

SECTION A: FOUNDATIONS AND BASIC COMMITMENTS

Section A contains policies, regulations and exhibits on the district's legal role in providing public education and the basic principles underlying school board governance. These policies provide a setting for all of the school board's other policies and regulations. Included in this section are policies on nondiscrimination, educational philosophy and accountability.

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AD Educational Philosophy/School District Mission
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AE Accountability/Commitment to Accomplishment
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School District Legal Status

The Constitution of Colorado requires the General Assembly to provide for the establishment and maintenance of a thorough and uniform system of free public schools throughout the state and vests in a state board of education responsibility for their general supervision.

The constitution also requires that the General Assembly shall, by law, provide for the organization of school districts of convenient size, in each of which shall be established a board of education to have control of instruction in the public schools of the district.

As are all school districts in the state, Plateau Valley School District No. 50 of Mesa County, Colorado, is a body corporate with perpetual existence, and in its name may hold property for any purpose authorized by law, sue and be sued, and be a party to contracts for any purpose authorized by law.

Statutory

LEGAL REFS.: Constitution of Colorado, Article IX, Sections 1,2, 15
C.R.S. 22-32-101
C.R.S. 22-32-102

CROSS REF.: BB, School Board Legal Status

Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity

Plateau Valley School District 50

In compliance with Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008, and Colorado law, Plateau Valley School District 50 does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, age, marital status, sexual orientation (which includes transgender), genetic information, conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth, disability or need for special education services in admissions, access to, treatment, or employment in educational programs or activities which it operates.

Complaint procedures have been established for students, parents, employees and members of the public. The following person has been identified as the compliance officer for the district:

Superintendent of Schools
Plateau Valley School District 50
56600 Hwy 330
Collbran, Colorado 81624

Telephone: 970-487-3547
Email: grandall@pvsd50.org

Outside Agencies

Complaints regarding violations of Title VI, (Race, national origin), Title IX (sex/gender), Section 504/ADA (handicap or disability), may be filed directly with the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, 1244 North Speer Blvd., Suite 310, Denver, CO 80204. Complaints regarding violations of Title VII (employment) and the ADEA (prohibiting age discrimination in employment) may be filed directly with the Federal Office of Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, 303 E. 17th Ave., Suite 510, Denver, CO 80202, or the Colorado Civil Rights Commission, 1560 Broadway, Suite 1050, Denver, CO 80202.

Adopted: January 19, 2000
Revised: November 16, 2016

Plateau Valley School District 50, Collbran, Colorado

Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity

The Board is committed to providing a safe learning and work environment where all members of the school community are treated with dignity and respect. The schools in the district are subject to all federal and state laws and constitutional provisions prohibiting discrimination on the basis of disability, race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, ancestry or need for special education services. Accordingly, no otherwise qualified student, employee, applicant for employment or member of the public shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to unlawful discrimination under any district program or activity on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, creed, religion, sex (which includes marital status), sexual orientation (which includes transgender), disability or need for special education services. Discrimination against employees and applicants for employment based on age, genetic information and conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth is also prohibited in accordance with state and federal law.

This policy and regulation shall be used to address all concerns regarding unlawful discrimination and harassment, except those regarding sexual harassment which are addressed in other Board policies listed in this policy's cross references.

In keeping with these statements, the following shall be objectives of this school district:

1. To promote the rights and responsibilities of all individuals as set forth in the state and federal constitutions, pertinent legislation and applicable judicial interpretations.
2. To encourage positive experiences in terms of human values for children and adults who have differing personal and family characteristics or who come from various socio-economic, racial and ethnic groups.
3. To consider carefully, in all decisions made which affect the schools, the potential benefits or adverse consequences that those decisions might have on the human relations aspects of all segments of society.
4. To utilize educational experiences to build each individual's pride in the community in which he or she lives.
5. To initiate a process of reviewing all policies and practices of this school district in order to achieve the objectives of this policy to the greatest extent possible.
6. To investigate and resolve promptly any complaints of unlawful discrimination and harassment.
7. To investigate and appropriately discipline staff and students found to be responsible for incidents of harassment or discrimination in violation of district policy.

Annual Notice

The district shall issue a written notice prior to the beginning of each school year that advises students, parents, employees and the general public that the educational programs, activities and employment

opportunities offered by the district are offered without regard to race, color, sex (which includes marital status), sexual orientation (which includes transgender), religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, disability or need for special education services. With respect to employment practices, the district shall also issue written notice that it does not discriminate on the basis of age, genetic information or conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth. The announcement shall also include the name, address, email address and telephone number of the person designated to coordinate Title IX and Section 504 and ADA compliance activities.

The notice shall be disseminated to persons with limited English language skills in the person's own language. It shall also be made available to persons who are visually or hearing impaired.

The notice shall appear on a continuing basis in all district media containing general information, including: teachers' guides, school publications, the district's website, recruitment materials, application forms, vacancy announcements, student handbooks, school program notices, summer program newsletters and annual letters to parents.

Harassment is Prohibited

Harassment based on a person's race, color, national origin, ancestry, creed, religion, sex (which includes marital status), sexual orientation (which includes transgender), disability or need for special education services is a form of discrimination prohibited by state and federal law. Preventing and remedying such harassment in schools is essential to ensure a nondiscriminatory, safe environment in which students can learn, employees can work and members of the public can access and receive the benefit of district facilities and programs. All such harassment, by district employees, students and third parties, is strictly prohibited.

All district employees and students share the responsibility to ensure that harassment does not occur at any district school, on any district property, at any district or school-sanctioned activity or event, or off school property when such conduct has a nexus to the school, or any district curricular or non-curricular activity or event.

