

Spencer High School
Parent/Student Handbook
2011-2012

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This handbook belongs to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip Code** _____

Phone _____

Grade _____ **Advisor** _____

It is the policy of Spencer Community Schools not to illegally discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, creed, age (for employment), marital status (for programs), sexual orientation, gender identity and socioeconomic status (for programs) in its educational programs, activities, or employment policies as required by Title VI and VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Title IX of the 1972 Educational Amendments, Section 504 or the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and Section 601A of the Iowa Code.

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Spencer Community School District Mission Statement

All students will develop maximum knowledge and skills to become lifelong learners and responsible citizens.
Revised: March, 2009

Spencer Community School District Motto

Learning today.....Leading tomorrow
March, 2009

Conference/State Affiliations

Spencer High School has been a member of the Lakes Conference since 1926. SHS is also a member of the Iowa High School Athletic Association and the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union.

2011-12 Student Council

Senior Class:

Whitney Armstrong, Student Council President
Chayton Quail, Student Council Vice President
Emma Barber, Class President
Jack Randall, Class Vice President
Alex Doppenberg, Class Secretary/Treasurer
Madeline Gould
Austin Hansen
Ann Magnuson

Sophomore Class:

Ryan Bauermeister, President
Charlie Rezabek, Vice President
Nick Gross, Secretary/Treasurer
Liza Lovan
Katlyn Moore
Cody Mowery

Junior Class:

Reed Smith, President
Daly Tighe, Vice President
Austin Helmink, Secretary/Treasurer
Cayla Cunningham
Michael Gabhart
Taylor Glover

Freshman Class:

Jordan Hansen, President
Rachel Sather, Vice President
Brandt Roskens, Secretary/Treasurer
Ryan Crew
Keegan Kloewer
Abby Schauer

General Information

Homeroom Program

Spencer High School's Homeroom program is an important part of our mission to provide an environment in which all students can learn and develop to their maximum potential. Advisors will assist students in their path toward high school graduation.

Attire

Students are expected to dress appropriately for the school setting. Clothing that may be appropriate for other events or a setting is not always acceptable in a learning environment. Any style of dress, article of clothing, or hairstyle, which interferes with or disrupts the maintenance of an atmosphere conducive to learning is unacceptable.

- Shoes are to be worn at all times.
- Any article of clothing that is obscene or which contains profane or sexually suggestive language is unsuitable attire.
- Any article of clothing which promotes illegal drugs or alcohol is considered improper.
- Hats, caps, hoods and bandannas are not to be worn **in school** during the school day.
- Any item associated with gangs, gang symbols, or gang colors is prohibited.
- Any article of clothing which is excessively revealing or disruptive is considered improper. Spaghetti straps, tank tops, midriff tops, muscle shirts, short shorts, and tops that reveal excessive cleavage are not permitted. Undergarments should not be visible.
- Coats will not be worn in the classrooms.

Backpacks

Backpacks and book bags are not allowed in classrooms.

Behavior Expectations

A safe, secure, disruption-free academic environment is essential to ensure a quality education for our students. All of Spencer High School's rules and behavior expectations are based upon this premise. Spencer High School uses the Boys' Town Social Skills Model when dealing with discipline issues. This is a system of progressive discipline with the teaching of behavior expectations and ending with progressively more severe consequences when those expectations are not met. Spencer High School publishes a Board of Education approved "Code of Conduct" which is available to parents each August and reviewed with students in Homeroom sessions during the first week of school.

Office referrals: Students sent to the office by a teacher for disciplinary reasons must report to the office immediately. They must wait in the office until they have talked with an administrator or designee. Failure to report or talk with an administrator or designee will result in a suspension.

Not every situation is covered in the handbook.

Dances

Only Spencer High School students and those attending an accredited high school will be allowed to attend school sponsored dances. (excluding Prom) High school students from other high schools must be registered 24 hours prior to the dance. Registration data includes name, age, high school attending and an emergency contact telephone number.

Detention

Detention time may be served in the office or with a teacher before or after school. A student needs to sign the detention roster in the office before and after serving the time. If time is served with a teacher, the student must bring back a note from the teacher with the time noted.

Disciplinary Action

Suspension - When the decision is made to exclude a student from attending classes for one or more days for disciplinary reason, the administration has the option to have the student serve the suspension in a supervised setting in the Transition Room. Students will be expected to work productively on assignments provided by building personnel during their suspension. Boys' Town skills will be reinforced.

Electronic Devices

Electronic devices such as games, radios, televisions, tape, MP3, CD players or cell phones are not permitted to be used or in plain sight during the school day (beginning of the first period until the end of the last period). **Cell phones** used without permission, **on or in plain sight** will be confiscated and held until a parent picks it up. **Use of video, audio or still images are only permitted with staff approval.** Individual classroom instructors may find the use of an electronic device

educational and may permit their use during class only. The school assumes no responsibility for any lost or stolen electronic devices.

Fighting

Fighting is not an acceptable form of resolving conflicts in a school setting, regardless of the reasons. The use of physical force will not be tolerated. Students who are involved in fighting at school, on school grounds, or at any school activity (home or away) are subject to suspension or possible expulsion from school. Law enforcement authorities will be notified and charges will be recommended.

Food and Drink

All food and beverages are to be consumed and kept in the student center. Students who bring their lunches to school may keep them in their locker in closed containers until lunchtime. Any student not in the student center who is in possession of an open container or unwrapped food without permission will return to the student center or will dispose of it immediately.

Fundraisers

When funds are being solicited by the general public, approval must be given by the Board of Education through the activities department. This needs to be approved in the fall. Fundraisers within the school must be approved by the administration.

Guidance and Counseling

Spencer High School has two guidance counselors. SHS counselors work with students in the areas of academic counseling and course selection, post-secondary education plans, financial aid, career education, testing, and crisis counseling for students and parents.

Student Anti-Bullying/Harassment

Code No. 502.10

Harassment of students by students, staff, and volunteers will not be tolerated in the school district. This policy is in effect while students are on school grounds, school district property, or on property within the jurisdiction of the school district; while on school-owned and/or school-operated buses, vehicles or chartered buses; while attending or engaged in school activities; and while away from school grounds if the misconduct directly affects the good order, efficient management and welfare of the school district.

The board prohibits harassment, bullying, hazing, or any other victimization of or by students, staff, and volunteers which is based on actual or perceived age, color, creed, national origin, race, religion, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical attributes, physical or mental ability or disability, ancestry, political party preference, political belief, socioeconomic status, or familial status and which creates an objectively hostile school environment. This section in no way implies or grants additional rights to any class of persons listed beyond those rights specifically granted elsewhere in the Spencer Community Schools policy handbook. Individuals whose behavior is found to be in violation of this policy will be subject to the investigation procedure which may result in discipline, up to and including, suspension and expulsion.

Sexual harassment means unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:

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

Sexual harassment as set out above, may include, but is not limited to the following:

- verbal or written harassment or abuse;
- pressure for sexual activity;
- repeated remarks to a person with sexual or demeaning implications
- unwelcome touching;
- suggesting or demanding sexual involvement, accompanied by implied or explicit threats concerning one's grades, achievements, etc.

Harassment on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, national origin, marital status, physical or mental ability or disability, actual or perceived age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical attributes, ancestry, political party preference, political belief, socioeconomic status or familial status, means conduct of a verbal or physical nature that is designed to embarrass, distress, agitate, disturb or trouble students when:

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

Harassment as set forth above may include, but is not limited to the following:

- verbal, physical or written harassment or abuse;
- repeated remarks of a demeaning nature;
- implied or explicit threats concerning one's grades, achievements, etc.;
- demeaning jokes, stories, or activities directed at the student.

The district will promptly and reasonably investigate allegations of harassment. The building principal will be responsible for handling all complaints by students alleging harassment.

Retaliation against a student because the student has filed a harassment complaint or assisted or participated in a harassment investigation or proceeding is also prohibited. A student who is found to have retaliated against another in violation of this policy will be subject to discipline up to and including suspension and expulsion.

It shall also be the responsibility of the superintendent, in conjunction with the investigator and principals, to develop administrative rules regarding this policy. The superintendent shall also be responsible for organizing training programs for students and employees. The training shall include how to recognize harassment and what to do in case a student is harassed.

Healthy Kids Act

Only food and beverage that are approved by the Healthy Kids Act will be served at Spencer High School. No food or beverage from an outside vendor will be allowed **that violates the Healthy Kids Act. This includes classroom incentives served between the first bell and the last bell.**

Health Services

The school nurse is available to Spencer High School students on a daily basis. Ill students will be sent home, with parent permission. Students who must take medication at school need written authorization. **No medication is to be kept by students in their lockers or on their person. Exception: Inhalers with attached prescription labels including student's name.**

Medication must be properly labeled and must be prescribed by a physician. The school nurse or other authorized personnel must administer the medication. Iowa law requires that immunization records of all students be kept on file.

Students may be excused from PE classes with a physician's request. Forms are available in the nurse's office for this purpose. Students requiring full medical exemption from PE must obtain a doctor's authorization outlining the condition requiring the exemption.

Students who require the use of a wheelchair or crutches must have a physician's order. This it to be given to the nurse.

Dental Screening Requirement:

- *Applies to 9th grade and out-of-district transfer students
- *Screening must occur within 1 year **prior to enrolling in 9th grade**
- *Screening can only be performed by dentists or dental hygienists

Homecoming

In order to be eligible for Homecoming Court, a senior must not be in violation of the district's good conduct policy within the last twelve (12) months prior to Homecoming.

Homework

The following steps should be followed when giving or doing homework. Remember that homework is an important part of any school and is needed to be able to help students accomplish academic potential. Research shows that time spent on

homework has a positive correlation to achievement; homework is more effective for high school students than younger students.

1. Homework should not be “new learning”.
2. Homework must be connected to classroom learning and clearly identify the purpose of each assignment.
3. Tasks should be relevant and performed with minimal adult assistance.
4. Students should expect to do from 70-120 minutes of homework each night. Achievement declines after 2-2 ½ hours of homework.
5. Long range assignments are preferable to avoid conflicts with work, activities, etc.
6. Evaluate the grading of homework to maximize students learning.
7. Differentiate as needed.

