

Nebo School District Board of Education

Policy IGAA

NEBO SCHOOL DISTRICT SECONDARY CITIZENSHIP POLICY

Goals of Education

A primary goal of education for the students of the State of Utah is the development of individuals who possess the knowledge, skills and human characteristics necessary to enable them to live meaningful lives and to contribute positively to society. Utah State Law is very specific in its expectations for citizenship education:

"Honesty, temperance, morality, courtesy, obedience to law, respect for and an understanding of the constitutions of the United States and the State of Utah, the essentials and benefits of the free enterprise system, respect for parents and home, and the dignity and necessity of honest labor and other skills, habits, and qualities of character which will promote an upright and desirable citizenry and better prepare students for a richer, happier life shall be taught in connection with regular school work." U.C.A. 53A-13-101(4) et. seq.

Citizenship performance is a significant aspect of public education. The laws of the State of Utah and the decisions rendered by the Supreme Court of the United States set the standard for citizenship education.

Positive Incentives

The purpose of the Citizenship Policy is to reinforce appropriate behavior and change inappropriate behavior. Each school is expected to initiate a plan for giving students positive incentives for being good citizens.

Citizenship Grades

Students are expected to be good citizens inside and outside the classroom and are subject to evaluation by the administration and staff. Citizenship grades will be earned in each class in which the student is enrolled. Each student will also receive one citizenship grade from the administration for each grading period.

Student citizenship will be assessed as follows:

1. "Satisfactory" (S), "Needs Improvement" (N) or "Unsatisfactory" (U).
2. Students begin each term with an "S" citizenship grade in each class. The grade is adjusted as student behavior merits.

In addition to the assigning of citizenship grades, schools may also utilize other interventions in order to help students make needed behavioral changes. The focus should always be on helping students develop self-discipline and productive behavior patterns.

Responsibilities of Students

Student behavior should have a positive influence on the learning environment in the school. Students may earn "Unsatisfactory" grades for any of the following infractions:

1. Defiant behavior or conduct that seriously undermines the learning environment of a class or of the school.
2. Willful destruction, vandalism or theft of school or individual property while at school or at a school activity.
3. Irresponsible or disrespectful behavior on campus, in a bus, or while attending a school activity.
4. Physical or verbal abuse directed toward other students or toward school personnel.

5. Any act of dishonesty related to school work or to participation in school sponsored classes, activities or events.

Responsibilities of Teachers

Teachers are expected to maintain a positive climate of teacher/student interaction and communications. They will:

1. Establish and discuss specific student expectations and class rules used in determining citizenship grades.
2. Counsel and work with students with problems as situations develop.
3. Contact parent/guardian and discuss situations and possible solutions when problems develop.
4. Confer with administrators when efforts to correct problems have not been successful.
5. Assess the citizenship of each student at the end of each grading period by giving a citizenship grade and at least one related comment.
6. Notify in writing and within five (5) working days the parent/guardian at their address in the District records of the assessment of an unsatisfactory "U" citizenship rating for a student, on a form provided by the District. (See Appendix A).

Responsibilities of Parents/Guardians

The involvement and support of parents/guardians is critical in the process of promoting and developing productive student behavior. Parents/guardians are expected to:

1. Make a reasonable effort to be aware of behavioral expectations for their students at school through reviewing materials that are sent home and through conferencing with teachers and administrators as becomes necessary.
2. Cooperate with the school in helping their students develop and maintain behavioral habits that will foster school success.

Responsibilities of Administrators

School level administrators will be expected to do the following:

1. Publish the Citizenship Policy for students and distribute a copy to parent/guardian at least once per year.
2. Contact parent/guardian when inappropriate behavior occurs in a setting that is outside a teacher's jurisdiction or when referred by a teacher.
3. Conference, as needed, with parent/guardian, student, and/or teacher in an effort to improve student behavior and negotiate makeup.
4. Utilize appropriate interventions in an effort to help students improve their behavior.

Citizenship Grades and Eligibility

Activity eligibility requires that students have no "U" unsatisfactory citizenship grades in the current year. Students become accountable for "U" grades on the day that report cards are issued. Eligibility may be reinstated as soon as unsatisfactory citizenship grades have been made up. Makeup is assigned by a building administrator based upon a minimum of three (3) hours of school service per "U".

Citizenship Grades and Academic Grades

The citizenship grade and the academic grade are separate and one grade will not be used to affect the other. Academic grades reflect the mastery of subject matter content. Citizenship grades reflect behavior.

Consequences of Repeated Unsatisfactory Behavior

Students who accumulate four (4) "U" grades during an academic year will be placed on citizenship probation. An administrator, parent/guardian, student conference will be held to discuss the behavior problems and the possible interventions. A written record of the conference and/or a behavioral contract will be made and will be signed by all parties involved.

Students who are placed on probation will remain on probation for the balance of the current school year. However, non-senior students who are placed on probation at the beginning of, or during the last grading period of the year, will remain on probation until the end of the first grading period of the next school year.

Further infractions will result in additional consequences which may include referral to Youth Court or Juvenile Court, mandated attendance at a behavior modification class, suspension, referral to an alternate placement, or referral to the Board of Education for release from school attendance.

Appeals

A student can, within fifteen (15) calendar days of the date of notice of such action, appeal a suspension, referral, release or assessment of a "U". If the 15th calendar day falls on a day other than a business day of the District, the appeal deadline is extended to the next business day. A written appeal shall be made to the person from whom the notice came. If no appeal is made, the action described in the notice is final. Any appeal must be in writing.

The appeal hearings are as follows:

1. Within ten (10) calendar days a student, parent/guardian, teacher, administrator conference shall be held. If the issue is not resolved at the conference, the matter shall be referred to the Appeals Committee.
2. Within the ten (10) calendar days of the Step 1 Conference, the Appeals Committee shall meet to consider the appeal (consisting of the written appeal from the student to the committee; and the written position of the teacher).
3. If the issue is not resolved by the committee, appeals beyond this will follow the Nebo School District Grievance Procedure for Student's Rights and Responsibilities.

The Appeals Committee will consist of two students (one male and one female) to be selected by the student council, one PTA representative to be selected by the PTA president, one teacher to be selected by the principal, one administrator or his/her designated representative.

Compliance Statement

No student, classified as disabled under the provisions of the Individuals With Disabilities Education ACT (IDEA), or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, shall be suspended or expelled repeatedly or for an extended period of time under this policy where the misconduct is a manifestation of that student's disability.

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