For purposes of this policy, harassment is any unwelcome, hostile and offensive verbal, written or physical conduct based on or directed at a person's race, color, national origin, ancestry, creed, religion, sex, sexual orientation (which includes transgender), disability or need for special education services that: (1) results in physical, emotional or mental harm, or damage to property; (2) is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it interferes with an individual's ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity or creates an intimidating, hostile or threatening environment ; or (3) substantially disrupts the orderly operation of the school. Board policy on sexual harassment (GBAA for employees and JBB* for students) will apply to complaints alleging sexual harassment.

Harassing conduct may take many forms, including not limited to:

1. verbal acts and name-calling;
2. graphic depictions and written statements, which may include use of cell phones or the internet;
3. other conduct that may be physically threatening, harmful or humiliating.

Reporting Unlawful Discrimination and Harassment

Any student who believes he or she has been a victim of unlawful discrimination or harassment as defined in Board policy, or who has witnessed such unlawful discrimination or harassment, shall immediately report it to an administrator, counselor, teacher or superintendent and file a complaint as set forth in the regulation which accompanies this policy.

Any employee, applicant for employment or member of the public who believes he or she has been a victim of unlawful discrimination or harassment, or who has witnessed such unlawful discrimination or harassment, shall file a complaint with the superintendent.

If the individual alleged to have engaged in prohibited conduct is the person designated as the compliance officer (the superintendent), an alternate compliance officer shall be designated to investigate the matter in accordance with this policy's accompanying regulation.

District Action

All district employees who witness unlawful discrimination or harassment shall take prompt and effective action to stop it, as prescribed by the district.

The district shall take appropriate action to promptly and impartially investigate allegations of unlawful discrimination and harassment, to end unlawful behavior, to prevent the recurrence of such behavior and to prevent retaliation against the individual(s) who files the complaint and/or any person who participates in the investigation. When appropriate, the district shall take interim measures during the investigation to protect against further unlawful discrimination, harassment or retaliation.

To the extent possible, all reports of unlawful discrimination or harassment will be kept confidential. Students or employees who knowingly file false complaints or give false statements in an investigation shall be subject to discipline, up to and including suspension/expulsion for students and termination of employment. No student, employee or member of the public shall be subject to adverse treatment in retaliation for any good faith report of harassment under this policy.

Upon determining that incidents of unlawful discrimination or harassment are occurring in particular district settings or activities, the district shall implement measures designed to remedy the problem in those areas or activities.

Any student or employee who engages in unlawful discrimination or harassment shall be disciplined according to applicable Board policies and the district shall take reasonable action to restore lost educational or employment opportunities to the victim(s).

In cases involving potential criminal conduct, the compliance officer (superintendent) shall determine whether appropriate law enforcement officials should be notified.

Notice and Training

To reduce unlawful discrimination and harassment and ensure a respectful school environment, the administration is responsible for providing notice of this policy to all district schools and departments.

Plateau Valley School District 50, Collbran, Colorado

The policy and compliance process shall be referenced in student and employee handbooks and otherwise available to all students, staff and members of the public through electronic or hard-copy distribution.

Students and district employees shall receive periodic training related to recognizing and preventing unlawful discrimination and harassment. District employees shall receive additional training related to handling reports of unlawful discrimination and harassment. The training will include, but not be limited to:

- awareness of groups protected under state and federal law and/or targeted groups;
- how to recognize and react to unlawful discrimination and harassment; and
- proven harassment prevention strategies

Current practice codified 1983

Adopted: Date of manual adoption
Amended: February 16, 2000
Amended: January 19, 2011
Amended: November 16, 2016

LEGAL REFS.: 20 U.S.C. §1681
 20 U.S.C. §1701-1758
 29 U.S.C. §621 *et seq.*
 29 U.S.C. §701 *et seq.*
 42 U.S.C. §12101 *et seq.*
 42 U.S.C. §2000d
 42 U.S.C. §2000e
 42 U.S.C. §2000ff *et seq.*
 34 C.F.R. Part 100 through Part 110
 C.R.S. 2-4-401 (13.5)
 C.R.S. 18-9-121
 C.R.S. 22-32-109 (1)(II)
 C.R.S. 24-34-301 *et seq.*
 C.R.S. 24-34-301 (7)
 C.R.S. 24-34-401 *et seq.*
 C.R.S. 24-34-402.3
 C.R.S. 24-34-601
 C.R.S. 24-34-602

CROSS REFS.: GBA, Open Hiring/Equal Opportunity Employment
 GBAA, Sexual Harassment
 JB, Equal Educational Opportunities
 JBB*, Sexual Harassment

Complaint and Grievance Process

1. Definitions

- a. The term “Title II” shall mean Title II of Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the lawfully enacted regulations adopted thereunder.
- b. The term “Title VI” shall mean Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended in 1972, and the lawfully enacted regulations adopted thereunder.
- c. The term “Title IX” shall mean Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and the lawfully enacted regulations adopted thereunder.
- d. The term “section 504” shall mean Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the lawfully enacted regulations adopted thereunder.
- e. The term “grievance” shall mean a complaint by an aggrieved person alleging a violation of Title II, Title VI, Title IX, or Section 504.
- f. The term “compliance officer” shall mean a licensed employee designated to act as such by the Board of Education. That individual shall be identified by name, address and telephone number in Policy AC.
- g. The term “aggrieved individual” shall mean the parent(s) or guardian(s) of student under the age of 18, a student over the age of 18 or an employee of the district who is directly affected by an alleged violation of Title II, Title VI, Title IX, or Section 504.