Internet

Students will be able to access the Internet and school network through their teachers and media personnel. Students will be expected to abide by the following network etiquette:

- The use of the network is a privilege and may be taken away for violation of board policy or regulations. As a user of the Internet, students may be allowed access to other networks. Each network may have its own set of policies and procedures. Students will abide by the policies and procedures of these other networks.
- Students will respect all copyright and license agreements.
- Students will cite all quotes, references, and sources.
- Students will only remain on the system long enough to get needed information.
- Students will apply the same privacy, ethical and educational considerations utilized in other forms of communication.
- Students access for electronic mail will be through the teacher’s request. Students should adhere to the following guidelines:
 1. Others may be able to read or access the mail, so private messages should not be sent.
 2. Delete unwanted messages immediately.
 3. Use of objectionable language is prohibited.
 4. Always sign messages.
 5. Always acknowledge receipt of a document or file.
- Students accessing Internet services that have a cost involved will be responsible for payment of those costs.
- Students will only use their assigned usernames and passwords.

***REMINDER: The Internet activities NOT allowed during school, but not limited to, are:**

- * **Inappropriate websites – including violence, crude jokes, inappropriate pictures, pornography, etc.**
- * **Internet based email accounts such as Yahoo Mail, Hotmail, etc.**
- * **Games – any and all game sites and Internet games**
- * **Sharing network accounts and/or using any network username and password other than the one given to student.**

Violation of the Internet/Network: Students who access restricted items on the Internet/Network and/or use the system inappropriately shall be subject but not limited to the following consequences:

- 1st Offense: May lose Internet and/or network access for a period of one calendar month
- 2nd Offense: May lose Internet and/or network access for the remainder of the school year, for a period of time not less than one semester.
- 3rd Offense: May lose Internet and/or network access for a minimum of one calendar year, to be determined by school officials.

- * Students under suspension from Internet use may be permitted to use the Internet as a part of classroom activities under strict classroom supervision if deemed necessary as part of the educational experience. Alternative activities will be utilized whenever possible.
- ** Students who commit criminal offenses while using the system may be subject to criminal prosecution and possible suspension or expulsion.

Leaving Campus Procedures

Students who leave during the school day must first sign out in the front office. This absence must have prior notification and approval from a parent and/or administrator. *Unexcused absences may be dealt with as a truancy.* Students needing to go to the parking lot during the school day must get prior permission from an administrator or designee.

Library/Media Center

Spencer High School's library is open daily from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The SHS library houses over 13,000 volumes and features a computer catalog search system, and Internet access. The library is designed to be a quiet study area, but rooms are available for small groups and classes. Students use their ID cards to check out materials. Fines are levied for lost, damaged, or overdue items. Students with fines/dues in excess of \$5.00 may lose the privilege of checking out materials until the fine is paid. Overdue books are assessed 10 cents/day late.

Lockers

Reference: Board Policy 502.5

All students are assigned to a locker in a designated area. Students are not to switch lockers without permission from the office. Lockers are to be used for the storage of books, should be kept locked at all times and should be kept clean, undamaged, and free of garbage or litter. Lockers are for the use of the student during the school year, but remain at all times the property of the school district. To ensure students are properly maintaining their assigned locker, the building principal and/or designated representatives may periodically inspect the lockers. Student lockers may be searched in compliance with current board policy regulating search and seizure. Students will be held responsible for the contents of the locker to which they are assigned. **Spencer High School will not assume responsibility for lost or stolen items.**

Lunch Program

School lunches are available for all students at a cost set each year by the school board. Students may put money into their lunch accounts prior to first period daily. Menus are published weekly in the local newspaper and online at spenceriowaschools.com. In addition to the regular menu, an a la carte line is provided. Parents can ask for a printout of all lunch purchases and can exclude the student from purchasing through ala carte.

National Honor Society

To be eligible as a candidate for National Honor Society, the student must be a junior (end of 5th semester) or a senior, have a 3.00 cumulative GPA, and not be in violation of the district's good conduct policy within the last 12 months. Eligible candidates will be contacted by mail. Students will be screened and prospective new members will be rated on individual qualities of service, leadership, and character. Students will be rated on a 4, 3, 2, 1 scale (4 = highest). NHS students who violate the good conduct policy may be removed permanently from NHS membership.

Open Lunch Policy

9th grade students are expected to remain in the student center during the noon period. Students in grades 10, 11 and 12 have the opportunity to leave campus during the lunch period. Students are not to loiter in the hallways during the noon period because of the disruption to learning in classrooms. Students with open lunch privileges will be considered unexcused for afternoon absences unless the absence is approved by a school official prior to missing any class. Students will lose the open lunch privilege for the following reasons: truancy, tardiness, reckless driving, littering, trespassing on private property, violation of rules, cutting class, or excessive absences. All school rules and regulations are in effect while a student is off campus during open lunch.

Parking Lot

Parking at SHS is a privilege, not a right. Students are allowed to purchase hang tags for the parking lot at a cost of \$30. The parking lot is monitored by police officers, school personnel, and closed circuit cameras. Students who opt to park in the school lot in their designated areas must observe the following regulations:

1. All vehicles must have a parking permit sticker displayed on the rear view mirror.
2. All vehicles must be **properly** parked in marked areas **and occupy only one spot**.
3. No vehicles may be parked in zones reserved for visitors, administrators, teachers, staff, or handicapped persons.
4. Students shall not drive in a reckless manner or exceed posted speed limits on school property and adjacent streets.
5. Once students arrive at school, they are expected to park their vehicles and leave the parking lot. Students are not to loiter in the parking lot at any time throughout the day, including 7:00-9:00 a.m. and lunch. Cruising is also not allowed.
6. Automobiles on school property will be subject to search without prior notice. Any illegal or inappropriate items discovered will be referred to the police.
7. Students parked at other school buildings will be subject to their parking rules. Improper parking may result in a fine.

Students who violate parking rules will be subject to a \$20.00 fine and/or loss of parking privileges. Appeals in parking tickets must be made within ten (10) school days. The appeal will be handled by the associate high school principal.

Prom

Only juniors and seniors who are full time students and their guests are allowed to attend Prom. No guests 21 or older are allowed to attend Prom.

Search and Seizure

School officials may conduct periodic inspections of all, or a randomly selected number of, school lockers, desks, and other facilities or spaces owned by the school and provided as a courtesy to a student without prior notice. Desks, lockers, and facilities provided for temporary use by students remain at all times the property of the school district, and are subject to the rules of the district, periodic inspection for cleanliness, missing school property, evidence of vandalism, and special searches for contraband materials. Any inspection or search shall be conducted in the presence of at least one other person. School authorities may seize any illegal, unauthorized or contraband materials discovered in the search. Possession of such items will be grounds for disciplinary action and may be grounds for reporting to local law enforcement authorities.

Securing Valuables

The Spencer High School will not assume responsibility for items and valuables that are stolen or lost. It is advised that students do not bring valuables or large sums of money to school. If it is necessary to bring valuables, the student should bring them to the office to have them stored in a secure location.

Senior Open Campus

In order to be eligible for senior open campus at the beginning of a semester, students must have no F's and no more than 2 D's during the previous semester, a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 (end of 6th or 7th semester), a minimum of **33 credits – 1st semester and 39 credits – 2nd semester**, and no time-based suspension during 4th quarter of the junior year or 2nd quarter of senior year. Seniors who miss a class following an open period will be considered unexcused unless the absence is approved by a school official prior to missing the class. Senior open campus is a privilege, not a right. Students must be passing all their classes during the previous quarter and have no attendance referrals to remain eligible. Students who violate school rules and policies will be subject to losing open campus privileges, to be determined by the high school administration. All school rules and regulations are in effect while a student is off campus during open campus.

Snowmobiles

Snowmobiles are not allowed to be driven or parked in the school parking lots. Students who wish to drive their snowmobiles to school have the option of parking in the street as long as the snowmobile is not driven on school property.

Student Driving Permits

Students who are 14 years of age may qualify for a "Student Driving Permit" if they have satisfactorily completed a Driver's Education Program and follow these steps:

1. Obtain an application at the Iowa DOT Driver's License Office.
2. Take this application, along with Driver Education Certificate of Completion, to the Superintendent of Schools for approval and signature.
3. Return the approved application and Driver Education Certificate of Completion to the DOT Driver's License Office.

These permits are meant to provide transportation directly to and from school. Other regulations are clearly outlined in the application and materials that accompany the permit.

Student Government

The purpose of student government is to provide an avenue for student involvement in the decision-making process at Spencer High School, to enhance the social function of the school, and to represent the student body in the overall operation of the school.

Student council elections are held each spring for the upcoming year. Six students are elected for each grade 9–11. Eight seniors are elected to the council. Seniors run in pairs for student body president/vice president in a school-wide general election. Participation in student council is a privilege. Students declared ineligible according to the good conduct policy or who violate academic integrity will be terminated as members of student council.

Student Insurance

Reference: School Board Policy 504.9

All students participating in school athletics must carry health and accident insurance. Parents may purchase insurance from the program selected by the school district or provide proof that the child is adequately insured by another policy. The school provides an insurance program for all students and invites all students to participate on a voluntary basis with costs to be paid by the student's parents.

Student Substance Use and Abuse

Possession and/or Use of Tobacco Products

Possession and/or use of tobacco products by students are prohibited in all areas of the Spencer School buildings and on school grounds. Students will not knowingly possess or use tobacco products while in attendance at school or at a school-related activity. Students, regardless of age, are considered members of the school body and are subject to this regulation. Students using or possessing tobacco products will be reported to administration for disciplinary action. This will include a **minimum** 3 day suspension and referral to the Spencer Police Department for a charge of tobacco possession.

Drug and Alcohol Use

An important issue in contemporary society is the use of mood or mind-altering substances. Students cannot make full use of the resources or opportunities of our school if they are under the influence of harmful substances.

