriate action will be taken.

Public Notice

The Superintendent or designee will publicize this policy and will disseminate information about this policy to employees, parents/guardians, students, newly-enrolled students, newly-hired employees, and all unions or professional organizations holding collective bargaining or professional agreements with the District.

Board Meetings Generally
C-135-B

A quorum of at least four Board members must be present, either physically or electronically, at all meetings of the Board. Meetings may be held in person or by means of communication equipment including, but not limited to, conference calls, video conferences, Internet chats or Internet message boards. Board meetings are open to the public unless closed as allowed by law. Open meetings will be held at a time that is reasonably convenient to the public and a place of sufficient size to accommodate the anticipated attendees. The District will make reasonable efforts to make the meeting accessible to individuals with disabilities.

The District may set guidelines for such audio, video and other electronic recordings of open meetings to minimize disruption to the meeting.

Public Comment to the Board

C-140-B

Written submissions may be directed to the Board, through the Superintendent, for consideration at a Board meeting. Copies of all correspondence directed to the Board will be made available to all Board members.

In addition to written submissions, a specific time will be set aside at regular Board meetings for public comments regarding items from the posted agenda. Individuals who want to make public comments regarding an agenda item must provide a written request to the Board of Education and received in the Office of the Superintendent of Schools by 4:00 p.m. on the Friday prior to the Board meeting or 24 hours after the public posting of the agenda on the District website, whichever is later. To provide notice to the public of matters to be discussed by the Board, only comments directly related to the posted agenda item will be permitted. The Board President will apply reasonable restrictions on individuals addressing the Board including but not limited to restrictions on the number of items to be considered, the number of spokespersons and the amount of time each spokesperson may have to address the Board. At each meeting, up to thirty minutes will be allotted for public comment. There is a maximum limit of five minutes per approved individual. If the meeting agenda is full, the Board President may reschedule an item for the next regular meeting. The Board President will set a time limit for the public comment portion of the meeting. No individual will be permitted to speak more than once during this part of the meeting. Each member of the public to speak will be given the same amount of time to address the Board.

If an individual wishes to have an item placed on the agenda of a regular Board meeting, he or she may make a written request to the Superintendent after going through the appropriate process for a complaint or concern pursuant to District rules. *See* District Policy C-120-P regarding Complaints or Concerns. The individual is also required to meet with the Superintendent/designee to attempt to resolve the issue. Superintendent/Designee must meet within 20 days of the request. After the meeting or if the Superintendent/designee does not meet with the individual within 20 days, the individual may submit a written request to the Board Secretary to have the item placed on the agenda.

The written request must be received by Board of Education and received in the Office of the Superintendent of Schools by 4:00 p.m. on the Friday prior to the Board meeting and must describe the items to be discussed with reasonable particularity. The item may then be placed on the agenda as deemed appropriate by the Superintendent and the Board President. The Board President will refuse to allow discussion of an issue that has not gone through the appropriate process as a complaint or concern pursuant to District rules.

The item will be placed on the agenda if it directly relates to the governance or operation of the District. The District may refuse to place an item on the agenda

(1) if the Board has heard an identical or substantially similar issue in the previous 3 calendar months or (2) if the resident previously violated District rules regarding conduct at meetings or on school property and upon a specific finding by the superintendent or board that the refusal or delay in hearing the resident's agenda item is necessary to protect the board's ability to conduct business at its meetings and is unrelated to any viewpoint expressed by that resident or the proposed agenda item. If an individual's request to place an item on the agenda is denied, the District shall provide a short explanation in writing within five (5) business days of the denial. The District may delay hearing an agenda item if more than 3 resident-initiated agenda items are scheduled for the same meeting. If the agenda item is delayed or denied, the resident may communicate to the Board as outlined in the first paragraph of this section about the agenda item.

District Information and Records
C-145-B

Generally, the District will ensure the public has access to the meetings, records and votes of the Board. In certain situations, and as permitted by law, these meetings, records and votes will be closed to the public.

The District's custodian of records is responsible for responding to requests for District records. Requests for records will be directed to the custodian, whose identity will be made available on request. The Board appoints the following person as custodian of records:

Title:	Board Secretary
Address:	201 North Forest Avenue, Independence, Missouri 64050
Phone #:	(816) 521-5300

In addition, the Superintendent will designate an alternate records custodian to serve in the absence of the records custodian.

If a Board member or a member of a District committee subject to the Missouri Sunshine Law transmits any message to enough members that, when counting the sender, a majority of the Board or committee members receive the message, the message shall also be concurrently transmitted to the custodian of records or the member's District office computer, if applicable, in the same format. The message shall be considered an open record unless it is a closed record in accordance with law.

School Board's Role and Responsibilities

G-100-B

The District's primary goal is the education of students. The role of the District's Board is to govern the community's public schools by making the major decisions for the District. For the District to operate efficiently and effectively, the Board as a whole will perform its role by working together as a governance team with the Superintendent in the best interest of the District's students. As the elected governing body, the Board will be accountable to the public by faithfully fulfilling the following five responsibilities:

1. Setting the strategic direction for the District;
2. Establishing a system of District policies and rules;
3. Overseeing the employment of the Superintendent;
4. Exercising final decision-making authority for Board matters; and
5. Serving as a liaison between the District and the community.

This role is provided to the Board as a whole and not to any Board member individually, or to the Superintendent individually. The Board as a whole, by working with the Superintendent to make decisions that will best serve the District's students, will govern the community's schools.

1. Setting the Strategic Direction

The Board sets the strategic direction for the District by establishing and maintaining the District's strategic or long-term plan that includes District priorities, goals and objectives. The Board allocates the resources and oversees the employment of the Superintendent to ensure this plan is accomplished.

2. Establishing a System of District Policies and Rules

The Board establishes the major District policies and rules, and delegates the authority to make any other rules to the administration under the Superintendent's direction.

3. Overseeing the Employment of the Superintendent

The Board hires, directs and evaluates the performance of the Superintendent.

4. Exercising Final Decision-Making Authority for Board Matters

The Board exercises final decision-making authority for matters that:

- a. Are identified by law as exclusively within the province of the Board;
- b. Have potential significant impact on the District as a whole;
- c. Have important financial consequences for the District; or

- d. Are reserved for the Board to decide, either through District policy or Board action.

5. Serving as a Liaison between the District and the community.

The Board acts as a liaison between the District and the community by promoting school programs in the community and channeling concerns from community members to the appropriate District points of contact.