2. Compliance Officer’s Duties

The compliance officer shall be responsible for conducting a confidential investigation and coordinating all Title II, Title VI, Title IX, or Section 504 complaint procedures and processes. The compliance officer’s duties shall include providing notice to students, parent(s)/guardian(s) of students and employees concerning the grievance procedures available, dissemination upon request of information concerning the forms and procedures for the filing and prosecution of grievances, investigation of all complaints and coordination of the hearing procedures.

3. Notice

Students, parent(s)/guardian(s) of students and employees shall be notified annually by student handbooks, by communication through employee bulletins, by school newsletters communicated to parents or by other appropriate means concerning the procedures available. Such notice shall include the name, office address and telephone number of the compliance officer.

3. Complaint Procedure

- a. Any aggrieved individual may file with the compliance officer a written complaint charging the district, another student or any school employee with a violation of ADEA, race, color, creed, sex, sexual orientation, religion, national origin, age, marital status, ancestry and disability, Title II, Title VI, Title IX, or Section 504.

The complaint shall be in writing on forms provided by the compliance officer and shall describe with reasonable specificity the nature of the complaint and identify the

particular section of Title II, Title VI, Title IX, or Section 504 and/or their regulations claimed to be violated. No complaints shall be received and processed by the compliance officer if filed more than 30 calendar days after the alleged conduct without permission from the superintendent of schools.

- b. Upon receipt of the complaint, the compliance officer or the compliance officer's designee shall conduct an investigation and within a reasonable period of time following the filing of the complaint shall render a written report containing findings and recommendations as appropriate to the superintendent of schools. The compliance officer's report shall be advisory and shall not bind the superintendent or the district to any particular course of action or remedial measure. However, the report may be used by the superintendent or other district administration officials as a basis for disciplinary or other appropriate action.

Insofar as practicable and consistent with the objectives (1) of obtaining full disclosure of all pertinent facts, and (2) of seeking to achieve a resolution of disputes in an informal fashion, the investigation shall be conducted in a confidential manner so as not to disclose the identity of the complaining party and witnesses. The person(s) whose conduct is in question shall not be considered a party at the investigation stage. Such person(s) shall be informed only of those facts which, in the compliance officer's judgment, are necessary to achieve a full and accurate disclosure of material facts or to obtain an informal resolution. A copy of the report shall be given to the complainant on condition that he/she agrees in writing not to disclose its contents. The complainant should also be advised that privacy laws and district practice will prevent disclosure of specific actions or disciplinary measures taken as a result of the investigation.

If the complainant is not satisfied with the findings of the report of investigation or with the recommendations contained therein, he/she may within five (5) working days after receiving the report of investigation file with the compliance officer a written request for a hearing. The compliance officer shall immediately forward a copy of the complaint, the compliance officer's findings and recommendation and the request for hearing to the person(s) whose conduct is the object of the complaint.

- c. Hearing. A hearing shall be held within 20 working days after the filing of a request for hearing.

The hearing shall be conducted by an administrative employee of the district designated by the superintendent. In no event shall the hearing officer be the individual alleged to be responsible for or directly involved in the alleged violation or conduct.

The hearing shall be informal. A student shall be entitled to be represented by his parent or by an attorney. An employee shall be entitled to be represented by an attorney or other representative of his/her choice. The complainant shall appear at the hearing and shall be entitled to present testimony and other evidence. Formal rules of evidence shall

not apply to the hearing. The compliance officer or the compliance officer's designee may represent the district at the hearing and shall likewise be entitled to present testimony and other evidence. The hearing shall be closed to the public.

The hearing officer shall render a written decision containing findings and recommendations within 10 working days after the conclusion of the hearing. The hearing officer's decision shall be advisory and shall not bind the superintendent or the district to any particular course of action or remedial measure. However, the decision may be used by the superintendent or other district administration officials as a basis for disciplinary or other appropriate action. Copies of the decision shall also be transmitted to the compliance officer, the person(s) whose conduct is in question, and the superintendent. Copies of the decision shall also be transmitted to the complainant and to the person(s) whose conduct is in question on condition that each agree in writing not to disclose its contents.

d. Appeal.

Either the complainant, the person(s) whose conduct is in question, or the compliance officer may appeal the decision of the hearing officer to the superintendent of schools. The superintendent shall review the documents tendered to the hearing officer together with the hearing officer's findings and recommendations and shall within 20 working days after receipt thereof either affirm, reverse or amend the findings and recommendation or hold a *de novo* hearing using the procedures outlined above and render an independent decision based thereon. The decision of the superintendent or the superintendent's independent findings and recommendations shall be subject to the above conditions regarding confidentiality and shall be final.

e. Any time period prescribed herein may be enlarged at the discretion of the superintendent of schools for good cause shown. Time periods may also be enlarged by mutual agreement of all affected parties and the compliance officer.

Current practice codified 1983

Adopted: Date of manual adoption

Revised: September 16, 1998

Revised: July 20, 2011

LEGAL REFS.: Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990
Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended in 1972
Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972
45 C.F.R., Part 86 (Federal Register, June 4, 1975)
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 34 C.F.R., Part 100

CROSS REFS.: AC, Nondiscrimination
GBA, Equal Opportunity Involvement
JB, Equal Educational Opportunities

Plateau Valley School District 50, Collbran, Colorado

Nondiscrimination– Complaint and Grievance Process

This notice is in accordance with the rules of the Office of Civil Rights of the Department of Education to implement Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended in 1972, Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1973, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

All students, parents, employees of, and applicants for admission and employment in Plateau Valley School District 50 are hereby notified that Plateau Valley School District 50 does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, sex, sexual orientation, religion, national origin, age, marital status, ancestry, disability in admission, or access to, or treatment in its educational programs or activities.