A student shall not use, possess, sell, purchase, distribute, or be under the influence of any alcoholic beverage, illegal drug, controlled substance, controlled substance look-alike, or possess drug paraphernalia while in attendance at school or at a school-related activity. Students who violate this rule are subject to suspension from school, the school's eligibility policies, and possible expulsion from school.

Parents will be notified and law enforcement officials will be asked to continue the investigation. Students attempting to build or manufacture items considered to be drug paraphernalia during a scheduled class will be removed from the class with loss of credit and assigned to a study hall for the remainder of the semester. The following procedures will be used when a violation occurs:

Student users and possessors

First offense: Students shall be suspended from school by the building principal for a minimum of three (3) days and a maximum of ten (10) days. Suspensions beyond the ten (10) days must be approved by the Superintendent of Schools. As soon as possible it is recommended that the student and his/her parents contact a chemical dependency service for an evaluation. Compass Pointe – 262-2952

Second offense: Students shall be placed on suspension by the building principal for up to ten (10) days, with a request to the Superintendent of Schools to extend the suspension beyond the ten (10) days if necessary. Based on the evidence and conditions surrounding the offense, a student may be referred by the Superintendent of Schools to the Board of Education for consideration for long-term suspension or expulsion.

Student distributors

The school district considers the distribution of either alcoholic beverages or controlled substances to be a most serious infraction of school rules and a safety threat to other students. Students having in their possession drugs, alcohol, or controlled or look-alike substances in a quantity determined by school authorities to be for distribution purposes, or if through investigation is found to be selling or distributing these items, shall be placed on suspension for up to ten (10) days, with a request to the Superintendent of Schools to extend the suspension beyond the ten (10) days. Following an investigation of all available facts and information, a recommendation for the student's expulsion or long-term suspension from school may be forwarded to the Board of Education.

Telephone

A student phone is available during school hours for school-related business with permission from the office staff.

Threats of Violence

All threats of violence, whether oral, written, or symbolic, against students, staff, or to school facilities are prohibited. All such threats must be taken seriously and will be promptly investigated. Law enforcement may be contacted. Threats issued and delivered away from school or school activities may be grounds for disciplinary action if the threat impacts the orderly and efficient operation of the school. Students engaging in threatening behavior will face disciplinary consequences up to and including expulsion.

The following factors will be considered in determining the extent to which a student will be disciplined for threatening or terrorist behavior: 1) the background of the student, including any history of violence or prior threatening behavior; 2) the student's access to weapons of any kind; 3) the circumstances surrounding the threat; 4) the age of the student; 5) the mental and emotional maturity of the student; 6) cooperation of the student and his or her parent(s) or guardian(s) in the investigation; 7) the existence of the student's juvenile or criminal history; 8) the degree of legitimate alarm or concern in the school community created by the threat; and 9) any other relevant information from any credible source.

When comments are made by students that can be viewed as a potential threat to others, even if they are made jokingly, they must and will be taken seriously by the school. The following steps will be taken:

- Administrators will conduct a full investigation.
- Parents will be notified and asked to assist with the investigation.
- The police may be called to conduct their own investigation.
- The student's locker and possessions may be searched.
- The police, as a part of the investigation, may search the student's home and vehicle to determine if he or she has access to any weapons.
- Charges may be filed by the school or police department.
- The student may be suspended for a period of time and may be referred to an outside agency for an evaluation prior to being allowed to return to the school setting.

- The student may be recommended for expulsion from school.

Any student who hears someone make a threat has a responsibility to report this immediately to an adult in the building. Do not wait a day or two to think about it--act immediately. This is not a situation to assume that the student is kidding or that they won't follow through. In virtually all situations of school violence across the nation, the student told someone prior to acting.

It is also VERY IMPORTANT to remember that the root cause of school violence is students feeling ostracized, picked on, or made fun of. Students who don't feel that they fit in may take the situation into their own hands, with tragic consequences. Students must be willing to stop others from harassing and making fun of their peers.

If you are the student who is picked on, made fun of, or is subject to repeated harassment, TELL SOMEONE IMMEDIATELY. You can go to a trusted teacher, a guidance counselor or an administrator. Don't wait until you feel there is no way out--the adults at Spencer High School will work with you to find a solution.

Transition Program

The Transition Program offers skill development to students and is modeled after Boys Town. The model is used to teach students life changing skills, help students build healthy relationships, empowering students to make good decisions and create a safe environment. Since the beginning of the Transition Program, it has been continually adapted and improved to meet the changing needs of our students and their families.

Visitors

Visitors' presence during the school day requires prior administrative approval. Visitors will need to sign in and receive a nametag.

Academics

Requirements for Graduation

Students must complete 46 credits in order to graduate. Students are required to have 6 out of 7 class periods filled. Students who drop below **six** credits for the semester will be required to attend a hearing with the building administrator to determine the student's academic status. If the individual is allowed to continue as a student at SHS at the hearing, he/she will be required to complete an At-Risk/Transition Plan which must be approved by an administrator, guidance counselor, and parent.

This total shall include two (2) credits in physical education (or 1 credit per year as awarded per class). A total of sixteen (16) credits earned in Choir or Band may be used for graduation (1 credit per semester). **A full time student must fill 6 courses in a 7 period day.** The commencement ceremony is a privilege. Full-time students and early graduates in good standing (attendance, academics, and behavior) may participate in commencement. The minimum number of credits required to participate in commencement exercises will be 45; diploma will be issued upon successful completion of the 46 credit requirement.

English Requirements

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| English I (full yr.) | 2 credits |
| English II (full yr.) | 2 credits |
| Writing elective | 1 credit |
| Literature elective | 1 credit |
| Speech elective | 1 credit |
| Elective | <u>1 credit</u> |
| Total | 8 credits |

Science Requirements

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Physical Science (full yr.) | 2 credits |
| Biology (full yr.) | 2 credits |
| Science elective | <u>2 credits</u> |
| Total | 6 credits |

Social Studies Requirements

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Civics | 1 credit |
| World History (full yr.) | 2 credits |
| US History (full yr.) | 2 credits |
| Government | <u>1 credit</u> |
| Total | 6 credits |

Physical Education Requirements

| | |
|------------------|-----------|
| 4 years required | 2 credits |
|------------------|-----------|

Mathematics Requirements

| | |
|----------------------|-----------|
| 6 semester electives | 6 credits |
|----------------------|-----------|

Acceleration Policy

When a student advances into high school level classes before his/her classmates, the student earns high school credit for the class and begins to build grade point credits. High school classes taken in 7th or 8th grade will not be counted toward core required credits.

Academic Integrity

In education, where performance is considered an accurate reflection of ability and effort, academic integrity and honesty are essential. In order to meet the demands of work and society in the future, each student must identify and exhibit his or her own academic strengths. Students who are involved in cheating, helping someone else to cheat, plagiarism, or theft of academic materials weaken the integrity of the academic process and may be subject to the following consequences:

Cheating or plagiarism: Copying someone else's work, allowing someone to copy your work, supplying work to others, purchasing resources, or use of crib notes.

First offense: Loss of all credit on the test, paper, assignment or project. The teacher will notify the office in writing that the offense has occurred.

Second offense with same teacher: Suspension from school and/or removal from the class with loss of credit for the class.

Theft of academic materials: Theft of a test or answer key from a classroom or teacher workstation or use of a stolen document.

First offense: Suspension from school and/or removal from the class with loss of credit for the class.

Second offense: Suspension from school with consideration given to recommendation for long-term suspension or expulsion.

Students who are involved in cheating, plagiarism, or theft of academic materials may be suspended for up to ten (10) days and may be found to be in violation of the school's code of conduct eligibility policy.

Adding and Dropping Courses

Students may add a class during the first week of the semester. Students enrolled in seven classes may drop a class during the first 10 weeks of each semester will receive a W (withdrawal) if they are passing the course at the time of withdrawal or an F (failure) if they are failing the course at the time of withdrawal. Any student dropping one or more classes below six (6) credits will receive an F (failure) for those classes. If a student withdraws from a class after the 10th week of the semester, an F (failure) will be recorded for a grade. Any student who drops below 6 academic credits will be required to attend a hearing with the building administrator to determine his/her academic status at SHS. **Students that register for an Iowa AP online academic course and then choose to drop the course must do so by the Belin-Blank Center's drop date. This is generally the end of June.**

Challenge Program

The high school talented and gifted program is called "Challenge." Students apply to the program and are accepted based upon two out of five criteria which include meeting standards in the categories of test scores, previous identification, concurrent recommendations, authentic assessments, and/or outstanding performance. High school Challenge offerings include: Challenge seminars, career development, enrichment, extended learning opportunities, acceleration, independent study, conferences, support and communication services, affective needs, artistic opportunities, scholarship/college prep, summer opportunities, environmental coalition and other groupings of common interests, academic extra-curriculars, and more. A Challenge newsletter is sent to homes to inform students and parents of upcoming events and TAG-related information. Application forms may be found in the guidance office. See Mrs. Myers for more information.

Changes to Student Schedules

Counselors will use the following guidelines when considering schedule change requests. Changes may be made only for the following reasons:

1. Computer and/or clerical error
2. Failure in a required course attempted a previous semester
3. Approved level changes by teacher and counselor (such as in math)
4. Special education or Challenge placement
5. Significant change in college or career planning as recommended by the counselor/principal
6. Seniors who need courses for graduation
7. Required course not on schedule
8. Failure to have necessary prerequisite for a course
9. Student already has credit in the scheduled class
10. Newly registered student – no previous schedule
11. Administrative request
12. Adding a class that does not disturb the rest of the schedule (including PE). Such additions are dependent on the availability of space.

Credit Recovery

Credits may be earned back online. Please see the Guidance department for more details.

Early Graduation

Reference Board Policy 505.6

A student must have completed 45 credits, including 1 1/2 PE credits by the end of the 7th semester to qualify for early graduation. Seniors must have completed a preliminary application for early graduation during the 1st quarter of the senior year. The reason for not returning for classes during the 8th semester must be approved by the parent or guardian and the high school principal. Seniors who are granted early completion status receive diplomas at or after the regular commencement exercises.