Roles & Responsibilities of School Board and Superintendent			
Roles/Responsibilities		School Board	Superintendent
1.	Strategic Direction	Sets direction and strategic plan with key stakeholder input; monitors and revises	Advises the Board regarding priorities, goals, objectives; implements strategic plan; monitors and suggests revisions
2.	Policy and Rules	Establishes the major District policies and rules; delegates the authority to make any other rules to the administration under the Superintendent's direction	Suggests, recommends and implements major District policies and rules; oversees making and implementing of other rules
3.	Employment of Superintendent	Hires, directs and evaluates the performance of the Superintendent	Leads and manages the District under the direction of the Board
4.	Final Decision-Making Authority	Identifies matters requiring Board approval; establishes criteria, measures proposed action against criteria, approves or rejects	Follows criteria, ensures proposed action meets criteria, recommends; implements decisions
5.	Community Relations	Fosters and promotes a positive image for District; directs communications and concerns to appropriate point of contact	Promotes community engagement; directs communications, and fosters a positive image for District

Decisions Requiring Board Approval

G-101-B

Certain types of decisions for the District require Board approval. Decisions that require the District to make payment of public funds, result in the employment of an individual, create a legal obligation of the District, such as a contract, or establish a Board policy, must generally be approved by the Board. The Board may also reserve additional decisions to the Board alone, but should do so through formal action. The following are decisions reserved exclusively to the Board:

Role	Decision
Governance	Board member resignation
	Board member appointment
	Adoption of District name and seal
	Adoption of Board policy
	Selection of Board officers
	Petition to consolidate
	District boundary changes
	Annexation
	Dissolution of District
	Excuse absences of Board member
	Removal of Board member
	Written standards of conduct regarding conflict of interest (federal funds recipients)
	Employment of District attorneys
	Association with school Board association and appointment of member to attend meetings
	Closure of Board meeting from open meeting (as opposed to noticed as closed)
Students	Expulsion
	Long-term suspension, if appealed
	Residency waiver when not approved by Superintendent
	Transportation of a student to another District
	Tuition
	Authorization of asthma-related rescue medications
Employees	Hiring of any teacher
	Termination of any contracted employee
	Termination of a tenured teacher
	Modification of any employment contract
	Authorization and commissioning of law enforcement officers
	Involuntary leaves of absence (RIF's)
	Action to seek revocation, suspension, or refusal of certificate
	Evaluation system for teachers
Instruction	Benefit plans for employees
	Curriculum
	Purchase of textbooks

Role	Decision
	Requirement to conduct educational programs and activities to observe Veterans Day
	Content of human sexuality instruction
Finance, Facilities, and Operations	Payment of any bill or warrant
	Any contract or agreement less than \$75,000.00
	Transportation routes
	Approval to transport students under one mile
	Funding and refunding of bonds
	Approval to borrow funds
	Approval to build schools
	Any land acquisition
	Declaration of surplus property
	Sale or lease of property
	Budget
	Approval to disburse funds
	Approval regarding investment of surplus funds
	Tax and anticipation notes
	Property tax rates
	Issuance of bonds
	Increase in tax ceiling
	Ballot forms
	Exchange and sale of refunding bonds
	Selling of revenue bonds
	Fund transfers
	Acceptance of donations
	Execution and certification of notes
	Revision of prior levy
	Estimate of amount to be raised by taxation
	Selection of depositories
	Establishment of school sites
	Treasurer's bond
	Annual financial report
	Authorization of audits
	Bid awards
	Waiver from participating in Summer Food Service Program
	Purchase of insurance
	Approval of facilities use fee schedule
	Grants
	Naming of facilities

The Role of an Individual Board Member
G-105-B

Unless authorized to act on behalf of the Board as a whole, individual Board members have no authority or power to act as a school official. Board members are expected to act as one member of a decision-making team of eight individuals consisting of seven elected Board members and one Superintendent.

School Superintendent
G-110-B

The Superintendent of schools shall be the chief executive officer of the Board and the administrative leader of the District. The Superintendent is responsible to the Board for the execution and implementation of its policies and decisions. The execution of all decisions made by the Board concerning the internal operation of the District shall be delegated to the Superintendent. The Superintendent shall then be responsible for the delegation of responsibility and authority for the operations of the District. The Board will channel all directives from the Board to its employees or students through the Superintendent. The Superintendent also provides direction on all District matters not covered by the Board policies or decisions.

Building Leaders and Directors
G-115-B

Each principal or director will be responsible for and have authority over the actions of students, employees, volunteers, visitors, or any other person present in the school, subject to the direction of the Superintendent. The principal or director will enforce the rules and decisions of the Superintendent and the Board, and may implement and enforce additional rules as deemed appropriate for the operation of the school.

Board President Duties
G-120-B

The Board President will perform the duties pertaining to the office under applicable law and any duties which may be directed by the Board. The President will:

1. Preside at all meetings of the Board, and call special meetings of the Board.
2. Sign all written contracts and documents to which the District may be party that have been authorized by the Board, except as otherwise delegated by the Board and permitted by applicable law.
3. Use parliamentary procedure to conduct meetings and encourage Board member engagement in Board deliberations and decisions.
4. Assume the role as the liaison between the remaining Board members, the community and Superintendent.
5. Take a leadership role in addressing allegations of Board member misconduct.

In the absence of the President, the Vice President shall have the power of the President and perform such duties.

Board Vice President Duties
G-125-B

In the absence of the Board President, the Vice President shall assume the duties of the President.

Appointed Board Officials (*Seven Director*)
G-130-B

Within ten days after an election, the Board shall elect a president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. The Board will set the terms of service and compensation unless the Secretary or Treasurer is a member of the Board, in which case no compensation for services will be received. The term of office of the Secretary and Treasurer shall be for two years and until their successors are elected by the Board and qualified. Either of them may be removed by the Board for cause.

Board Secretary Duties
G-135-B

The Board Secretary will perform the duties as may be required by law or authorized by the Board. The following are among the duties of the Board Secretary unless properly delegated to others:

1. Be present at, and keep accurate records of, all regular and special meetings of the Board, including minutes and Board member attendance.
2. Execute a bond to the District in the penal sum of not less than \$5,000.00. The amount and the surety(ies) must be approved by the Board.
3. Ensure correspondence directed to the Board and notice of any Board meeting is provided to all Board members and all notices of Board meetings are posted as required by law.
4. Issue and/or sign all official documents as required by law or determined by the Board.
5. Ensure that copies of all documents relating to the business of the District are properly kept by the District including all warrants drawn upon the Treasurer, register of the bonded indebtedness of the District, and all bonds or other papers entrusted in the Secretary's care.
6. Obtain and record the election results of all District elections submitted to voters, including the election of Board Members and propositions.
7. Issue certificates of election to the county clerk.
8. Ensure bonds and interest coupons are properly destroyed and a District record is properly maintained reflecting such destruction.
9. Maintain, certify and report all District documents to any outside entity as required by law.
10. Prepare and maintain an annual Board calendar.
11. Maintain a correct plat of the District and promptly notify the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and the county clerk of each county affected of any boundary changes of the District.
12. Transmit to the county commission and to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education the Annual Secretary Board Report ("ASBR").

