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## Annual Hearings or Policy Reviews

The following are required to be the subject of an annual public hearing or, in the case of bullying, an annual review:

1. student fees policy<sup>1</sup>
2. parental involvement policy<sup>2</sup>
3. bullying policy<sup>3</sup>
4. Budget hearings
  - Proposed budget<sup>4</sup>
  - Exceed the basic allowable growth rate (if needed)<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-2,134: “[A]nnually . . . , each school board shall hold a **public hearing** at a regular or special meeting of the board on a proposed **student fee policy**, following a review of the amount of money collected from students pursuant to, and the use of waivers provided in, the student fee policy for the prior school year. The student fee policy shall be adopted by a majority vote of the school board and shall be published in the student handbook”

<sup>2</sup> Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-531: “[E]ach public school district in the state shall develop and adopt a policy stating how the district will seek to involve **parents** in the schools and what parents’ rights shall be relating to access to the schools, testing information, and curriculum matters”); Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-532 (required contents of parental involvement policy.”

Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-533: “The policy required by section 79-531 shall be developed with parental input and shall be the subject of a public hearing before the school board or board of education of the school district before adoption by the board. The policy shall be **reviewed annually** and either altered and adopted as altered or reaffirmed by the board **following a public hearing.**”

<sup>3</sup> Neb. Rev. Stat. §79-2,137: “On or before July 1, 2009, each school district . . . shall develop and adopt a policy concerning **bullying** prevention and education for all students. The school district shall **review the policy annually.**”

<sup>4</sup> Neb. Rev. Stat. §13-506(1) (“Each governing body shall each year conduct a **public hearing on its proposed budget** statement. Notice of place and time of such hearing, together with a summary of the proposed budget statement, shall be published at least five days prior to the date set for hearing in a newspaper of general circulation within the governing body’s jurisdiction. . . . After such hearing, the proposed budget statement shall be adopted, or amended and adopted as amended, and a written record shall be kept of such hearing.”

<sup>5</sup> Neb. Rev. Stat. §79-1029: “A . . . district may **exceed the basic allowable growth rate** . . . upon an affirmative vote of at least seventy-five percent of the board. The total growth shall not exceed the applicable

- Set final tax request (to exceed last years')<sup>6</sup>
- Amended budget (if needed)<sup>7</sup>

### **Hearings for Initial Policy Adoption and Amendments**

The following are required to be the subject of a public hearing upon first adoption, but are not required to be reviewed annually; a public hearing would only be required if the policy is amended:

1. Internet safety policy<sup>8</sup>
2. School wellness policy<sup>9</sup>

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allowable growth rate certified for the local system . . . plus one percent. The vote shall be taken at a public meeting of the board **following a special public hearing** called for the purpose of receiving testimony on such proposed increase. The board shall give at least five calendar days' notice of such public hearing and shall publish such notice at least once in a newspaper of general circulation in the local system."

<sup>6</sup> Neb. Rev. Stat. § 77-1601.02: "The **property tax request for the prior year shall be the property tax request for the current year** for purposes of the levy set by the county board of equalization in section 77-1601 **unless** the governing body of the . . . school district, learning community, . . . educational service unit, or community college passes by a majority vote a resolution or ordinance setting the tax request at a different amount. Such resolution or ordinance shall only be passed after a **special public hearing** called for such purpose is held and after notice is published in a newspaper of general circulation in the area of the political subdivision at least five days prior to the hearing. The hearing notice shall contain the following information: The dollar amount of the prior year's tax request and the property tax rate that was necessary to fund that tax request; the property tax rate that would be necessary to fund last year's tax request if applied to the current year's valuation; and the proposed dollar amount of the tax request for the current year and the property tax rate that will be necessary to fund that tax request. Any resolution setting a tax request under this section shall be certified and forwarded to the county clerk on or before October 13 of the year for which the tax request is to apply."

<sup>7</sup> Neb. Rev. Stat. §13-511: "Unless otherwise provided by law, whenever during the current fiscal year or biennial period it becomes apparent to a governing body that [a budget amendment is required] such governing body may propose to **revise the previously adopted budget statement** and shall conduct a **public hearing** on such proposal."

<sup>8</sup> Children's Internet Protection Act of 2001 (CIPA), 47 USC § 254. ("An elementary or secondary school described in clause (i), or the school board, local educational agency, or other authority with responsibility for administration of the school, shall provide reasonable public notice and hold at least 1 **public hearing or meeting to address the proposed Internet safety policy.**")

<sup>9</sup> The Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004, 42 USC 1751 ("Not later than the first day of the school year beginning after June 30, 2006, each local education agency participating in a program authorized by the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C.1751 et seq.) or the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.) shall establish a local school wellness policy for schools under the local educational agency that, at a minimum . . . (5) **Involves** parents, students, and representatives of the school food authority, the school board, school administrators, and **the public in the development of the school wellness policy.**")..