Grade Classification

Students entering Spencer High School must complete the following credit requirements at each grade level.

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Sophomore status: | 2 semesters and a minimum of 10 credits |
| Junior status: | 4 semesters and a minimum of 21 credits |
| Senior status: | 6 semesters and a minimum of 33 credits |

Students not meeting the requirements will not be awarded the privileges associated with the next higher grade level. (Prom, open lunches, etc.) This will begin with the graduating class of 2014.

Grade Point Calculation

SHS grade point averages are based upon a 4.33 scale. The following numerical values are assigned to letter grades:

| | | | | | | | |
|----|------|----|------|----|------|----|------|
| A+ | 4.33 | | | | | | |
| A | 4.00 | B | 3.00 | C | 2.00 | D | 1.00 |
| A- | 3.67 | B- | 2.67 | C- | 1.67 | D- | 0.67 |
| B+ | 3.33 | C+ | 2.33 | D+ | 1.33 | F | 0.00 |

Cumulative grade point averages are updated following each semester. Semester grades, not quarter grades, are used to compute grade point averages. The cumulative GPA listed on the first and third quarter report card does not reflect the quarter grades; it is a reflection of the student's cumulative GPA from the previous semester.

Music Credit

All students enrolled in either instrumental or vocal music earn 1 credit per semester. Grades earned in music are counted in grade point average calculation. Students may apply a total of 16 music credits as elective credits for graduation.

Passwords

To access student grades online, please contact Spencer High School at 262-1700 for a user i.d. and password.

PE Policy

Reference: Standards for Iowa Schools 12.5(f)

Spencer High School students are required to participate in physical education for four years, as per State standard. Students enrolled in seven classes both semesters may fulfill alternative programs arranged by the PE department.

Students who choose to have PE exempted will not receive credit for PE during that semester and will need to earn that credit through other classes to reach their credits required for graduation. Students who have schedule changes that affect their exemption status will be required to enroll in PE at that time.

Report Cards and Mid-term Reports

All grades are now available to view online. To receive a mid-term report and report cards, please contact the High School office to be placed on the mailing list.

SENIOR YEAR PLUS:

Senior Year Plus General Provisions

Iowa law requires students, instructors, and institutions to meet certain criteria to be eligible to participate in Senior Year Plus programming. The following criteria apply to all Senior Year Plus programs and are supplemented by program specific requirements.

Student Eligibility

Students are required to meet all of the following conditions to be eligible to enroll in any course through a Senior Year Plus program where postsecondary credit is available to the student including PSEO, concurrent enrollment, and certain career academy courses.

Requirements Established by Postsecondary Institution (28I—IAC 22.2(I)):

- The student shall meet the enrollment requirements established by the eligible postsecondary institution.

- The student shall meet or exceed minimum performance measures on any academic assessments that may be required by the eligible postsecondary institution.
- The student shall have taken appropriate course prerequisites, if any, prior to enrollment in the eligible postsecondary course, as determined by the eligible postsecondary institution delivering the course.

Requirements Established by School District (281—22.2(2)):

- The student shall have attained the approval of the school board or its designee and the appropriate postsecondary institution to register for the postsecondary course.
- The student shall have demonstrated proficiency in all of the content areas of reading, mathematics, and science as evidenced by achievement scores on the most recent administration of the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) or the Iowa Test of Educational Development (ITED) for which scores are available for the student.
- If the student was absent for the most recent administration of either the ITBS or ITED, and such absence was not excused by the student's school of enrollment, the student is deemed to not be proficient in any of the content areas. The school district may determine whether such student is eligible for qualification under an equivalent qualifying measure.

To participate in Senior Year Plus programming, students must meet the academic requirements of both the school district and postsecondary institution. At the college level, students must meet any assessment requirements of the postsecondary institution including any placement exam requirements of the institution. While Iowa community colleges are open access institutions, they usually have college placement exam requirements, often including mandatory minimum cut scores for enrollment in certain courses. Early placement testing benefits students by helping them better understand their progress toward college readiness much earlier than at the time of matriculation.

At the school district level, students must demonstrate proficiency in each of three academic areas — reading, mathematics, and science. This is primarily determined using the students' most recent scores on the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) or the Iowa Tests of Educational Development (ITED) exams. Students are determined to be proficient if they score at or above the 41st percentile in the subject area. The portions of the exams used for determining proficiency are the same as those used by districts for Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) and Annual Progress Report (APR) reporting (i.e., Reading Comprehension for reading, Mathematics Concepts and Problem Solving for mathematics, and Analysis of Science Material for science).

If a student is not proficient in one or more of the content areas of reading, mathematics, and science on the Iowa Tests, the school board may establish alternative but equivalent qualifying performance measures. The school board is not required to establish alternative performance measures (i.e. MAPS testing).

Advanced Placement Courses

Spencer High School offers the following AP courses. The AP exams are given each spring.

- AP Calculus
- AP Government
- AP Biology
- AP Literature and Composition

Concurrent Enrollment

SHS offers a number of classes that grant both high school credit and college credit, through partnerships with community colleges. The course content and expectations are consistent with college classes. As with any college class, the ability to transfer that credit to another college is dependant on the receiving college. The SHS student receives college credit while still in high school, and he/she experiences a college-level curriculum without paying college tuition. If a student fails a concurrent enrollment class, they will be responsible for reimbursing SHS the course fee.

ILCC Learning Center Credits

Students may earn graduation credits at the ILCC Learning Center located in the Gateway North Mall. The following guidelines are used for these courses.

1. Enrollment must be approved by the high school principal.
2. A maximum of two (2) elective credits may be applied toward a Spencer High School diploma.
3. Students are expected to pay for these credits at enrollment time.

Post-Secondary Enrollment Reference: Code No. 602.11

9th and 10th grade students who are part of the "Challenge" (talented and gifted) program and all 11th and 12th grade students may take college credit courses under provisions of the 1991 "Post-Secondary Enrollment Act". Students who participate in this program will be reimbursed up to \$250.00 for tuition and other costs related directly to the course or courses taken. The following guidelines apply:

1. High school students will not be approved to take college courses that are similar in content as those taught by high school instructors.
2. College credit courses taken through this act must be taken in addition to the five academic classes required for all Spencer High School students.
3. The student or the student's parents are responsible for providing transportation and all transportation costs.
4. The high school principal and parents must sign all registration and post-secondary enrollment forms prior to participation in this program.
5. Credits earned in this program will not apply toward the specific course requirements for graduation.
6. Students must be in attendance at Spencer High School to be eligible for this program. Students who opt for early graduation will not be eligible for post-secondary enrollment.
7. Students who do not satisfactorily complete the course will be required to reimburse the school district for all expenses.

Academic and Attendance Recognition

Spencer High School's primary purpose is to provide a quality education to all students. To that end, it is important to recognize those students who excel academically and who put forth a consistent effort to be in attendance at school. Listed below are several ways SHS recognizes students for their academics.

- Academic All-Lakes Conference - Seniors who have a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher and who have lettered in a varsity sport.
- Academic Letter - Students who earn a 3.2 grade point average or higher for both semesters of a given school year.
- Perfect Attendance - Students who have perfect daily attendance for one year without having any unexcused absences from a class during the year. Absences due to school business such as field trips will not count against a student's attendance record
- Exemplary Attendance - Students who have missed only one day in a quarter without having any unexcused absences from a class during that time period. Multiple absences in one class period during that time period will exclude a student from receiving this recognition. Absences due to school business such as field trips will not count against a student's attendance record.
- Honor Roll - Students who earn a 3.000 GPA for one quarter. Any incomplete or F grade will deny a student this recognition.
- Graduation with Distinction - A cumulative grade point average of 3.750 or higher through the 7th semester of high school.
- Graduation with Excellence - A cumulative grade point average of 3.500 to 3.749 through the 7th semester of high school.
- Graduation with Honors - A cumulative grade point average of 3.000 to 3.499 through the 7th semester of high school.

Attendance Policy

In order to receive the maximum benefit from the instructional program, Spencer High School students are expected to attend school on a regular basis and to be on time. Irregular attendance and tardiness both hinder the student's own studies and interfere with the progress of those students who are regular and prompt in their attendance.

Research indicates there is a strong correlation between student success and attendance. It is the firm belief of Spencer High School that students who attend school regularly will show greater academic success than those students who are habitually absent. Besides disrupting the student's educational program, absences cause teachers to spend valuable class time to bring the absent students to a current status. The eight (8) period unexcused absence policy is based on the fact that something important happens in class every day and that the interaction between teacher and student can never be exactly duplicated.

The school believes the responsibility for attendance rests with the parents and the students. We encourage those responsible to make good sound educational decisions about school attendance, keeping in mind that attendance in school results in greater success. If that responsibility is not assumed by the students and parents, the school will enforce the State of Iowa mandatory attendance laws and the following attendance policy for Spencer High School. The following policy has been developed to encourage good attendance.

I. Compulsory Attendance

Students who are under 16 years of age are required to attend school on a regular basis. State and local compulsory attendance statutes will be enforced. Students must attend a minimum of 37 days per quarter and a minimum of 148 days per year in order to be considered in regular attendance. If a student must be absent in excess of the number of days outlined above, the parent/guardian has the responsibility of contacting the school to discuss these absences. Violations of the compulsory attendance law will be reported the Clay County

Attorney. Students who have dropped out of school lose their driver's license until the age of 18. The local truancy ordinance requires a student to remain in school until age 18 unless lawfully withdrawn by a parent.

II. Majority Age

A student of majority age (18 years or older) who is not residing with parents or guardian may present his/her own excuses for absences without parental verification. The principal or his/her designee must approve such an arrangement. Students of majority age who reside with parents or guardian will be expected to have all absences verified by a parent/guardian.