Board Treasurer Duties
G-140-B

The Board Treasurer will perform the duties as may be required by law or authorized by the Board. Before entering the Treasurer's duties, the Treasurer will execute a bond of security with one or more sureties, approved by and payable to the Board, conditioned upon the faithful discharge of the official duties of Treasurer and in accordance with state law. The following are among the duties of the Board Treasurer. With the annual appointment of the Treasurer, the following duties are delegated to others:

1. Submit a monthly report to the Board reflecting the current balance in District funds and receipts for the preceding month and make any other reports required by the Board.
2. Keep all records available for Board inspection at all times and sign all official documents as required by law.
3. Act as the legal custodian of all school moneys, bonds and other securities belonging to the District.
4. Receive and promptly deposit school moneys.
5. Pay out money from District funds when ordered by the Board.
6. Ensure that complete, accurate and legal records of all moneys collected and expended are properly kept.
7. Provide canceled bonds to the Board for destruction in compliance with the state law.
8. Not later than August 1st of each year, settle with the Board and account to the Board for all school moneys or funds received, indicating from whom and on what account they were received and the amount paid out for school purposes.
9. Present the annual settlement to the clerk of the county commission.
10. Deliver to successor Board Treasurer all District moneys, official documents or other property.

School Attorneys
G-145-B

The Board may select an attorney(s) and/or law firm(s) for purposes of providing such legal services to the District. Unless the interests of the Superintendent are adverse to the Board in a legal matter, the Superintendent or designee will be the District's representative to seek legal counsel or advice on behalf of the District or Board. Only the Superintendent or designee, the Board President, or the Board as a whole is authorized to seek legal advice or counsel on behalf of the District or Board. Individual employees, other than the Superintendent or designee, are not authorized to seek legal advice on behalf of the District or Board. Individual Board members, other than the Board President, are not authorized to seek legal advice on behalf of the District or Board without specific permission by the Board.

Officials Authorized to Sign for the District or Board
G-150-B

Unless the law requires others to sign documents on behalf of the District or Board, the Superintendent or designee may sign documents on behalf of the District or Board. If Board approval of a document is required by law, the Superintendent or designee may sign only after Board approval. The Superintendent will establish controls to ensure that official documents are signed by the appropriate persons and steps are taken to prevent mistakes, fraud, embezzlement, and District liability.

The Board President and Treasurer will sign all checks. Through policy, the Board directs signatures to be affixed to checks using facsimile signatures.

Board Meetings
G-155-B

All meetings of the Board shall be open to the public except for when the Board meets in executive session. A quorum must be present at all meetings where business is conducted. The Board may meet in regular meetings, special meetings, and work sessions. Meetings will be noticed as required by law. The Board will meet monthly on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m., in the Administrative Building unless otherwise designated by the Board. Special meetings may be called as needed, and may be called by the Board President or a quorum of the Board. Board members may participate electronically if they can hear and be heard throughout the discussion. Electronic participation will be documented in the meeting minutes in accordance with law. The Board Secretary will publish an annual calendar of tentative Board meeting dates. The Board Secretary will also post all Board meetings as prescribed by law.

Board Organizational Meeting (*Urban Districts*)
G-160-B

According to state law, the annual organizational meeting of the Board shall be held within ten (10) days after the Board election. The newly elected members shall qualify by taking the oath of office as prescribed in [Article VII, Section 11, of the Constitution of Missouri](#). The Board Secretary shall administer the oath to the new members.

Following the administration of the oath of office, the Superintendent, serving as temporary chairperson, shall conduct the election of the President and Vice President. Once the President and Vice President have been elected, the President will preside over the remainder of the meeting, including the election of the Secretary and Treasurer. The Secretary and Treasurer may or may not be members of the Board. All votes will be taken by voice vote, show of hands or another method of voting that clearly reveals each member's vote. Secret ballots are not permitted by law.

Notice of Board Meetings
G-165-B

The Board Secretary shall post public notice of all Board meetings in accordance with law.

Notice of an open meeting will include the time, date, place and a tentative agenda of the matters to be considered. Public notice of a closed meeting will include the time, date and place of the meeting and the specific statutory exemption under which the meeting will be closed.

The notice shall be posted in an easily accessible public place that is clearly designated for the purpose of providing such notices at the principal office of the Board. Such notice will be given at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting, exclusive of weekends and holidays when school is closed, unless such notice is impossible or impractical, in which case as much notice as is reasonably possible must be given. The nature of the good cause for less than 24 hours' notice must be stated in the minutes of the meeting.

If the meeting will be conducted by telephone or other electronic means, the notice of the meeting must identify the mode by which the meeting will be conducted and the designated location where the public may observe and attend the meeting, if open. If the meeting will be conducted by Internet chat, Internet message Board or other computer link, a notice of the meeting will be posted on the District's website, in addition to other postings, and shall notify the public how to access that meeting, if open.

Upon request made to the Board Secretary, news media organizations will be notified concurrently with members of the Board, of all meetings of the Board.

Board Meeting Agendas

G-170-B

A tentative agenda for each meeting of the Board shall be prepared by the Superintendent, in consultation with the Board President, and shall be included in the public notice of such meetings, if open. The tentative agenda of an open meeting must reasonably inform the public of matters to be considered. Any member of the Board may request items to be placed on the agenda. The tentative agenda, related materials and minutes of the previous meeting should be provided to each member at least three days prior to the meeting. The agenda for each meeting of the Board shall be adopted or modified by motion of a majority of those Board members present.

A consent agenda may be used whenever appropriate. Items placed on the consent agenda should be routine in nature or items the Board has previously determined are administrative in nature but require formal Board approval.

When the consent agenda is presented to the Board for action, the Board President will provide the opportunity for any member of the Board to move for the removal of an item from the consent agenda. Any item removed from the consent agenda by a Board member will be placed on the regular agenda or removed from the agenda entirely, depending upon the successful motion of the member. Remaining items on the consent agenda are then voted on and passed or denied by a single motion. The minutes of the Board meeting shall include the outcome of the vote and a list of all the items on the consent agenda.

Minutes

G-175-B

The Board will direct the Board Secretary to take, or cause to be taken, the minutes of each Board meeting. The minutes of all Board meetings shall be accurate, complete and meet all legal requirements. The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible for their safe keeping. The minutes of meetings of the Board will include but are not limited to the following:

1. The nature of the meeting (regular, special, open, closed, etc.), the time, the date, the place of the meeting and the Board members present and absent.
2. A record of all motions made, together with the names of the members making and seconding the motions, and a numerical record of the members voting "yea" and "nay," unless each member's vote is recorded due to a roll call vote or required by law. If a roll call vote is taken, the vote will be attributed to the name of the member. Special notation should be made of abstaining members, and their vote should be recorded as an abstention.

The minutes will be signed by the President and attested by the Secretary of the Board following their approval by the Board.