Inquiries concerning Title II, Title VI, Title IX or Section 504 may be referred to:

Principal
Plateau Valley Elementary School
56600 Hwy 330
Collbran, Colorado 81624
(970)487-3549 x 206

Principal
Plateau Valley Secondary School
56600 Hwy 330
Collbran, Colorado 81624
(970)487-3549 x 273

Principal
Grand Mesa High School
56600 Hwy 330
Collbran, Colorado 81624
(970)487-3576 x 3017

Superintendent
Plateau Valley School Dist. #50
56600 Hwy 330
Collbran, Colorado 81624
(970)487-3549 x 275

OR

The Office for Civil Rights
Department of Education, Region VIII
Federal Office Building
1244 Speer Boulevard, Suite 310
Denver, CO 80204
(303)844-5695

Approved: October 31, 1998
Revised: July 20, 2011

Plateau Valley School District 50, Collbran, Colorado

Educational Philosophy/School District Mission

Plateau Valley School District 50 shall strive to provide a safe environment for all students and staff, meaningful opportunities and innovative educational programs for all students so that they reach their learning potential, including the attainment of content standards, through partnerships between home, school and the community.

In pursuit of this mission, the District is committed to pursuing the mission and goals as listed in the District's current strategic plan.

Adopted: Date of manual adoption
Revised: December 13, 2000
Revised: December 12, 2012

LEGAL REF.: C.R.S. 22-32-109.1

CROSS REF.: ADA, School District Goals and Objectives

School District Goals and Objectives

In accordance with state law, the Board adopts high but achievable goals and objectives for the continued improvement of education in the district. It is the desire of the Board to achieve the following overall goals in the governance and operation of the school system.

1. To provide an educational program and instructional arrangements which will permit each student to develop to his full potential. An accompanying goal shall be the development of an individualized instructional program.
2. To achieve what is truly a “community school” in services to the adult community.
3. To provide for the best possible school staff including both professional and support personnel.
4. To insure the development of meaningful interpersonal relationships among students, staff and community.
5. To insure that staff, students and parents are afforded maximum participation in the development and evaluation of programs and policies.
6. To insure maximum efficiency in the use of district resources to meet the goals and objectives of the various programs and services.

Adopted: December 20, 1989

CROSS REFS.: AD, Educational Philosophy/School District Mission
GA, Personnel Goals/Priority Objectives
IA, Instructional Goals and Learning Objectives
JA, Student Policies Goals/Priority Objectives

Tobacco-Free Schools

To promote the general health, welfare and well-being of students and staff, smoking, chewing or any other use of any tobacco product by staff, students, and members of the public is prohibited on all school property.

Possession of any tobacco product by students is also prohibited on school property.

For purposes of this policy, the following definitions shall apply:

1. "School property" means all property owned, leased, rented or otherwise used or contracted for by a school including but not limited to the following:
 - a. All indoor facilities and interior portions of any building or other structure used for children under the age of 18 for instruction, educational or library services, routine health care, daycare or early childhood development services, as well as for administration, support services, maintenance or storage. The term does not apply to buildings used primarily as residences, i.e., teacherages.
 - b. All school grounds over which the school exercises control including areas surrounding any building, playgrounds, athletic fields, recreation areas and parking areas.
 - c. All vehicles used by the district for transporting students, staff, visitors, or other persons.
 - d. At a school sanctioned activity or event.
2. "Tobacco product" means:
 - a. Any product that contains nicotine or tobacco or is derived from tobacco and is intended to be ingested or inhaled by or applied to the skin of an individual, including but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, snuff and chewing tobacco; and
 - b. Any electronic device that can be used to deliver nicotine to the person inhaling from the device, including but not limited to an electronic cigarette, cigar, cigarillo or pipe.
 - c. "Tobacco product" does not include any product that has been approved by the appropriate federal agency as a tobacco use cessation product.
3. "Use" means lighting, chewing, smoking, ingesting or application of any tobacco product.

Signs will be posted in prominent places on all school property to notify the public that smoking or other use of tobacco products is prohibited in accordance with state law and district policy. This policy will be published in all employee and student handbooks, posted on bulletin boards and announced in staff meetings.

Plateau Valley School District 50, Collbran, Colorado

Any member of the general public considered by the superintendent or designee to be in violation of this policy will be instructed to leave school district property. Employees found to be in violation of this policy will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

Disciplinary measures for students who violate this policy will include in-house detention, revocation of privileges and exclusion from extracurricular activities. Repeated violations may result in suspension from school. In accordance with state law, no student will be expelled solely for tobacco use.

Adopted: July 20, 1994
Amended: February 15, 1995
Amended: August 19, 1998
Amended: February 16, 2000
Amended: December 12, 2012
Amended: May 18, 2016

LEGAL REFS.: 20 U.S.C. 7181 et seq.
C.R.S. 18-13-121
C.R.S. 22-32-109 (1)(bb)
C.R.S. 22-32-109.1(2)(a)(1)(H)
C.R.S. 25-14-103.5
C.R.S. 25-14-301

CROSS REFS.: IHAMA, Teaching About Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco
KFA, Public Conduct on School Property

Safe Schools

The Board of Education recognizes that effective learning and teaching takes place in a safe, secure and welcoming environment and that safe schools contribute to improved attendance, increased student achievement and community support. Safe schools are a priority of the district and the district is committed to providing a safe environment in school, on school vehicles and at school-sponsored activities. To that end, the Board directs the superintendent to develop and maintain a safe schools plan that includes;