III. Excused Absences

The administration recognizes that student absences are sometimes necessary. Therefore, the following absences from school will be considered excused:

1. Personal illness or accident.
2. Death or serious illness/injury in the immediate family or household, and emergency at home vital to the family welfare.
3. The funeral of a relative or close friend.
4. Medical or dental appointments that cannot be made other than during school time, and for which verification of the appointment is presented before absences. Students are urged to schedule these on weekends, before and after school, or during study hall times.
5. Court appearances.
6. Family vacations which have been given prior administrative approval. All school work must be made up in advance in order to earn credit.
7. College visits must be granted prior approval by the guidance counselor and all school work must be made up in advance.

Please Note: Senior pictures and driver's license appointments will be considered an unexcused absence.

It is emphasized, however, that a student's absences, even though excused, still affect the student's education. Every effort should be made by both students and parents to minimize the number of excused absences. These absences will be counted in the eight day absence policy. **The school retains the right to determine which absences are considered excused or unexcused.**

IV. Unexcused Absences/Truancy

A student who is absent from class, study hall, or lunch without prior notification and administrative approval will be considered truant. Students will receive no credit for work missed while truant. Consequences for truancy are as follows:

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 1 st -7 th offense - | Loss of privileges and detention |
| 8 th offense - | Loss of credit |

Repeated absences from school will be considered insubordination and may result in out-of-school suspension. The consequences for a student who is truant for a full day of school will be determined by the administrator at that time. A student who accumulates eight unexcused absences in a class is subject to loss of credit for that class.

V. Tardiness

Being on time for classes and study hall is an expectation for all students. Students who are delayed because of a conference with a teacher, counselor, or administrator should bring an excused admit slip when they come to class. Any student who is not in the classroom when the bell rings and does not have a pass, will be given an unexcused tardy. Teachers may have additional consequences and restrictions if they are written in the syllabus. Every 3rd unexcused tardy in a class, and the student and parents will receive a letter from the office and detention time may be assigned. After 6 unexcused tardies, the student will also be referred to the transition room for 2 weeks. After 9 unexcused tardies, the student will be referred to the transition room for 4 weeks. After 12 unexcused tardies, the student risks losing credit for the class. Students who are tardy due to a bus arriving late must report to the office for an excused tardy pass. **To change an unexcused tardy to an excused tardy, students must notify teachers and teachers must verify the change within 2 school days.**

VI. Five -Eight-Day Unexcused Absences

1. It is the belief of Spencer High School that an absence from school, whether excused or unexcused, is a day of lost instructional time. All unexcused absences will be counted.
2. It is the belief of Spencer High School that absences totaling eight periods during the current semester are excessive and not in the best interest of the learner.
3. It is also the belief of Spencer High School that there are circumstances beyond the control of the student and parents/guardians. These absences should not be absorbed in the eight days of absence allowed. Examples of such absences include but not limited to: school-related events, long-term illness (the first three days will count in the eight day absence policy), hospitalization, family emergencies, death or

serious illness/injury in immediate family or household, suspensions, and court appearances ordered by subpoena.

4. Any student who has accumulated eight or more unexcused absences in class will be not receive credit for that class unless a successful appeal is made at the end of the semester. The student must have a passing grade in order to appeal. The appeal must be made to the principal by the student outlining steps that have been taken to improve attendance, grades, and behavior.
5. The following process will be used to communicate the attendance status with students and parents:
 - a. Following the fifth unexcused absence in any class, during the semester a letter will be sent home notifying the parent/student of a potential loss of credit. If appropriate, the principal may contact the student and/or parents/guardians regarding the absences.
 - b. Following the eighth unexcused absence during the semester in any class a letter will be sent home notifying the parent/student of the loss of credit for that particular class or classes.
6. The student is to remain in the class and successfully complete the required course work.

VII. Appeal Process

Step I: A student or parent contesting the declared loss of credits based on these rules shall be required to submit a written appeal to the principal. It is expected that the student will present in writing his/her request for credit. The principal shall consider the evidence within 24 hours and shall forward in writing the finding and decision to the student and parent.

Step II: A student may appeal to the superintendent of schools in writing, within three days. The superintendent shall consider the evidence presented, including statements made by the student, and make a written finding of its decision within three days of the hearing, sending a copy to the student and parent.

VIII. Absence Notification Procedures

When a student must be absent from school, the parent/guardian should call the high school office and state the reason for the absence. If parents don't have access to a telephone, a written note will be accepted; otherwise, a phone call is required. If a parent anticipates the absence will exceed one day, he or she should indicate this during the first phone call. The school will attempt to contact parents at home or at work if the student's absence has not been verified. **Notification of an absence must be made by parents within 48 hours of the absence in order to change an unexcused absence to an excused absence.**

IX. Make-up Work/Incompletes

1. Students who miss class are responsible for initiating procedures to complete missed assignments, tests, or other work. Students should be aware that some classroom activities and group projects may not lend themselves to make-up work.
2. Students who anticipate an absence must make arrangements for make-up work in advance. Students not making up work in advance will not be given credit for work turned in after the absence unless prior arrangements have been made with the classroom teacher.
3. Students shall receive full credit for school work made up due to an excused absence if completed within the number of days missed plus one. For example, if a student missed three days of classes, provided the absences are excused, he/she will have four days to make up the work missed. Make-up work turned in past the deadline will receive zero credit.
4. Teachers have the option of extending the deadline or giving partial credit based on individual circumstances.
5. All incompletes are to be completed within 2 weeks of the end of the quarter. Incomplete grades will be changed to an F grade after the 2 week period. Extenuating circumstances will be reviewed by the administration.

Code of Conduct

Statutory Authority Code No. 279.8

“The Board of Directors shall make rules for its own government and that of the directors, officers, employees, teachers, and pupils...”

“The Board may, by a majority vote, expel any scholar from school for immorality, or for a violation of the regulations or rules established by the Board, or when the presence of the scholar is detrimental to the best interests of the school...”

Code of Iowa 282.4

Board Policies Code No. 502.1

“Students are expected to conduct themselves well at all times in keeping, with their level of maturity. Respect for authority vested in school employees, regard for public property, and consideration for the rights and welfare of other students should govern student behavior.”

Philosophy

It is our belief that an orderly, safe, and secure school environment is necessary for students to maximize classroom achievement and for teachers to be effective instructors. We believe in progressive discipline as a means of dealing with inappropriate behavior. We also believe the involvement of all staff members and parents is necessary to teach appropriate behavior. Not all situations or behaviors requiring corrective action are listed in the handbook. Administration reserves the right to address these situations or behaviors in order to maintain an appropriate learning environment.

Policy Applications

The provisions of the Spencer High School Code of Conduct apply to all students while in attendance at Spencer High School, before or after school, in a school building, on school grounds, at any school event (home or away), and while in any school vehicle. The high school principal and his designee reserves the right to deviate from the punishments identified herein if deemed appropriate. Every effort will be made to inform parent(s)/ guardian(s) of any problems which arise concerning student violations of the Code of Conduct.

Bus Behavior

Code 702.8 R

Pupils transported in a school bus shall be under the authority of, and responsible to, the driver of the bus. The driver of the school bus shall be held responsible for the orderly conduct of the pupils transported. Discipline problems will be handled by the transportation director, assistant superintendent and/or building administrator.

Cheating, Plagiarism, and Theft of Academic Materials

Students shall not be involved in copying someone else's work, allowing someone to copy their work, the use of crib notes, the theft of a test or answer key from a classroom or teacher work station, or the use of a stolen document. Students involved in any of these activities are subject to suspension, loss of credit for the assignment, test, or class, and the school's eligibility policies.

Disruptive Behavior

Students shall not disrupt a class through excessive talking, noise-making, arguing with another student, arguing with a teacher, or shall not engage in any activity which disrupts the orderly conduct of classroom procedures. Students who disrupt a class are subject to appropriate disciplinary actions, suspension, and possible expulsion from school.

Disorderly Conduct

Students shall not disrupt the orderly, efficient, and disciplined atmosphere and operation of the school or school-related activity. Students who engage in disorderly conduct are subject to appropriate disciplinary actions.

Drugs and Alcohol

A student shall not use, possess, purchase, sell, distribute, or be under the influence of any alcoholic beverage, illegal drug, controlled substance, drug paraphernalia, or controlled substance look-alike. Students who violate this rule are subject to suspension from school, the school's eligibility policies, and possible expulsion from school.

Electronic Devices

Electronic devices such as games, radios, televisions, tape, MP3, CD players or cell phones, cause a disruption to the learning environment and are not permitted in school. Students who plan to bring an electronic device for educational purposes need to get prior permission from the classroom teacher or an administrator. The school assumes no responsibility for any lost or stolen electronic devices. Please refer to page 3 for guidelines.

Extortion

Extortion is defined as obtaining money, property, favors from another student by illegal means, force or undue power. Students found to be guilty of extortion are subject to suspension and possible expulsion from school.

Fighting

Students shall not fight with other students at school, on school grounds, or at any school activity (home or away). Students involved in fighting are subject to suspension or possible expulsion from school.

Fire Alarms

Students who tamper with fire alarms, fire extinguishers, or turn in a false alarm are subject to suspension and possible expulsion from school. A full report will be made to the local Fire Chief.

Fire or Explosion

Students are prohibited from causing a fire or explosion. Lighters, matches, firecrackers, fireworks, and other incendiary devices are prohibited. Students are also prohibited from placing a burning, combustible, or explosive device in a school building, or near any school property (whether or not any such property is damaged or destroyed). Students who violate this rule are subject to suspension and possible expulsion from school. A full report will be made to the local Fire Chief.

Harassment

Students are prohibited from harassing other students. Sexual harassment, harassment because of racial, religious, or ethnic differences will not be tolerated. Students who harass other students will be subject to suspension and possible expulsion from school.

Insubordination

Insubordination is defined as refusal to obey a school rule, regulation, or request of a teacher, administrator, or other school personnel. A student is subject to suspension and possible expulsion from school for any insubordinate act.

Physical Attack

Students shall not attack or threaten to physically attack any student, teacher, administrator, or other school personnel. Students who violate this rule are subject to suspension and possible expulsion from school.