The closing of executive session votes and records shall be determined by a majority vote of the quorum of the Board in a public session. Minutes and portions thereof shall be kept in a separate minutes book used solely for the purpose of executive sessions. Executive session minutes shall be confidential material, and shall not be available to the public except as provided by law.

The following guidelines are set for the Board Secretary in recording Board minutes:

- The minutes should be typewritten, pages numbered, dated and signed by the proper officers of the Board.
- An accurate copy of all contracts approved, policies adopted and the content of consent agendas shall be attached to the typewritten minutes.
- Once the minutes are approved, all handwritten notes can be destroyed.
- The original minutes book and supplemental information should be secured in a fireproof safe, vault or file in the central administration office.

Board Member Voting

G-180-B

All motions and votes will be recorded in the minutes. The number of members voting in the affirmative and in the negative on any question shall be recorded in the minutes unless a roll call vote is required by law. When a member abstains from voting, such abstention will not be counted as a vote either for or against the proposal, but will be entered in the minutes as an abstention. The President may vote on all questions.

Any member, upon request, may submit a written explanation of his or her vote that will be attached to the minutes or stored with the minutes. Any member may also change his or her vote up to the time the result of the vote is announced.

A motion shall pass if a majority of those members present vote in favor of the motion, provided that a quorum is present, unless otherwise prescribed by law or policy. An affirmative vote of the majority of the whole Board is required to enter into a contract, employ a person, approve a bill or issue a warrant.

Voting in Open Session

Voting in open session must be conducted in a manner that allows the public attending the meeting to observe how each person voted and in a manner that allows the Board Secretary to accurately discern and record the number of persons voting for or against the motion as well as the persons abstaining from the motion.

The Board may decide to vote by roll call in open session. When an open public vote is not to be taken by roll call, any member may request that the Board be polled on any issue requiring a vote. When voting to adjourn to closed session, the specific reason for closing the meeting must be announced publicly by reference to a specific section of the law, and the vote must be taken by roll call.

In the event a motion is made to close a meeting, record or vote and a Board member believes that the motion, if passed, would violate the Missouri Sunshine Law, the Board member may state his or her objection to the motion before or at the time the vote is taken. The Board Secretary will enter the objection in the minutes. Once the objection has been made, the Board member shall be allowed to fully participate in the meeting, record or vote even if it is closed over the member's objection. If the Board member voted against the motion to close the meeting, record or vote, the recorded objection and the vote is an absolute defense to any claim filed against the Board member pursuant to the Missouri Sunshine Law.

Voting in Closed Session

All votes taken in closed session shall be taken by roll call, including the vote to adjourn. The minutes will reflect how each individual Board member voted or that the Board member abstained.

Voting Electronically

The Board will allow members to participate electronically in meetings where other Board members are physically present, and the Board may hold meetings where all Board members participate electronically. The participation may occur by telephone, videoconference or other electronic means. Board members may not simply vote electronically, but must be connected with the meeting throughout the discussion of business and must be able to both hear and participate in the discussion. If a Board member electronically joins the meeting after an item of business has been opened, the remotely located member shall not participate until the next item of business is opened.

In accordance with law, Board members who participate in a meeting by videoconferencing may discuss and vote on issues in both open and closed sessions, regardless of the method by which the vote is taken. Board members participating electronically by other means, such as by telephone, may discuss issues and vote as long as the vote is not made by roll call. Board members participating electronically using methods other than videoconferencing may not cast roll call votes, regardless of whether those votes occur in open or closed session, unless a District emergency exists and a quorum of the Board is physically present at the meeting. If such an emergency exists, the nature of the District emergency shall be stated in the minutes.

Board Committees
G-185-B

The Board President, or the Board, may appoint annual committees or committees for special purposes. These committees are subject to all appropriate laws and rules.

Board members may from time to time be invited to serve on various committees in the District or community. When a Board member is asked to serve as a District or Board representative on a committee, the Board member will seek and obtain Board authorization to serve prior to participation.

Board members may also be asked to serve on committees formed by action of the Board. The Board President will ask each Board Member to provide a list of the standing committees they would be interested in serving on. Service on such committees will be by appointment of the Board President in consideration of the Board Member's individual requests and for the purposes identified by the Board.

Board Calendar
G-190-B

The Board Secretary will prepare an annual calendar of school Board related events, or specific events the school Board is invited to attend. The calendar will be updated monthly. The Board Secretary is responsible for the posting requirements of such events and emailing notification to Board Member each time the calendar is updated.

Board Communication

G-195-B

All public statements in the name of the Board are made by the Superintendent or director of public relations unless otherwise directed by the Board. When speaking publicly, individual Board members have a responsibility to identify personal viewpoints as such and not as the viewpoint of the Board. When a Board decision has been reached, all Board members shall support the decision.

Board members may actively use social media, including online platforms such as Facebook or Twitter, as well as personal websites or blogs. Board members should operate within appropriate parameters when they are communicating online about matters that touch upon school business.

When Board members are using private technology resources or are using their private accounts, Board members should exercise the greatest caution to keep all use private and make clear that any expressions made are not made on behalf of the Board or District. If a discussion or post on private social media leads to a discussion of Board or District business, the Board member should immediately advise the other party to the communication to contact the appropriate District point of contact to address the issue.

Any online post about District business will be limited to information already released to the public by the District and will not include any unverified information. Board member online conduct will reflect well on the District. Board members will not post anonymously about school matters.

When utilizing District technology resources, Board members are required to comply with District rules regarding technology use and conform to the terms of the technology usage agreement.

Board Norms

G-200-B

The Board will develop Board norms to guide them in their operation as a Board. The norms will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Board of Education Goals: *Academic Achievement, Communication and Collaboration, Fiscal Responsibility, Legislative Advocacy*

In order to achieve the District's Vision, Carry out its Mission, and achieve the Board of Education's Goals, it is expected that ISD Board members will:

Demonstrate Professional and Ethical Behavior: Whether interacting with each other, administration, staff or community, Board members will adhere to the character standards that are at the core of ISD – respect, responsibility, compassion, and integrity.

Engage in the Work of the Board: Members will thoroughly prepare for meetings by reading the Board packet and asking the Superintendent questions in advance of meetings when possible. Board members will attend Board and committee meetings, arrive on time, remain on topic, and adhere to the agenda. Regular and intentional communication between the Board and the Superintendent will help ensure that all are on the same page and that information is shared in a timely manner. Board members will maintain confidentiality when necessary and appropriate.

Value and Respect Each Other, the Superintendent and Staff: Each opinion deserves the listening ear of every Board member. We will deliberate in many voice, but we will govern in one. While believing that each member is working for the best interest of ISD students, staff, and community, the Board of seven will collaboratively engage to reach decisions as a whole board; and each member will give his or her undivided support of Board decisions both in public and private. Courtesy shall be extended to every Board member, Superintendent, and staff at all times.

