

Annual Notification Requirements

Health, Safety, and Nutrition

NRHEG Schools continues to address environmental, health & safety (EHS) issues in a proactive manner. NRHEG Schools works with the Institute for Environmental Assessment (IEA) to provide safe and healthy environments for our community's youth and employees.

Asbestos--Each year, the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) requires NRHEG Schools to provide an update on asbestos activities to building occupants.

Asbestos is a mineral fiber associated with increased levels of disease when inhaled. Properly maintained, asbestos containing materials pose no health hazard to building occupants. Asbestos is only dangerous when it is broken loose from building materials into fine, dust like fibers and inhaled.

Our asbestos management plan has been implemented as of July 9, 1989. Since that time, NRHEG Schools completes various activities to control asbestos hazards within the facilities. Periodic surveillances are conducted every six months to check for damage to the asbestos containing materials. Specially trained contractors repair damages identified. In addition to periodic surveillances, the buildings are re-inspected every three years. The purpose of the re-inspection is to have a federally certified asbestos inspector reassess the condition of the material. The most recent re-inspection was conducted during the 2018-2019 school year, the next one is scheduled for Spring 2022.

The asbestos management plan is maintained in the district office and in the administrative offices of each building. It is available for review during school office hours.

Short-term workers (outside contractors, telephone repair workers, electricians, exterminators, etc.) shall be provided information regarding the location of asbestos in which they may come into contact. All short-term workers shall contact the lead maintenance before commencing work to be given this information.

Indoor Air Quality--NRHEG Schools has developed a district-wide indoor air quality (IAQ) program designed to help ensure that the school provides a safe environment for students and staff. Each school in the district will be evaluated on an annual basis for potential indoor air quality problems.

The evaluation will include several steps. Ventilation systems will be examined to make sure they are functioning properly and providing adequate fresh air. Visual inspections will be conducted to determine the potential for mold growth. Cleaning practices will be reviewed to ensure that cleanliness is maintained and that the cleaning supplies used are safe yet effective. A portion of staff members will be interviewed annually regarding indoor air quality issues. If problems are found, they will be addressed appropriately.

Additional information about the NRHEG Schools IAQ program can be obtained by contacting Dale Carlson at (507) 465-3206.

Pest Control Materials--NRHEG Schools uses EcoLab, a licensed professional pest control service firm, for the prevention and control of rodents, insects and other pests in and around the district's buildings. The program consists of:

1. Inspection and monitoring to determine whether pests are present and whether any treatment is needed.
2. Recommendations for maintenance and sanitation to help eliminate pests without the need for pest control measures.
3. Utilization of non-chemical measures such as traps, caulking, and screening.
4. Application of EPA-registered pest control materials when needed.

Pests can sting, bite, cause contamination, damage property, and spread disease; therefore, we must prevent and control them. The long-term health effects on children from the application of such pest control materials, or the class

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of materials to which they belong, may not be fully understood. All pest control materials are chosen and applied by a licensed, professional pest control service.

Along with pest control measures, NRHEG Schools applies herbicides and fertilizers to our grounds to control weeds and improve the quality of our grass.

Parents of students may request to receive prior notification of any application of a pest control material or herbicide. Any expenses associated with prior notification may be charged to the requesting parent.

Drinking Water Testing--NRHEG School District conducts testing in accordance with The Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act and the requirements of Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.335. This is conducted every five years. Any person interested in discussing the district Lead in Drinking Water program or results, please contact the district office for access to the documentation.

Radon Testing--NRHEG School District conducts radon testing according to Minnesota Department of Health "Radon Testing Plan" (Minnesota Statute 123B.571). This is conducted every five years. Any person interested in discussing the district Radon Testing program or results, please contact the district office for access to the documentation.

If you have any questions, please contact Dale Carlson at (507) 465-3206.

[Bullying Prohibition Policy 514](#)

[Free and Reduced Lunch](#)

[Hazing Policy 526](#)

[Request for Meal Modification—Special Diet Statement](#)

[School Wellness Policy 533](#)

Sexual, Religious, and Racial Harassment and Violence Policy

- [Disability Nondiscrimination Policy 402](#)
- [Harassment and Violence Policy 413](#)

[USDA Public Notification System](#)

Nondiscrimination

[Disability Nondiscrimination Policy 402](#)

[Student Disability Nondiscrimination Policy 521](#)

[Student Nondiscrimination Policy 522](#)

[Student Parental, Family, and Marital Status Nondiscrimination 528](#)

School Employees

[Employee Background Check Policy 404](#)

[FERPA NRHEG](#)

Student Achievement and Testing

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Minnesota Public Schools are required by law to provide a free, appropriate education to all children with handicaps birth through 22 years of age. As part of our district's commitment to this law, we encourage parents who have questions regarding special needs of their children to contact the Director of Special Education, Heather Harms, at 507-835-5046.