Public Display of Affection

Good taste decrees that boys and girls conduct themselves as ladies and gentleman at all times. Demonstrations of affection, including physical contact of more than a casual manner shall be prohibited. Because it is difficult to determine the fine line of what is and what is not appropriate, school personnel will determine the limit of affection shown on the Spencer High School campus. Couples who refuse to cooperate in conducting themselves in an appropriate fashion will be subject to disciplinary measures up to and including suspension.

Theft or Robbery

Students involved in theft or robbery are subject to suspension and possible expulsion from school. Students involved in theft or robbery may also be referred to local authorities for possible criminal proceedings.

Tobacco

A student shall not use, or be in possession of, tobacco, including cigarettes, chewing tobacco, or any tobacco product. Students who use or possess tobacco are subject to possible suspension from school and the school's eligibility policies.

Vandalism

Students shall not damage, alter, deface, or destruct any building, fixture, or tangible property of the school. Students who vandalize school property are subject to suspension and possible expulsion from school.

Weapons

Students shall not possess any weapon (or facsimile) or dangerous object. Knives, firearms, laser pointers, paddles, clubs, or any offensive or dangerous weapons are not allowed in school, on school grounds, or at any school activity. Students found in possession of any weapon or dangerous object are subject to suspension and possible expulsion from school as defined in school board policy.

Other

Other behaviors considered to be violations of the discipline code are: snowballing, use of profanity, gambling, obstructing school premises, drinking pop or eating food in classes or hallways, leaving school without signing out, or any conduct which disturbs the orderly, efficient, and disciplined atmosphere or operation of the school.

Administrative Actions

The following are actions which may be taken when students violate provisions of the "Code of Conduct":

Due Process - Students accused of a violation of provisions of the Spencer High School Code of Conduct shall be entitled to constitutional due process or what the US Supreme Court refers as "fundamental fairness". Provisions of school due process require that a student facing a serious disciplinary sanction be given: 1) Notice of the charges against him or her and the evidence supporting them, and (2) the opportunity for a hearing at which he or she can defend himself or herself. This hearing may be an informal discussion between administrator and student where the student is told of what he is accused of doing and the student is given the opportunity to give his/her version of what happened.

Revised: June, 1998

After-School Notice - Students who, in the opinion of the classroom teacher, have violated classroom rules, regulations, or procedures may be required by the classroom teacher to spend time in the teacher's classroom before or after school.

Check-out Privileges - Students may have locker, restroom, library, computer lab or other check-out privileges revoked.

Detention - Detentions are issued by the school administration. Students assigned to detention will be expected to report to the school on the specific date or dates designated. Students assigned an after school notice by a teacher or to detention, or in-school suspension are subject to progressive discipline procedures.

Early Dismissal Privileges - Students may have early-dismissal privileges revoked.

Expulsion - If there is a serious breach of the discipline code, or if a student continues to violate provisions of the discipline code, he/she may be recommended to the Board of Education for expulsion from school. Expelled students will not earn course credits for the term. For expulsion procedures, refer to School Board Policy number 502.4.

In-School Suspension - Students assigned to in-school suspension will not be allowed to attend regular classes and will spend the entire day under the direct supervision of school personnel. Students will have the opportunity to complete assignments, make-up work, and take tests. Students will not need an admit slip to return to class.

Restricted Lunch - Students assigned to restricted lunch will be required to report to the administrator/teacher on duty during their lunch wave. Failure to report will be considered a cut and a privilege will be lost.

Out-of-School Suspension - Students suspended out-of-school will not be allowed to attend school for a specified period of time. Students will not be allowed to participate in school activities or attend school activities while suspended. These students will not be re-admitted until a conference with parent, student and administrator has been held. This may be a phone conference. Students will be allowed to turn in make-up work and assignments. For the duration of the suspension the student is prohibited from being on school grounds without prior administrative approval. Violation of this may result in extension of the suspension and possible expulsion.

Referral to Law Enforcement Officials - In addition to school sanctions for violations of the Code of Conduct, cases may be referred to law enforcement officials for further legal action.

Activities

The activities program is an integral part of our school. Research indicates that students who are involved in activities have fewer discipline problems, get better grades, have better attendance, and a high completion rate. All students are encouraged to become involved in Spencer High School's extra-curricular activities program.

Activities at SHS

SHS offers a wide variety of extra-curricular and co-curricular activities:

| | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Baseball | Golf (boys/girls) | Swimming (boys/girls) |
| Basketball (boys/girls) | Instrumental Music | Tennis (boys/girls) |
| Cheerleading | Mock Trial | Track (boys/girls) |
| Cross Country (boys/girls) | Soccer (boys/girls) | Volleyball |
| Dance Team | Softball | Vocal Music |
| Drama | Spanish Club | Wrestling |
| Debate | Speech (Ind./Large Group) | |
| Football | Spencerian (Yearbook) | |
| FFA | Student Council | |

Questions about the SHS activities program may be directed to the activity director's office at 262-1700.

Church Night

Wednesday night is designated as "Church Night" in Spencer by the Board of Education and by the Spencer Ministerial Association. No activities will be scheduled on Wednesday unless assigned by the IHSAA or IGHSAA. All practices are to be concluded by 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday evenings regardless of the number of students actively involved in a church-related activity on that evening.

NCAA Clearinghouse

If a student wishes to participate in NCAA or NAIA athletics in college, they must register and be certified. NCAA registration can be done at www.ncaaclearinghouse.net. NAIA registration can be found at www.playnaia.org. Students will need to send a transcript at the time of registration and another following graduation. The NCAA and NAIA reserve all rights in determining student eligibility. A copy of the guidelines are available in the Guidance office.

Physicals

All students must have a physical each year in order to participate in athletics. These physicals must be taken before participating. Forms may be obtained from the High School office.

Student Participation Conflicts

In the event schedule conflicts occur which place students in a position to make a choice as to which activity to attend, the following priorities will be used to resolve the conflict:

1. State level competition.

2. District level competition.
3. Lakes Conference competition.
4. Inter-school competition or public performance.
5. Intra-school competition.

Sunday Activities

No student activities may be held on Sunday except for Baccalaureate, Commencement, National Honor Society, Kiwanis Honors Banquet, and practices immediately preceding state sanctioned tournaments.

Transportation

All out-of-town activities require the use of school transportation to the event unless other arrangements are made with the administration (**activities or principal**). **Alternate arrangements to travel home from an out-of-town event with someone other than a parent must also have prior approval (i.e., a phone call and note from parent to the activities or principal's office).**

Eligibility Policy

Philosophy

We believe that participation in co-curricular and extra-curricular activities by the students of the Spencer Community Schools is part of a well-rounded educational experience. We believe that participation in activities can have a positive impact on the development of responsible and productive citizens.

The Spencer Community School District believes that participation in any extra-curricular or co-curricular activity is a privilege and those students who participate in activities represent our school and our community. We also believe that certain types of conduct shall be deemed inappropriate and inconsistent with the generally accepted standards subscribed to by the school district.

Therefore, the Spencer Community School District will enforce the following policies and procedures relative to standards for participation in co-curricular and extra-curricular activities:

I. Academic and attendance requirements

- A. A student shall attend one half-day (PM classes) on the day of a scheduled performance or practice. Any exception must be cleared in advance by the high school principal or his/her designee. A student who has an unexcused absence at any time during the school day will not be allowed to participate in scheduled performance or practice.
- B. A student may fail no more than one (1) academic course in the first or third quarter to be eligible to participate in any scheduled performance of any activity during the next quarter. A student who is ineligible at the end of the first and third quarter may become eligible after the following midterm progress report period if he or she is failing no more than one (1) academic course at that time. Semester grades, not quarter grades, will be used at the end of the second and fourth quarter grading periods to determine eligibility. (3.615-2)
- C. In accordance with State Scholarship rule (3.6.15-2) a student must pass successfully all classes at the end of a semester term.

II. Violation of SHS "Code of Conduct"

A student is ineligible to participate in any scheduled performance if he/she is under suspension from school (out-of-school suspension) for violating provisions of the SHS "Code of Conduct", a school board approved set of behavior expectations for all Spencer High School students. The student shall remain ineligible during the time of the suspension or until reinstated by the principal or his/her designee.

III. Criminal law violations

Any student who violates any local, state, or federal criminal law shall be ineligible to represent the school in any scheduled performance until reinstated by the principal or his/her designee. Violations shall be determined as described in Section V. The period of ineligibility shall be determined as follows:

- First Offense – Three activity dates
- Second Offense – Six activity dates
- Third Offense - One year suspension from all activities participation.
- Subsequent Offenses – Suspension from all active participation for one year from the most recent violation.

Reduction in Penalty: Admission Prior to Determination (Self-Reporting). If a student comes forward to a coach, administrator, or activity sponsor to admit (self-report) a violation of the Good Conduct Policy within 72 hours of the violation, the student's penalty will be reduced by one (1) activity date for a first occurrence. On the second occurrence, a reduction of two (2) activity dates will be granted if the student self-reports, and agrees to perform ten (10) hours of school/community service. The school/community service must be completed satisfactorily within the time frame, site,

duties, and conditions that are set by the Activities Director or designee. In the event of a third occurrence, the student may request a hearing before a Review Panel (the panel will consist of the principal, assistant principal, activities director, a guidance counselor or faculty member, and a coach/activity sponsor which the student is not currently working with and the last two panel members will be chosen by the student); the Panel will consider reinstatement after eight (8) months, based upon the student's attendance, academic effort, behavior and attitude over the previous eight (8) months.

Note: If a student participates in a school sponsored activity before he/she self-reports, the student loses the opportunity to reduce their original penalty. If a student is found in violation of the good conduct policy at a school sponsored event, on school property, or by school personnel, the student loses the privilege to self-report.