Serve as Advocates for K-12 Education: Within the community, state and nation, ISD Board members will fight fiercely for the preservation of the public education system. Maintaining open communication with legislators, attending forums, and pursuing opportunities to become educated about public education is essential to the effectiveness of the ISD Board of Education.

Listen and Communicate Effectively: Board members will be District ambassadors in the community. As concerns, questions, and issues arise, Board members will be available and will listen to understand the situation. They will show appreciation for the information, direct the individual to make contact with the appropriate District personnel, and if circumstances warrant, shall channel this information to the Superintendent. Board members should make no promises to District residents related to administrative or policy issues nor should they contact District staff other than the Superintendent in an effort to resolve administrative or policy issues. The first and most direct line of communication for Board members shall be with the Superintendent.

Board Self-Evaluation
G-205-B

The Board will conduct an annual self-evaluation. The Board will create a professional development plan based upon the results of the self-evaluation.

Board-Superintendent Communication
G-210-B

The Board and Superintendent will strive to effectively communicate regarding all school governance matters. The Superintendent will provide timely oral and written communication of pending issues and information. Board members will inform the Superintendent of citizen concerns and the questions or concerns of the individual Board member. Before major Board decisions are made, Board members will have an opportunity to review relevant background information and consider the implications of alternative actions, and the Superintendent should have an opportunity to address questions or concerns from Board members.

Superintendent Evaluation and Compensation

G-215-B

The Board will evaluate the Superintendent annually by utilizing an evaluation tool that incorporates the evaluation principles adopted by the Missouri State Board of Education. The job performance of the Superintendent should be linked to the District's goals in the Strategic Plan. The Board may also include other factors in the evaluation. The Superintendent will provide a progress update to the Board at least quarterly. The Board may take this time to address other job evaluation related issues with the Superintendent during this formative stage of the process. The summative evaluation incorporates the information utilized in the formative stage of the process. Board members will participate in a meeting in which a consensus evaluation will be completed. The Board will meet with the Superintendent to share the evaluation results, discuss other pertinent job performance related issues, and determine contract related issues. The Board may determine compensation issues at the time of the summative evaluation, or at a later time, no later than June 30th. The evaluation process does not preclude the Board from addressing job related issues as they arise.

New Board Member Orientation
G-220-B

Upon the election or appointment of a new Board member, the Board President and Superintendent will meet with the new Board member for a discussion of any questions the new Board member may have and general Board operations. The new Board member will be provided any pertinent information, including but not limited to the following:

1. The District's Policy Manual;
2. The Board Manual;
3. The District's Budget;
4. An orientation from the administration regarding the business operations of the District;
5. All District handbooks and manuals;
6. The District and Board Calendar;
7. Annual Performance Report; and
8. The District's Strategic Plan/Comprehensive School Improvement Plan.

Board Training and Development

G-225-B

To act effectively as the elected governing body of the District, the Board and individual Board members must be well trained regarding significant education policy issues and all items over which the Board exercises decision-making authority. The Board will annually assess its training and development needs and develop a training program to ensure all Board members and officers are sufficiently trained to successfully fulfill their responsibilities.

In accordance with [§ 162.203, RSMo](#), new Board members must successfully complete eighteen and one half hours of orientation and training within one (1) year of the date of election or appointment. This training shall include at least two hours and thirty minutes of training that provides up-to-date and reliable information on identifying signs of sexual abuse in children and danger signals of potentially abusive relationships between children and adults, as required by law.

Any school Board member serving a term as of August 28, 2019, or elected or appointed after August 28, 2019, shall complete at least one hour of refresher training each year of any term in office related to the prevention of sexual abuse of children as required by law; except that, the refresher training shall not be required in the year in which the member completes initial orientation and training.

All programs providing the orientation and training must be offered by a statewide association organized for the benefit of members of Boards or be approved by the State Board.

The District will invest in the development of the Board as a whole, Board officers, and Board members individually to ensure the successful performance of the Board's role and responsibilities. The costs of all such training and development will be paid by the District.

Ballot Issues
G-230-B

The Board may place issues on the ballot as needed or as required by law. In accordance with law, the Superintendent or designee will notify the election authority of the ballot issue and provide the Board-approved language for the ballot no later than 5:00 p.m. on the tenth Tuesday prior to the election.

In accordance with law, no expenditure of District public funds will be made to advocate, support or oppose any ballot measure or candidate for public office. To the extent allowed by law, Board members or the Superintendent or designee may adopt resolutions, make public appearances or communicate information concerning ballot measures or candidates.

Once the District receives the results, the official election results will be presented to the Board at the next regular meeting. The Board will vote to either accept the results or take action to challenge the results.

Board Member Elections

G-235-B

The voters of the District will biennially elect two directors for terms of six years each on the municipal Election Day in April. An additional director will be elected every six years.

Candidate Filing

Before the seventeenth Tuesday preceding the election, the Board shall publish in at least one newspaper of general circulation in the District the opening filing date, the offices to be filled, the place for filing, the closing date for filing and a statement that candidates filing on the first day of filing will be listed on the ballot in an order assigned by random drawing. Only candidates who filed a Declaration of Candidacy form and returned the number of required petition signatures on the first day of filing are eligible for the random drawing for the order in which names will appear on the ballot. Candidates filing their Declaration of Candidacy form and required petition signatures after the first day of filing will be listed on the ballot after the candidates eligible for the random drawing in the order in which their valid Petitions are received by the Board Secretary.

Qualified applicants for the Board may file a Declaration of Candidacy form and the number of required petition signatures during business hours in the Superintendent's office commencing at 8:00 a.m. on the seventeenth Tuesday prior to the election and ending at 5:00 p.m. on the fourteenth Tuesday prior to the election. The candidate shall declare his or her intent to become a candidate in person and in writing to the Secretary of the Board or designee. The District will designate a location where candidates will form a line to file the necessary paperwork in order to determine the order of such filings for ballot placement.

Qualified applicants for the Board are required to file with the Secretary of the Board a petition with at least one hundred signatures of qualified registered voters of the School District of Independence prior to 5:00 p.m. on the fourteenth Tuesday prior to the election. Qualified applicants for the Board must obtain Petition forms in-person from the Secretary of the Board during the filing period and such form must be initialed by the Secretary of the Board.

The names of qualified candidates shall be placed on the ballot in order of filing except that for candidates who file a Declaration of Candidacy form and return the number of required petition signatures prior to 5:00 p.m. on the first day of filing, the District shall determine by random drawing the order in which such candidates' names shall appear on the ballot. Each candidate filing their Declaration of Candidacy form and number of required petition signatures on the first day shall personally draw a number at random at 5:00 p.m. in the Superintendent's Office on the first day of filing. Personal representatives may only be used for the random drawing in accordance with the provisions in the section below, "Filing by Certified Mail". The District shall record the number drawn with the candidate's Declaration of Candidacy. The names of candidates filing their Declaration of Candidacy and the required number of petition

signatures on the first day of filing shall be listed in ascending order of the numbers so drawn and ahead of the names of candidates filing on a later date.