1. Procedures that address the supervision and security of school buildings and grounds.
2. Procedures that address the safety and supervision of students during school hours and school-sponsored activities.
3. Procedures that address persons visiting school buildings and attending school-sponsored activities.
4. Training programs for staff and students in crisis prevention and management.
5. Training programs for staff and students in emergency response procedures that include practice drills.
6. Training programs for staff and students in how to recognize and respond to behavior or other information that may indicate impending violence or other safety problems.
7. Training and support for students that aims to relieve the fear, embarrassment and peer pressure associated with reporting behavior that may indicate impending violence or other safety problems.
8. Procedures for safe, confidential reporting of security and safety concerns at each school building.
9. Procedures for regular assessments by school security/safety professionals and law enforcement officers to evaluate the security needs of each school building and to provide recommendations for improvements if necessary.
10. Procedures for regular assessments by school climate professionals to determine whether students feel safe and to provide recommendations for improvements in school climate at each district building.
11. Procedures to provide for regular communications between district officials, law enforcement officers, fire department officials, city and county officials and local medical personnel to discuss crisis prevention and management strategies, including involvement by these parties in the development and revision of crisis prevention and management plans.
12. Training programs for staff and students in safety precautions and procedures related to fire prevention, natural disaster response, accident prevention, public health, traffic, bicycle and pedestrian safety, environmental hazards, civil defense, classroom and occupational safety, and special hazards associated with athletics and other extracurricular activities.
13. Procedures for the reporting of criminal activity to law enforcement.

14. A child sexual abuse and assault prevention plan, including comprehensive, age-appropriate curricula regarding child sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention and professional development for school personnel and parents in preventing, identifying and responding to child sexual abuse and assault.

Each building principal shall be responsible for the supervision and implementation of the safe school program at his or her school. The principal shall submit annually, in the manner and by the date specified by the State Board of Education, a written report to the Board of Education concerning the learning environment in the school during that school year. The report shall contain, at a minimum, the information required by law.

The annual safety reports from every school in the district shall be compiled and submitted to the state department of education in a format specified by the State Board of Education. The report shall be made available to the public.

Adopted: November 15, 2000
Amended: August 18, 2010
Amended: September 21, 2011
Amended: December 12, 2012
Amended: April 16, 2014
Amended: May 18, 2016
Amended: October 19, 2017

LEGAL REFS.: C.R.S. 9-1-101 through 9-1-106
C.R.S. 22-3-101 through 22-3-104
C.R.S. 22-32-109.1(1)(b.5)
C.R.S. 22-32-109.1 (2)
C.R.S. 22-32-109.1 (2)(b)
C.R.S. 22-32-109.1 (2.5)
C.R.S. 22-32-110 (1)(k)
C.R.S. 22-32-124 (2),(3)
C.R.S. 24-10-106.5

CROSS REFS.: ECA/ECAB, Security/Access to Buildings
KDE, Crisis Management (Safety, Readiness and Incident Management Planning)
KI, Visitors to School.

Safe Schools

Pursuant to C.R.S. 22-32-109.1(2)(b), the following information shall be included in the annual safe schools report from the principal to the Board of Education for the preceding school year:

1. Total enrollment for the school.
2. Average daily attendance rate at the school.
3. Dropout rates for grades seven through twelve, if such grades are taught at the school.
4. Average class size for each public elementary, middle school or junior high school, and senior high school calculated as the total number of students enrolled in the school divided by the number of full-time teachers in the school.
5. The school's policy concerning bullying prevention and education, including information related to the development and implementation of any bullying programs.
6. Number of conduct and discipline code violations, which shall be reported only in the most serious category applicable to each violation, including but not limited to specific information identifying the number of and the action taken with respect to each of the following types of violations:
 - a. Possessing a dangerous weapon on school grounds, in a school vehicle, or at a school activity or sanctioned school event without the authorization of the school or the school district.
 - b. Use or possession of alcohol on school grounds, in a school vehicle, or at a school activity or sanctioned event.
 - c. Use, possession, or sale of a drug or controlled substance, other than marijuana, on school grounds, in a school vehicle, or at a school activity or sanctioned event.
 - d. Unlawful use, possession, or sale of marijuana on school grounds, in a school vehicle, or at a school activity or sanctioned event.
 - e. Use or possession of tobacco products on school grounds, in a school vehicle, or at a school activity or sanctioned event.
 - f. Being willfully disobedient, openly and persistently defiant, or repeatedly interfering with the school's ability to provide educational opportunities to and a safe environment for other students.

- g. Commission of an act on school grounds, in a school vehicle, or at a school activity or sanctioned event that if committed by an adult would be considered first or second degree assault or vehicular assault.
- h. Behavior on school grounds, in a school vehicle, or at a school activity or sanctioned event that is detrimental to the welfare or safety of other students or school personnel, including but not limited to incidents of bullying, and other behavior that creates a threat of physical harm to the student or to other students.
- i. Willful destruction or defacement of school property.
- j. Commission of an act on school grounds, in a school vehicle, or at a school activity or sanctioned event, that if committed by an adult, would be considered third degree assault or disorderly conduct.
- k. Commission of an act on school grounds, in a school vehicle or at a school activity or sanctioned event that, if committed by an adult, would be considered robbery.
- l. The number of acts of sexual violence on school grounds, in a school vehicle, or at a school activity or sanctioned event. [NOTE: Any information provided as a part of this subparagraph must be reported as aggregate data and must not include any personally identifying information. Sexual violence is defined as a physical sexual act perpetrated against a person's will or where a person is incapable of giving consent.]
- m. Other violations of the code of conduct and discipline that resulted in documentation of the conduct in a student's record.