IV. Rules concerning alcohol, tobacco, and drugs

Any student who is found to be using, under the influence of or in possession of alcohol, tobacco, or any illegal drug or controlled substance at any time during their high school career shall be declared ineligible to represent the school in any scheduled performance until reinstated by the principal or his/her designee. The period of ineligibility shall be determined as follows:

- First Offense – Three activity dates
- Second Offense – Six activity dates
- Third Offense – One year suspension from all activities

Reduction in Penalty: Admission prior to determination (Self Reporting). If a student comes forward to a coach, administrator, or activity sponsor to admit (self-report) a violation of the Good Conduct Policy within 72 hours of the violation, the student's penalty will be reduced by one (1) activity date for a first occurrence. On the second occurrence, a reduction of two (2) activity dates will be granted if the student self-reports, agrees to undergo an assessment by a licensed treatment /counseling agency, and agrees to follow the recommendations of that agency. In the event of a third occurrence, the student may request a hearing before a Review Panel (the panel will consist of the principal, assistant principal, activities director, a guidance counselor or faculty member, and a coach/activity sponsor which the student is not currently working with and the last two panel members will be chosen by the student); the Panel will consider reinstatement after eight (8) months, based upon the student's attendance, academic effort, behavior and attitude over the previous eight (8) months.

Note: If a student participates in a school sponsored activity before he/she self-reports, the student loses the opportunity to reduce their original penalty. If a student is found in violation of the good conduct policy at a school sponsored event, on school property, or by school personnel, the student loses the privilege to self-report.

V. Determination of a violation

Student is said to have violated Article III or Article IV if:

- a. found so by adult or juvenile authorities OR
- b. after a thorough investigation by school officials, is determined that a violation has occurred.

VI. Other Related Items

- A. The principal or his/her designee, once a violation is determined, will calculate the number of scheduled activity dates to be missed by the student with a starting and ending date designated for the period of ineligibility.
- B. The period of ineligibility attaches immediately upon a finding of the violation if the student is currently engaged in an extracurricular activity and, if not or if not completed during the current activity, is begun or carried over to the time the student seeks to go out for the next activity or contest. Students will not be allowed to begin a season in progress in order to serve their ineligibility and a student must complete a season/activity in good standing in order to maintain eligibility.
- C. Any student suspended out-of-school for violation of school rules will be ineligible to participate in any extra-curricular or co-curricular practice or performance until reinstated by the principal or activity director. In-school suspensions will be handled administratively.
- D. All students entering ninth grade students begin high school with a clean slate (except if they have an outstanding obligation for equipment/uniforms). The eligibility under the High School Good Conduct Policy begins the day after the last class day held for eighth grade.
- E. Students who go 365 days without a violation will be dropped back one level. The date of a violation is determined by the date on which the violation actually occurred. Each additional year will reduce the student by an additional step.
- F. **NOTE:** Violations Occurring During Ineligibility: If a student is ineligible (academically or occurrence) at the time of a violation of the Good Conduct Policy, the penalty for the violation will not begin until the student regains their eligibility.

VII. Due Process

- A. Upon notification by court authorities or upon receipt of reliable information from other sources that a violation has occurred, school officials will meet with the student to verify information and to notify the student regarding

implications of eligibility. The student will have the opportunity to share any information about the incident(s) that may warrant further investigation. All information will be considered and a decision rendered by the earliest possible date.

- B. If it is determined that a violation has occurred, the student will be declared to be ineligible. Notification of ineligibility will be given to the student in writing and a copy mailed to the parents/guardians. This notification will include sections of the eligibility policy violated, the period of ineligibility, and conditions of ineligibility.

VIII. Appeal process

- A. A student contesting the declared ineligibility shall be required to schedule a hearing with the review panel within five (5) days of receiving notice of the declared ineligibility. It is expected that the student will present his/her objections in writing. The committee shall consider the facts within 24-hours and shall forward its findings in writing to the student.
- B. The student may file a written appeal to the superintendent of schools within three (3) days following the hearing process described above. The superintendent shall schedule a hearing and the superintendent shall consider the evidence presented, including statements made by the student, and make a written finding of its decision within three (3) days.
- C. If the claimant is dissatisfied with the Superintendent's action, the student shall be required to state the basis of his or her objections in writing and also the request for an oral hearing, addressed to the Superintendent with five (5) week days. The Superintendent shall then schedule a meeting of the Board of Education within twenty (20) week days of receipt of such objections, giving at least five (5) week days written notice of said hearing, unless a shorter time is mutually agreeable. The Board of Education shall consider the evidence presented (including statements by the appellant's legal counsel if appellant chooses to have legal counsel). Written findings of fact and resultant action will be mailed or delivered to said appellant within five (5) week days of the hearing.
- D. The student shall remain ineligible during the appeal process.

IX. Transfer students

- A. Any student declared ineligible at a student's prior school for violating that school's good conduct policies is ineligible to participate in activities at Spencer High School until the period of ineligibility at the student's prior school has expired or until reinstated by the principal or his/her designee.
- B. Students declared ineligible under the prior school's academic eligibility policy will have the right to a review in accordance with Spencer High School's academic eligibility rules. The student's eligibility may be reinstated by the Spencer High School principal after such a review.

X. Definitions

- Academic courses - Any course in which a student receives credit which applies toward the student's grade point average, class rank, or graduation requirements at Spencer High School.
- Activity - Any extra-curricular or co-curricular activity.
- Activity date - One calendar day event in an activity/sport would be counted as one date. (i.e., baseball, doubleheader, volleyball tournament, wrestling double dual or debate tournament, would count as just one date). This does not include scrimmages with other schools, intra-squad games, or dress rehearsals.
- Co-curricular activity - An activity directly associated with a credit course offering at Spencer High School. (i.e. marching band, chorus)
- Criminal law - Any law adjudicated by adult or juvenile court authorities.
- Extra-curricular activity - Activities that are not directly associated with credit course offerings at Spencer High School (i.e. football, golf, large group speech).
- Fail - Receive an "F" grade.
- Good Conduct Policies - A school's eligibility policies related to violations of local, state, or federal laws, possession or use of alcohol, drugs or other controlled substances.
- Period of Ineligibility - The length of time a student is withheld from scheduled performances.
- Quarter - Nine week grading period.
- Scheduled Performance - An event, which is part of the regular schedule of an activity, including the first round of state sponsored tournaments. Does not include scrimmages with other schools intra-squad games, or dress rehearsals.
- Semester - Eighteen week grading period.
- Student - Any student enrolled as full time student (five credits), part time student, dual enrolled student (home schooling), or student from another district participating through a sharing agreement with the Spencer Community School District.

XI. Applications

- A. This policy applies to violations, which occur any time during the student's high school career. Second, third, or subsequent offenses accumulate from year to year and apply to any offense, which occurs while a student is officially enrolled at Spencer High School.

- B. Student participation in the following activities is governed by this document: boys/girls basketball, cross country, golf, swimming, tennis, track; baseball, softball, football, volleyball, wrestling, soccer; Band-Concert, Jazz, Marching, Pep; Choir-Jazz, Concert; Debate; Drama (all); FFA; Individual Speech, Large Group Speech, Mock Trial, Dance Team and Cheerleading.
 - C. A student who has violated provisions of this policy shall be declared ineligible to participate in any activities during the established period of ineligibility.
 - D. During the period of ineligibility, a student is expected to practice and maintain a "good standing" status on the team or organization as per expectations of the coach or sponsor.
 - E. If an individual is ineligible for any scheduled performance on a given calendar date, the student shall be ineligible to participate in any activity on that date.
 - F. Individual organizations governed by this document may, at the discretion of the coach or sponsor, with approval by the principal or his/her designee, develop team rules which go beyond the scope of this document, providing these rules are clearly explained to students and parents prior to the first scheduled performance.
 - G. Violations of any section of this policy count toward the accumulation of first, second, or third offenses as described in Sections III or IV of this document.
- Revised: August, 1997; June, 2005

General Policy Statements

Asbestos Hazardous Emergency Response Policy

We are by law required to notify occupants of our buildings about the existence for friable and non-friable asbestos in the building. The district has had the building inspected and has received a management plan from the Institute of Environmental Assessment in Anoka, Minnesota. The district implemented the plan prior to the July 1989 AHERA deadline.

Educational Equity Policy

It is the policy of Spencer Community Schools not to illegally discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, creed, age (for employment), marital status (for programs), sexual orientation, gender identity and socioeconomic status (for programs) in its educational programs, activities, or employment policies as required by Title VI and VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Title IX of the 1972 Educational Amendments, Section 504 or the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and Section 601A of the Iowa Code.

It is also the policy of this district that the curriculum content and instructional materials utilized reflect the cultural and racial diversity present in the United States and the variety of careers, roles and lifestyles open to women as well as men in our society. One of the objectives of the total curriculum and teaching strategies is to reduce stereotyping and to eliminate bias on the basis of sex, race, ethnicity, religion, and disability. The curriculum should foster respect and appreciation for the cultural diversity found in our country and an awareness of the rights, duties, and responsibilities of each individual as a member of a pluralistic society.

It is the policy of this district to affirmatively recruit women and men, members of diverse racial/ethnic groups and persons with disabilities for job categories where they are under represented. A fair and supportive environment will be provided for all students and employees regardless of their gender, race, national origin, creed, age, marital status or disability. Harassment of a sexual nature or with demeaning intent related to race, national origin, gender, disability, age, or religion, made from one employee to another, from an employee to a student or vice versa, and from one student to another is a violation of this policy.

Inquiries and grievances regarding compliance with Title IX or Title VI, Section 504 or Section 601A may be directed to Terry Hemann, Superintendent of Schools at Spencer, Iowa, 51301, phone number (712) 262-8950; to the Director of the Iowa Civil Rights Commission, Des Moines, Iowa; or to the Director of the Region VII Office of Civil Rights, Department of Education, Kansas City, Missouri.

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION

Students, parents, employees and others doing business with or performing services for the Spencer Community School District are hereby notified that this school district does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age (except students), religion, national origin, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic status, creed, or disability in admission or access to, or treatment in, its programs and activities. The school district does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age (except students), religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability, socioeconomic status, creed, in admission or access to, or treatment in, its hiring and employment practices. Any person having inquiries concerning the school district's compliance with the regulations implementing Title VI, Title VII, Title IX, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), § 504 or *Iowa Code* § 280.3 is directed to contact:

Superintendent of Schools
23 East 7th Street, Spencer, IA

712-262-8950

who has been designated by the school district to coordinate the school district's efforts to comply with the regulations implementing Title VI, Title VII, Title IX, the ADA, § 504 and *Iowa Code* § 280.3 (2007).