The notice of election and certification of candidates must be submitted to the election authority by the tenth Tuesday prior to the election in the manner provided by law. After the tenth Tuesday prior to the election, the candidate list may only be modified pursuant to court order, in accordance with law.

Prior to the District's certification of candidates to the election authority, a candidate may withdraw from the election by presenting to the District a notarized written statement of his or her intention to withdraw. After the deadline for certification of candidates to the election authority, a candidate may only withdraw pursuant to court order, in accordance with law.

The District will provide each candidate a copy of the Notice of Candidate's Obligation to File a Financial Interest Statement and a plain language summary of the applicable laws provided by the Missouri Ethics Commission as required by law. Candidates must comply with laws concerning eligibility, campaign financing and campaign disclosures.

Filing by Certified Mail

In accordance with law, candidates may file by certified mail if they are unable to file the Declaration of Candidacy and other necessary paperwork in person due to a physical disability or because they are members of the U.S. Armed Forces on active duty. Upon request, the District will provide potential candidates the necessary paperwork prior to the opening date of candidate filing and during the filing period.

The candidate must personally sign the Declaration of Candidacy and other documents necessary for filing that require a signature and the signatures must be notarized. In addition, the Declaration of Candidacy of a person with a physical disability who is filing by certified mail must be accompanied by a notarized statement from a licensed physician verifying the disability. A candidate on active-duty military service who is filing by certified mail must include a notarized statement from the candidate's commanding officer verifying the candidate's active duty status.

A candidate's completed Declaration of Candidacy and other necessary documents must be received by the District during the official candidate filing period in order for the candidate to appear on the ballot. If these documents are received by the District before 8:00 a.m. on the first day of filing or after 5:00 p.m. on the last day of filing, the District will not accept them and will return them to the candidate.

While the Declaration of Candidacy and other necessary documents must be sent to the District by certified mail in accordance with law, the candidate may designate a personal representative to draw a number at the designated time established by the District if filing on the first day or stand in line on behalf of the candidate for ballot placement purposes by submitting a completed and notarized form provided by the District. If filing a Declaration of Candidacy form and the number of required petition signatures

on the first day, the candidate's name will appear on the ballot based upon the random drawing. Otherwise, the candidate's name will appear on the ballot in the order the Declaration of Candidacy form and other necessary documents are received. As long as the candidate's declaration of candidacy and other necessary documents are received by the District after the beginning of filing and before the close of filing on the last day of filing, the candidate's ballot placement as determined by the personal representative's participation will stand.

If the candidate does not designate a personal representative for ballot placement purposes and the District receives the candidate's Declaration of Candidacy and other necessary documents the first day of filing, the candidate will be listed on the ballot after all other candidates who filed on the first day of filing. If the District receives the necessary documents on any other day of filing, the District will list the candidate on the ballot in the order the Declaration of Candidacy and other necessary documents are physically received by the District. If two or more candidates file by certified mail on the same day and the filings are received at the same time, the District will list the candidate with the earlier postmark date first. If two or more postmark dates are identical, the candidates will be listed in the order the mail is processed.

If the required paperwork is received after candidate filing has closed for the day or on a day the District's offices are closed, the candidate will be considered to have filed first on the next day filings are received.

Write-In Candidates

If candidates have filed for a position, a person interested in becoming a write-in candidate must file a Declaration of Intent to be a write-in candidate with the proper election authority prior to 5:00 p.m. on the second Friday immediately preceding the Election Day in order for the votes to be counted. If no candidates have filed for the position, filing a Declaration of Intent to be a write-in candidate is not necessary but is recommended.

No Election Held

No election will be held if, after the last date of candidate filing, the number of candidates who have filed is equal to the number of positions to be filled by the election. However, if the number of candidates filing exceeds the number of positions, the election will be held even if a sufficient number of candidates withdraw so that the number of candidates remaining after the filing deadline is equal to the number of positions to be filled. Also, if the number of candidates who have filed is equal to the number of positions to be filled by the election and the District has an issue on the ballot (a bond or tax levy issue), an election will be held and the ballot will include the issue and the names of all candidates.

Board Advocacy
G-240-B

The Board is charged with advocating in the best interest of all students in the District. Board advocacy will be collective, and will not be partisan or directed for the benefit of special interest groups. Each year the Board will adopt a platform, including [legislative advocacy and priorities](#).

Board Member Qualifications
G-250-B

Board members must:

1. Be citizens of the United States;
2. Be a voter of the District;
3. Have resided within Missouri for the one year immediately preceding their election;
4. Be at least 24 years of age;
5. Not be delinquent in state income, or personal property tax or real property on their residence. If the Board member is a corporate officer of a fee office, that office can't be delinquent on any state tax;
6. Not have been found guilty of or pled guilty to a felony under the federal laws of the United States of America, to a felony under Missouri law, or to an offense committed in another state which would be considered a felony in Missouri;
7. Not have been found guilty of or pled guilty to the offense of assault in the first or second degree under section [565.050](#) or [565.052](#) or of the offense of harassment in the first or second degree under section [565.090](#) or [565.091](#) where such assault or harassment occurred on school district grounds;
8. Not be a registered sex offender; and
9. Be in compliance with all Missouri Ethics Commission requirements.

Board Member Oath of Office
G-255-B

Successful Board candidates shall take an oath of office to faithfully perform the duties of the office as required by law to support the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of Missouri and laws made pursuant thereto. The oath shall be administered by the Board Secretary or by an officer/designee authorized to administer the oath of office as determined by the Board.

Board Member Ethics
G-260-B

Each Board member will:

1. Make all Board decisions based upon the best interests of the students of the District.
2. Exercise authority in the limited manner described by the District's policy regarding the Board's role and responsibilities.
3. Delegate administrative authority to the Superintendent and avoid actions that may undermine the authority of the administration.
4. Never speak or act for the Board without appropriate Board authorization to do so.
5. Avoid conflicts of interest or the appearance thereof.
6. Refrain from using Board membership for the benefit of special interest groups or select individuals, including self, family members, and business associates.
7. Learn about, consider and vote upon the items to be decided at each regularly scheduled Board meeting.
8. Avoid abstaining from Board votes unless required by law or there is an actual or apparent conflict of interest.
9. Voice opinions as part of the Board's deliberations but accept the will of the majority once the Board has made a decision.
10. Maintain the confidentiality of information discussed during closed sessions unless disclosure is required by law.

Prohibition of Nepotism
G-265-B

Board members will not vote to employ or appoint any person who is related to them within the fourth degree by blood or marriage. “Employ” in this context includes hiring persons to be employees of the District and approving independent contractors who provide services to the District. Persons who are related “within the fourth degree” include parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, great-great-grandparents, spouse, children, siblings, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, grand-nieces, grand-nephews, aunts, uncles, great-aunts, great-uncles, and first cousins by virtue of a blood relationship or by marriage.