"Special Education" is instruction, specific to the child, at no cost to parents, to meet the unique needs of a child with a disability. It is important to note: Students with disabilities are general education students first. They receive special education support services in conjunction with the general education curriculum. Special education is an instructional service, *not* a place. Special education services must be reasonably calculated to allow the student to benefit from instruction. If the student is receiving benefit from the special education services, the student will progress at his/her own individual rate. A student who has a disability will always have the disability and would not be expected to progress in all areas at the same rate as his/her regular education peers.

To qualify for special education services a child must have a disability. The child must meet State eligibility criteria in one or more of the following areas:

- *Speech or Language Impairment
- *Physical Impairment
- *Deaf/Hard of Hearing
- *Visual Impairment
- *Specific Learning Disability
- *Emotional or Behavioral Disorder
- *Deaf-Blindness
- *Other Health Disability
- *Autism Spectrum Disorders
- *Developmental Delay (Birth to Age 7)
- *Traumatic Brain Injury
- *Severe Multiple Impairments
- *Developmental Cognitive Disability: Mild Moderate
- *Developmental Cognitive Disability: Severe-Profound

An evaluation is used to document the existence of a disability. Below average academic performance alone does not qualify a student for special education.

Each year, the district attempts to locate all children with handicaps through various methods such as articles in the local newspaper, radio spots, census takers and an annual Early Childhood screening program which screens children ages three (3) to five (5). The district also works very closely with the county social services, nursing agencies, local clinics, hospitals and through the Help Me Grow referral site.

Parents and students 18 years old or older have a right to inspect the student's records and can do so by making either a verbal or written request at the principal's or superintendent's office. A small fee may be charged if the parent desires copies. However, if the parent cannot pay this fee, the fee will not prevent the parent from receiving copies.

Public schools are considered government agencies and, in general, are subject to both State and Federal government record management laws. Record retention policies are decided by individual school boards that must adhere to these laws. Minnesota has a model School District General Retention Schedule, but this does not specify a set length of time for special education records. Destruction of records must be under a uniform policy adopted by the school board and approved by the Minnesota Records Disposition Panel. Parents must be notified prior to the destruction of the child's records. The special education confidential file (hard copy) is retained 5 years after which the student turns 22 years of age, including deceased students. At this time, the file will be destroyed. Parents or students who are age 18 or older

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will be informed of and receive the Notification of Special Education Records Retention and Destruction Policy upon entrance into special education and again at graduation/aging out of services.

Parents may file a complaint if they feel a disagreement has not been satisfactorily resolved. This complaint must be in writing and should be addressed to the principal of the building the student attends. If unresolved at this level, it should then be sent to the Superintendent. If still unresolved, it should be sent to the chairperson of the school board.

Section 504

Section 504 is a federal anti-discrimination law that protects the rights of individuals with disabilities in programs and activities that receive federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Education (29 USC §794,701 et seq.). Recipients of this federal financial assistance include public school districts, institutions of higher education, and other state and local education agencies. It requires a school district to provide a “free and appropriate education,” (FAPE) to each qualified student with a disability who is in the recipient’s jurisdiction, regardless of the nature or severity of the student’s disability (34 C.F.R. § 104.33(a). Under Section 504, FAPE provides regular or special education and related aids and services that are designed to meet the needs of individuals with disabilities as adequately as the needs of individuals without disabilities are met. 34 C.F.R. § 104.33(b)(1)(i).

NRHEG is committed to fulfilling the obligations of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. The district has systems in place to identify, evaluate and provide educational services to students with disabilities in a manner that is as similar to their non-disabled peers as deemed appropriate.

Parents and students have a right to request an evaluation if they suspect the student has a disability which affects their educational progress. Parents and students have a right to be part of the educational team that determines the methods of evaluation, the interpretation of the evaluation results and the development of the Individual Education Program (IEP) or 504 Plan should one be required. Parents and students who have questions regarding the process can contact the Special Education Office at 507-835-5046.

Auxiliary aids and services are available for school sponsored events. Please contact the school 72 hours prior to the event to make a request. Examples of auxiliary aids or services may include: sign language interpreter, assistive listening kit, accessible meeting location, large print or Braille materials, etc.

[Individual Student Achievement Report](#)

[Procedures to Opt Out of State Testing](#)

[School District Annual Report Card—MDE](#)

[State Assessment Information](#)

Student Privacy

Data Designated as Directory Information--JMC [Student](#) & [Parent](#) Portal

[Free and Reduced-Price School Lunch Eligibility Information](#)

[Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records Policy 515](#)

[Search of Student Lockers, Desks, Personal Possessions, and Student’s Person Policy 502](#)

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[Student Survey Policy and Parent/Guardian Rights Related to District Surveys Policy 520](#)

Other Notifications

[Family Engagement Policy 612.1](#)

[Postsecondary Enrollment Opportunities](#)

[Procedural Safeguards for Students with Disabilities](#)

[Right to Elect Against Saying Pledge of Allegiance Policy 531](#)

[Student Compulsory Attendance for Children Under Seven Policy 503](#)