Discrimination Grievance Procedures

Any parent, student, or employee of the Spencer Community Schools shall have the right to file a formal complaint alleging non-compliance with regulations outlined in the Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Title IV of the Education Amendments of 1972, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Level One, Principal or Immediate Supervisor

Any employee with a grievance of discrimination on the basis of sex, race, national origin or disability may first discuss it with his/her principal or immediate supervisor, with object of resolving the matter informally. A student or parent with a complaint of discrimination on the basis of sex, race, national origin or disability may discuss this with his/her teacher, counselor, or building administrator.

Level Two, Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504, Officer

If the grievance is not resolved at Level One and the employee, parent, or student wishes to pursue the grievance, the employee, parent, or student may formalize it by filing a complaint in writing on a Compliance Violation Form, which may be obtained from the compliance officer. The complaint shall state the nature of the grievance and the remedy requested. The filing of the formal, written complaint at Level Two must be within fifteen (15) working days from the date of the event giving rise to the grievance or from the date the grievance could reasonably become aware of such occurrence. The grievant may request that a meeting concerning the complaint be held with the compliance officer. A minor student may be accompanied at that meeting by a parent or guardian. The compliance officer shall investigate the complaint and attempt to resolve it. A written report from the compliance officer regarding action taken will be sent to the superintendent within fifteen (15) working days after receipt of the complaint.

Level Three, Superintendent

If the complaint is not resolved at Level Two, the grievant may process it to Level Three by presenting a written appeal to the superintendent within ten (10) working days after the grievant receives the report from the compliance officer. The grievant may request a meeting with the superintendent or his/her designee. The superintendent or his/her designee has the option of meeting with the grievant to discuss the appeal. A decision will be rendered by the superintendent or his/her designee within ten (10) working days after receipt of the written appeal.

This procedure in no way denies the right of the grievant to file formal complaints with the Iowa Civil Rights Commission, other agencies available for mediation or rectification of affirmative action grievances, or to seek private counsel for complaints alleging discrimination.

Title VI, Title IX and Section 504 Compliance Officer: Terry Hemann, Superintendent, Box 200, 23 East 7th Street, Spencer, Iowa, 51301, Phone: (712) 262-8950. Office hours: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Open Enrollment Notification

Parents/guardians considering the use of the open enrollment option to enroll their children in another public school district in the state of Iowa should be aware of the following date:

March 1, 2012 - Last date for regular open enrollment requests for the 2012-2013 school year.

September 1, 2012 - Last date for open enrollment requests for entering kindergarten students and those students falling under the "good cause" definition for the 2012 -2013 school year.

Parents/guardians of open enrolled students whose income falls below 160% of the federal poverty guidelines are eligible for transportation assistance. This may be in the form of actual transportation or in the form of a cash stipend. Parents should be aware that open enrollment may result in the loss of athletic eligibility. For further details, contact the Spencer Community Schools Central Office at 262-8950.

Student Abuse Notification

Reference: School Board Policy Number 405.6 It is the policy of the Spencer Community School District that school employees not commit acts of physical or sexual abuse, including inappropriate and intentional sexual behavior, toward any students. Any school employee who commits such acts is subject to disciplinary sanctions up to and including discharge. It is the policy of the Spencer Community School District to respond promptly to allegations of abuse of students by school employees by investigating or arranging for full investigations on any allegation, and to do so in a reasonably prudent manner. The processing of a complaint or allegation will be handled confidentially to the maximum extent possible. All employees are required to assist in the investigation when requested to provide information and to maintain the confidentiality of the reporting and investigating process.

The Spencer Community School District has appointed a Level One Investigator and an alternate, and has arranged for a trained, experienced professional to serve as the training in the conducting of an investigation. The Superintendent or designee shall prescribe rules in accordance with the rules adopted by the State Board of Education to carry out this policy. Level One Investigators and Level One Alternate to be determined.

Addition 2009: The federal government has issued an opinion that schools are permitted to disclose information to DHS when DHS is investigating a report of child abuse, even without parent consent and notwithstanding limitations in FERPA. The Department of Education has developed guidance concerning this federal opinion.

Student Records Reference: School Board Policy Number 505.1R

The following information may be released to the public in regard to any individual student in the school district as necessity or desirability arises. Any student over the age of eighteen (18), parent, or guardian not wanting this information released to the public must make objection in writing within fifteen (15) days of enrollment to the principal of the school which the student is attending. It is desirable to renew this objection at the beginning of each school year.

The following information may be released without written objection: name, address, telephone listing, date of birth, place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, the most recent school or institution attended by the student, and other similar information.

Dangerous Object and Weapons Policy Reference: School Board Policy Number 502.6

The principal or his/her designee must use discretion and in many times immediate decision are a result of students bringing dangerous objects to schools. Objects such as guns, explosives, certain chemicals, knives, look-a-likes, etc. are included in the dangerous category list. Any objects capable of causing death or serious injury may be categorized dangerous weapons as determined by administrators and staff.

Dangerous Objects Other Than Guns

The following actions shall be carried out by the administration when a student brings a dangerous object on to the school premises or transportation system:

1. The object shall be confiscated.
2. The students or guardians are to be informed.
3. The police department may be notified to pick up the object and conduct an investigation.
4. The student may be removed from school until such time as the police department and/or the school has completed its investigation.
5. Psychiatric and/or psychological reports may be requested prior to the students return to school. A recommendation for expulsion may result depending upon the severity of the situation.
6. Legal counsel of circumstances and possible litigation if appropriate may be notified.

Guns

The following actions shall be carried out by the administration when the student brings a gun on to the school premises or transportation system:

1. The gun shall be confiscated.
2. The students and/or guardians are to be informed.
3. The police department shall be notified to pick up the gun and conduct an investigation.
4. Legal counsel will be notified of circumstances and possible litigation.
5. The student shall be removed from school until such time as the police department and the school has completed its investigation and the reports have been reviewed with the assistant superintendent and the superintendent.
6. The student shall be expelled from school for a period of one year from the date of the incident unless the investigation would prove that other action should be taken by the Board of Education.

Human Growth and Development Curriculum Reference: Code No. 602.4

The Spencer Community School District provides K-12 instruction on human growth and development including instruction on the following topics in accordance with the Iowa Department of Education: human sexuality, self-esteem, stress management, interpersonal relationships, and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

The human growth and development topics are incorporated into the district's K-12 health curriculum, science curriculum, and family and consumer science curriculum. Information about this curriculum and procedures used for inspecting and reviewing the instructional materials are available upon request.

Homeless Student Liason

The homeless student liason contact for Spencer Community Schools is the high school counselor, Glenn Graettinger.

2011-12 CLASS SCHEDULES

REGULAR SCHEDULE

| | |
|--|---------------|
| 1 st Period | 8:35 – 9:25 |
| 2 nd Period (Announcements) | 9:30 – 10:25 |
| 3 rd Period | 10:30 – 11:20 |
| 4 th Period | 11:25 – 12:40 |
| Lunch wave A: | 11:20-11:50 |
| Class A: | 11:50 – 12:40 |
| ----- | |
| Class B: | 11:25 – 11:45 |
| Lunch wave B: | 11:45 - 12:10 |
| Class B: | 12:10 – 12:40 |
| ----- | |
| Class C: | 11:25 – 12:15 |
| Lunch wave C: | 12:15 - 12:45 |
| 5 th Period | 12:45 – 1:35 |
| 6 th Period | 1:40 – 2:30 |
| 7 th Period | 2:35 – 3:25 |

Weekly Academic Assistance Schedule

2:30 Dismissal

| | |
|-------|------------------------------|
| 1st | 8:35 - 9:15 |
| 2nd | 9:20 – 10:05 (Announcements) |
| 3rd | 10:10 - 10:50 |
| 5th | 10:55 - 11:35 |
| 4th | 11:40 - 12:10 Lunch wave A |
| | 12:15 – 1:00 Class A |
| ----- | |
| | 11:40 - 12:10 Class B |
| | 12:15 - 12:45 Lunch wave B |
| | 12:45 – 1:00 Class B |
| ----- | |
| | 11:40 - 12:25 Class C |
| | 12:30 – 1:00 Lunch wave C |
| 6th | 1:05 - 1:45 |
| 7th | 1:50 – 2:30 |
| | 2:30 – Homeroom walk-by |

12:30 Dismissal

One Hour Homeroom

| | |
|------------------------|---------------|
| 1 st period | 8:35 – 8:50 |
| 2 nd period | 8:55 – 9:10 |
| 3 rd period | 9:15 – 9:30 |
| Homeroom | 9:35 – 10:35 |
| 4 th period | 10:40 – 10:55 |
| 5 th period | 11:00 – 11:15 |
| 6 th period | 11:20 – 11:35 |
| 7 th period | 11:40 – Noon |
| Lunch | Noon – 12:30 |

One-Half Hour Homeroom

| | |
|------------------------|---------------|
| 1 st period | 8:35 – 8:55 |
| 2 nd period | 9:00 – 9:20 |
| 3 rd period | 9:25 – 9:45 |
| Homeroom | 9:50 – 10:20 |
| 4 th period | 10:25 - 10:45 |
| 5 th period | 10:50 - 11:10 |
| 6 th period | 11:15 – 11:35 |
| 7 th period | 11:40 – Noon |
| Lunch | Noon – 12:30 |

2 HOUR LATE START

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 st | 10:35 – 11:05 |
| 2 nd | 11:10 – 11:45 (Announcements) |
| 4th | 11:45 – 12:15 Lunch wave A |
| | 12:20 – 12:50 Class A |
| ----- | |
| | 12:20 – 12:50 Lunch B |
| | 11:50 – 12:20 Class B |
| 3rd | 12:55 – 1:30 |
| 5 th | 1:35 – 2:10 |
| 6 th | 2:15 – 2:45 |
| 7 th | 2:50 – 3:25 |

Pep Assembly Dates 2011-12:

September 22, October 7, February 1