Board Member Financial Conflict of Interest

G-270-B

Board members will avoid situations in which their responsibilities as a Board member conflict with their private financial interests. Board members will follow all applicable laws regarding conflicts of interest. The phrase a “*Business with Which a Board Member Is Associated*” as used in this policy means:

1. A sole proprietorship owned by the Board member, his or her spouse or any dependent children in the Board member's custody;
2. A partnership or joint venture in which the Board member or his or her spouse is a partner, other than as a limited partner of a limited partnership, and any corporation or limited partnership in which the Board member is an officer or director or of which the Board member or his or her spouse or dependent children in the Board member's custody, whether singularly or collectively, own more than ten percent of the outstanding shares of any class of stock or partnership units; or
3. Any trust in which the Board member is the trustee or settlor or in which the Board member or his or her spouse or dependent children in his or her custody, whether singularly or collectively, are beneficiaries or holders of a reversionary interest of ten percent or more of the corpus of the trust.

Statement of Interest

Before voting, Board members who have a substantial personal or private interest in a decision before the Board will provide a written statement of the nature of the interest to the Board Secretary as described in G-275-B.

Self-Dealing

Board members may not act or fail to act due to any payment, offer to pay, promise to pay or receipt of anything of actual pecuniary value, whether received or not, to themselves or any third person. This prohibition includes a gift or campaign contribution made or received in relationship to or as a condition of the performance of any official act.

Board members will not act favorably on any matter that is specifically designed to provide a special monetary benefit to them, their spouses or dependent children in their custody. A “special monetary benefit” means being materially affected in a substantially different manner or degree than the manner or degree in which the public in general will be affected or, if the matter affects only a special class of persons, then affected in a substantially different manner or degree than the manner or degree in which such class will be affected.

Board members will not use their decision-making authority for the purpose of obtaining a financial gain that materially enriches them, their spouses or dependent

children in their custody by acting or refraining from acting for the purpose of coercing or extorting anything of actual pecuniary value.

Board members will not offer, promote or advocate for a political appointment in exchange for anything of value to any political subdivision.

Board members will not accept gifts with a value in excess of \$100 from a vendor who does or is attempting to do business with the District.

A Board member will not attempt to directly or indirectly influence or vote on a decision when the Board member knows the result of the decision may be the acceptance by the District of a service or the sale, rental or lease of property to the District and the Board member, his or her spouse, dependent children in his or her custody or any business with which the Board member is associated will benefit financially. If such a transaction is presented to the Board, the Board member will abstain and leave the room during any deliberation.

Confidential Information

Board members will not use or disclose confidential information obtained in the course of or by reason of their official capacities in any manner with intent to result in financial gain for themselves, their spouses, dependent children in their custody, any business with which the Board member is associated or any other person.

Sale, Rental or Lease of Property

Property Other Than Real Estate: No Board member will sell, rent or lease any personal property to the District for consideration in excess of five hundred dollars' value per transaction or five thousand dollars' value per year to the Board member, to his or her spouse, to a dependent child in his or her custody or to any business with which he or she is associated unless the transaction is made pursuant to an award on a contract let or sale made after public notice and competitive bidding, provided that the bid or offer accepted is the lowest received.

Real Estate: No Board member will perform a service or sell, rent or lease any real property to the District for consideration in excess of five hundred dollars' value per transaction or five thousand dollars' value per year to the Board member, to his or her spouse, to a dependent child in his or her custody or to any business with which he or she is associated unless the transaction is made pursuant to an award on a contract let or sale made after public notice.

Employment

The District will not employ a Board member for compensation, even on a substitute or part-time basis. Board members may provide services as a volunteer without remuneration. This includes Board Members not receiving any employee fringe benefits other than reimbursement of expenses in their role as Board Member addressed in G-325-B.

Independent Contractor Services

No Board member will perform a service as an independent contractor for consideration in excess of five hundred dollars' value per transaction or five thousand dollars' value per year to him or her, to his or her spouse, to a dependent child in his or her custody or to any business with which he or she is associated unless the transaction is made pursuant to an award on a contract let or sale made after public notice and competitive bidding, provided that the bid or offer accepted is the lowest received.

Businesses That Employ Board Members

A Board member may participate in discussions and vote on motions for the District to do business with entities that employ the Board member so long as the business is not owned by the Board member and the Board member will not receive any financial benefit from the transaction. The Board member may need to provide a statement describing his or her personal or private interest as described in G-275-B.

Purchases Involving Federal Funds

In addition to the requirements of this policy, Board members must follow the District's purchasing rules and are also subject to the conflict of interest provisions of federal law.

Board Member Personal Financial Disclosures
G-275-B

The Board hereby adopts this regulation as its policy establishing and making public its own method of disclosing financial interests of Board members, candidates and specified administrators, in accordance with law. Financial interest statements (also known as personal financial disclosure statements) as described below will be filed with the Missouri Ethics Commission (MEC) and the Board on or before May 1st for the preceding calendar year, unless the person filing is a Board candidate. Candidates must file their reports within 14 days after the last day to file for office. The reports will be made available for public inspection and copying during normal business hours. If a candidate fails to timely submit their report, they are disqualified from the election and removed from the ballot. The District will contact the County Clerk regarding the candidate's removal from the ballot.

This policy dealing with the financial interest statement will be adopted in an open meeting every other year by September 15th. A certified copy of this policy will be sent to the MEC within ten days of adoption.

School Board members and candidates will report the following transactions if they occurred during the previous calendar year. If no such transactions occurred, the Board member or candidate will not be required to file.

1. Each transaction in excess of \$500 per year between the District and the individual or any person related within the first degree by consanguinity or affinity to the individual. The statement does not need to include compensation received as an employee or payment of any tax, fee or penalty due the District and other transfers for no consideration to the District. The statement will include the dates and identities of the parties in the transaction.
 - a. "First degree of consanguinity or affinity" includes parents, spouse or children by virtue of a blood relationship or marriage.
2. Each transaction in excess of \$500 between the District and any business entity in which the individual has a substantial interest. The statement does not need to include any payment of tax, fee or penalty due the District or payment for providing utility service to the District and other transfers for no consideration to the District. The statement will include the dates and identities of the parties in the transactions.

Before voting, Board members who have a substantial personal or private interest in a decision before the Board will provide a written statement of the nature of the interest to the Board Secretary. The written statement will be recorded in the minutes. Board members who have disclosed the interest in a financial interest statement filed or amended prior to the vote will be in compliance with this requirement. A substantial personal or private interest exists when the Board member or his or her spouse or

dependent children in his or her custody, either singularly or collectively, directly or indirectly:

1. Own(s) ten percent or more of any business entity; or
2. Own(s) an interest having a value of \$10,000 or more in any business entity; or
3. Receive(s) a salary, gratuity or other compensation or remuneration of \$5,000 or more from any individual, partnership, organization or association within any calendar year.