For purposes of the report, "action taken" means the specific type of discipline, including but not limited to the following categories of discipline:

- In-school suspension.
- Out-of-school suspension.
- Classroom removal in accordance with board policy.
- Expulsion.
- Referral to law enforcement (including any law enforcement agency, law enforcement officer or school resource officer.)
- Any other form of discipline, which shall be officially identified as part of a board policy.

Adopted: November 15, 2000
Amended: September 21, 2011
Amended: December 12, 2012
Amended: May 18, 2016

School Wellness

The Board promotes healthy schools by supporting student wellness, including good nutrition, and regular physical activity as a part of the total learning environment. Schools contribute to the basic health status of students by facilitating learning through the support and promotion of good nutrition and physical activity. Improved health optimizes student performance potential and educational success, as children who eat well-balanced meals and are physically active are more likely to be engaged and learn in the classroom and less likely to be absent.

To further the Board's beliefs stated above, the Board adopts the following goals:

Goal #1: Plateau Valley School District will provide a comprehensive learning environment to promote the development and practice of lifelong wellness behaviors.

The entire school environment, not just the classroom, will be aligned with healthy school goals to positively influence a student's understanding, beliefs and habits as they relate to comprehensive wellness, including good nutrition and regular physical activity. Such learning environments will teach students to use appropriate resources and tools to make informed and educated decisions about lifelong healthy eating habits and beneficial physical activity, in accordance with the district's academic standards for comprehensive health education and physical education.

Goal #2: Plateau Valley School District will implement and promote nutrition education and proper dietary habits contributing to student's health status and academic performance.

Nutrition education will be in accordance with the district's academic standards for comprehensive health education. All foods and beverages sold or provided to students on the school campus during the school day shall meet or exceed the district's nutrition standards. All schools participating in the National School Lunch and/or School Breakfast Programs shall comply with state and federal rules or regulations regarding school meals, competitive food service and the Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.

Goal #3 The district will promote healthy nutrition choices to create and encourage a healthy learning environment.

In accordance with applicable federal law, schools participating in the National School Lunch and/or Breakfast Programs shall comply with Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards in the marketing of any foods or beverages sold to students during the school day.

Goal #4 The district will provide daily opportunities for students to engage in physical activity.

Physical activity will be included in a school's daily education program from grades pre-kindergarten through 12. Physical activity includes regular instructional physical education, in accordance with the district's academic standards for physical education, and opportunities throughout the school day, such

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as exercise programs, fitness breaks, recess, field trips that include physical activity and classroom activities that include physical activity.

Implementation and Review

To help ensure each school's compliance with and implementation of this policy's goals, the Board designates the K-12 building principal as the district's school wellness policy coordinator.

The district will establish and maintain a district-wide wellness advisory council. The council's purposes will be to monitor the implementation of this policy, evaluate the district's progress on this policy's goals, serve as a resource to schools (i.e. provide lists of healthy incentives, snacks, etc.) and periodically review and update this policy in accordance with federal law. The council will meet on a monthly basis coordinated with the district accountability committee.

At least once every three years, the council shall assess this policy and its implementation, which shall include an assessment of each participating school's compliance and progress with this policy's goals. The council may recommend policy revisions for the Board's consideration after conducting its triennial assessment and/or as the council deems appropriate or necessary.

Reporting and Recordkeeping

The results of the council's triennial assessments shall be made available to the public, along with a copy of this policy.

The district shall retain records to document compliance with this policy, including but not limited to documentation concerning the council's triennial assessments.

Adopted: February 27, 2008
Amended: September 21, 2011
Amended: July 17, 2013
Amended: March 12, 2014
Amended: May 20, 2015
Amended: October 19, 2017

LEGAL REFS.: Section 204 of P.L. III-296
7 C.F.R. Parts 201, 210 and 220
C.R.S. 22-32-134.5
C.R.S. 22-32-136
C.R.S. 22-32-136.3
C.R.S. 22-32-136.5(3)(a) and (b)
1 CCR 301-79

CROSS REFS.: EF, School Nutrition Program
EFC, Free and Reduced Priced Food Services
EFEA*, Nutritious Food Choices

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File: ADF

IHAM, Health and Family Life/Sex Education
IHAMA, Teaching About Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco
JLJ*, Physical Activity

Accountability/Commitment to Accomplishment **(District Accountability/School Accountability Committee)**

The Board accepts its ultimate responsibility for the academic accomplishments of district students. Consistent with this responsibility and as required by law, the Board shall adopt and maintain an accountability program to measure the adequacy and efficiency of the educational program.

Because the district has fewer than 1,000 enrolled students, the Board has determined that it is in the best interests of the district to have one committee serve the purposes of the district accountability committee and the school accountability committee. The Board shall appoint or create a process for the election of the committee. The committee shall have those powers and duties prescribed by state law. The Board and committee shall, at least annually, cooperatively determine the areas and issues, in addition to budget issues, that the committee shall study and the issues on which it may make recommendations to the Board.

All district accountability committee meetings shall be open to the public.

Approved: November 16, 1988
Adopted: December 20, 1989
Amended: August 19, 1993
Amended: August 16, 1998
Amended: October 15, 2001
Amended: October 20, 2010
Amended: July 17, 2013
Amended: May 18, 2016

LEGAL REFS: C.R.S.22-2-117 (*waivers from State Board of Education*)
C.R.S. 22-11-101 *et seq.* (*Education Accountability Act of 2009*)
C.R.S. 22-11-301 and 302 (*district accountability committee*)
C.R.S. 22-11-401 and 402 (*school accountability committees*)
C.R.S. 24-6-402 (*open meeting law*)
1 CCR 301-1, Rules 2202-R-1.00 *et seq.* (*accreditation rules*)

CROSS REFS: AEA, Standards Based Education
AED*, Accreditation
AEF*, Waiver of State Law and Regulation
DBD, Determination of Budget Priorities

Accountability/Commitment to Accomplishment (District Accountability/School Accountability Committee)

The district accountability committee (DAC) shall also serve as the school accountability committee and shall consist of at least:

- Three parents of students enrolled in district schools
- One teacher employed by the district
- One school administrator employed by the district
- One person who is involved in business in the community within the district's boundaries

A person may not serve in more than one of the required membership roles on the DAC. A person who is employed by the district or related to a district employee shall not be eligible to serve as a parent on the DAC. "Related" means the person's spouse, son, daughter, sister, brother, mother or father. If, however, the district makes a good faith effort and is unable to identify a sufficient number of parents that meet these criteria, a person may serve as a parent on the DAC and also be employed by the district or related to a district employee.

Members of the committee shall be appointed by the Board. In making these appointments, it shall ensure, to the extent practicable, that:

- The parents appointed reflect the student populations significantly represented within the district;
- At least one of the parents is a parent of a student enrolled in a district charter school authorized by the Board, if one exists; and
- At least one of the persons appointed has a demonstrated knowledge of charter schools.

If the Board chooses to increase the number of persons on the DAC, it shall ensure that the number of parents appointed exceeds the number of representatives from the group with the next highest representation.

Members of the DAC will serve a term of one year. The DAC shall select a parent representative to serve as chair or co-chair, who shall serve a term of one year. The DAC shall also establish a schedule of meetings and adopt general rules for its operation.

Approved: November 16, 1988
Amended: October 20, 2010
Amended: May 18, 2016

District Accountability Committee (By-Laws)

Membership

The members shall be appointed by the local Board of Education. They shall serve two-year terms with one-half of the members appointed annually, with an option of a second two-year term.

Officers

Officers shall be elected by the committee. Officers shall include a:

Chairman who shall be in charge of all committee meetings.

Vice Chairman who shall assume the duties of the chairman in his absence. The vice chairman shall assume the chairman's position in the second year of his term on the committee.

Secretary who shall keep minutes and attendance records of all meetings, issue copies of minutes to all members and publicize all meetings at least 24 hours in advance of the meetings open to the public.

Relationship with Board

The committee shall be advisory to the Board of Education.

The committee shall include the superintendent of schools or his appointee as the official liaison for the district as a nonvoting member.

All press releases and reports shall be cleared with the Board of Education.

The committee shall file an annual report and recommendations with the Board of Education by May 31 of each year on the progress achieved by the school district during the previous year.

The committee shall review all reports or recommendations with the Board of Education.

Meetings

The committee shall establish a schedule of meetings with at least one general meeting per month during the school year. Each meeting shall not exceed two hours.

The committee shall periodically hold joint meetings with the Board of Education and review and update the charge to the school improvement committee.

Subcommittees shall be given a specific charge and timetable for completion of their assignment.

At least one member from the committee shall serve as a member of any subcommittee.

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Attendance

All members shall attend all general meetings unless they have advised one of the officers of their reason for absence.

Any member having two consecutive unexcused absences shall be personally contacted by the chairman. If a member acquires a third consecutive, unexcused absence, the chairman shall notify in writing the Board of Education and recommend the replacement of the person on the committee.

Quorum

A quorum for the committee shall consist of one-half of the members of the committee plus one.

Voting

A majority of the quorum shall govern the acceptance by the committee of its actions and recommendations.

The chairman shall have the right to vote on all matters.

Voting privileges shall be held only by members of the committee.

Conduct of Meetings

Meetings shall be conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order (Revised).

Rules Changes

By-law changes shall be submitted to the chairman of the committee at least two weeks prior to a regularly scheduled meeting. Changes or additions to the by-laws shall be discussed and voted on during the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Any changes or additions shall be filed with the Board of Education.

Approved prior to date of manual adoption.

Standards Based Education

The Board supports a system of education that develops and teaches standards that enable students to achieve the highest level of knowledge and skills. Academic content standards clearly identify what students should know and be able to do at key points in their school careers.

In accordance with state law, the Board has adopted a standards-based education system which focuses on student learning of the district's academic standards. It is the intent of the Board that the district's program of instruction and assessments be aligned with the district's academic standards. In standards-based education, courses and units of study are clearly defined, understood by teachers and students, and communicated to staff members, families, and the community. The district's standards-based education system will advance equity, promote student learning, and reinforce accountability.

The superintendent shall be responsible for developing a plan to implement the district's academic standards that meet or exceed the model state academic standards and revise curriculum and programs of instruction to align them with the district's standards to provide students with the educational experiences necessary to achieve the standards. The plan shall also address the professional development of teachers and administrators to enable successful implementation of standards-based education. The plan shall ensure that the educational programs of the district actively address the needs of exceptional students, consciously avoid gender or cultural bias and address the different learning styles and needs of students of various backgrounds and abilities and eliminate barriers to equity. The plan shall conform with all timelines established by law.

The district shall work with educators, parents, students, business persons, members of the community, and the district accountability committee to review and revise the district's academic standards as necessary to ensure maximum effectiveness and develop assessments that will adequately measure each student's progress. Parents shall be kept informed of student progress in achieving the district's academic standards and how such progress will be measured. This information shall also be provided to the district accountability committee.