Board Member Response to Complaints
G-280-B

Positive relationships are reinforced when Board members refer employee or public complaints to the appropriate school point of contact. When approached with a complaint from an individual, Board members should listen and politely refer the individual to the appropriate staff member, whether it be a teacher, principal, counselor or Superintendent, for resolution of the problem or concern. It is important for Board members to encourage citizens to follow the proper chain of command in order to allow a concern to be addressed effectively. Board members should inform the Superintendent when they receive a complaint.

Board Member Access to Information and Records
G-285-B

Board members have authority only when acting as a Board. Formal requests for information and records by Board members should be directed to the Custodian of Records. If the requested information or records is an open record and already exists in documents that have been prepared and available to produce; the Custodian of Records will provide the information or records to the Superintendent, to be distributed to the entire Board. If the information or records requested are not in an open record and in a document that has been prepared and available to produce, the Board President and Superintendent will determine whether the information should be produced in a document for distribution to the entire Board. If the decision is made to not provide this information to the Board, the Board will be informed of the request, time/cost involved in procuring and the reasoning in the decision to not provide the information. Any Board Member may make a motion to override this decision if desired. If a second is made, a Board vote will determine the accessibility of the record request. All state and federal privacy laws will be strictly followed.

Board Member Attendance at District Events
G-290-B

A Board calendar is provided for all District events where the Board has been officially invited. The Board is encouraged to attend other school events where students are performing or participating. Please see G-190-B for additional information regarding the Board Calendar.

Board Member Visits to Buildings
G-295-B

Boards are encouraged to schedule visits to buildings in groups, or as a Board. Board members should not visit buildings to investigate what they have heard, or gather information outside of a Board meeting. It is vitally important that a Board gathers information as a Board, through their Superintendent. Board members must always remember the only authority they have is their vote in a Board meeting unless otherwise determined by the Board as a whole.

**Correspondence to the Board/Board President/ More Than One
Board Member**
G-300-B

All e-mail or mail received in the Board office addressed to the Board will be forwarded to each Board member unless the correspondence includes closed record information. If the correspondence includes closed record information, the correspondence will be shared with the Board as a whole at the next closed session of the Board. A copy of all correspondence received will be provided to the Superintendent for appropriate action.

Notification of Critical Information
G-315-B

If an incident is deemed by the Superintendent or Board President to be of a critical nature, information will be provided to the Board directly by the Superintendent or Board President as soon as practicable. If Board members want a follow-up or any further information regarding the matter, they should contact the Superintendent to request the information. The Superintendent will provide to all Board members the information provided in response to such an inquiry. Similarly, if a Board member becomes aware of critical information impacting the District, the Board member will notify the Superintendent and copy the Board President, who will inform the other Board Members as noted above as soon as practicable.

Addressing Board Member Conduct

G-320-B

If a concern is raised that a Board member has failed to follow District standards of conduct or expectations of Board members, such concern should be communicated to the Board President. Initially, the Board President, with the assistance of the Board Vice President as appropriate, will attempt to address the issue with the Board member. If the issue is not resolved through the Board President's efforts, the concern will be brought to the Board as a whole for consideration. If after being addressed by the Board, the Board member fails to successfully address the concern to the satisfaction of the Board, the Board may publicly admonish or censure the Board member for the conduct. Such admonishment or censure will identify the conduct at issue as well as the standard of conduct violated.

Board Member Expense Guidelines
G-325-B

Board members may attend certain school-related conferences or workshops where expenses on behalf of the District are incurred. Board members will keep receipts of all transactions. All reasonable meal expense will be reimbursed but alcohol may not be purchased with school funds. Board members are encouraged to carpool. However, members should keep groups to three or less to avoid a quorum. Air travel must be pre-approved by the Board. All Board expense will fall within the budgeted amount approved by the Board in the annual budget. The Board President shall provide written authorization before a Board member's expense reimbursement request is approved.

Board Member Resignation
G-330-B

A written resignation should be presented to the Board President or Superintendent and the Board Secretary. The resignation will be accepted at the next meeting of the Board.

Board Member Vacancies
G-335-B

Any vacancy occurring in the Board shall be filled by appointment by the remaining members of the Board as soon as practical, and the person appointed will hold office until the next Board election, when a successor will be elected for the remainder of the unexpired term.

Generally, the Board will fill vacancies as follows, unless the Board determines a different process is appropriate. The District will announce the vacancy to the community and set a deadline for applications. The Board, Superintendent, or designee may solicit applications. The Board will meet to review any applications received. The Board may choose to interview final candidate(s) in open session. Once the Board makes their selection, then the Board will appoint the member by formal motion and an affirmative vote by a majority of the Board in open session.

Board Member Removal from Office
G-400-B

Any member of the Board of Education failing to attend three consecutive regular meetings of the Board, unless excused by the Board for reasons satisfactory to the Board, shall be deemed to have vacated their Board seat. After a member of the Board fails to attend three consecutive regular meetings, the Board will vote to approve or disapprove these absences. The Secretary of the Board shall certify to the Board that a vacancy exists. The vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as other vacancies occurring on the Board.

A Board member attending a regularly scheduled meeting electronically, either by phone, videoconference, or other electronic means, shall be considered as being in attendance for purposes of this policy.

Academic Calendar
I-100-B

Missouri law states that the Board shall annually approve an academic calendar. Any calendar must meet the following requirements:

- Establish the opening date.
- Indicate the days of planned attendance.
- Provide a minimum of 1,044 hours of actual pupil attendance (522 for Kindergarten). Attendance hours are the times when students are under the guidance and direction of teachers (“in the teaching process.”).
- Include 36 make-up hours for possible loss of attendance due to inclement weather. Inclement weather is defined as ice, snow, extreme cold, excessive heat, flooding, or tornado. If more than 36 hours are lost due to inclement weather, half the number of hours will be made up, not to exceed 60 hours.

It should be noted that:

- The opening date must be no earlier than 14 calendar days prior to the first Monday in September.
- No minimum number of school days is required.
- The Board may adopt a four-day school week or other calendar in lieu of a five-day school week. In this case, the calendar must include, but not be limited to, and 1,044 hours of pupil attendance.

Board Member Liability and Insurance
F-280-B

Because they are members of an agency of government whose powers and duties can only be exercised by an official Board decision, the Board members and District employees act as agents of the Board. None of these individuals should be placed in a position of personal liability for the performance of the responsibilities vested in them by the voters of the District.

Accordingly, the Board will purchase, in the absence of governmental immunity or in addition to sovereign or governmental tort immunity, with public school funds, adequate errors and omissions liability insurance and/or other types of insurance necessary to indemnify Board members and agents of the Board for their official actions in the service of the District. The District will provide Board members with information regarding such insurance upon request.