Adopted: November 18, 1998
Revised: July 20, 2011
Revised: May 18, 2016

LEGAL REFS.: C.R.S. 22-1-104 (6)(a)
C.R.S. 22-7-1013(1)
C.R.S. 22-11-101 et seq.
C.R.S. 22-32-109 (1)(r),(t)

CROSS REFS.: AE, Accountability/Commitment to Accomplishment

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Accreditation

The Board of Education believes its primary responsibility is to provide leadership in the area of student achievement. To foster greater accountability and enhance improvement in student achievement, the Board shall enter into an accreditation contract with the State Board of Education regarding district accreditation and shall accredit the schools within the district.

District Accreditation

The accreditation contract shall bind the Board to manage the district and its schools to meet certain standards, goals and requirements over the term of the contract, in accordance with the Education Accountability Act of 2009 and applicable State Board of Education rules.

In conjunction with accreditation, the Board is committed to adopting academic standards for student learning, achievement performance levels, systems for measuring student achievement and methods for improving student achievement.

School Accreditation

While the state accredits the district, the Board accredits the schools within the district including district charter schools. The Board directs the superintendent to develop a school accreditation process for the Board's input and approval. Such process shall be developed in accordance with the Education Accountability Act of 2009.

Pursuant to the Board's constitutional and statutory authority to control instruction in its schools and determine the allocation of district resources, the Board shall review and approve all school plans, regardless of whether the plan is a performance, improvement, priority improvement or turnaround plan. Each school plan shall be submitted to the Colorado Department of Education in accordance with the timelines prescribed by applicable State Board of Education rules.

Adopted: December 15, 1998
Amended: October 15, 2001
Amended: August 18, 2010
Amended: October 20, 2010
Amended: April 16, 2014
Amended: May 20, 2015
Amended: May 18, 2016

LEGAL REFS.: Colo. Const. Art. IX, Sect. 15 (*board has control of instruction within the district*)
C.R.S. 22-7-1013(1) (*adoption of content standards*)
C.R.S. 22-11-101 *et seq.* (*Education Accountability Act of 2009*)
C.R.S. 22-11-307 (*board accreditation of district schools*)
C.R.S. 22-30-105 (*school district organization planning process*)
C.R.S. 22-30.5-104 (2)(b) (*district charter schools subject to accreditation
by local board*)
C.R.S. 22-32-109(1)(t) (*board duty to determine educational program and
prescribe textbooks*)
C.R.S. 22-32-109(1)(mm) (*board duty to adopt policy for accreditation of
district schools*)
C.R.S. 22-32-142(2) (*parent notice, public meeting and public hearing
requirements for schools on priority improvement
or turnaround status.*)
I CCR 301-1, (*State Board of Education
rules for the Administration of the Accreditation of School Districts*)
I CCR 301-71 (*State Board of Education rules for the Administration, Certification and
Oversight of Colorado Online Programs*)

CROSS REFS.: AE, Accountability/Commitment to Accomplishment
AE-R, Accountability/Commitment to Accomplishment-Regulation
AEA, Standards Based Education
IK, Academic Achievement
IKA, Grading/Assessment Systems
KB, Parent Engagement in Education

Waiver of State Law and Regulation

The Board of Education believes that many state laws and regulations impede the district's progress toward achieving its mission. Therefore, the Board directs the superintendent to work with district legal counsel, the district accountability committee, and school principals to:

1. Determine which state laws and regulations, if waived, would enhance educational opportunity and quality within the school district and reduce or eliminate costs that are significantly limiting educational opportunity within the district. This determination shall be made on a school-by-school basis and a district-wide basis.
2. Make recommendations to the Board regarding which state laws and regulations the Board should consider for waiver.

The Board must consider whether to apply for waivers in a public meeting that includes a public hearing. The Board shall consult with the district accountability committee concerning the intent to seek waivers at least 60 days prior to the scheduled public hearing.

In the Board meeting, which includes a public hearing, the Board shall adopt a resolution stating the Board's intent to apply for waivers and specifying the statutes or rules for which the Board will request waivers. In the waiver application, the Board shall state the manner in which the district will comply with the intent of the waived rule or statute and be accountable to the State Board of Education.

The Board shall post notice of the public meeting in three public places within the district not less than 30 days prior to the meeting. The notice shall include a description of the waivers to be considered. If there is a newspaper published in the county, the Board shall also publish notice once a week for four weeks prior to the meeting.

Adopted: April 18, 2001

Amended: May 18, 2016

LEGAL REFS.: C.R.S. 22-2-117
1 CCR 301-35, Rules 2217-R-1.00 *et seq.*

CROSS REFS.: AE, Accountability/Commitment to Accomplishment

NOTE: Districts that have a funded pupil count, as defined in C.R.S. 22-54-103(7), of 3,000 or more pupils must demonstrate that an application for waiver has the consent of a majority of the district accountability committee (or the school-level accountability committee if the waiver is sought for only one school), and a majority of the licensed administrators and teachers of the affected school or district. C.R.S. 22-2-117(1)(d)
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Note: The State Board of Education cannot waive the following state laws:

- Requirements pertaining to the data necessary for performance reports (22-11-501 et seq.)
- State assessments)22-7-1006.3)
- Duties of board president and vice president (22-32-105)
- Prohibition of tobacco products on school property (22-32-109(1)(bb)(I))
- Establishing program outside state boundaries (22-32-109(2))
- Attendance policy (22-33-104(4))
- Public School Finance Act (22-54-101 et seq.)
- Exceptional Children’s Educational Act (22-20-101 et seq.)
- Provisions related to fingerprinting and criminal history record checks of personnel (22-32-109.7, 109.8, 109.9, 22-2-119)
- Children’s Internet Protection Act (22-87-101 et seq.)
- Student conduct and discipline code requirements (22-32-109.1(2)(a))